



The South East Asia Specialists

### Thailand photographic tour – ‘Images of Thailand’

All year round. 13D/12N ex London or 11D/10N Bangkok to Bangkok.

For the latest addition to our popular range of special photographic tours of Southeast Asia we're extremely fortunate to have renowned and hugely experienced travel photographer [Gary Latham](#), (Lonely Planet, Wanderlust, Food and Travel etc), to lead this Thailand tour through one of Southeast Asia's most photogenic, spectacular and varied regions. Gary will impart his wisdom, tips, advice and hands on assistance to any level of photographer - beginner or budding pro - as you travel through fabulous landscapes, visit picturesque ruined cities and glorious temples, experience bustling street-life and markets and meet the friendly local peoples and colourful minority hill-tribes who inhabit this region .

Travel from hectic yet fascinating Bangkok via the ruined, ancient city and now UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sukhothai to Chiang Mai, Thailand's charming northern capital, from where we'll continue into the mist shrouded mountains and forests and remote hill-tribe villages of the infamous Golden Triangle Region.

**Day 1** Departure from London.

**Day 2** Arrival in Bangkok - meet your tour leader and transfer to a comfortable, downtown hotel in the City's Banglamphu district. Introductory talk by Gary with time to relax, recover from your jet-lag by the pool or explore the area's lively markets and street-life.

**Photographic themes:** introduction and orientation with Gary, street-life, markets

**Day 3** City tour with a difference - central Bangkok by riverboat, skytrain, tuk-tuk and canal boat - we'll see the famous sites *and* what lies behind the famous sites! Visits will include; the Grand Palace, fabulous Wat Phra Keow – ‘Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Siam Square and the fascinating [Jim Thompson House Museum](#).

**Photographic themes:** temples, architecture, markets, ‘hidden Bangkok’ and nightlife

**Day 4** Morning departure by train; across the Central Plains and their emerald green rice paddies, to up-country Phitsanulok town – the Gateway to the North. Lunch time arrival, a visit to the local handicraft museum and transfer to nearby Sukhothai town with the afternoon to relax in our guesthouse garden or discover the local markets.

**Photographic themes:** architecture, landscapes, local life

**Day 5** Bicycle tour of the nearby, ancient city and now UNESCO World Heritage Site of [Sukhothai](#) – former capital of Siam – which, with it's crumbling sandstone temples, ancient carvings, towering Buddha statues and lotus-covered ponds, is one of the country's most sacred and evocative sites.

**Photographic themes:** historical sites, temples

**Day 6** Scenic drive through the mountains to [Chiang Mai](#). Check in to our centrally located hotel and time to relax by the pool or explore the area before an evening tour of the town's famous night bazaar.

**Photographic themes:** architecture, ancient temples of Chiang Mai, night life

**Day 7** Departure for the far north with a scenic drive to the remote border town of Tha Ton, including a stop on the way to visit the fascinating cave temples at Chiang Dao, before checking out the spectacular views at Tha Ton Pagoda situated high on a mountain top straddling the Thai/Burmese border.

**Photographic themes:** landscapes, mountain scenery, village life, country markets

**Day 8** Beginning with a descent by boat of the scenic Kok River we'll trek on foot and by elephant through the region's dramatic mountain scenery, passing several hill-tribe settlements, before an overnight stay as guests in a village of the Akha ethnic group.

**Photographic themes:** landscapes, mountain scenery, minority peoples and village life

**Day 9** Morning transfer by truck to the nearby fascinating town of [Mae Salong](#). Originally founded by Chinese Republican soldiers, (Kuomintang), who took refuge in the area after defeat by Mao Tse Tung's communist forces, the town was off limits for many years due to its role as a centre for the opium trade but is now known for tea plantations

and spectacular scenery as well as being the centre for the local hill-tribe peoples. Time to wander around the picturesque mountain-top town and perhaps check out participate in a tea tasting ceremony?

**Photographic themes:** landscapes, village life, hill-tribe peoples

**Day 10** Opportunity for an early start to visit the morning hill-tribe market before continuing to the magnificent botanical gardens at [Mae Fah Luang](#). From here we'll travel north to the bustling Burmese border market at Mae Sai. A visit to Sob Ruak and the Golden Triangle itself where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma meet, and where we can take in the unusual 'Opium Museum', before a return to Chiang Rai Town for our overnight accommodation.

**Photographic themes:** tropical flora and fauna, mountain scenery, markets, local life

**Day 11** Morning scenic drive through the mountains to Chiang Mai with a stop on the way to visit the spectacular Wat Rong Khun Temple. Mid afternoon arrival with time to stretch your legs or just relax by the pool.

**Photographic themes:** scenery, temples, Chiang Mai street scenes

**Day 12** Day at leisure in Chiang Mai, check out the local markets, some last minute shopping or visit the famous Doi Suthep, with an evening departure for London, via Bangkok. (Note, an optional Thai cookery lesson can be arranged if desired.)

**Photographic themes:** processing and editing by Gary, markets, local people

**Day 13** Arrival in London.

**Note:** this tour is offered with or without return flights from London. Persons not wishing to take up the flight option will join the tour on **day 2** in Bangkok and depart in Bangkok on **day 12**. (Note return flights to Bangkok are included.)

**Highlights:** Bangkok's palaces and temples, ruins of Sukhothai, elephant riding, overnight in hill-tribe village, mountain trekking, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Golden Triangle, cookery lesson, Thai food.

**Fitness:** easy to moderate, maximum hiking 3-4 hours on day 8. (Activities can be tailored to any level.)

**Accommodation:** hotel, hill-tribe village.

**Transport:** minibus, pick-up truck, train, flight.

**Meals:** bed and breakfast



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