



Thailand – ‘Chiang Mai and the North’
All year round. 7D/6N Chiang Mai to Chiang Mai

An exciting one week exploration of the northern Thai provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai; discover the mist shrouded mountains of Thailand’s infamous Golden Triangle region, the lush forests, remote villages and historic town of Chiang Mai plus an overnight stay as guests in a remote hill-tribe village, on an exciting journey by road, foot, elephant and boat through this picturesque and fascinating region.



Day 1 Departure from Chiang Mai 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.

Day 2 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 with an overnight stay in a Lahu village.

Day 3 Our hike continues across streams and through the forests of this spectacular and remote mountainous region. Overnight stay as guests of a Akha minority family in a rarely visited, and still very traditional, village.



Day 4 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 participate in a tea tasting ceremony?

Day 5 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. Visit 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 continuing to Chiang Rai for our overnight accommodation.



Day 6 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.

Day 7 Tour ends. For those staying on in Chiang Mai, check out the local markets, visit the famous Doi Suthep or a Thai cookery lesson can be arranged.



Highlights: 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 5-6 hours on day 3. (Activities can be tailored to any level.)

Accommodation: hotel, hill-tribe village.

Transport: minibus, pick-up truck

Meals: full board except for lunch on day 7 and dinner on days 6 & 7

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