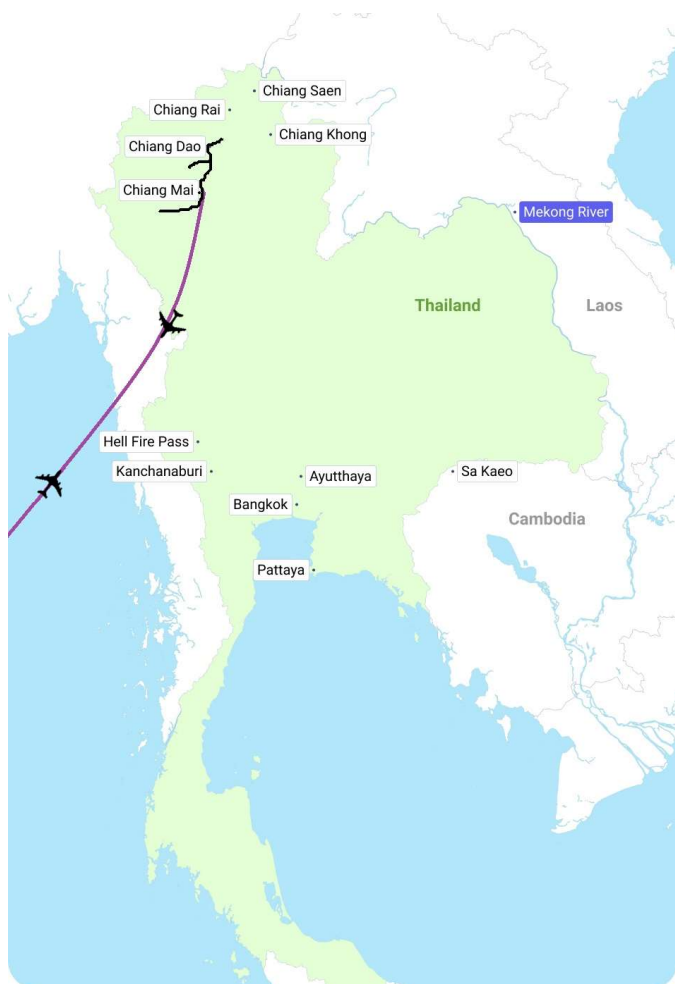


## Northern Thailand Family Adventure (7 days)

Thailand



This program offers an immersive exploration of Chiang Mai and its surrounding regions. Over seven days, you'll enjoy a perfect balance of exciting activities, comfortable accommodation, and the vibrant cultural heritage of Northern Thailand, renowned for its colourful festivals and traditional handicrafts. Ideal for families and groups of friends, this trip is designed to maximise your experience within a limited time frame.

The journey begins in the relaxed city of Chiang Mai, followed by an adventure-filled visit to Mae Taeng Valley and its adrenaline-pumping activities. From there, we head to Chiang Dao, home to diverse ethnic minority communities and traditional villages. This itinerary is perfect for families seeking daytime thrills and evening comfort, without the need for constant travel between cities or airports—making it an ideal school holiday adventure.

Highlights of this unforgettable trip include a visit to an ethical elephant sanctuary for a close encounter with these magnificent creatures, scenic tuk-tuk rides by day and night, and exhilarating white-water rafting (or a more leisurely bamboo rafting alternative). You'll also participate in a hands-on Thai cooking class to learn the secrets of this world-famous cuisine.

For those craving even more excitement, the itinerary features a treetop zipline adventure, a speedboat ride on Mae Ngat Lake to a floating restaurant, inflatable water slides, and lake kayaking. To conclude the trip, we visit Akha and Palong tribal villages, offering a glimpse into life in the mountainous regions—a perfect end to a Northern Thailand experience that truly has something for everyone.

## Day 1

### Arrive Chiang Mai (Thailand)



Upon arriving in Chiang Mai, we are welcomed by our tour leader, who escorts us to our hotel. Along the way, we receive a detailed briefing on our itinerary and essential travel tips for Thailand, including a quick introduction to basic Thai phrases.

Once settled, we head out for our first exploration of Chiang Mai. Despite its size, the city retains a charming rural atmosphere, more reminiscent of a sleepy country town than a bustling urban centre. Travelling by tuk-tuk, we visit some of Chiang Mai's most iconic landmarks, including the 700-year-old brick moat and Wat Chedi Luang. Here, we admire the ancient reclining Buddha and explore the working monastery, gaining insight into

the central role of Buddhism in Thai culture.

Dinner is at a nearby restaurant, where we can sample regional specialities such as fragrant curries and the famous sticky rice with mango dessert. *(meals: lunch, dinner)*

## Day 2

### Chiang Mai (Doi Su Thep lookout, eco-village & cooking class)



This morning, we visit Chiang Mai's renowned Doi Suthep Temple, perched on a hillside with breathtaking views of the city. Here, we delve into the temple's rich history and traditions, including the practice of ringing bells for good fortune. After exploring the site, we descend the iconic double dragon staircase and enjoy sampling some tasty local snacks.

Lunch is served at a picturesque orchid farm, where we dine amidst vibrant flowers and fluttering butterflies.

In the afternoon, we visit a scenic valley that is home to various ethnic minority groups, including the Long Neck Karen hill tribe, originally from

Myanmar. Often referred to as the Padaung, though they prefer the term Kayan, this community offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's cultural diversity. The eco-village showcases traditional costumes, jewellery, and farming techniques from ten minority groups.

Later, we participate in a hands-on cooking class at a local farm, where we uncover the secrets of Thai cuisine. Guided by a skilled local chef, we begin with a tour of the farm's gardens, learning about the fresh produce, herbs, and spices that form the foundation of Thai cooking. Working in pairs, we prepare a selection of traditional dishes, which we then enjoy for dinner. *(meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)*

## Day 3

### Chiang Mai – Mae Taeng (rafting, zipline & elephant sanctuary)



After breakfast, we head north to the Mae Taeng Valley for a day packed with adventure. Our first activity is an exhilarating white-water rafting experience, offering a unique perspective of the stunning Thai rainforest and mountain landscapes. Following a safety briefing, we navigate the Mae Taeng River in inflatable rafts, tackling grade 2 and 3 rapids under the guidance of expert river guides.

Next, we ascend into the treetops for an adrenaline-filled zipline adventure. Soaring across Mae Taeng's gullies and river systems, we are treated to breathtaking views. This activity includes a series of zig-zagging ziplines,

swinging pathways, and rope slides, as we navigate various obstacles and tree heights.

Our final stop is at an elephant sanctuary, where we have a chance to get up close with some of Thailand's 4,000 Asian elephants. While riding them is not encouraged, we do get to walk alongside these gentle giants as they bathe and feed. Local mahouts (elephant handlers) share their knowledge on elephant conservation, habitat protection, breeding programs, and more.

We return to Chiang Mai in the evening to visit the bustling Night Bazaar or explore the city at your own pace. *(meals: breakfast, lunch)*

## Day 4

### Chiang Mai – Mae Ngat Lake (Sri Lanna National Park & water activities) – Chiang Dao



We start the day with a relaxed morning before checking out of our hotel and heading to Sri Lanna National Park and Mae Ngat Lake. This man-made lake, celebrated for its crystal-clear waters, plays a vital role as a water source for the Chiang Mai province. Boarding a speedboat, we travel halfway across the lake to a floating recreational area, where we enjoy swimming, kayaking, and dining at a comfortable restaurant. After returning to the mainland by longboat, we continue our journey with a one-hour bus ride to Chiang Dao, which means "City of Stars." Upon arrival, we check into our hotel before exploring the nearby market. As

night falls, the skies reveal why Chiang Dao earned its celestial name.

Note: The Mae Ngat floating recreational area offers convenient facilities, including changing rooms, showers, kayaks with lifejackets, and a small restaurant serving delicious local dishes. (meals: breakfast, dinner)

## Day 5

### Chiang Dao (ethnic minority village & rural excursion) – Chiang Mai



Chiang Dao is home to an array of stunning natural attractions, including rugged mountains, caves, and vibrant ethnic minority communities, all of which we explore today.

Our first stop is Chiang Dao Cave, nestled within serene rural farming areas. This well-lit cave is adorned with Buddhist statues, offering a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere. From here, we switch to long-tailed trucks, navigating bumpy mountain roads to reach the starting point of a light trek (or drive-in option) to visit villages of the Akha, Lisu, or Palong tribes.

Guided by a local expert, we gain fascinating insights into the unique traditions and customs of each community, including their farming techniques, cultural practices, and approaches to sustainability. Our hosts prepare a traditional meal for us.

In the late afternoon, we return to Chiang Mai, where you can spend your free time exploring the bustling markets, unwinding by the hotel pool, or enjoying dinner at a local open-air barbecue restaurant. (meals: breakfast, lunch)

## Day 6

### Chiang Mai – Doi Inthanon (Mountain exploration and waterfalls)



We embark on an exciting journey to Doi Inthanon, the tallest mountain in Thailand, standing at an impressive 2,565 metres. The ascent offers breathtaking views, and the cooler climate at the summit provides a refreshing change. Along the way, we explore lush botanical gardens and visit the spectacular Sirithan Waterfall, which plunges 50 metres in a dramatic cascade. Given the high altitude, warm clothing is recommended—a rare necessity for locals.

On our return to Chiang Mai, we stop at local villages known for their beautiful handicrafts and silks, offering an opportunity to purchase unique souvenirs.

The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to explore independently. Chiang Mai offers a variety of evening entertainment options, from watching a Muay Thai kickboxing match or a lively cabaret show to catching a local film or experiencing the Night Safari. (meals: breakfast, lunch)

## Day 7

### Depart Chiang Mai

Today is yours to explore at your leisure. Our tour leader and local guide will accompany us to the airport for our departure flight. Please note that check-out time is 12 noon unless you have arranged post-trip accommodation. If needed, additional pre- or post-trip accommodation can be organised upon request.  
(meals: breakfast, lunch)

## Summary

### Grading

**Easy;** To get the most out of this trip, you need to be in good health. However, anyone with reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties, but you will be expected to walk every day and carry your luggage for short distances. The itinerary may include bike riding and climbing steps. If your itinerary includes community service work of any description, you will be expected to work diligently during this component. Suitable packing lists will be provided to match the content of the itinerary.

### Accommodation

Private tours/family tours: Accommodation is based on a double/twin share arrangement. If you are travelling alone, you will be paired up with someone of the same gender. If you choose not to share or are the odd numbered person on tour, a single supplement is payable. For children under 12 years of age, it may be possible for one child to share with parents (depending on hotel regulations and availability of extra beds/rollaway beds)

### Transport

Depending on the tour, modes of transport may include modern air-conditioned private coach and boat.

### Your Tour Leader

A tour leader accompanies all group tours. Your tour leader is the person who most influences the success of your trip. They have been meticulously trained and are very experienced in running tours. Every tour leader is locally employed, therefore they are the best person to showcase their country and culture. Their expertise and knowledge creates an insightful and authentic experience of the region. They are with you throughout your trip from breakfast time until the group returns to the hotel in the evening. They are contactable 24/7.

For more information on the role of the tour leader, local guides and accompanying teachers, please refer to our website.

### Group Size

Private tours/family tours: Minimum group size is 12. There are no maximum participant numbers on any tour.

## Trip Cost and Details

Cost per traveller from A\$ 1,250

Based on a minimum of: 12 travellers

*\*Smaller or larger group sizes priced on application*

### Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, activities, entrance costs and other programs as described in the itinerary
- Professional Edventure Travel tour leader throughout the trip & additional specialist guides
- Meals (and drinking water) as listed in the itinerary
- 24-hour **IN COUNTRY** support
- Pre-departure support, briefings and planning
- Tips for tour leaders, local guides & drivers

### Exclusions

- International flights to/from Thailand
- Travel Visa costs (if required)
- Spending money
- Travel insurance
- Pre/post accommodation

### Contact details

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