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## Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai.

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**THAILAND | 4DAYS / 3NIGHTS**

Route: Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai

Type of tour: Culture

Departure days: Tuesdays and Saturdays

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Explore the north of Thailand and discover its main cultural attractions with this magical four-day tour from Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai. This region is overflowing with historic monuments, dreamlike landscapes, gastronomic delights and wonderful wildlife. See the top temples, come face to face with gentle Asian elephants and visit hill tribe villages.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



**Chiang Mai:** Visit a tribal village, cruise a river on a longtail boat, take in the views from the hilltop Wat Doi Suthep temple, enjoy an unforgettable encounter with Thai elephants and much more

**Chiang Rai:** Stroll through the local morning market and see the bridge crossing to Myanmar

**Golden Triangle:** See three countries from one spot in Sop Ruak at the confluence of the Ruak and the Mekong rivers

## DON'T MISS

**Chiang Mai:** Head to Hang Dong for the best selection of shops selling arts, crafts, furniture and other Asian curios

**Sai oua:** A sausage starter made from pork, dried chillies, garlic, shallots and herbs and spices

**Chiang Mai:** Taste the district's famous fruit wines with flavours as varied as lychee, strawberry and longan

## DAY BY DAY

### DAY 1 | CHIANG MAI

Pick-up at 13:30 in central Chiang Mai followed by guided tour of the old town and the city's main temples. Visit the historic **Wat Suan Dok** and admire its 48-metre-high Sri Lankan-style chedi, which overlooks the Royal Cemetery. Continue to **Wat Phra Sing** in the old town and appreciate the beauty of this large complex of more than 60 buildings before visiting 14th century **Wat Chedi Luang** in the very heart of the old city. This ancient temple has a more rustic appearance and has been restored after decades of decay. Discover, too, the nearby **Wat Chet Yot and Wat Chiang Man**. Due to its age, the Chet Yot temple betrays some signs of ruin while the Chiang Man temple is renowned for its numerous elephant sculptures.

- Overnight in hotel in Chiang Mai.

### DAY 2 | CHIANG MAI

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a visit to **Wat Phra That Doi Suthep** to enjoy magnificent panoramic views of the city. The temple is reached by climbing a 309-step naga staircase or via cable car (included). If the views are stunning, the

temple itself is even better and boasts a number of dazzling structures. Continue to the bustling **Wararot Market**, a historical landmark renowned for the variety and quality of its produce, before visiting the fragrant **flower market**. In the evening, enjoy a khantoke dinner, a traditional northern Thai feast combined with a selection of traditional cultural performances inspired by the Lanna kingdom, which dominated northern Thailand for almost five centuries. Dinner included.

- **Overnight in hotel in Chiang Mai.**

### DAY 3 | CHIANG MAI – CHIANG RAI (260km – 4 hrs)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading into the jungle to become acquainted with Thailand's national animal during a visit to the **Thai Elephant Care Center**. The care center was set up to provide care for elderly elephants retired from logging and camps. Appreciate these gentle giants, learn more about their nature, their individual traits, their lifestyles, their talents and their charms. If time is right watch the bath-time. After lunch, **sail aboard a traditional longtail boat on the River Kok** towards Chiang Rai, passing the highland villages of the Muser people and the Karen tribes. The beauty of the hills that surround the river enhances the spectacular natural scenery. Arrive in **Chiang Rai** in the afternoon and transfer to your accommodation.

- **Overnight in hotel in Chiang Mai. Breakfast and lunch included.**



### DAY 4 | CHIANG RAI

Check out after breakfast at the hotel and visit **Wat Rong Khun**, a dazzling temple built in the 1990s. Its ornate all-white exterior, with embedded pieces of mirror, gives it a resplendent appearance, which makes it one of the most beautiful temples in Thailand. Continue to **Chiang Sean** for a panoramic view of the Golden Triangle where Laos, Myanmar and Thailand meet and the mighty River Mekong. Enjoy lunch at the **Imperial Golden Triangle Resort** before being dropped off at Chiang Rai Airport at approximately 14.00 (we recommend you book flight TG 135 with an ETD of 15:45).

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#### END OF SERVICES

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#### INCLUDED

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##### TOUR GUIDE:

- Operated with English/Italian-speaking guide on Saturday departures \*
- Operated with English/Italian/French/German or Spanish-speaking guide on Tuesday departures \*

##### ACCOMMODATION:

- Three nights in air-conditioned room with bath/shower on a half-board basis

##### MEALS:

- Three breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner

##### TRANSPORT:

- Air-conditioned transportation, transfers as stated in the programme

##### ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- All entrance fees as indicated: Wat Suan Dok, Wat Phra Sing, Wat Chedi Luang, Wat Chet Yot, Wat Chiang Man and Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Wararot and flower markets, and khantoke dinner show in Chiang Mai; elephant care center; River Kok cruise; Wat Rong Khun visit and lunch at Imperial Golden Triangle Resort in Chiang Rai.

\*Note: Tours in different languages can be combined in our vehicles for seat-in-coach itineraries. There will be a guide for each language

## **NOT INCLUDED**

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- Expenditures of a personal nature, drinks and meals if not stated explicitly in the programme
- Gratuity for driver and guide
- Optional tours
- Compulsory Christmas/ New Year/ peak season surcharges if stated separately
- International or domestic flight tickets and airport taxes or visa fees
- Supplement charge for pick-up from outer Bangkok hotels of 460 baht per person per way, applied both SIC and private

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Comfortable and light clothing is the most suitable for travelling in Thailand. Visitors should not wear sleeveless shirts, shorts, short skirts or skimpy clothing when visiting temples, religious or official buildings. Shoes should be removed before entering a temple or private house. Sun protection, sunglasses, a hat and mosquito repellent can be very useful during your stay.