



## Andaman to Gulf.

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**THAILAND | 6DAYS / 5NIGHTS**

Route: From Phuket/Krabi to Surat Thani

Type of tour: Culture, Nature

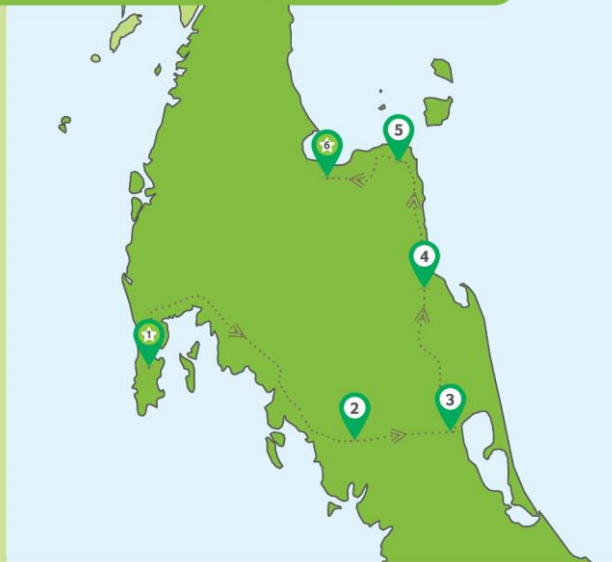
Departure days: Two Saturdays per month

## TOUR OVERVIEW

The magical cultural mix of far Southern Thailand boasts all types of impressive scenery, from awe-inspiring beaches to tropical forests packed full of flora and fauna. Southern Thailand's mix of cultures is wildly different from the northern regions, from their traditional cuisine to landscapes and even language. Admire gorgeous waterfalls in Khao Phanom Bencha National Park, feel the rush as you canoe through the adventurous Tham Le Khao Kob cave, meditate in the oldest Thai Buddhist temple of Wat Phra Mahathat, smell the scents of the wild orchids and lotus flowers, and drop anchor on some of the most stunning islands and turquoise beaches of the Andaman coast. Prepare yourself for a full-scale sensory experience of southern Thailand.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

**DURATION: 6 days / 5 nights**



**Start & finish destination**

1. Phuket	6. Surat Thani
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**Destinations**

2. Trang	4. Nakhon Si Thammarat
3. Phatthalung	5. Khanom

**Trang:** Visit the lush rainforest full of stunning waterfalls, then visit a hilltop Buddhist temple built into the side of a cave as you say hello to the resident monkeys

**Far Southern Islands:** Hop on a boat to see some of the most beautiful islands in the world. Set in the Andaman Sea, find yourself in paradise on these pristine islands

**Phatthalung:** Be brave for your day of adventure as you boat through tight spaces through Tham Le Khao Kob cave

**Nakhon Si Thammarat:** Visit the ancient Wat Phra Mahathat temple and breathe in the fresh air of Khao Luang National Park in Southern Thailand's largest province

**Khanom:** Trek through the Tham Khao Wang Tong cave as you admire nature's rare stalagmite and stalactite creations

## DON'T MISS

**Emerald Cave:** Found on Koh Mook island, swim through this jewel of a cave as the sun illuminates the water a brilliant shade of green

**Curry & cuisine:** Savour the bright flavours of southern Thai delicacies with spicy coconut curries, jasmine rice and fish dishes

**Odoriferous orchids:** Search for the 300 varieties of fragrant wild orchids in Khao Luang National Park, a plant-lover's dream

## DAY BY DAY

### DAY 1 | PHUKET OR KRABI AIRPORT – TRANG (290 km)

Arrive at Phuket or Krabi Airport and transfer to Trang. On the way, visit **Khao Phanom Bencha National Park**. The 50km<sup>2</sup> national park protects an area of virgin rainforest, found just 20km north of Krabi. The park is full of scenic waterfalls, including the 11-tiered Huay Toh waterfall, only 500m from the park headquarters. Continue on to visit **Wat Tham Sua**, a sprawling cave temple set on a hilltop that provides views for miles. The main hall of the temple is built into a long, shallow limestone cave at the temple's entrance. There are also several smaller caves hiding Buddha images, statues and altars. Salute the troops of monkeys who call out from the trees overhead. Lunch is provided at a local restaurant.

- **Overnight in hotel in Trang on a half-board basis.**



## DAY 2 | TRANG – ISLAND HOPPING (40 km)

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then make your way for a morning transfer to Pak Meng Pier for the day-trip visit to **Koh Kradan and Koh Mook islands**, along with Emerald Cave. This relaxing boat trip takes you around the islands where you can bask in the sun in this earthly paradise and take in the beautiful scenery of the white sand beaches and crystal-clear water. Return to Pak Meng Pier, then transfer back to the hotel in Trang. Lunch is included during the visit to the islands.

- Overnight in hotel in Trang on a half-board basis.

## DAY 3 | TRANG – PHATTHALUNG (130 km)

After breakfast, drive to **Tham Le Khao Kob cave** in the Huai Yot district, a wonderful an eco-tourism adventure spot. A stream runs through the cave and another two flow around the mountain to create a landscape like no other. Inside, observe the impressive stalagmite and stalactite formations as your guide navigates your way through some of the cave's nooks and crannies. After the visit, continue your journey to **Phatthalung**, with lunch provided en route at a local restaurant. We'll drive along the valley lake where you can enjoy peaceful panoramic views.

- Overnight in Phatthalung on a half-board basis.



## DAY 4 | THALE NOI LAKE – NAKHON SI THAMMARAT (150 km)

Wake up early to start today's adventure with a visit **Thale Noi Lake**, one of the most important wetland ecosystems in the country. Enjoy the scenic views of the area, where you can observe numerous species of birds around the lake in their natural habitat. If you come in season, you may be lucky enough to see the lake full of dreamlike water lilies with blooming lotus flowers. Return to the resort to enjoy breakfast and replenish your energy before heading off on the next part of the day's journey. Drive north to Nakhon Si Thammarat and make a stop along the way to breathe in the fresh air of **Baan Kiri Wong**, which translates to 'village surrounded by the mountains'. Enjoy lunch, provided en route at a local restaurant, and finish the day arriving to Nakhon Si Thammarat, one of the most ancient cities of Thailand.

- Overnight in Nakhon Si Thammarat on a half-board basis.

## DAY 5 | NAKHON SI THAMMARAT – KHANOM (160 km)

Wake up and have breakfast at your hotel before your morning visit to **Wat Phra Mahathat**, considered the oldest temple in Thailand with its giant chedi, or pagoda, which towers almost 60ft / 80m high. Although uncertain, some say it could date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Afterwards, continue to the shadow puppet museum and the old home of shadow puppet master Suchart Subsin to learn about the region's shadow theatre culture. Afterwards, continue your travel towards **Khao Luang National Park**, known for impactful mountain and forest trails, streams, waterfalls and majestic scenery. The park surrounds the 1,835m peak of Khao Luang mountain, covered in lush, untouched forest, and home to a variety of bird species and a number of wild orchid varieties. Next, continue on to the **Khanom region** and climb up the 300 stairs to the entrance of the Tham Khao Wang Tong cave, a limestone-iron ore cave with chambers full of beautiful and oddly shaped stalagmites and stalactites. Lunch is provided en route at local restaurant.

- Overnight in Khanom on a half-board basis.

## DAY 6 | KHANOM – DEPART SURAT THANI (110 km)

In the morning, drive to Surat Thani after breakfast at the hotel, and hop on a long-tail boat for a trip along **the River Tapi** and observe the life of the locals. Lunch is provided en route at a local restaurant, then it's time for drop-off at your Surat Thani hotel or airport to end your tantalizing Thai adventure.

END OF SERVICES

## INCLUDED

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### TOUR GUIDE:

- Operated with English/Italian/French/German or Spanish speaking guide

### ACCOMMODATION:

- Accommodation in air-conditioned room with bath/shower, in sharing twin or triple room as mentioned in itinerary or similar category

### MEALS:

- Breakfast on days 2-6 and lunch on days 1-5

### TRANSPORT:

- Air-conditioned transportation

### ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- Khao Phanom Bencha National Park, Wat Tham Sua temple, island hopping tour, Tham Le Khao Kob cave, Thale Noi Lake trip, Wat Phra Mahathat temple, shadow puppet museum, Khao Luang National Park, Tham Khao Wang Tong cave, and River Tapi boat tour

## NOT INCLUDED

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- Expenditures of personal nature and gratuity for guide and driver
- Optional tours
- Compulsory Christmas/New Year/peak season supplements as separately stated
- International flights from/to Phuket or Krabi
- Domestic and/or international airline tickets and airport taxes

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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Comfortable and light clothing is most suitable for travel in Thailand. Visitors shouldn't 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.