
GEEO ITINERARY

Thailand and Laos 7/3/2027

Day 1: Bangkok Arrive in Bangkok at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Bangkok at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. Bangkok's main airport is **Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)**, and the secondary airport is **Don Mueang International Airport (DKK)**. Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group. At this meeting, **your tour leader will check that you have a visa for Vietnam.** You **MUST** arrive with either a Vietnam visa or pre-approval for a visa on arrival. → [See our Vietnam Visa Guidance](#) After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. Our hotel is located in Chinatown next to the central train station and MRT (subway) and is only a short taxi ride from Khao San Road and the central shopping area of Siam Square, MBK, Siam Paragon, etc.

Joining Instructions

Upon arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport (pronounced 'su wan na poom'), proceed to the Arrivals Hall where you can exchange currency to Thai Baht (*Ignore touts offering expensive limousine services*).

Pre-Booked Arrival Transfer: If you've arranged an airport transfer through GEEO, a G Adventures representative will meet you at **gate number 4**. If you're not met or cannot make contact, call the emergency number on your trip voucher or take a taxi to the hotel (keep your receipt).

Taxi: (~350-500 baht | ~30 km) Taxis are available on the ground floor. At the taxi counter, provide your destination and receive written confirmation with the taxi's registration details. The meter fare includes a 50 baht airport surcharge plus tollway fees (approximately 75-125 baht depending on route). The expressway is faster—ask the driver for "tollway" or "expressway" (*kuen ton-way* or *kuen taang duan* in Thai).

Train: (~150 baht) Board the Airport Train at the City Air Terminal to Makkasan station, then transfer to the MRT blue line at Phetchaburi Station. Travel to Wat Mangkon station and take Exit 1 to Plaeng Nam Road. Hotel Royal Bangkok @ Chinatown is a 3-minute walk on Yaowarat Road.

Day 2: Bangkok Guided longboat tour of Bangkok's klongs and Wat Po. Optional Grand Palace and National Museum visit. Overnight train to Chiang Mai.

Enjoy a one-hour long-tail boat tour on Bangkok's busy Chao Phraya River and through the famous klongs, or canals, of western Bangkok's Thonburi district. Our boat trip finishes at the Royal Temple of Wat Po. Our included guide will introduce you to Thai Buddhist culture and show you the famous reclining Buddha. When your guided tour ends there will still be time for some afternoon shopping, a visit to the Grand Palace or a stroll through the backpacker area. We will meet back at the hotel within easy walking distance to the train station where we board our overnight train to Chiang Mai. Tonight's accommodation is an overnight sleeper train. Beds are dormitory-style, with bunks on two layers along the side of the train carriage. There are curtains along each bunk for privacy. Your luggage will be accessible during the journey. The train has air-conditioning and clean bedding is provided for each bunk. There are both Western-style and Asian style toilets at the end of each carriage. Food and drinks are served on the train but you can always bring your own food from the shops and restaurants in the train station. Please Note: Due to disruptions of Thai trains in the north during the monsoon season, we may end up needing to use alternative transport. **Approximate travel time:** 12 hours on overnight train from Bangkok to Chiang

Mai. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 3: Chiang Mai Enjoy a guided tour of Doi Suthep temple. Optional activities include a cooking class or visit to the night market.

We arrive in the early morning and have free time to explore. Choose from a range of optional activities or stroll the city independently. Opt to experience the flavors and scents of traditional northern Thai cuisine by pre-booking the Northern Thai Cooking Class. In late afternoon, set off to visit the temple complex, Doi Suthep. If you're lucky, you may witness the chanting of the monks. Climb the 300-step naga (mystical serpent) staircase to one of northern Thailand's most sacred temples, or opt to take a cable car and enjoy the view. Learn all about Doi Suthep's history from a local guide – built on top of a mountain, the temple sits among pagodas, statues, bells and shrines.

Day 4: Chiang Khong Head to Chiang Khong via Wat Rong Khun and enjoy your first view of the mighty Mekong.

En route to Chiang Khong, visit Wat Rong Khun, the dazzling "White Temple." This unconventional Buddhist temple was designed by prominent Thai painter-turned-architect Chalermchai Kositpipat. Be wowed by the temple's contemporary exterior made up of a mosaic of mirrors. View the interior walls that have pop culture and sci-fi influence. Find murals of Batman, Superman, Predator, and *The Matrix*. We spend one night in Chiang Khong, a small border town that is a part of the trade route between Laos and Thailand. Wander the local food market or sit back and enjoy the slow pace of life as we spend our last evening in Thailand. **Approximate travel time:** 5 hours by private transport. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Chiang Khong/Muang Pakbèng Cross the border into Laos then travel by traditional boat down the Mekong River.

We cross the river border today to Laos by small local boats to Ban Houay Xai and Lao Immigration. Once we have completed the immigration process we take a songthaew (local bus) to our traditional slow boat. As we travel down the Mekong River, you will slowly adjust to the relaxed pace of life in Laos. This predominantly mountainous country has unsurpassed views of the riverside villages, the tropical jungle, and the mountains. Our private boat is reasonably comfortable and spacious. A toilet is available onboard. Fruit, tea and coffee, are provided free of charge for you to enjoy. Other drinks, such as water and soft drinks are all available for purchase on the boat. We overnight in Muang Pakbèng village, a stopover for local traders heading to Luang Prabang. For travelers, the town offers an interesting vibe and a good introduction to Laos. Share dinner your hosts (a vegetarian option will be available) and experience a traditional Khamu cultural performance, and enjoy some dancing with the locals. **Approximate travel time:** 30 minutes by private vehicle, 8-10 hours by riverboat depending on river conditions. **Meals included:** Dinner

Day 6: Luang Prabang Continue down the Mekong for most of the day. Take a guided tour of the Pak Ou caves before arriving in Luang Prabang.

Continue down the Mekong for most of the day. We approach Luang Prabang in the late afternoon. Before arriving, we will make a stop outside of town at the Pak Ou caves. This dramatic cave houses thousands of Buddha statues and images and is considered an important spiritual sight by many Lao people. After our visit, we re-board the boat and continue to Luang Prabang, arriving around 5 pm. Located at the confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong Rivers, Luang Prabang is one of the loveliest towns in the whole of Southeast Asia. **Approximate travel time:** 8-10 hours by boat depending on river conditions. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 7: Luang Prabang Enjoy a guided tour of the Ethnology Museum, Ock Pop Tok Living Crafts Center, and Kuang Si waterfalls. Enjoy lunch with a local family.

The center of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town is quite small and is accessible either on foot or by bicycle. You can visit the most impressive of Luang Prabang's 32 temples including Vat Vixoun, Vat Sene, and Vat Xiengthong. You can pack a picnic to eat on Phousi Hill and watch the sunset over the horizon or rise at dawn to watch the monks walk through the city collecting offerings of food from the locals. Take an afternoon to browse the many textile galleries and relax and enjoy a local coffee in one of the town's cafes. We take a guided tour of the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center, a great chance to learn about the traditional arts and cultures of Laos's many diverse ethnic groups. We also visit Ock Pop Tock "East Meets West" Living Crafts Center on the banks of the Mekong River to learn from the artisans about Lao handicrafts and the importance of woven textiles in Laos culture. During our stay in Luang Prabang, we will enjoy a traditional Lao meal in a local home partaking in a traditional Buddhist ceremony and enjoying some Lao delicacies. We also make a half-day trip out to the stunning Kuang Si waterfalls. Don't forget your swimsuit if you intend to opt for a dip in the turquoise waters framed by the jungle landscape. **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 8: Luang Prabang Enjoy a free day exploring all Luang Prabang has to offer. Options include cooking classes, temple visits, massages, night market shopping, bike riding, and cycling.

Enjoy a free day exploring all Luang Prabang has to offer. Options include cooking classes, temple visits, massages, night market shopping, bike riding, and cycling. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 9: Luang Prabang/Vang Vieng Ride a high-speed train from Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng. Enjoy free time upon arrival.

Take a high-speed train to Vang Vieng this morning. Enjoy the afternoon free to rest or explore! **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by high-speed train **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 10: Vang Vieng Enjoy a free day in Vang Vieng.

Today is a free day in Vang Vieng, an ideal location for exploring the countryside by bicycle or kayak. Opt to pre-book the Vang Vieng Adrenaline Bundle ahead of time for some kayaking, caving, and swimming in the Blue Lagoon. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 11: Vang Vieng/Vientiane Explore the capital of Laos. Opt to visit temples, see the National Museum, or explore highlights of the town.

A drive out of the mountains takes us to one of Asia's sleepest capital cities. Enjoy the highlights of Vientiane including Wat Sisaket, one of the city's oldest and most fascinating temples and Phat That Luang, Lao's national symbol and one of her most sacred sites. For those who like to shop, don't miss the Morning Market, which, incidentally, is open all day! **Approximate travel time:** 3-4 hours by private transport. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 12: Vientiane/Hanoi Flight from Vientiane to Hanoi

A short flight on day 12 takes us away from quiet Laos and into the bustling city of Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Opt for a leisurely walk through the Old Quarter followed by a traditional Vietnamese meal as the perfect way to start your visit to this diverse country. We spend two nights in Hanoi. Our hotel is located in the Old Quarter. **Approximate travel time:** 2 hours by plane, 45 mins by private vehicle. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 13: Hanoi Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, stilt house, and the presidential palace. Enjoy a water puppet show. Optional tour of Temple of Literature, museums, Hoa Lo Prison.

Today we visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, his Presidential Palace and house on stilts. The mausoleum

houses the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh, the founding father of unified Vietnam. During the afternoon you will have free time to explore this beautiful city. Opt to visit the Tran Quoc Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, the Museum of Ethnology, or just take a walk through Hanoi's Old Quarter – a virtual maze of fascinating streets, each one traditionally devoted to a different product or industry. In the late afternoon or early evening, we attend a performance of Vietnam's famous water puppets before sampling one of Hanoi's amazing eating venues. Ask your tour leader to tell you more about the local Northern delicacies. Opt to pre-book the "Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour" ahead of time to include this optional on your tour.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14: Hanoi Depart Hanoi at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Hanoi at any time. Hanoi's airport is **Nội Bài International Airport (HAN)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Hanoi, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. **Meals included:** Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

Accommodations List

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:** [geeo_hotel_list] ***Itinerary Disclaimer:** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*