
GEEO ITINERARY

X-THAILAND – Winter

Day 1: Bangkok Arrive at any time.

Arrive in Bangkok at any time. Check into our hotel and enjoy the city. Check the notice boards or ask at reception for the exact time and location of the group meeting, typically 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, you might consider heading out for a meal in a nearby local restaurant to further get to know your tour leader and travel companions. Please make every effort to arrive on time for this welcome meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up.

Day 2: Bangkok (B) Guided longboat tour of Bangkok's klongs and Wat Po. Opt to visit Grand Palace and National Museum. You have free time this afternoon to enjoy this bustling city.

We begin the day with a guided visit to Wat Po. Immerse yourself in Thai Buddhist culture and visit the famous giant 46m (151ft) reclining Buddha, covered in gold leaf. Relax with a traditional Thai massage at the country's leading school of massage at Wat Po. We then have a Klong Riverboat tour. Travel by longtail boat on the busy Chao Phraya River. Go through the smaller klongs (canals) to see skyscrapers, temples, and shops in the distance, and the densely populated waterfront settlements up close. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy this bustling metropolis. Stroll through one of Bangkok's many malls and open-air markets, and pick up something if you'd like. See our optional activities list further below for more options.

Day 3: Bangkok/Kanchanaburi (B) Drive to Kanchanaburi. Visit the Bridge over the River Kwai and explore Erawan National Park.

We will spend the morning traveling by private vehicle to Nam Tok Erwan where we will visit one of the world's most beautiful waterfalls. Its seven tiers offer a unique experience at every climb, reaching up to 1,500m (4921 ft). Swim in the turquoise pools, snap photos from the top tier and opt to hike in the jungle to spot monkeys. We then travel an hour further to Kanchanaburi. Take in a piece of World War II history on this visit. We're sure you've seen or at least heard of the famous movie "Bridge on the River Kwai." Well, now you can tour the real thing. It's massive, majestic, and imposing, and offers fabulous views of the river below. You will spend tonight in Kanchanaburi. Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 4: Kanchanaburi/Chiang Mai (B) Visit the temple complex of Ayutthaya before catching an overnight train to Chiang Mai.

We start off the day by driving to the ruins of Ayutthaya where we will explore this UNESCO World Heritage site. Ayutthaya served as Thailand's capital from the 14th to 18th centuries, when it ranked as one of the most magnificent cities in the world. Late in the 17th century, its population reached one million, and foreign visitors wrote awestruck accounts of its size and splendor. Afterward, we will experience overnight travel on a sleeper train. Sit back and then lay down to get some well-earned rest en route to Chiang Mai. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle, 12 hrs by train

Day 5: Chiang Mai (B) Enjoy a city tour of Chiang Mai and visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple, spectacularly situated on a mountaintop at an altitude of 3,520 feet.

We will arrive by train and then check into our hotel. After, enjoy a tour of spectacular Chiang Mai, a delightful city surrounded by rolling hills and filled with impressive architecture. Explore the great cafes, shops, and accommodations of the old city; an important Buddhist center since the 14th century, it is

home to more than 300 temples. Many visitors come here to attend meditation retreats, massage classes, or yoga lessons. Together we will visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a golden Buddhist temple outside of Chiang Mai on the Mt Doi Suthep. Climb 300 steps to reach the temple and be rewarded with an unforgettable view. Admire the many Buddhist relics at this sacred temple and visit the white elephant shrine. Legend has it that the location of the temple was chosen after a white elephant carried a relic to the mountain and trumpeted three times before dying on the spot. Also, with a little luck, you may witness the chanting of the monks.

Day 6: Chiang Mai (B, L) Take part in a Thai cooking class and enjoy some free time to explore the city or go on an optional tuk-tuk adventure.

The only scheduled activity today is a cooking class. In the late morning, you will go to a local market with a guide to pick out fresh ingredients and then will cook your own lunch! For the afternoon we highly recommend the optional half-day tuk-tuk adventure, which we can pre-book for you for \$82. Jump in Thailand's traditional mode of transport - the tuk-tuk - and experience the rural side of Chiang Mai. You'll explore the Karen Hill Tribe village, remote temples, forest waterfalls, and feast on an authentic Thai meal.

Day 7: Chiang Mai/Phuket (B) Fly to Phuket and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy free time to enjoy the beach and relax.

This morning we will fly to Phuket where we will spend four nights in this tropical paradise taking boat rides, exploring its many beaches, and participating in all the water sports it has to offer. Rightfully famous for its delicious fresh seafood, indulge in fresh fish, crab, and squid. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by plane, 45 minutes by private vehicle

Day 8: Phuket (B) Free day to relax on the beach and explore Phuket.

There are many things to do in Phuket! There are more than 30 beaches in Phuket, some with a party scene, other quiet and serene. You can go snorkeling or diving, either offshore on Phuket or even better, go on a day tour to nearby islands. Even if you don't snorkel or dive, a day tour of Phi Phi Island or Phang Nga Bay is well worth it. See our optional activities list for more ideas on what to do over the next three days.

Day 9: Phuket (B) Another free day to relax on the beach and explore Phuket.

Another free day to relax on the beach and explore Phuket. Perhaps you will want to see monkeys at Monkey Hill or spend a day at the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary?

Day 10: Phuket (B) Yet another free day to relax on the beach and explore Phuket.

Yet another free day to relax on the beach and explore Phuket. Maybe today you will want a cooking class or go for a hike up to one of Phuket's many scenic lookouts. Or instead, go on a rum distillery tour and see the Phuket Big Buddha.

Day 11: Phuket/Bangkok (B) Fly to Bangkok. Free afternoon in Bangkok.

This morning we will fly to Bangkok. Upon arrival, you will have the rest of the day free. This is a good time to finish up any last-minute shopping. There will be time for one last optional meal with all of our new found friends. Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by plane, Roughly 2 hrs by private vehicle to and from airports.

Day 12: Bangkok (B) Depart at any time.

This morning, our program ends after breakfast. Feel free to depart at any time. Want more adventure?

Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!