

# Thailand Trip Planning

Thanks for letting the team at World Travel Family help you plan your trip to Thailand, this document should help you plan your travel arrangements and your itinerary.

If you need further help with planning and booking, reach out to [contact@worldtravelfamily.com](mailto:contact@worldtravelfamily.com)

What are your proposed dates of travel to Thailand?

How many people are in your party?

What are their ages?

Which country, region or specific airport are you departing from?

In which airport in Thailand would you like to arrive?

Will you have proof of onward travel? This isn't usually checked on arrival in Thailand, but before you board your flight in your home country, you may be asked to show proof. ([read up on this here](#))

Do you meet all health and visa requirements to enter Thailand?

Do you need to get any travel vaccinations, or proof of vaccination, before you leave?

Have you filled in a customs declaration form online?

Have you read up on currency exchange, taking money etc? ([Read this here](#))

What type of accommodation would you like to use? Do you prefer budget, ultra budget, 5 star, 3 star etc, hotels with breakfast, self catering, hostels (family rooms or dorms), hotels

with pools, resorts, all inclusive? Are you looking for shared family rooms, suites, or individual rooms?

Can you give a ballpark figure on how much you'd like to spend per night for your party's accommodation?

Do you like to have breakfast at your hotel or would you prefer to find breakfast for yourselves? (This is very easy in Thailand)

Are you OK eating Thai food? Any allergies or dietary requirements? ([read up on Thai food here](#))

Do you like to have free days to relax when you travel? For instance at a beach or hotel pool.

Will you need to have "free" days on your trip, for instance to organise laundry or just rest?

Will you be taking checked baggage or just hand luggage? (read up on [how and why to travel carry-on only](#))

Do you need assistance with what to pack for Thailand? (I can write that post if there is demand)

What activities do you normally enjoy when you travel? For instance exploring local markets, touring temples, food activities and eating (what level of dining do you prefer?), wildlife, beauty spots, historic and cultural activities, shows, walking, beaches, snorkelling, scuba diving?

Are you prepared to hire or rent a car and self-drive in some parts of Thailand? We recommend this for the North of Thailand and Phuket. [Read up on renting a car in Thailand here.](#)

Do you want to see elephants in Thailand?

Which of the following places in Thailand would you like to see? Keep reading for a guide to some of the most popular places to see in Thailand and activities and sights available in each.

## Bangkok

There is a lot to see in and around Bangkok, you could easily spend 2 weeks just exploring this city. For more information on [what there is to see and do in Bangkok, read this post](#). Where we have content specifically about these points of interest, we give you a link. Some of Bangkok's highlights are as follows:

**The Grand Palace**

**The New Palace**

**Chinatown**, possibly a Chinatown food tour.

**Bangkok food tours**

**Dinner cruises on the Chao Prya River**

**A longtail boat cruise** of the river and klongs (canals and backwaters)

**Khao San Rd Area**

**The Golden Mount**

**Wat Arun** ([more information here](#))

**Wat Pho** ([more information here](#))

**Jim Thompson House** ([more information here](#))

**Shopping** for electronics, luxury, clothes, souvenirs etc.

**Chilva Market** a huge weekend market

**Bangkok's "Green Lung"** . This is best explored by bicycle, the area is reached by boat.

**Bangkok's Zoo, Dusit Zoo** ([more information here](#))

**The Snake Venom Facility and Demonstration at The Hospital**

**The Giant Swing**

**Cycling Tours of Bangkok**

## Night–Time Tuk Tuk tours of Bangkok

Do you have any particular part of Bangkok you would like to stay in? You could choose near the river for views and easy access to the ferries, old Bangkok, near the malls etc. We can recommend an area of Bangkok, and hotels or guest houses, if required.

## Trips and Day Tours To Take From Bangkok

You can also take various trips from Bangkok, for instance, to the following:

**Ayutthaya** (ancient city, [more information here](#))

**Kanchanaburi** (Bridge on the River Kwai, Death Railway, Eragon National Park etc, [things to do in Kanchanaburi here](#))

**Various Floating Markets including Amphawa** ([more information on Amphawa](#)) , Damnoen Sudawak (the most common floating market for tourists) or [Tha Kha floating market](#) (small and less touristed, great food)

**The Railway Market** ([Maeklong railway market](#), [more information here](#))

**The Ancient City (an amusement of reconstructed buildings) and Erawan Museum**

These are some distance from Bangkok and quite costly to get to.

## Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai is a city in northern Thailand. It is famous for beautiful old temples and the walled old town.

There are abundant walking streets and night markets here plus plenty of tourist attractions.

The city of Chiang Mai is a major hub for tourists, travellers, and digital nomads and is a really great city to be based in for a while.

Chiang Mai is badly affected by “burning season” when the air quality is so bad that we don’t recommend you visit.

You can fly to Chiang Mai (a 1 hour 15 minute flight), take the sleeper train, or bus. We highly recommend the sleeper train for the experience. This is an overnight journey, so it will also save you the expense of a hotel for one night.

If you plan to visit Thailand in the autumn, you may be able to catch the lantern festivals in Chiang Mai, they can be quite spectacular.

**Interact With Elephants**

**Jungle Trekking**

**Zip Lining**

**Regional Foods**

**3 Kings Monument**

**Many Temples to Visit including The Silver Temple**

**Night Markets and Night Bazaar**

**The Ping River**

**Hill Tribe Visits**

**Doi Suthep Temple**

**The 3D Art Museum ([information here](#))**

**Elephant Poo Poo Paper Park**

**The Hill Tribe Museum**

## Chiang Rai

Chiang Rai is another city in the north of Thailand with several of Thailand's very best temples nearby. You will find both the White Temple and Blue Temple nearby, plus more.

Chiang Rai is a nice city with good night markets.

## Pai

Pai is a small town or village in northern Thailand, popular with long-term travellers. It has night markets, pretty countryside and an abundance of vegan food. [Our guide to Pai is here.](#)

**Lod Cave.** Lod Cave is a popular destination between Pai and Mai Hong Son. It's a water-filled cave, visitors are shown around by guides with lanterns and there is usually a short boat trip inside the cave.

## Mai Hong Son

Mai Hong Son is a pretty city in northern Thailand, centred around a lake. It's really beautiful by night. There are a lot of Hill Tribe villages in this area, including long neck Karon villages.

## Mai Salong

Mai Salong is very much off the main tourist track, but we've been and we loved it. This little town is cool as it's high in the mountains with an abundance of hill tribe villagers.

If you decide to self-drive in the north of Thailand this is a good place to visit.

## Sukhothai

Sukhothai is another of Thailand's ancient cities. The historic park is stunning and huge, it's difficult to visit Sukhothai as a day trip, we suggest you stay at least 2 nights in Sukhothai and we recommend a nice hotel in [our post on visiting Sukhothai](#).

## Phuket

Phuket is on the south west coast of Thailand, not far from Thailand's border with Malaysia.

Phuket is a very popular vacation spot in Thailand for package tourists. It has an abundance of good resort hotels and beaches.

Phuket has its own airport.

It is an island, but there is a road connecting Phuket to the mainland.

The major activity for tourist in Phuket are the various boat and snorkelling trips to Phi Phi (The Beach) and “James Bond Island”.

Most of these boat trips are also available from Krabi.

Patong is the main beach tourist area on Phuket and can be quite seedy.

## Ko Samui

Ko Samui is a large island of Thailand's south east coast, in the Gulf of Thailand, again, this is a popular beach vacation spot for tourists.

Ko Samui has its own airport, but internal flights to Ko Samui tend to be expensive as it is privately run.

## Ko Samet

Ko Samet is an island not too far from Bangkok.

If you're planning a short beach break from Bangkok, this is a good spot.

You can reach Ko Samet by bus and boat.

The island is small, you could walk its full length (we have) and it has plenty of accommodation options.

Ko Samet tends to get very busy on weekends with Bangkok tourists.

## Ko Phangan

Ko Phangan is a smaller island close to Ko Samui off Thailand's south east coast (Gulf of Thailand).

Ko Phangan has no airport and can be reached by ferry from Ko Samui.

Sail Rock is a famous scuba diving spot which can be reached by boat from Ko Phangan or neighboring Ko Tao.

Ko Phangan is famous for the full moon parties at Haad Rin, if you're staying on the other end of the island these probably won't affect you, the island may just be busier.

We've been to a full moon party on Haad Rin and it was OK.

## Krabi (Ao Nang)

([More information on Krabi and Ao Nang here.](#)) Krabi province and the town of Ao Nang are in south west Thailand, a little north of the Thailand / Malaysia border.

This is another beach holiday destination popular with package tourists.

Trips from Krabi can take you to Phi Phi island and various scenic spots and/ or snorkelling.

IS THERE ANYWHERE ELSE IN THAILAND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE ON YOUR ITINERARY?