



JIC's Justifi Trip to Thailand - FAQs

The Justifi Trip

What is a Justifi Trip?

Justifi is Adventure with Purpose. We provide an amazing, growth-oriented, immersive adventure to many of the world's great destinations. Our Thailand trip starts in Bangkok, the bustling capital of Thailand and its business center. We'll continue northward to the picturesque Chaing Mai and into the jungles of Chiang Rai. We arrange all the logistics (domestic transportation, accommodations, most meals) as well as fantastic educational experiences with Justifi staff and local Thai guides. In addition, we will learn about the human rights challenges that Thailand faces by meeting with inspirational leaders and have the opportunity to volunteer to help make a difference.

What is the pace and how exhausting is this trip? Will there be time to rest and relax? Do I have to attend everything on the schedule?

Even though Justifi Trips accomplish a lot in a short time, one of our guiding principles is that we each need a calm mind and inner peace in order to truly grow and explore. This is not a hectic, on-the-bus-off-the-bus style program, but it's also not a luxurious vacation. The trip does move, but at a relaxed and fun pace that includes free time to explore on your own. Every activity and educational session is amazing and you're not going to want to miss even one, but if someone feels like they need a bit of "me time" that's ok, too.

How much educational time will there be?

We typically begin each day with a morning educational session of informal discussions, guided meditation and/or personal growth workshops all in a Jewish context led by Justifi's amazing educators. In addition, we'll be dealing with various human rights issues throughout the journey.

Who else will be on the trip?

An amazing group of Jews who want to explore Thailand, to learn about themselves, and to help improve the world, along with JIC's indefatigable Jodi. The trip will be run by the awesome Justifi staff of educators and logistical coordinators, as well as our private Thai guides and chefs.

**Besides the trip fee, what do I need to pay for?**

Airfare (international and domestic), 5 on-your-own meals, travel medical insurance, recommended tip of \$100 for our staff (guides, drivers, chefs, etc. Note: Justifi will collect this in advance to distribute throughout the trip), extra snacks/drinks, activities during free time, and shopping.

Are there discounts? How can I defray the cost?

Unfortunately, Justifi doesn't offer any direct discounts, but past participants have used tools like GoFundMe.com to raise well over \$1,000. Just like your friends who run marathons, bike races, or take up their own cause, you too can fundraise for your program to offset the trip costs. Many travelers use their credit card or airline "points" to book their international flights.

Traveling**What's the weather?**

Should be warm summery weather with occasional light rain. We're expecting high 80s and low 90s -- which is beautiful! We advise bringing a light jacket and/or umbrella for the on-and-off rain which is common in Thailand.

What are the hotels like?

We will be staying in recommended 4-star hotels that are clean, comfortable and safe, such as Bangkok's [Nuovo City Hotel](#) in the lively Khao San district.

Do I need travel or medical insurance?

Yes! All Justifi participants are required to have emergency medical coverage while abroad (there will be an option to join Justifi's group policy). In addition, Justifi recommends getting a "CFAR" (Cancel For Any Reason) policy just in case something unexpected comes up.

What do I need to pack? How much luggage can I bring?

Prior to the trip, Justifi will provide a recommended packing list but you should pack lightly and use luggage that is easy to transport (e.g., a rolling bag) as you will be responsible for your own luggage! During the trip we will be flying on a domestic flight within Thailand that has a limit of one suitcase per person with a maximum weight of 20kg (44 lb.) -- Note that this is less weight than a typical international flight permits.

**Do I need a Visa to enter the country?**

Generally, no. Passport holders of most countries (including US, Canada, UK, and Israel) do not need to apply for a Thai visa in advance.

Do I need cash?

Thailand's currency is called the "Baht" (฿) and approximately ฿33 = \$1. You can easily change money or withdraw from an ATM with an international credit/debit card when arriving at the airport. We recommend getting \$100 worth to start (there will be plenty of opportunities later to get more cash). Visa and Mastercard are accepted in many places (American Express not as much), but there are places (e.g., street vendors, traditional markets) that are still cash based.

Will my phone work? Is there Wifi? Can I get a local SIM card?

Check with your phone service provider about enabling international roaming. All the hotels where we'll be staying have Wifi but no promises on the quality (this is Thailand!). At the airport you can purchase an inexpensive prepaid SIM card that includes data if your phone is already unlocked.

Do I need an adapter and/or a convertor for my electrical plugs?

Bring your phone charger and an adapter with cables for your phone/tablet. The prongs' shape in Thailand are round (similar to Israel). Be aware that the voltage is 220v (like in Israel and Europe) which will damage American electrical appliances that do not have the appropriate rating. If you have items that are usable only on American voltage, you must bring a step-down converter with a sufficient wattage rating and which will protect your items from the 220 voltage.

How do I book my flights? What is the domestic flight?Arrival

Plan on arriving in Bangkok (airport: BKK) before 10pm on Monday, August 28. Hotel check in is available from 4pm that day.

Departure

Plan on departing from Chiang Rai (airport: CEI) on Thursday, September 7 at your convenience. Hotel check out is at 11am

Important Note

Justifi recommends booking your international flights as a round-trip to and from Bangkok (BKK) on your airline of choice. Separately, you should book a one-way ticket from Chiang Rai (CEI) to Bangkok (BKK) that will arrive in Bangkok at least 4

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hours (or more, to be safer) before your international flight departs. The 2 airlines that fly from Chiang Rai to Bangkok are [Thai Smile](#) and [Thai VietJet](#). The cost is typically \$30-60. *Be aware that there are also other airlines that fly from Chiang to Bangkok's other airport (DMK) which will necessitate that you then transfer by taxi approximately 1 hour to get to BKK.*



For first time guests traveling to Thailand, the flight details might be confusing - but don't worry - we can assist! When you are ready to book your flight, you can contact one of our suggested travel agents for assistance with all your travel plans:

Yossi at Joy Travel +1-718-989-1366

Murray at Murray's Travel +1-800-727-2875

Here are some example flights:

Itinerary				
New York (JFK) to Bangkok (BKK) — Sun, Aug 27				
	New York (JFK) to Doha (DOH) — Sun, Aug 27			
	Qatar Airways 704	Dep: 10:45 am	Arr: 6:25 am	12h 40m
	Layover in DOH	Mon, Aug 28	1h 30m	
	Doha (DOH) to Bangkok (BKK) — Mon, Aug 28			
	Qatar Airways 832	Dep: 7:55 am	Arr: 7:05 pm	7h 10m
Bangkok (BKK) to New York (JFK) — Thu, Sep 7				
	Bangkok (BKK) to Doha (DOH) — Thu, Sep 7			
	Qatar Airways 835	Dep: 8:00 pm	Arr: 11:00 pm	7h 0m
	Layover in DOH		2h 35m	
	Doha (DOH) to New York (JFK) — Fri, Sep 8			
	Qatar Airways 9001	Dep: 1:35 am	Arr: 8:50 am	14h 15m
	OPERATED BY AMERICAN			

Itinerary				
Tel Aviv-Yafo (TLV) to Bangkok (BKK) — Sun, Aug 27				
	Tel Aviv-Yafo (TLV) to Bangkok (BKK) — Sun, Aug 27			
	El Al 81	Dep: 11:45 pm	Arr: 12:35 pm	8h 50m
		Mon, Aug 28		
	Bangkok (BKK) to Tel Aviv-Yafo (TLV) — Thu, Sep 7			
	El Al 84	Dep: 4:00 pm	Arr: 8:50 pm	8h 50m

How do I get from the airport to the hotel?

Get a taxi from the airport by following the "Public Taxi" signs to the outside and tell the desk where you are going. Alternatively, you can use an app from your phone such as [Grab Taxi](#) (note: there is no Uber in Thailand). Unless you use an app that



allows payment via credit card you will need cash (in baht) to pay for the ride. The cost varies but is generally B400-900 (roughly \$11-\$26 usd) for a regular taxi.

Alternatively, Justifi can arrange a prepaid VIP airport pick for you (by yourself or with others on your flight). Our representative holding a Justifi sign with your name on it will be waiting for you in the terminal and will escort you to the car. There will be no need to pay or tip the driver, everything will be taken care of in advance. The cost for this VIP service is \$45-\$60 (depending on what size vehicle).

Health & Safety

Do I need vaccines?

As non-medical professionals, Justifi does not give specific medical advice. We recommend that you consult with your health care professional with regard to vaccinations. For general guidelines, check out the [US government's CDC advisory for Thailand](#).

What are we going to eat? The Justifi Trip provides 2 meals each day. Breakfast will be served by our hotels and then either lunch or dinner (see the trip itinerary for details). Lunches are typically sandwiches, pastas or local Thai dishes "packed to go" while dinners are private group meals at local restaurants. The menus are a yummy combination of American, Israeli, and Thai delicacies!

What about kosher and other dietary restrictions? What if I'm a picky eater? Should I bring snacks?

All meals that Justifi serves are strictly kosher. We do our best to accommodate dietary limitations (vegans, gluten-free, etc), as well as allergies. When traveling abroad, especially as part of a group, it's often challenging to get exactly what you are used to from home; it's always a good idea to pack along your favorite comfort foods.

Is it safe? Are there security precautions?

Thailand, like many eastern countries, is generally a very warm and hospitable destination full of incredible people that hosts millions of tourists every year. Although Justifi's Thailand itinerary avoids known problematic areas it is still important to beware of petty crimes like pickpocketing and purse snatching. We advise our participants to put their valuables in the hotel safes and watch their purses and wallets when in crowded marketplaces or tourist destinations. In addition, women in particular should not be traveling alone (especially at night).

**Can I drink the water?**

Generally, people do not get sick from Thai tap water but Justifi advises only drinking bottled water as a precaution. We will have regular access to purchase inexpensive, safe, clean bottled water.

Are there bugs?

You may find some critters while traveling, especially in the northern jungles. We recommend that participants use insect repellent.