

THAILAND REGIONAL TOURS

SOOT SANUK "GOLD"
"Overland from Bangkok to Chiang Mai"
 Departs Tuesdays

The tour will depart every Tuesday from your chosen Bangkok hotel. It features an exciting overland journey to the ancient former capitols of Ayuthaya and Chiang Mai.

River cruises, hill tribes, elephant training camps and beautiful scenery are amongst the many highlights

Day 1

Leave your hotel in Bangkok in the morning for Bang-Pa-In and the summer palace built during the reign of King Rama V. The most prominent building is a Thai pavilion standing in the centre of a small lake.

Moving on a visit will be made at the ancient city of Ayuthaya. Here stand splendid ruins of palaces and temples, memories of Burmese invasions from centuries before.

After lunch, drive through scenic countryside to Lopburi, the former summer capitol of Siam. Here we will visit Phra Prang Sam Yod and the Kala Shrine of Sarn Prakarn which, is now home to hundreds of monkeys.

In the late afternoon, drive further north to Phitsanulok, a town spread along the banks of the Nan River.

Overnight: Phitsanulok **Meals:** L D

Day 2

After breakfast we visit Sukhothai. Formerly the capitol of Siam in the 13th century this city had no less than three rows of earthen ramparts and two moats to enclose the inner city. The ruins and Buddha statues here are superb.

Just 55km north is Sri Satchanalai, which was considered Sukhothai's twin city.

After lunch drive on through rural Thailand and further north through jungle-clad hills to Chiang Rai, arriving in the late afternoon or early evening.

Overnight: Chiang Rai **Meals:** B L D

Day 3

Northern Thailand is famous for it's colourful hill tribes and this morning we will board "pick-up" trucks to visit several villages such as Akha and Yao hill tribes. The scenery is magnificent, enjoy mountain views from Doi Mae Salong, a Chinese settlement founded by Chinese who fled their country after the victory of Mao Tse Tung in 1948.

Return to the valley for lunch before driving to Mai Sai, Thailand's northernmost town to the Burmese border. Local handicrafts from both countries are a good buy here! Optional boarder crossings are sometimes possible.

From Mai Sai we will drive to the heart of the renowned Golden Triangle where the Ruak and Mekong Rivers meet. From a hilltop you can see Thailand, Laos and Burma. An optional boat trip is available for those who would like to get a little closer.

Visit Chiang Sean, where evidence of the original 13th Century City can be seen. We will enjoy this lovely

setting on the banks of the river, a tranquil charming spot with old temples and carved figures.

Overnight: Chiang Rai **Meals:** B L D

Day 4

After breakfast, depart for Chiang Mai stopping along the way at Mae Ka Chan, famous for a hot spring which locals believe has healing powers.

After lunch continue to drive through spectacular mountain and jungle scenery to the "Rose of the North" Chiang Mai.

Before getting into town ascend the 290 steps to the top of Wat Phrattat Doi (there is also a cable car!).

Tonight, you will be treated to a ceremonial northern Thai dinner, known as Khantoke. As you savor traditional dishes and dancers will perform a series of folk stories along with colourful hill tribe dances.

Overnight: Chiang Mai **Meals:** B L D

Day 5

A full day to enjoy Chiang Mai. In the morning we will visit an Elephant camp. Skilled "Mahouts" show how Elephants have worked in the jungle for years due to their immense strength. Watching the elephant play and bathe is also quite an experience.

After lunch we will drive out to Sankampeang, home to Chiang Mai's cottage industries. Not only will you be able to watch the artisans at work but you can also purchase their wares. Silk, pottery, paper umbrellas and teakwood are just a few of the things available.

Overnight: Chiang Mai **Meals:** B L D

Day 6

You can choose to spend a few more days in Chiang Mai or return to Bangkok by train or air (not included).

Meals: B

Accommodation Guide

Location	Hotel
Phitsanulok	Amarin Lagoon *
Chiang Rai	Teak Garden Spa & Resort *
Chiang Mai	Empress / Chiang Mai Plaza *

*** or similar standard hotel

Meal Guide

B = Breakfast
 L = Lunch
 D = Dinner

Route Map



OPTIONAL FLIGHTS

THAILAND REGIONAL TOURS

SOOT SANUK "SILVER" "Explore The North" Departs Mondays

This tour will depart every Monday and Wednesday from Chiang Mai at 1000am. Covering the best of the north, Thailand's lush mountainous region.

Day 1

From Chiang Mai we will drive through jungle clad mountains, stopping at Mae Rim to visit an Orchid and Butterfly farm before continuing to Mae Hong Son Province with a picnic lunch en-route.

Just before Mae Hong Son are the fish caves where we will stop for a visit. Locals believe a mountain spirit protects these fish and catching them is bad luck.

Mae Hong Son itself is a sleepy village rather than a town, boasting just one set of traffic lights! A visit to the market will introduce the local hill tribes and Shan people originally from Burma.

Overnight : Mae Hong Son **Meals :** L D

Day 2

Today you will experience an unforgettable ride through the jungle on elephant back! We will drive into the countryside in pick-up trucks, which can negotiate the narrow roads, and through the jungle to one of the most colourful hill tribe villages, home to the Long Neck Karens.

After lunch join a boat trip along the River Pai before heading back to Mae Hong Son.

Overnight : Mae Hong Son **Meals :** B L D

Day 3

Today, we will visit the early morning market and witness the traditional Buddhist offerings to local monks (Alms giving). Afterwards, sightseeing of Burmese temples on the lakeside, Wat Jong Kam and Wat Jon Klang and a drive up to see Wat Phra Dhat Doi Kongmoo. Set on a mountaintop this temple offers fabulous views of this sleepy town.

We will take a noon flight from Mae Hong Son back to Chiang Mai.

Tonight, you will be treated to a ceremonial northern Thai dinner, known as Khantoke. As you savor traditional dishes dancers will perform a series of folk stories along with colourful hill tribe dances.

Overnight : Chiang Mai **Meals :** B L D

Day 4

After breakfast, depart Chiang Rai for Chiang Mai stopping on the way at Mae Ka Chan, famous for a hot spring which is a favorite bathing place for local people who believe it relieves their aches and pains. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, you will drive through splendid mountain scenery and tropical jungle to the "Rose of the North" - Chiang Mai. Before arriving in the town, it will be your turn to work! Climb 290 steps to visit the hilltop temple of Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep which offers spectacular views of the Chiang Mai area (the less energetic will be pleased to know that there is a cable car up the hill!)

Tonight, you will be treated to the ceremonial northern Thai dinner, known as Kantoke. Traditional dishes will

be served while you watch elegant dancers performing a series of folk stories. Colourfully dressed, Hill tribes will perform their own traditional dances after dinner.

Overnight : Chiang Mai **Meals :** B L D

Day 5

We will travel on to Chiang Rai this morning along a scenic and mountainous pass. A stop is made en-route at the infamous Hot Springs in Mae Ka Chan arriving in Chiang Rai around noontime to have your lunch.

North Thailand is famous for its colourful hill tribes and this afternoon we will board "pick-up" trucks to visit several villages such as Akha and Yao hill tribes. The scenery is magnificent, enjoy mountain views from Doi Mae Salong, a Chinese settlement founded by Chinese who fled their country after the victory of Mao Tse Tung in 1948.

Overnight : Golden Triangle **Meals :** B L D

Day 6

Mai Sai is Thailand's northernmost town to the Burmese border. Local handicrafts from both countries are a good buy here! Optional boarder crossings are sometimes possible where you can take a rickshaw ride around the local market.

Visit Chiang Sean, where evidence of the original 13th Century City can be seen. We will enjoy this lovely setting on the banks of the river, a tranquil charming spot with old temples and carved figures.

Next stop will be the renowned Golden Triangle where the Ruak and Mekong Rivers meet. From a hilltop you can see Thailand, Laos and Burma. An optional boat trip is available for those who would like to get a little closer.

Overnight : Golden Triangle **Meals :** B L D

Day 7

After breakfast return to Bangkok by air (not included).

Meals : B

Accommodation Guide

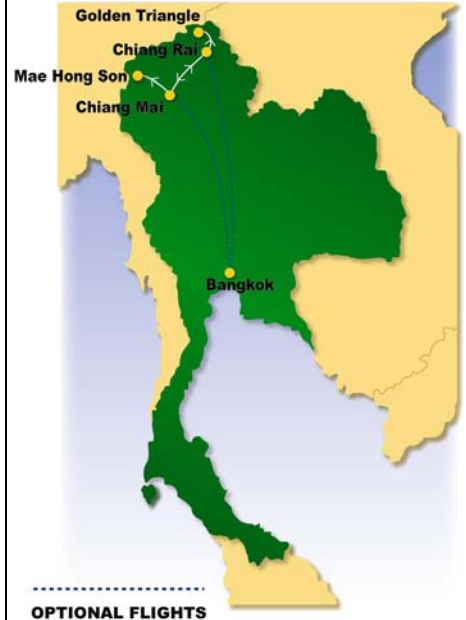
Location	Hotel
Mae Hong Son	Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son *
Chiang Mai	Empress *
Golden Triangle	Imperial Golden Triangle*

*** or similar standard hotel

Meal Guide

B = Breakfast
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OPTIONAL FLIGHTS