

# Thailand and Vietnam: Landscapes and Culture - 13 Days

13 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Chiang Rai

**Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.**

Bangkok - Chiang Rai - Golden Triangle - Chiang Mai - Hanoi - Halong Bay - Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho - day trip

**From USD 1,927 per person**

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

# Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam · Thailand · Myanmar



- 1 Bangkok
- 2 Chiang Rai
- 3 Golden Triangle
- 4 Chiang Mai
- 5 Hanoi
- 6 Halong Bay
- 7 Ho Chi Minh City
- 8 My Tho - day trip

— Itinerary      - - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

## What makes this journey special

- Bangkok's palace and temples
- Chiang Rai's White Temple and a cycle-rickshaw ride
- Golden Triangle and Hall of Opium
- Free time in Chiang Mai
- Hanoi and an overnight Halong Bay cruise
- Mekong Delta and Cu Chi

**DAY 1****Welcome to Thailand: arrive in Bangkok**

Tour photograph · Bangkok

Your journey begins in Thailand, where your private driver and a representative welcome you at the airport and take you to your hotel. After check-in, rest or stroll through the city to discover its historic architecture and varied shops.

Return to your hotel after your first explorations and settle in for the night.

Overnight in Bangkok.

---

**DAY 2****Bangkok's Grand Palace and temples — half-day tour (B)**

Tour photograph · Bangkok

After breakfast, discover Bangkok's cultural heritage through colourful temples, grand palaces and important Buddha images. At Wat Traimit in Chinatown, see one of the largest solid-gold Buddha statues, weighing around 5.5 tonnes. Continue to Wat Pho and its celebrated Reclining Buddha, around 45 metres long. The complex was also an early centre for traditional Thai massage.

Continue to the Grand Palace, one of the country's most important royal landmarks. Explore halls used for different royal occasions, including coronation and funeral ceremonies, and the royal guesthouse. Visit the highly revered Emerald Buddha.

Transfer back to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight in Bangkok.

---

**DAY 3****Fly to Chiang Rai and explore the city (B)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Rai

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your private driver collects you for the airport transfer, without a guide. Fly to Chiang Rai, where another private driver meets you and takes you to your hotel.

Visit Wat Rong Khun, the White Temple. Artist Chalermchai Kositpipat's ongoing creation combines traditional Buddhist art with contemporary themes, enhanced by intricate mirrored details.

Continue to Wat Phra Singh, which houses a replica of the revered Phra Singh Buddha associated with Chiang Mai's temple of the same name. Visit Wat Phra Kaew, once home to the Emerald Buddha now in Bangkok, then return to your hotel by traditional cycle rickshaw.

Overnight in Chiang Rai.

---

**DAY 4****The Golden Triangle, then continue to Chiang Mai (B)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

After breakfast and check-out, travel to Sop Ruak in the Golden Triangle. From the viewpoint, look across the Mekong towards the meeting of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.

Visit the Hall of Opium, an informative museum exploring the region's history and its connection with the opium trade. The programme notes that the museum is closed on Mondays.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Chiang Mai.

---

**DAY 5****Free day in Chiang Mai; optional elephant excursion (B)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

Enjoy free time in Chiang Mai or book the optional half-day visit to Elephant Jungle Sanctuary, including lunch. The programme lists this at USD 171 per person, with a minimum of two participants.

Optional programme: the morning visit is advertised as approximately 6:30 am–12:30 pm. At around 7 am, begin the 1.5-hour drive south of Chiang Mai through hills, forest and farmland. Arrive at around 8:30 am, meet the elephants, change into traditional Karen clothing and prepare herbal remedies.

From 9 am, feed the elephants, offer the prepared remedies and learn about their behaviour and histories, with time for photographs. The programme includes a mud bath at around 9:45 am and a walk to the river for bathing at 10:30 am. Have a traditional meal at 11:30 am before saying goodbye. The detailed schedule places departure at noon for a roughly 1.5-hour return drive; the exact arrival time will be confirmed.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

---

**DAY 6****Fly from Chiang Mai to Hanoi (B)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your private driver collects you from the hotel for Chiang Mai International Airport; no guide accompanies this transfer. Fly to Hanoi, where your driver meets you at Noi Bai Airport and takes you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight in Hanoi.

---

**DAY 7****Hanoi city sights — shared tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Hanoi brings together tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and centuries-old temples and pagodas.

Your hotel pick-up is between 7:45 and 8:15 am. Visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex to learn about its architecture and history, then see Ho Chi Minh's stilt house and the distinctive One Pillar Pagoda. Continue to Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake. Lunch is served at a local restaurant.

The afternoon programme includes the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Continue to the Temple of Literature, founded in 1070 and associated with Vietnam's first university, to enjoy its gardens and historic architecture.

Pass Hoan Kiem Lake and view Ngoc Son Temple. After a drive through the Old Quarter, return to your accommodation.

Overnight in Hanoi.

---

**DAY 8****Hanoi to Halong Bay: shared bus and overnight cruise (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

After breakfast, meet the cruise team at your hotel. Travel through the Red River Delta, passing broad green rice fields. On arrival in Halong, board your boat and discover the bay's limestone cliffs and karst caves.

After your first views of the bay, enjoy a seafood lunch. Visit a well-known limestone cave, then take time to kayak or swim for a closer look at floating villages and shops.

Return to the boat for an early dinner. Afterwards, join activities on board or simply relax.

Overnight on board.

---

**DAY 9****Halong Bay to Hanoi (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

After breakfast, cruise back towards the harbour, stopping at a limestone cave with stalactites and stalagmites. Disembark at the main pier and return to Hanoi, arriving at around 5 pm. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight in Hanoi.

---

**DAY 10****Fly from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your private airport transfer for the flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

---

**DAY 11****Mekong Delta — shared tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Mekong Delta

After breakfast, travel with an experienced English-speaking guide and driver to My Tho. Board a sampan and cruise past Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Tortoise islands.

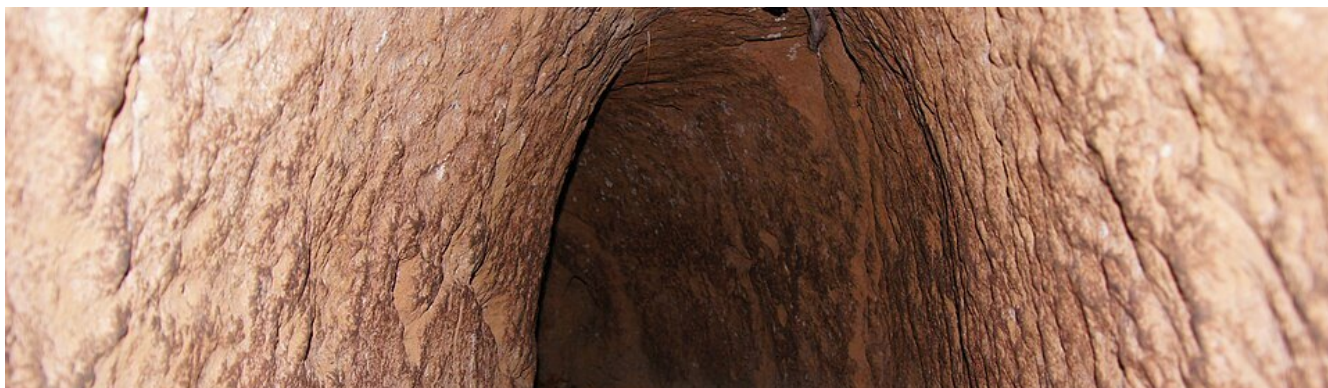
On Unicorn Island, walk along country lanes and through orchards, taste tropical fruit and listen to folk music performed by local musicians. Visit a fruit plantation as part of the excursion.

Continue by hand-rowed sampan along Thoi Son Canal. Visit family workshops and a bee farm, and sample honey tea and coconut candy.

After a Vietnamese meal, cycle through Tan Thach village and meet its residents. If you prefer not to cycle, relax in a hammock instead. Transfer back to your accommodation afterwards.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

---

**DAY 12****Cu Chi Tunnels — shared tour (B)**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

An experienced English-speaking guide accompanies you to the Cu Chi Tunnels outside Ho Chi Minh City, around 1.5 hours away. Explore the history of an extensive underground network that included meeting rooms, kitchens and supply areas and, at its height, stretched towards Cambodia.

The tunnels were difficult to spot from above, and some sections could withstand the weight of tanks passing overhead. Life underground was harsh: alongside the fighting, people faced shortages of food and oxygen, venomous insects and cramped conditions. The visit offers an insight into their endurance during the war.

Afterwards, taste cassava, a staple food for the guerrilla fighters. An optional visit to a nearby shooting range offers the chance to try an AK-47, the weapon listed in the programme as an MK16, or a machine gun, subject to the range's rules.

Transfer back to your accommodation.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

---

**DAY 13****Depart from Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy breakfast and free time on your final day before your driver takes you to Tan Son Nhat International Airport for your flight home.

---

## Included services

- Flight from Bangkok to Chiang Rai with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Flight from Chiang Mai to Hanoi with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Flight from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Child airfares follow the airline's conditions at booking. Please contact us for a quote if travelling with more than one child.
- Experienced English-speaking guide. German-, French-, Spanish- or Dutch-speaking guides are available on request for a supplement.
- 12 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 dinner as listed in the proposal. B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.
- Private vehicles for collection, drop-off and excursions. Activities marked as group experiences are shared.
- Air-conditioned bus to Halong Bay.
- Boat trip on Halong Bay.
- All sightseeing and admission tickets listed in the itinerary.
- Tissues and drinking water in the vehicle.
- Service charges and government taxes.
- 24/7 assistance through our hotline.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

## Additional costs

- International arrival and departure flights.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless expressly included.
- Compulsory gala dinners on 24 and 31 December, where applicable.
- Holiday surcharges at Christmas, New Year and Tet in Vietnam, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- An e-visa or visa for Vietnam and Thailand, where required.
- Optional excursions, including the elephant excursion described in the itinerary at USD 171 per person, with a minimum of two participants.
- Services not expressly listed.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

## Carefully selected accommodation

Suggested hotels by destination and category. Your personal proposal will confirm room types and availability.

### Bangkok

**3 stars****True Siam Rangnam or similar****4 stars****Silom Serene, a Boutique Hotel or similar****5 stars****The Sukosol Bangkok or similar**

### Chiang Rai

**3 stars****Laluna Hotel & Resort or similar****4 stars****The Legend Chiang Rai Boutique River Resort or similar****5 stars****The Riverie by Katathani or similar**

### Chiang Mai

**3 stars****De Charme Chiang Mai or similar****4 stars****Empress Chiang Mai Hotel or similar****5 stars****NA NIRAND Romantic Boutique Resort or similar**

### Hanoi

**3 stars****Chalcedony Hotel or similar****4 stars****Le Jardin Haute Couture or similar****5 stars****Apricot Hotel or similar**

---

## Halong Bay

**3 stars****Le Journey Cruise or similar****4 stars****Milalux Cruise or similar****5 stars****Amanda Luxury Cruise or similar**

---

## Ho Chi Minh City

**3 stars****Acnos Hotel or similar****4 stars****Paragon Saigon Hotel or similar****5 stars****The Myst Dong Khoi or similar**

---

The listed hotels and cruise vessel apply to each trip category, with comparable alternatives possible. The final selection is confirmed when you book.

These hotels are suggestions, not reservations. If unavailable, a comparable alternative will be offered. Columns show the trip categories; some lodges, homestays and cruises may be the same across categories.

# Turn your idea into your journey.

Discuss your route, pace, accommodation and activities with our local travel team. We will help you shape a trip around your interests, with personal advice in English.



## Tell us what you have in mind.

[enquiry@vietnamtourfun.com](mailto:enquiry@vietnamtourfun.com)

Phone / WhatsApp: +84 962 954 525

Local experts in Vietnam · Tailor-made Southeast Asia tours

**Plan this trip**

**Chat on WhatsApp**

This document is a flexible tour idea, not a booking confirmation. Your personal proposal confirms the agreed services and accommodation. Photographs illustrate the journey and may not show your exact booked arrangements.

Latest tour details:

<https://vietnamtourfun.com/tour-item/scenic-thialnd-aandvietnam-in-13-days?currency=USD>

Image credits: <https://vietnamtourfun.com/image-credits>