

# Thailand for Two

Take in the best of Thailand's city attractions and stunning beaches in this ten-day romantic holiday designed for two.



## Day 1 - Arrive Bangkok

You will be met on arrival in Bangkok and transferred to your hotel in the city centre. Afternoon at leisure.

In the evening, set off on a romantic cruise on the **Chao Phraya River**, with dinner included.

The three hour cruise will take you through the heart of Bangkok, past the Royal Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is always beautifully lit up at night, to the Temple of Dawn, where you disembark—the best possible introduction to the city!

#### Day 2 – Explore Bangkok

After breakfast at your hotel, embark on a guided tour of the city in the company of an experienced local guide. Start by taking the sky train to the Chao Phraya River dock, from where you can catch a river taxi to the centre of the city. Disembark at **Wat Pho**, Thailand's oldest temple and university (teaching traditional medicine).

After marvelling at Wat Pho's huge reclining Buddha, continue to visit the **Royal Palace** and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, or **Wat Phra Kaew**, Thailand's most iconic religious site.

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From the Royal Palace, take a tuk tuk to **Wat Saket** (the Golden Mount), another of Bangkok's great religious symbols, and also a fantastic spot for photos of the city skyline. After the climb, stop for lunch and a rest at a traditional Thai restaurant close to Wat Saket.

In the afternoon, take a tuk tuk to the **Khlong Saen Saeb**, one of Bangkok's busiest canals, where you'll board a river taxi to **Ratchathewi**, west Bangkok, for a stroll around the boat station.

As this is one of Bangkok's liveliest shopping districts, you might also like to visit one of the nearby shopping centres – just ask your guide.

When you're ready, take the sky train back to your hotel.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

## Day 3 - Samut Songkhram

Depart Bangkok this morning for the province of **Samut Songkhram**. Though only a short 60 minute journey from Bangkok, Samut Songkhram couldn't feel further removed from the busy capital, providing instead a real insight into traditional Thai country living.

You'll travel to Samut Songkhram on the famous **Maeklong Railway**, disembarking at **Talat Rom Hoop**, a fruit and vegetable market that has developed around the railway tracks. In a remarkable display, the vendors at the market dexterously pack their stalls away minutes before the train approaches, only to unload them again once it's passed.



From Samut Songkhram, board a long-tail boat and journey through a complex network of canals to Thailand's most famous floating market, **Damnoen Saduak**. This vibrant market is a delight to explore, constantly bustling with vendors selling a huge variety of goods.

Return to Bangkok by train late this afternoon. The rest of the day is at leisure.





TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS





#### Day 4 - Bangkok to Chiang Mai

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Bangkok Airport for your flight to the northern capital, **Chiang Mai**. On arrival in Chiang Mai, meet with your guide and transfer to your hotel in the city centre.



In the afternoon, explore Chiang Mai's old quarter on foot, visiting **Wat Chiang Man**, the city's oldest temple (1297), and **Wat Chedi Luang**, its most dramatic.

Return to your hotel at the end of the walking tour. The evening is at leisure. You might like to take a trip into town to visit Chiang Mai's famous night bazaar.



#### Day 5 – Explore Chiang Mai

An early start this morning, as you depart your hotel at dawn (with a breakfast box) and travel north to the hilltop temple, **Wat Phra That Doi Suthep**, Chiang Mai's most prominent landmark. Arriving early means you can take part in the daily ceremony of alms giving, in which monks from the temple travel barefoot through the city in an orderly procession collecting alms (you can buy offerings at the site to give the monks or, if you prefer, just watch from a distance).

After the ceremony, climb to the temple at the top of the mountain via the 'Golden Naga' staircase. It's a steep climb, but worth it for the tremendous views of the city from the top of the mount. Also near Doi Suthep is **Wat Umong**, a forested temple hidden away behind the trees at the base of the hill, with its foundation underground (a network of tunnels connects the different sites of the temple). After

exploring its intriguing tunnels, head to the heart of the temple where you will experience your own blessing ceremony.

For lunch, stop at **Wat Palad**, one of Chiang Mai's most sacred temples, located a short distance from Doi Suthep. Wonderfully peaceful, it's the perfect spot for a picnic lunch. Return to your hotel in the afternoon.







This evening, visit one of the very best spas in the city, *Fah Lanna*, in Chiang Mai's old town, for a traditional Thai massage.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

#### Day 6 – Doi Suthep-Pui National Park

This morning, leave Chiang Mai for the surrounding wilderness. Explore the valleys and hills of **Doi Suthep-Pui National Park** on a gentle trek. Though only a short distance from the city, there are a number of beautiful country trails in the park, which is home to a wide variety of flora and birdlife (though few large mammals).

#### Day 7 - Chiang Mai to Koh Samui

After breakfast at your hotel, drive to Chiang Mai airport for your flight to **Koh Samui**, where you will be met by your guide and driven to your beach hotel.

Koh Samui is Thailand's premier beach retreat, boasting some of most beautiful beaches to be found in South-East Asia. The next three days are at leisure. Relax on the beach, enjoy Samui's busy nightlife, or visit the Ang Thong Marine Park.



## Day 8 - Koh Samui

Today is at leisure.

In the evening, you have the option of a sunset boat cruise around Koh Som, a small island in the Samui archipelago, departing late afternoon.



#### **Day 9 – Koh Samui** Today is at leisure.

For your last evening in Thailand, we'll arrange for a candlelit dinner on the beach at one of Koh Samui's most romantic resorts, Outrigger Koh Samui.



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#### Day 10 - Departure

The morning is free. Depart Ko Samui for Bangkok in the afternoon and connect with your international flight home.

# **Price Guide:**

The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,795 per person**, based on twin/double accommodation and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please <u>contact</u> <u>us</u>.

Includes:	Excludes:
<ul> <li>Twin/double accommodation (B&amp;B basis)</li> <li>Lunch on all days except day 10</li> <li>Private transportation throughout</li> <li>Internal flights</li> <li>All entrance fees and activities mentioned in itinerary</li> <li>Experienced guides</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>International flights - please ask us for a quote</li> <li>Visas</li> <li>Personal travel insurance</li> <li>Personal expenses and tips</li> <li>Dinner to own account on days 2, 5, 8 and 9.</li> </ul>



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