

Our journey

A route designed to discover the best of Thailand: culture, jungle, dream beaches and unforgettable experiences.

- 1 BANGKOK**
Arrival in the vibrant capital. 
- 2 AYUTTHAYA**
The ancient capital of the Kingdom of Siam.  **TRAIN**
Approx. 1h 30m
- 3 CHIANG MAI**
Temples, nature and local life.  **TRAIN**
Approx. 12–13h
- 4 CHIANG RAI**
The Golden Triangle and unique temples.  **BUS**
Approx. 3h
..... Back to Chiang Mai by bus
- 5 KHAO SOK**
Jungle, lake and wild nature.  **FLIGHT + VAN**
Via Surat Thani
- 6 AO NANG (KRABI)**
Spectacular beaches and relaxation.  **VAN**
Approx. 2h
- 7 PHI PHI ISLANDS**
Turquoise waters and incredible viewpoints.  **BOAT**
Approx. 45–60 min
- 8 RAILAY BEACH**
Beaches, cliffs and unforgettable sunsets.  **BOAT**
Approx. 15 min
..... Back to Ao Nang by boat
- 9 BANGKOK**
Return to the capital.  **FLIGHT**
Approx. 1h 15m

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  TRAIN | --- LAND ROUTE (TRAIN) |
|  BUS | - - - LAND ROUTE (BUS) |
|  VAN | - - - LAND ROUTE (VAN) |
|  BOAT | SEA ROUTE (BOAT) |
|  FLIGHT | - - - AIR ROUTE (FLIGHT) |

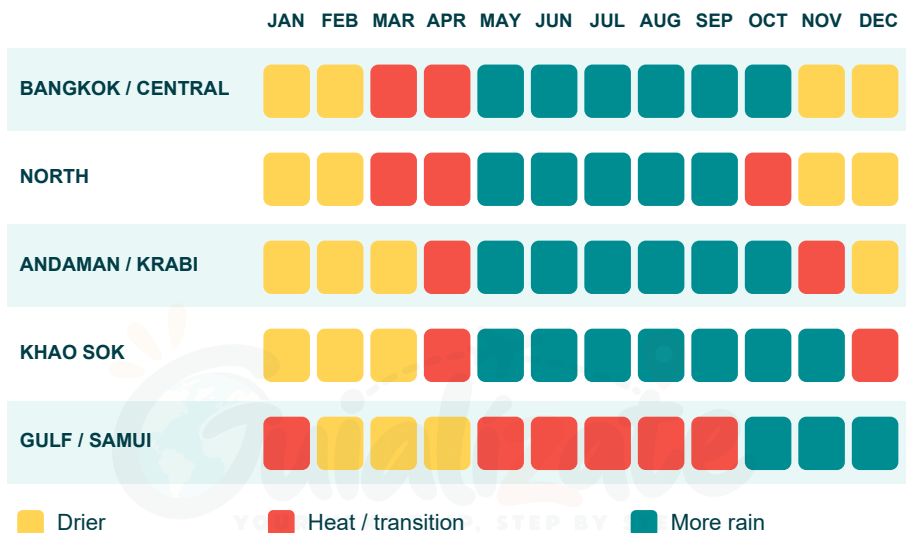




When to go

One country, two coasts and different seasons.

THE YEAR, REGION BY REGION



ANDAMAN

Krabi, Phi Phi and Railay usually have calmer seas from November to April.

GULF

Samui follows a different pattern: rainfall usually increases towards the end of the year.



February suits this route well. There may be smoke in the north: check air quality. In Khao Sok, bring rain protection even during the dry months.

Seasonal guidance · Forecasts and warnings: tmd.go.th



TDAC, step by step

The digital arrival card is free.

Complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card on the Immigration portal. Use the official form: some intermediaries charge for completing it.

1

When

Within the three days before entry, including the day you arrive. Count from your arrival date in Thailand, not your departure from Spain.

2

What you need

Passport, arrival date and transport details, first accommodation, email address and the requested health information.

3

How to submit it

Copy your passport details and check dates, document number and address before confirming.

4

What to save

Keep the confirmation available offline. To correct errors, use the official update or new declaration options, depending on the field.

Who submits it. Foreign travellers entering by air, land or sea, with exceptions such as certain transit journeys without passing through Immigration. Domestic flights do not require another TDAC.



Complete the official TDAC

tdac.immigration.go.th





Your apps, ready to use

Recognise the icons and save useful information offline.



Grab

Car rides and urban pickups. Check the number plate, driver and meeting point.



Google Maps

Save hotels, sights and piers. Download maps; not all routes work without mobile data.



Google Translate

Download Spanish, English and Thai. The camera helps you understand signs and menus.



LINE

Messaging widely used by accommodation providers and tour operators. Add their contacts in advance.



12Go

Find trains, buses, vans and boats. Check the operator, conditions and whether you have a booking request or an issued ticket.



XE

Check exchange rates as a reference. The app's figure is not the final rate offered by a currency exchange office.



Plan your bookings

A suggested timeline for preparing this route.

01

One year ahead · international flights

Start searching and comparing as soon as you know your dates. Buy when the airline opens bookings: not all allow reservations twelve months ahead. Check layovers, baggage and conditions.

02

One year ahead · hotels

Book with free cancellation; check the deadline and any advance payment. In [Asia](#), Agoda often works out cheaper [than Booking](#): compare the final price under the same conditions.

03

Medical insurance · when it suits you

Compare cover and exclusions before looking at the discount. Check Black Friday offers or travel creators' codes; verify the final price. If you want cancellation cover, check the purchase deadline after your first booking.

04

Three months ahead · domestic transport

Check and book these journeys when sales open. For trains and buses, the booking window depends on the service; a request through an intermediary may not yet be an issued ticket.

TRAIN	Ayutthaya → Chiang Mai
BUS	Chiang Mai → Chiang Rai
BUS	Chiang Rai → Chiang Mai
FLIGHT	Chiang Mai → Surat Thani
FLIGHT	Krabi → Bangkok

[D-Ticket](#) · [GreenBus](#) · [12Go](#)



Bangkok boats

Riverboats, cross-river ferries and canal boats are different services.



Chao Phraya Express · river transport

Scheduled boats call at specific piers; the flag identifies the service. The orange flag is a useful reference, but not every boat calls at every pier. Confirm the direction and stop before boarding, and keep your ticket.



Tourist Boat · blue flag

A sightseeing service with stops along the river. Single-journey tickets or passes are available according to the current fare structure. In this guide, it works for travelling between Rajinee and ICONSIAM if the departures and route fit your day.



Cross-river ferry · from one bank to the other

This is the small boat used to cross, for example between Tha Tien and Wat Arun when that service is operating. It does not travel along the river like the Express: pay for the crossing and check the correct landing point.



Canal boats and shuttles

The khlong Saen Saep boats travel along a canal, not the Chao Phraya. Hotel and shopping-centre shuttles have their own routes. A private long-tail boat is an excursion: agree the route, duration and total price.



BEFORE BOARDING

Give the name of your destination pier, confirm the direction and ask about the last return service. Carry small notes and protect your phone. Distinguish a private boat trip from public transport.

[Express Boat · official routes and timetables](#)

[Tourist Boat · tickets, map and departures](#)



Renting a motorbike?

Being able to rent easily does not mean having riding experience.



A ROUTE YOU CAN DO WITHOUT A MOTORBIKE

You can complete this route using Grab, tuk-tuks, buses, vans and boats. You do not need to rent a motorbike to follow it.



If you decide to ride

Bring your Spanish driving licence and an international driving permit with the correct category for the vehicle. Do not assume that Spain's category B equivalence is valid for riding a motorbike in Thailand. Also check your insurance requirements.



Before signing

Record the vehicle's condition, number plate, fuel level and any damage. Check brakes, tyres, lights and helmets. Read the deposit, damage liability and assistance terms. Avoid leaving your original passport as security.



Where it fits into this trip

With experience: the areas around Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai. **Optional:** Ayutthaya and Ao Nang have other options. **Impractical:** Bangkok, long journeys, Khao Sok with luggage, rain or night riding. **Phi Phi and Railay:** on foot and by boat.

Keep left, wear a helmet and avoid alcohol and fatigue.



Apply for an international driving permit

sede.dgt.gob.es · [International driving permit](#)





From the wok to the north

Six dishes to help you recognise a menu at a glance.



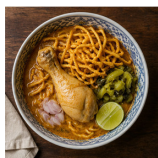
Pad thai

Stir-fried noodles with tamarind, egg and peanuts. Tofu, prawns or meat depending on the recipe. Sweet, sour and salty.



Pad kra pao

Meat with holy basil, garlic and chilli; served with rice and often a fried egg. It can be very spicy.



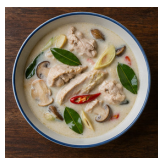
Khao soi

Coconut curry with soft and crispy noodles. One of the most distinctive flavours of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.



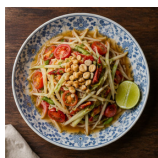
Tom yum goong

A sour, spicy and aromatic prawn soup with lemongrass, galangal and makrut lime leaves.



Tom kha gai

Chicken, coconut and galangal soup. Creamy and smooth in texture; it may also contain chilli.



Som tam

Green papaya salad with lime and chilli. Some versions contain fermented fish or crab: ask.

DAY 02



The great temples

From the royal palace to Bangkok's heights.

01



08:30

Grand Palace

Wat Phra Kaew and royal courtyards.

→ On foot · approx. 5-10 min

02



MID-MORNING

Wat Pho

Reclining Buddha, chedis and courtyards.

→ Walk to the pier + ferry

03



AFTERWARDS

Wat Arun

Ferry crossing and porcelain up close.

→ Return ferry + Grab

04



IN THE AFTERNOON

Wat Saket

Climb with plenty of time before closing.

→ Grab · only if you feel like it

05



OPTIONAL

Chang Chui

Art and dinner around an aeroplane.



If the day runs long: skip Chang Chui before rushing through the temples.

From the Buddha to the courtyards

1

Reclining Buddha

Enter the Phra Vihara. Follow the passage and pause by the 108 mother-of-pearl symbols on the feet.

2

Four great chedis

Continue towards Phra Maha Chedi Si Rajakarn and the galleries of Buddha images.

3

Inscriptions and hermits

Look for the knowledge plaques and figures in therapeutic poses: they explain the temple's educational role.

4

Massage and the way to Tha Tien

The official school offers massage. If the wait is long, continue to the pier to cross to Wat Arun.



TIP

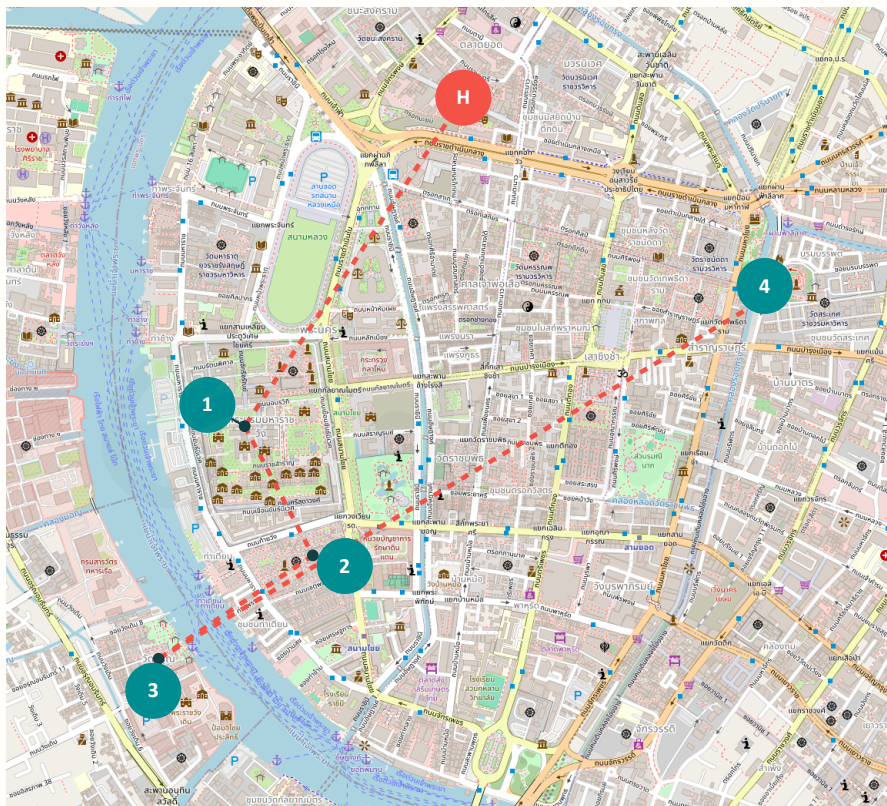
Eat something and drink water between visits. Massage is optional and costs extra on top of admission.

[Official massage school](#)

[Tha Tien Pier](#)

Your route at hand

Temples, two river crossings and an optional finish.



H Khao San · 1 Grand Palace · 2 Wat Pho 3 Wat Arun · 4 Wat Saket



5 · Chang Chui: outside this map detail, to the northwest. Take Grab from Wat Saket.

Lines = order of visits. · © OpenStreetMap contributors · openstreetmap.org/copyright

[Open the places along the route](#)

A market for dinner

The calendar decides. Tonight, just choose one.



ANY DAY · NIGHT BAZAAR

Chang Khlan Road. Stalls, food and souvenirs; lively from late afternoon. Take a Grab or songthaew after coming down from the mountain.



SATURDAY · WUA LAI

The Saturday Walking Street takes you back to Sri Suphan's neighbourhood. Crafts and food from mid-afternoon. Individual stall hours vary.



SUNDAY · THA PHAE

The Sunday Walking Street fills Ratchadamnoen Road. Enter through Tha Phae Gate or an access point near your hotel and agree a meeting place.

Try: khao soi, sai ua or nam prik ong. Bring small cash denominations and return early: tomorrow's pickup is early.

Planning your booking

Two days and one night: ask for the programme in writing.



CONFIRM THE CABIN AND CONNECTION

Contact your hotel around a month ahead; earlier if you want a particular cabin on popular dates. Ask about the onward connection to Ao Nang too.

WHAT THE QUOTE SHOULD DETAIL

Pickup and road transfer · shared or private long-tail boat · guide · accommodation · meals · trekking and cave or alternative · safaris · kayak use. Ask separately about park and pier fees, insurance, bathroom, towel, headtorch and dry bag. Programmes do not all include the same things.

[Check programmes · Khao Sok Travel](#)

[Check accommodation · Laguna Chiewlarn](#)

These are providers to consult; choosing just any tour does not mean the cabin in the photographs is included.

Understanding the price

Separate the package from the extra charges.



WHAT WE PAID ON OUR TRIP

2,800 THB per person for the package. Separately, 400 THB for the park and 80 THB for the pier between two people. These are memories from our trip, not current rates.



FOR YOUR DATES

Ask for the current total: cabin, activities, fees, surcharges and final transfer. As a guide, many programmes charge 300 THB for the park and 40 THB for the pier per adult separately.



SAVE A SCREENSHOT

Date, deposit, balance, cancellation, pickup, luggage and arrival in Ao Nang. Bring small cash denominations for anything payable locally.

[Example tour and fees · Khao Sok Jungle Hostel](#)

What do you fancy today?

Guide times include the return journey from Silom.

01

Ancient City

p. 281

6-8 h · architecture and photos · outside Bangkok

02

Wat Samphran

p. 284

4-5 h · dragon temple · pre-arranged car

03

Mahanakhon SkyWalk

p. 287

2-3 h · views · near your hotel

04

Jim Thompson House

p. 290

3-4 h · house museum · easy by BTS

05

Bang Krachao

p. 293

4-5 h · nature and cycling · across the river

Each alternative begins on a new page. Times include approximate travel; traffic and waiting may make them longer.