

5 DAYS ADVENTURE - ITINERARY:

Day 1: ARRIVAL, MEET YOUR TUK TUK, EXPLORE REMOTE TEMPLES AND TINY COMMUNITIES

You'll be picked up at 10:00am from the CHIANG MAI GATE HOTEL in Chiang Mai city and our team will transfer you by private minivan to The Tuk Tuk Club HQ in Mae Wang, around 45-60 minutes South West of the city.

On arrival you'll check into the super local hotel which is your base for the next couple of nights and the immediately get to meet your Tuk Tuk (you'll become very fond of this wonderful machine over the next few days!) and of course meet your guide and support team.

Note – our Tuk Tuks are specially modified to not only cope perfectly with the winding mountain roads but also to give extra comfort and views. There are Bluetooth speakers for you to play your road tip selections and you can even roll back the roof if you fancy catching some sun!

You'll then head for a delicious lunch at a 'laid back' local restaurant where your guide will run through all of the adventures ahead.

NOTE:

For those on the self-drive option there will be a detailed, in-depth driver training session followed by a test that all drivers must pass before heading out onto the road. For those who've chosen the chauffeur option this is a great experience to learn more about the Tuk Tuks, how they work and, if you'd like, the opportunity to have a quick go yourself!

Then you're off exploring tiny winding rural lanes, passing through rarely visited communities and fascinating Temples with stunning views. At one of the Temples you'll receive a blessing for the adventures ahead giving you a real insight into how communities interact with Monks and their local Temple.

You'll arrive back at base in the late afternoon in time to freshen up and head out for a delicious traditional Thai dinner at a local 'country – pub'. Great food, live music and a very special place.

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 3 HOURS INCLUDING DRIVER TRAINING
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 45 km

Inclusions:

- Transfer from Chiang Mai Gate Hotel to our 'base camp'
- Guide and support team
- Full Tuk Tuk orientation / driver training (for those on with the self-drive option)
- Exploration of remote Temples, rural communities and off the beaten track locations
- Lunch, dinner and water throughout the day
- Twin / double accommodation in a lovely rural resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite rooms

Day 2: WATERFALLS, HILL TRIBE VILLAGES, ELEPHANTS AND BAMBOO RAFTING

After breakfast you're back into your Tuk Tuk (we guarantee you'll already be possessive about which Tuk Tuk is 'yours'!) and you'll head through the countryside and small communities to a fantastic pagoda at Wat Doi Sapanayoo with great views of the surrounding mountains, giving you a glimpse of where you'll be heading tomorrow!

You're then head North up the valley in your Tuk Tuk as to a fantastic, small elephant home that is leading the way in taking elephants away from a life of trekking and instead creating an environment where people can learn about and spend time with elephants on their terms, not ours!

On arrival, you'll learn about the history of the elephants, what the team at the Elephant home are doing and then, after a great lunch at the home, it's time to enjoy the company of these wonderful animals. You'll be able to feed them, get to know them and then walk with them (no riding allowed!) to the local river where you'll bathe with them.

In the late afternoon you'll have a change of pace as we float gently downstream on bamboo rafts before it's then time for a late afternoon convoy as we head back to the base camp to freshen up before heading out for dinner at a local family restaurant before getting ready for an adventurous day tomorrow.

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 3.5 HOURS SPREAD OUT OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 70 km

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Tuk Tuk and driver (chauffeur option)
- Visits to Temples, Pagoda's, elephant home experience and bamboo rafting
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and water throughout the day
- Twin/ double accommodation in a lovely rural resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite rooms

Day 3: AND WE'RE OFF – DOI INTHANON HERE WE COME

After an early breakfast you're hitting the road and heading along small country roads towards Thailand's highest mountain, Doi Inthanon.

Your guide will be in the lead Tuk Tuk and everyone travels in convoy with the support vehicle at the rear (the support vehicle takes all your luggage, spare parts for the Tuk Tuks – always best to be prepared! – and huge amounts of water!). And note that each Tuk Tuk has a walkie talkie so not only can your guide let you know all

sorts of information but you can also ask anything you need or simply chat to your fellow travellers!

The first 20-30km of the route is simple with gentle curving roads but we soon hit stunning switch back bends, incredible scenery and tiny Karen hill tribe villages as we make our way towards the National Park.

Enjoy the look of complete surprise from everyone as they see Tuk Tuks this far up in the mountains – trust us, novelty doesn't not even begin to cover it – and you'll stop frequently to have a look at different villages / views and of course to sample some of the great coffee and snacks in small villages. Lunch will be in a roadside snack bar – hearty Thai fare!

You arrive at our accommodation mid-afternoon in the village of Mae Khlang Luang before jumping in another classic Thai mode of transport – a 'Songtaew' – a taxi adapted from a pick-up truck, which drives us to the summit of Doi Inthanon (over 2,500 metres) where you'll explore some of the trails and take in the views.

This evening it's time for a traditional Thai BBQ eaten over the rice fields as the sun sets over the mountains. A great end to a superb day

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 4 HOURS SPREAD OUT OVER THE DAY
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 85 km

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Tuk Tuks, support vehicle and driver (chauffeur driven option)
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and water throughout the day
- Visit to Doi Inthanon and National Park entry fees
- Twin / double accommodation near Doi Inthanon – this is the most 'basic' of the accommodation but it's the best available and by staying

here we can ensure that you're located in a stunning location and perfectly located for the trek tomorrow. Fan cooled, en-suite bathrooms

Day 4: TREKKING

The Tuk Tuks have a well-earned rest today as you head to explore the foothills of Doi Inthanon on foot!

Starting with a quick transfer by truck you then walk up into the forest led by a superb local guide (who knows everything about every tree and plant – and can spot a snake from miles away!) and then hike past stunning waterfalls, rivers and towering trees.

There are a number of spots where you can cool off with a dip in the pools under the waterfalls and you'll have a packed lunch (wrapped in leaves) in a clearing in the forest.

The hike ends with a walk back down into the village where you stayed last night and there's the chance to enjoy the freshest coffee around at a local old-style mountain coffee shop – probably our favourite coffee shop anywhere in Northern Thailand.

NOTE – the trek / hike is suitable for all. The total distance is around 5-6km, we take it at a gentle pace and after the initial uphill section, the majority of the hike is flat or downhill

This evening it's time for another superb feast – again overlooking the rice terraces – and perhaps one or two well deserved cold beers!

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** NA – no Tuk Tuk driving today
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** NA

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Trek and trekking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and water throughout the day

- Twin / double accommodation near Doi Inthanon– this is the most ‘basic’ of the accommodation but it’s the best available and by staying here we can ensure that you’re located in a stunning location and perfectly located for the trek tomorrow. Fan cooled, en-suite bathrooms

Day 5: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

The 5 day adventure comes to an end this morning as you say goodbye to your Tuk Tuk and the team and transfer back to Chiang Mai City by private minivan.

The transfer will take place in the morning and you will arrive in Chiang Mai (The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel) before midday.

Inclusions:

- Breakfast
- Transfer to The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

By its very nature this trip is an ‘adventure’ – when it’s hot....it’s hot, when It’s wet....it’s wet and when it’s cold....it’s cold (and it can get cold in the mountains between November and February with overnight temperatures sometimes dropping to 10C or even a bit less). And as with any trip of this nature there is some inherent risk which must be accepted by all travellers....but without a small amount of risk there is no adventure!

However, all routes and roads have been extensively researched (in Tuk Tuks of course), and our driving team always follow a gentle pace and adapt to the weather and road conditions at any given time.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

We will pick you up at **10:00am** at the CHIANG MAI GATE HOTEL in Chiang Mai City. If you’re not staying there the night before your tour starts please make your own way to the hotel which is just outside the South side of the old city walls. The

address is: **Chiang Mai Gate Hotel, 10/11 Suriyawong Road, Haiya, Chiang Mai, 50100**. Telephone number: +66(0) 53 203 895 9

It's easy to find and very well-known so any hotel you are staying at will be able to help you get a taxi there.

Can I book my own Tuk Tuk?

- This experience is perfect for solo travellers, couples or groups of friends (or even adventurous families). If you're travelling on your own you'll be teamed up with a fellow solo traveller to enjoy your time travelling in these wonderful vehicles
- For those booking the chauffeur driven option each Tuk Tuk can take a maximum of 2 adults, for those booking the self-drive option each Tuk Tuk can take a maximum of 3 adults.

NOTES ON THE SELF-DRIVE OPTION

- All travellers who wish to drive a Tuk Tuk **MUST** have a driving license from their own country (manual gear) and an International Driving Permit (**IDP**)
- No previous Tuk Tuk driving experience is necessary as you will be trained on Day 1 but please note that if you don't usually drive a manual / stick shift car then we strongly recommend you choose the chauffeur driven option
- At the end of training session all drivers must pass a test. If the guide / training team believe you have not reached the standard to pass the test then unfortunately you will not be able to drive on the roads (although of course more time and training will be given to help you as is possible). The decision of the training team is final.

Group size

- The maximum group size for each trip is 14.
- Each trip will consist of up to 6 Tuk Tuks and a support vehicle carrying bags, spare parts, water, snacks etc.

The Tuk Tuks

- All the Tuk Tuks are original, classic ‘Bangkok style’ Tuk Tuks but specially built and designed for the trips we run. This means more legroom and head room, BlueTooth speakers and a roll back roof should you be looking for a bit more sun!

Accommodation

The accommodation is intentionally of a high standard throughout the trip to allow you to ‘adventure’ during the day but relax and enjoy great surroundings in the evenings. After all, who said that an adventure has to be uncomfortable....

Mae Wang ‘base camp’ – nights 1 and 2 – 3*- 4*

Khum Khun Wang Resort (or similar), Mae Wang. A lovely rural Northern Thailand hotel in peaceful grounds with a laid back small outdoor meeting area. Run by a very friendly team and perfect for our ‘base camp’.

Doi Inthanon – nights 3 and 4 – 2*

You’ll stay in the Karen Hill Tribe village of Mae Khlang Luang. Whilst this is the ‘simplest’ accommodation of the adventure the rooms are spacious, clean and, being perched overlooking the rice terraces, in a superb location. All the rooms have en-suite facilities, hot water and are fan-cooled – there’s no need for air-conditioning this high in the mountains.

The fantastic location and the experience of staying in the village far outweighs the simple nature of the rooms!

What do I need to bring? How much will I spend?

The most important thing to pack is a sense of **adventure** and a sense of **humour**!

However, there are of course a few other essentials:

Travel Insurance – IMPORTANT

Travel insurance is **compulsory** for all of our trips but is not included and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have appropriate cover for all aspects of your trip.

Clothing:

- Obviously this is up to you but we recommend trainers (or similar) for trekking / exploring and flip flops / sandals for relaxing in your Tuk Tuk and the evenings and comfortable shorts / t-shirts / long sleeved t-shirt for driving days (that you don't mind getting dirty and grimy!)
- If you're travelling between November and February please don't forget some warm clothes for the evenings – it can get quite chilly from time to time at night in the mountains and a warm jumper / fleece is well worth packing.
- The trek doesn't require walking boots although its paths can be muddy and slippery in the rainy season (approximately July through to late October)
- Hat / sunglasses / sunscreen

Spending money

- This is always difficult to gauge. All meals are included on the adventure but you may wish to buy the odd snack en route, sample the mountain coffee, and of course enjoy a cold beer from time to time!
- Beers range from 60THB up to 150THB for a large bottle (depending on where you buy them – sometimes even 150THB for a small bottle)
- Whilst everyone's needs are different we'd suggest that you budget for around £50 (+/-2,000THB) or so for food, snacks, drinks and so on during your trip, this should be more than enough for even the thirstiest of travellers.