

Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai

Thailand Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Land of Smiles

Thailand's public face boasts showy gold temples and Instagram worthy beaches. You want to see them, and we'll be sure you do. But the secret to Thailand is to shift your focus a few degrees, allowing the local people to share with you the richness of this dazzling land. You'll sail on a traditional junk boat through glorious Phang Nga Bay to James Bond Island. You'll visit an elephant camp deep in foothills of Chiang Rai to meet the mahouts, men who are more the partners than the masters of the revered animals. Walks take you from dike-top paths in emerald rice paddies to remote villages where proud hill tribes practice ancient traditions and crafts. You'll receive the blessing of saffron-robed Buddhist monks at an early morning alms-giving...glide over rivers in classic long-tail boats...and be welcomed into one of the country's finest kitchens. Because Thailand has a long history of hospitality to travelers, your accommodations here are especially fine—soothing ends to stimulating days.

DAY 1

PHUKET

- Arrive Phuket and transfer to your beachside resort
- Explore the Phuket coast on foot

As you arrive at Phuket Airport, meet your Classic Journeys guide in the arrivals hall and transfer to your luxury beachside hotel.

This afternoon you'll take in the natural beauty of Phuket Island as you pass through scenic beach villages to the 'Three Beaches' viewpoint. Just absorb your first vista of the beautiful bays of Kata Noi, Kata, Karon and Koh Pu Island, one of the island's most scenic spots. Inspired, embark on a scenic walk to Wat Chalong, Phuket's most beautiful and renowned monastery.

Overnight: Phuket

Meals: D

DAY 2

PHUKET

- Sail on a traditional junk boat to James Bond Island
- Explore floating villages

The islands of Phang Nga National Park are among the wonders of Asia. The sheer-sided limestone monoliths rise 900 feet out of the sea and are interspersed with mangroves and fascinating caves. The very best way to explore them is to sail a traditional Chinese junk through Phang Nga Bay. First, we'll head for Koh Ping Kan (James Bond Island), the location for the movie "The Man with the Golden Gun." Along the way, relax and enjoy a Thai lunch onboard. Drop anchor and step into a long-tail boat to explore the local life on the Panyee floating villages. Nearby, Naka Island is the perfect spot before you make your return journey back to your resort. The balance of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

Overnight: Phuket

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

CHIANG MAI

- Connect Phuket and Chiang Mai with a short flight
- Visit kids and teachers at local school
- Explore Wiang Kum Kam settlement
- Chat with monks at Wat Suan Dok

Shifting gears, a short flight leads you to the mountain region of Chiang Mai, with views of lush verdant rice paddies. Until the early part of this century, northern Thailand was accessible from Bangkok only by several weeks of hard travel by elephant. It wasn't until the 1920s that a railway came to this isolated region. Known as The Rose of the North, it's a center of beautiful handicrafts, ancient temples, tropical jungles, farming and hill-tribe culture.

Arriving mid-afternoon, you'll start with your explorations of Northern Thailand where the kids are waiting for you to share insight into their lives and studies with a visit to a local primary school. The remainder of the afternoon includes a visit to Wiang Kum Kam, an important settlement in the 13th century. The site was buried under mud when the river changed course during the Burmese period and has recently undergone an extensive restoration. Numerous archaeological sites and ancient temples remain from the original settlement, all surrounded by rural countryside and village houses. Here, you'll explore Wat Chedi Lium (the impressive pyramid), and sit down for a chat with monks at Wat Suan Dok. This evening, join your guide for a visit to the night bazaar, famous for its celadon, lacquer ware, silverwork and hill-tribe handicrafts.

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

CHIANG MAI

- Participate with locals in a traditional Buddhist alms-giving
- Learn the secrets of Thai cooking at a fun and informative instruction

DAILY ITINERARY

Thailand: Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai | Cultural Walking Adventure

• Follow a mountain trail to a beautifully-sited temple

One of the most unique experiences you can have in Thailand is to visit a Buddhist temple to offer alms to the monks. Each morning before dawn, the monks dress in distinctive saffron robes and quietly pad in bare feet along the streets, carrying alms bowls and receiving boiled rice and condiments from the locals. In return, people receive the monks' blessings. This morning, you can choose to participate in this very special Thai custom by personally presenting alms.

Inspired, escape from the bustling city for a day. Learn how to prepare and cook a Thai meal while enjoying the relaxing countryside. Your first stop is a fresh local market before you arrive at an organic farm where friends are waiting. You'll learn about various kinds of organic herbs, vegetables and fruits, and have the opportunity to pick some of the fresh ingredients that you'll use while preparing your favorite dishes. Celebrate your new culinary skills over a meal on the terrace overlooking the fishpond, where you'll have a splendid view of the entire farm as well as the lush mountains in the near distance.

Later, join your guide to travel up the mountain overlooking Chiang Mai to visit one of Thailand's best-known temples, Wat Doi Suthep, built in the 16th century, with a fantastic view over the valley below. It's your choice to go by foot, climbing a steep staircase comprising 300 or so steps, or by funicular rail car.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is at your leisure to enjoy the hotel's amenities. Our Chiang Mai hotel has been described as more than a hotel, but rather an experience. Tonight, dinner is on your own at the hotel or in town.

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

CHIANG RAI

• Visit Wat Rong Khun "White Temple"

- Enjoy lunch overlooking farmland and a tea plantation
- Visit a hill-tribe village in the Golden Triangle

This morning, travel through splendid mountain scenery and tropical jungle to Chiang Rai. Stop along the way at Wat Rong Khun, also known as the "White Temple." From there, you can walk countryside trails or ride along to an organic farm for lunch. The farm boasts over 200 acres of farmland and tea plantations.

Late afternoon, walk through the Union hill tribe villages in the Golden Triangle's Nanglae District. There are five hill tribe villages with more than 200 villagers living here – Akha, Yao, Lahu, Palong and Long Neck (Kayan) tribe. At the villages you'll see the local people wearing their traditional clothing and learn about their very simple way of life.

Overnight: Chiang Rai

Meals: B, L

DAY 6

CHIANG RAI

- Explore around the Golden Triangle
- Visit with the elephants and mahouts at Dara camp

This morning, drive through the Golden Triangle to a hillside vantage point with superb views of where the mountains of Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand merge. The vista also takes in the mighty Mekong River joining forces with the Ruak River. Its one thing to see the river, and another thing to experience it up close on a long-tail boat to get closer to the territorial areas of Myanmar and Laos.

This afternoon, visit Dara, an elephant camp dedicated to elephant conservation. Here you have the opportunity to visit with the mahouts (more companions to the elephants than masters) and their pachyderm charges, who demonstrate for their many skills, including how the elephants take their morning bath. You'll also learn how the camp contributes to Thailand's elephant conservation movement.

Overnight: Chiang Rai

Meals: B, D

DAY 7

DEPART

- Transfer to Chiang Rai Airport

DAILY ITINERARY

Thailand: Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai | Cultural Walking Adventure

• Settle in for your onwards flight home

In anticipation of your flight departure you'll be transferred to the Chiang Rai International Airport for your onward flight home.
Note: normal check out time is 12:00pm.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Anantara Layan Phuket Resort and Spa

This five-star luxury beach retreat overlooks a quiet sandy cove on the island's low-key northwest coast. Open-air public spaces make the most of the natural surroundings. The airy guest rooms are decorated in modern Thai style with dark carved woods.

OVERNIGHT: Thalang | **NIGHTS:** 2



Ratilanna Riverside Spa Resort

Capturing the essence of the ancient Lanna heritage through its impressive architecture and interior decor, this luxury boutique resort is nestled serenely along the bank of Mae Ping River. Luxurious guestrooms feature private balconies and rain showers.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Mai | **NIGHTS:** 2



Anantara Resort Golden Triangle

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, this resort is perched on a ridge overlooking the hills of Myanmar and Laos. The deluxe accommodations and spa ensure that every moment is perfectly peaceful and memorable.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Rai | **NIGHTS:** 2

DAILY ITINERARY

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Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH 7 Days, 6 Nights

START Lobby of Anantara Layan, Phuket, Thailand

END Chiang Rai Airport, Chiang Rai, Thailand

TERRAIN Easy to moderate with 2-3 hours of walking per day (note: Phuket Island day and transfer days are less).

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners, 1 cooking instruction lunch
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!


President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:
Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:
You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:
Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:
With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:
From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:
"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Thailand...

- Exploring the Wiang Kum Kam settlement in Chiang Mai
- Engaging with the local monks during 'monk chat' in Chiang Mai
- Visiting the hill-tribe villages in the Golden Triangle
- Sailing on a traditional junk boat to James Bond Island
- Exploring the local life on floating villages

"Classic Journeys has turned out to be a fantastic company to travel with - one I highly recommend. I truly feel as if I have been on vacation this past week."

-**Marcia B.**, Rochester, NY