



**SMILING**  
ALBINO

DAY TRIPS

# CHIANG RAI THAILAND

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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## **CHIANG RAI DAY TRIPS**

WITH RUGGED HILLS, SPECTACULAR MOUNTAINS AND ENCHANTING RURAL VILLAGES, CHIANG RAI IS AN IDEAL ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND.

CHIANG RAI CITY IS SEEN IN MANY WAYS AS A SMALLER, MORE LAID-BACK VERSION OF BUSTLING CHIANG MAI FURTHER SOUTH. THE FOLLOWING EXCURSIONS ARE BEST INCORPORATED AS DAY TRIPS WHILE BASED NEAR CHIANG RAI TOWN

# CHIANG RAI EVENING STROLL

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Set off on an evening in Chiang Rai. The night starts with a meal. We're taking you out to dinner at one of our favorite restaurants specializing in some of Chiang Rai's classic dishes.

After dinner, we'll drive to the famous golden clock tower, located at the very center of town. If the timing is right (hint: it usually is!), we'll be rewarded with a sound and light show!

From here we will walk to Chiang Rai's happening Night Bazaar. We'll stroll through the stalls and stands selling Lanna and hilltribe arts, clothing and crafts before settling in at one of the public dining areas to watch a folk music performance.

As we go, enjoy snacks, beverages and more!

Time: half-day (evening), 18:00-21:30 (flexible)

Explored by: walking and private vehicle

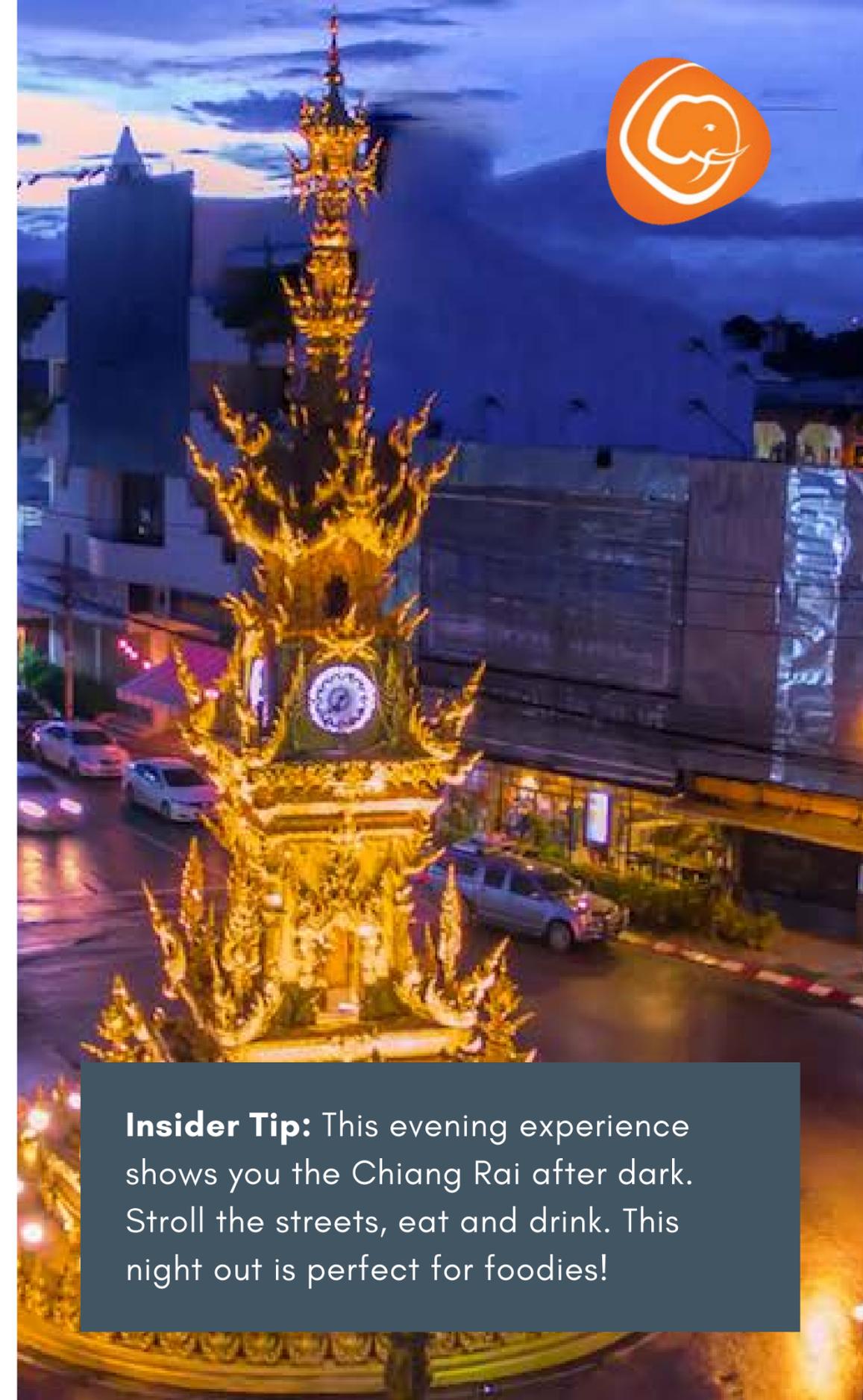
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: dinner at a local restaurant

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**Insider Tip:** This evening experience shows you the Chiang Rai after dark. Stroll the streets, eat and drink. This night out is perfect for foodies!

# BIKES AND GIANTS

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Jump on bicycles and ride along small winding roads, over some manageable hills and through local villages. A highlight will be a visit to the impressive “Wat Rong Khun”, or the “White Temple”, one of Thailand’s most unusual temple structures created by national artist Chalermchai Kositpipat.

Then, get ready for an ethical elephant experience at Elephant Valley. The first order of business will be lunch at the sanctuary followed by a fascinating afternoon watching these majestic creatures wander and graze bamboo groves, forests and grasslands.

As a true sanctuary, there’s no riding, bathing or petting of the elephants by the visitors. Instead, the elephants remain undisturbed in their natural habitat, while professional elephant guides entertain, educate and inform guests about the elephants they are observing and about the species as a whole.

Time: full-day, 8:00 - 17:00

Explored by: biking, walking, and private vehicle

Inclusions: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water, and Elephant Valley Thailand afternoon experience

Meals: a local lunch will be served at Elephant Valley Thailand

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**Insider Tip:** The day's bike riding takes place over approximately twenty kilometers on paved as well as dirt roads with minor hills. Non-cyclists can enjoy all of today's activities by private support van.

# BIKES, BOATS, VILLAGES & CAVES

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Get ready for a full day of exploring a large swath of what the scenic countryside surrounding Chiang Rai has to offer. And we'll do it in the best way we know how: on bicycles with the breeze in our faces! The day will begin with a drive to a cave temple, Wat Tha Phra, where our mountain bikes will be waiting for us. We'll spend some time exploring this vernacular temple, get used to our bicycles, and then take off to pedal along the Kok River, through fertile farmland, creaking bamboo stands, and to a hilltribe village surrounded by limestone mountains.

Here we will have a local lunch, and then carry on through small back roads leading out of the village, up and over some medium-grade mountains, passing by further Ahka and Lisu settlements. When we've had enough biking, we'll board a private longtail boat waiting for us on the river and head back down the river to Chiang Rai town. Sit back, relax, and take in the scenery unfolding along the shores as you reflect on this epic day.

Time: full-day, 09:00 - 16:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: biking and longtail boat

Inclusion: English speaking host, support vehicle, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

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**Insider Tip:** Combining the best of Thailand's north, this day hits all of the must-do experiences and is a great way to explore Chiang Rai for active travelers who are into nature.

# HILLTRIBE HIKE AND JUNGLE LUNCH

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Set off on a two-hour journey to the mountain ranges that straddle the Thai-Myanmar border. Our destination is the Lahu hilltribe chief village in Mae Ai district, a traditional settlement nestled in an idyllic valley.

A short hike from the village will take us to a small clearing by a stream where we will have a hands-on opportunity to prepare a Lahu feast using only locally procured ingredients and tools. We'll observe how they create bamboo vessels and utensils through ingenious craftsmanship!

The afternoon will be spent hiking through forests and orchards, and along the gentle streams that dissect the hilly landscape. Our hike will conclude here and a 4x4 truck will be waiting to take us back to the Lahu hilltribe village where we'll say goodbye to our Lahu hosts for the day and drive back to Chiang Rai.

Time: full-day, 7:30 - 16:00

Explored by: hiking and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: local lunch prepared by the Lahu community

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**Insider Tip:** This is a cooking and culinary experience unlike any other. You will learn about Lahu architecture, spiritual practices, music, and daily life. The hike will take us to a small but beautiful, multi-tiered waterfall. Feel free to take a dip and cool off!

# DOI MAE SALONG

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Drive up to one of the Kingdom's most stunning destinations - Doi Mae Salong. This dramatic mountain region was settled first by indigenous hilltribe groups such as the Ahka and Lahu peoples, and more recently by Chinese settlers who fled the Communist Revolution in China in 1949. We'll drive roughly 75 kilometers up and over spectacular jungle-covered mountains enroute to this highland retreat.

Hiking Anyone? We'll arrive early enough for a nice nature hike through terraced tea and rice plantations, taking in hill tribe villages and rolling mountains around the Doi Mae Salong area. By noon we will have certainly built up an appetite and we will treat ourselves to some delicious southern Chinese (Yunnanese food) for which the village of Doi Mae Salong is renowned.

Doi Mae Salong is also home to Thailand's premier Oolong tea production. We will have a tea tasting set up to try some of the many varieties and learn all about the process and importance of tea growing in northern Thailand.

Time: 09:00-16:00 (flexible)

Explored by: walking, hiking, and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

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**Insider Tip:** We suggest an active hike of around 10 kilometers, however, we can customize our route to match the guest's abilities - remember, everything is custom!

# ARTIST'S HOME-STUDIO VISIT

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Acclaimed Chiang-Rai artist Sangiam Yarangsee is a master of impressionist painting, drawing inspiration from the vibrancy of nature in Northern Thailand. He has spent well over two decades painting almost every corner of the greater Golden Triangle region, first concentrating on hills, then moving on to cloudscapes, rivers in neighboring provinces and countries (Laos), the ocean in Thailand's far south and even landscapes in Europe and Nepal.

Today, we will have the opportunity to visit Sangiam's hilltop home-studio-gallery, which commands not only terrific views but also a fine collection of his works.

Having experienced the rolling hills, valleys, and villages of Northern Thailand yourself, getting a chance to browse through Sangiam's colorful canvases and see these scenes through his eyes (i.e. brushes) will be a delight.

Time: flexible

Inclusion: light snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

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**Insider Tip:** Eclectic and artsy, Chiang Rai is home of many local artists.



# START PLANNING

AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.

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