



Chiang Mai First Date / A Taste of Chiang Mai	2
Chiang Mai Life and Legends	4
Chiang Mai Countryside Walk and Rafting	5
Trekking and Rafting in Mae Wang National Park	6
Mae Wang Active Trek	6
Mae Wang Light Trek	7
Thailand's Highest Peak (Doi Inthanon)	8
Hilltribes of Chiang Mai	9
Ethical Fashion and Eco Textiles	10
Tuk Tuk Countryside Adventure	11
Pedal Lanna	12
Pedalling and Kayaking the Ping	13
Pedal Lanna and Elephant Love	14
Pedal Lanna and Classic Sights	15
Elephant Day Care at Patara Elephant Farm	16
Lunch: N/A	16

CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL



Walking with Elephants at Thai Elephant Home	17
Elephant Conservation at Elephant Nature Park	18
Cooking at Home	19
Northern Thai Home Cooking	20
Extraordinary Road Trip to Chiang Rai	21
Extraordinary Road Trip to the Golden Triangle	22
A Day in Timeless Lamphun	23
The Smiling Albino Difference	24

CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Chiang Mai First Date / A Taste of Chiang Mai

As dusk begins to settle, we'll take you on a unique adventure exploring a large swath of Chiang Mai's evening attractions. The fun and quickest way is as a passenger in our private tuk-tuk! Your driver will skillfully pick the best routes while your host fills you in on the many intricacies of this vibrant town.

The excursion will begin with a tuk tuk cruise to the heart of the old town, where your host will provide an introduction to Chiang Mai's fascinating history. Hop back into the tuk tuk and cruise through the old town before stopping off at a popular local food market. The tuk tuk will be waiting to take us to a local fresh market. Fruits, vegetables, and all sorts of knick knacks make this a real backdoor experience of what goes down after sunset in this vibrant city. Crown the tuk tuk adventure with dinner at a recommended restaurant or one of the city's night markets or walking streets.

Note: for those looking for a bit of an adrenaline rush, you can enjoy the same experience being chauffeured on the back of a scooter! This excursions works best on the first night in Chiang Mai (First Date) but can be done on any night (A Taste of Chiang Mai).

Time: half-day (evening), 17:30 - 21:00

Explored by: private tuk-tuk and walking (OR scooters driven by personal chauffeurs)

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

Meals: dinner at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Chiang Mai Life and Legends

We'll start by ascending Doi Suthep, a 1,676 metre (5,499 ft) mountain overlooking the city of Chiang Mai. It is an important and revered site with an intriguing legend – and a perfect vantage point to plan the day's adventure through the ancient city below. On the way back to town, we'll stop off at Wat Umong, a 700 year-old temple set in tranquil shaded woods, famous for the tunnels below it's large chedi.

Next we'll stop off at one of our favourite local restaurants to indulge in some northern culinary specialties before visiting Wiang Kum Kam, a historic settlement along the Ping River which predates the city of Chiang Mai. This is a large archaeological site with many beautiful ruins in various stages of restoration. We'll then explore the vast grounds of Wat Chedi Luang, the first temple of Chiang Mai, before strolling through some of the charming streets of the Old City and returning to your hotel.

Flexible touring means we can explore as much or as little as you like – your wish is our command!

Note: not keen on too many temples? Check out our Add-On Services for some fun ideas on customizing this trip according to your interests.

Time: full-day, 09:00 - 16:00 (flexible)

Explored by: walking, and private vehicle

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

Chiang Mai Countryside Walk and Rafting

This morning, we'll enjoy a leisurely excursion that explores the Chiang Mai countryside, villages and jungles. Starting off on foot from a scenic spot just a short drive from the hotel, we'll walk along the Mae Ping River through local villages. We can stop and chat with locals at their home and learn about their seasonal agricultural harvests or homemade weaving products. We'll visit Baan Mor Tha to see our friend, Doctor Tha, and learn about his alternative medical treatment. If you are up for it, we can call ahead and get his unique herbal sauna ready for you to try.

The walk is flexible and can be as long or short as you wish. Once we have built up our appetite, we will head to one of our favorite restaurants in the area for a delicious lunch.

Then, with a morning of walking and a hearty lunch behind us, the best way to enjoy the early afternoon siesta time is by boarding a raft equipped with sun shade and pillows and observe the the shady scenery of rich jungle slipping past on both sides as we drift down the river. This one to two hour flexible rafting experience is the perfect way to wrap up the day's activities before heading back to the hotel.

Note: The walk can be up to six kilometres (two and a half hours including rest breaks) and rafting between six and 12 kilometers (one to two hours).

Time: full-day, 8:00 - 15:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: walking, rafting, and private vehicle

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Trekking and Rafting in Mae Wang National Park

Mae Wang National Park is a 1 hour and 20 minute drive southwest from Chiang Mai. This 700 square kilometer national park is great for those who enjoy the beauty of nature and love to experience moderate to active adventure. The trekking opportunities here are endless, and depending on how much of a work out you want to incorporate into the excursion, we can make it a more active or a lighter trek.

Note: The drive is approximately one hour and twenty minutes each way. Trekking will take around four hours, while rafting will take one hour. Changing room facilities are available near the waterfall. If necessary, a four-wheel drive vehicle will be included to navigate the terrain comfortably when reaching the trailhead. Rafting is dependent on river conditions (may not be possible Apr-May)

Time: full-day, 08:30 – 17:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: walking, rafting and private vehicle

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

Meals: lunch (simple picnic)



Mae Wang Active Trek

Our excursion starts with an approximately two hour long trek through the forests and villages. This is a good opportunity for you to get acquainted with the local tropical plants, birds, insects, butterflies, and other flora and fauna. We'll stop and have a peaceful picnic lunch at a small waterfall. After lunch, we'll continue our adventurous trek 2 - 3 more hours to Mae Wang Base Camp. To round the day off with a bit of

CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

bamboo rafting, we'll drive 15 minutes to the starting point on the Mae Wang River. Enjoy the shady scenery of rich forests slipping past on both sides as you raft down the river. This one hour rafting experience will relax you after your day's trek.

Mae Wang Light Trek

For those who would prefer a light trek, we'll drive 20 minute farther into a hill tribe village. After exploring the village, we'll trek 20-30 minutes through hills and forests to a picturesque waterfall for a refreshing swim followed by a picnic lunch. After lunch, we'll then continue hiking 2 - 3 more hours to Mae Wang Base Camp. To round the day off with a bit of bamboo rafting, we'll drive 15 minutes to the starting point on the Mae Wang River. Enjoy the shady scenery of rich forests slipping past on both sides as you raft down the river. This one hour rafting experience will relax you after your day's trek.



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Thailand's Highest Peak (Doi Inthanon)

Known as the “roof of Thailand”, Doi Inthanon is home to Thailand’s highest mountain peak standing at 2,575 metres tall. More than that, Doi Inthanon is a national park with an incredibly rich assortment of fauna and flora, perfect for a nature-filled day close to Chiang Mai City.

The day will begin early with a two-hour drive to the highest peak where we can take in the crisp mountain air and take photos of the unparalleled views. We will then dodge the crowds and go hiking along a scenic, three-kilometer trail with a more off-the-beaten path feel (though still comfortable and offering plenty of places to rest). Upon completion of the trail, we will make a quick visit to the Royal Pagodas and Gardens which were built to commemorate the birthday of the Late King Bhumibol and his Queen. After a local lunch we will spend the early afternoon exploring some stunning waterfalls and, if you’re up for it, a bit more hiking.

Note: It takes around two hours to reach Doi Inthanon from Chiang Mai. Doi Inthanon can get quite chilly, especially in the early mornings and generally in the winter months so make sure to bring a light sweater.

Time: full-day, 07:00 - 16:00 (an early start is necessary due to driving times)

Explored by: private vehicle and walking

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Hilltribes of Chiang Mai

Baan Tong Luang Hilltribe Village is designed to promote the unique cultures of various hill tribe groups, offering travellers a glimpse of ethnic diversity in the region while also giving vocational training and employment opportunities to the residents.

The lives of many hilltribe people (especially those living near Chiang Mai) have modernized dramatically over the last few decades, though they are often still portrayed as “exotic” in the media. As a result, many people come with the expectation of encountering traditional hilltribe villages when, in reality, these villages nowadays only exist in more remote areas of the province. To reach them involves a prolonged drive and usually a hike. If you do not have enough time to do this, but would still like to learn about the fascinating cultural diversity of Northern Thailand, we suggest a visit to Baan Tong Luang.

This is a community-based tourism village with nine minority groups residing side-by-side in the scenic Mae Rim area of Chiang Mai Province (around a one hour drive from Chiang Mai city). One can easily spend up to three hours in this fascinating place, as our host explains cultural nuances. There are plenty of opportunities for interaction with the hilltribe residents of this community.

Note: It is about a one hour drive each way to Baan Tong Luang from Chiang Mai City. Depending on the time of year, there is potential for many tourists coming to this village. We try our best to avoid the crowds.

Time: half-day, 08:00 - 13:00

Explored by: private vehicle and walking

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

Ethical Fashion and Eco Textiles

Studio Naenna is a community of women weavers, embroiderers, and designers from various ethnic groups around Chiang Mai that create high quality, environmentally friendly and sustainable fabric products. The aim is to encourage pride in traditional techniques and empower women within their villages. Studio Naenna was founded by Patricia Cheesman, renowned textile expert, author, and long-term resident of Chiang Mai. Her and her daughter Lamorna offer fantastic workshops aimed at building an appreciation for northern Thai textiles in a hands-on and engaging way.

Today you will join natural indigo tie-dye workshop where you will receive a presentation about the natural dyes of the region and learn to make your own tie-dye textile. You will be guided through the entire process and shown traditional weaving techniques by the experts on site. After completing your piece you will also have a chance to visit two galleries where a large variety of high quality garments, exquisite interior design textiles, and even antiques are on display.

After an educational and fun morning, we will take you for lunch at a nearby local eatery.

Note: It is about a thirty minute drive each way from Chiang Mai town. Aprons are provided but please wear suitable clothing you don't mind getting a bit of dye on. The workshop takes between two and three hours.

Time: half-day, 9:00 - 13:00

Explore by: private vehicle and walking

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, Studio Naenna workshop led by on-site expert, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Tuk Tuk Countryside Adventure

Today you will participate in one of the most unique and thrilling experiences available in rural Chiang Mai: learning to drive a tuk tuk and cruising through the countryside! Combined with visiting an elephant sanctuary and bamboo rafting, this is an action-packed day unlike any other. If the idea of self-driving a tuk tuk is not your kind of thing, not to worry -- the entire adventure can be done as a passenger chauffeured by a professional.

The day will begin with a hotel pick-up by our friends from the Tuk Tuk Club. They will take you into the scenic Mae Wang area, known for its rural idyll and surrounded by hills on all sides. Get introduced to the tuk tuks and start the one-hour training course in a safe, controlled area. Then, take off and spend the morning cruising gently through farming villages and hamlets. The expert guides from the Tuk Tuk Club will ensure a smooth ride with opportunities for local immersion along the way. The last stop of the morning drive will be the Mae Wang Elephant Home where you will learn about, feed, and walk with elephants and then join them for a bath in the local river! (no riding). After a refreshing lunch at the Mae Wang Elephant Home, you will climb onto a bamboo raft and drift leisurely downstream. Your tuk tuks will be waiting for a final motorized sojourn as you drive back to where the fun began. Then it will be time to say goodbye to the Tuk Tuk Club team and head back into town.

Note: In order to drive the tuk tuk, guests must be 18 or above and have a valid manual drivers license.

Time: 07:45 – 18:00 (including transfer time)

Inclusion: round-trip hotel transfers, tuk tuk driver training session, rural tuk tuk driving experience, professional guide/s from the Tuk Tuk Club throughout the day, elephant experience, bamboo rafting, drinking water.

Meals: lunch



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Pedal Lanna

Get ready for a great day in the saddle! The perfect sequel after exploring the vibrancy of Chiang Mai city is a two-wheeled exploration of the gorgeous surrounding countryside. We'll escape the city and cycle into the heart of Northern Thailand's lush valleys, mountain landscapes, local shrines, rice paddies and rural charm. These are the postcard visuals for which the area is famous.

Today's ride explores the communities and great outdoors north of the Mae Rim valley along the Ping River, away from the bustle of the city. We'll cycle mostly flat roads with mild hills, and of course experience signature Northern Thai food.

Note: bicycles are well-maintained, high-performance bikes with front suspension, helmets, gloves and water bottle. In total, about 25 to 40 kilometers of paved road can be covered, though this is flexible.

Time: full-day, 09:00 - 15:00 (early start is recommended)

Explored by: biking and walking

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Pedalling and Kayaking the Ping

Get ready for a great day in the saddle! The perfect sequel after exploring the vibrancy of Chiang Mai city is a two-wheeled adventure exploring the gorgeous surrounding countryside. Today's ride sweeps through the communities and great outdoors of the Mae Rim valley along the Ping River north of Chiang Mai City. We'll cycle mostly flat roads with mild hills, through rice paddies and lush valleys while viewing wonderful mountain landscapes.

After a satisfying local northern Thai lunch, we'll hop in a kayak and paddle down the river and enjoy the jungle and riverside life as it sweeps by. The support van will be following nearby and we can stop whenever you like and complete the trip by van.

Note: bicycles are well-maintained, high-performance bikes with front suspension, helmets, gloves and water bottle. In total, about 25 kilometers of paved road can be covered, though this is flexible. The sit-on kayaking takes one to two hours.

Time: full-day, 9:00 - 15:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: biking, kayaking and private vehicle

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Pedal Lanna and Elephant Love

Get ready for a great day in the saddle! We'll escape the city and cycle into the heart of Northern Thailand's lush valleys, mountain landscapes, local shrines, rice paddies and rural charm. These are the postcard visuals for which the area is famous. Today's ride explores the communities and great outdoors north of the Mae Rim valley along the Ping River, away from the bustle of the city. We'll cycle mostly flat roads with mild hills, and meet friendly locals along the way that will give us an insight into life in amidst the hills and valleys.

After a delicious local northern Thai lunch, we will drive even deeper into the countryside to pay a visit to the original inhabitants of these lush valleys: elephants! In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to participate in a wonderful elephant experience at Patara Elephant Farm located in Hang Dong Valley, 50 minutes west of Chiang Mai city. This hands-on, interactive experience allows you to care for elephants as well as learn what elephant caretakers do daily to keep elephants healthy. You'll leave the sanctuary with a memorable experience of the relationships you have created with these amazing creatures.

Note: bicycles are well-maintained, high-performance bikes with front suspension, helmets, gloves and water bottle. In total, about 25 to 40 kilometers of paved road can be covered, though this is flexible. There is no riding of the elephants involved in this program.

Time: full-day, 08:00-18:00

Explored by: biking, walking and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, van support, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water, Elephant Experience at Patara Elephant Farm

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Pedal Lanna and Classic Sights

Get ready for a great day in the saddle exploring the gorgeous Chiang Mai countryside. We'll escape the city and cycle into the heart of Northern Thailand's lush valleys, mountain landscapes, local shrines, rice paddies and rural charm. These are the postcard visuals for which the area is famous.

Today's ride explores the communities and great outdoors north of the Mae Rim valley along the Ping River, away from the bustle of the city. We'll cycle mostly flat roads with mild hills, and of course experience signature Northern Thai food for lunch.

In the afternoon, with our comfy van, we suggest exploring the classic sites in and around the city, including its numerous Lanna temples (wats) from Wat Chedi Luang - the original home of the Emerald Buddha, and Wat Phra Singh and its Wihan Lai Kham, offering a prime example of classical Lanna architecture before returning to your hotel.

Note: bicycles are well-maintained, high-performance bikes with front suspension, helmets, gloves and water bottle. In total, about 25 to 40 kilometers of paved road can be covered, though this is flexible. This is a great day for those with limited time in Chiang Mai and want to combine rural cycling and seeing the main sites in town.

Time: full-day, 08:00-18:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: biking, walking and private vehicle

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Elephant Day Care at Patara Elephant Farm

Today you will get to care for some of earth's most majestic animals at the Patara Elephant Farm in Hang Dong Valley, a short 50 minute drive from the city of Chiang Mai. This is an ideal excursion to learn about, and to care for elephants with an emphasis on pregnant elephants and mothers with small babies. You will have quality time to learn about elephant conservation in action as you take part in the daily healthcare routine which includes inspection, feeding, and walking with the elephants. You'll be able to observe elephant families interacting in a natural environment and build an appreciation for these fascinating gentle giants.

Note: there is no riding of the elephants involved in this program.

Time: morning (07:30-13:00) or afternoon (13:00-18:30)

Inclusions: Elephant Day Care Program, roundtrip transportation. thai picnic break, drinking water, complementary photos of your activity

Lunch: N/A



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Walking with Elephants at Thai Elephant Home

Thai Elephant Home is one of the most eco-friendly elephant homes in Chiang Mai. Their elephants are well cared for and live healthily. This home also involves the wider community by educating local school children about the environment and teaching the locals how to help replenish the community forest.

With an hour drive north into Mae Tang, today you will have the opportunity to participate in a wonderful hands-on interactive elephant experience at Thai Elephant Home. After arrival, you will be given an orientation and taken to meet the resident herd of gentle giants. Feed them some breakfast treats and then accompany them on a leisurely walk along a scenic path within the hilly landscape. As the elephants venture into forest to munch on some bamboo, you too will be given the chance to enjoy a well-deserved meal. A packed lunch will have been prepared for you. After lunch, you will walk through a local village and meet the elephants in the river where you can observe, and join, some watery fun as the elephants enjoy their daily bath. Then it's back to the camp where you can freshen up before being delivered back to your hotel. This is a full day of learning about and being with elephants in their natural environment.

Note: there is no riding of the elephants involved in this program. Walking is at a leisurely pace along well-maintained paths and involves some uphill portions. Dress prepared to get wet and bring a light change of clothes. It takes approximately one hour each way to get to Thai Elephant Home.

Time: 07:30 - 16:00,

Inclusion: Walking with Elephants program, roundtrip transportation, drinking water, fresh fruit, special mahout clothing to wear during the experience

Meals: lunch (packed Thai lunch during the hike)



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Elephant Conservation at Elephant Nature Park

Enjoy a full day visit to Elephant Nature Park; a natural home and sanctuary for elephants, buffaloes, dogs, cats, birds and many other rescued animals. Your visit helps support the Foundation's regional projects and offers an invaluable opportunity of helping elephant conservation. With no riding, the Elephant Nature Park experience is focused on taking your time and allowing the elephants to enjoy each moment of their freedom, scratching, rubbing, tossing dirt... so be patient, enjoy the view and take lots of pictures! You will be picked up from your Chiang Mai hotel between 8:00am - 8:30am and driven north out of town to Elephant Nature Park nestled in the scenic Mae Teang river valley. The friendly and expert staff will introduce you to the resident herd of rescued and orphaned elephants and teach you their names and stories. You will be taken to a viewing platform and given the chance to feed the elephants and you will realize that these gentle giants are perpetually eating! Speaking of food, after the morning's activities you will be treated to an indulgent buffet of varied Thai and international food.

In the afternoon, walk with the elephants to the river that skirts the park. Watch these gentle giants as they splash around and play while you stay dry on the river bank. In the late afternoon it's time for goodbyes to the elephants and to Elephant Nature Park before the hour-long drive back to Chiang Mai where you will be dropped off at your accommodations.

Note: there is no riding of the elephants or bathing with them involved in this program. Park visits are about spending quality time observing and being with the herd. The schedule is flexible and may change depending on the, well, mood of the elephants that day!

Time: 08:00 - 17:00 (including transfer time)

Inclusion: Full Day Elephant Conservation program, roundtrip transportation, drinking water (but please bring your own refillable water bottle)

Meals: lunch (buffet)



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Cooking at Home

Chiang Mai's "Cooking at Home" school, run by two passionate Thai cooks, offers a glimpse into homegrown Thai culinary traditions.

The classes have three options; a day course, a dinner course, and a private program.

The cooking class will allow you to learn, hands on, about the ingredients and steps in preparation of some of your favorite Thai dishes.

After arriving at the school (located around 30 minutes outside of Chiang Mai), you will be taken to a local country market where your chef and teacher will show you how to recognize and select the fresh ingredients for today's dishes. You then proceed to the kitchen where you will be taught how to prepare some quintessential Thai dishes such as sour and spicy prawn soup with lemongrass (Dtom yum goong), Thai green curry with chicken (Gaeng khiew waan gai), mango with sweet sticky rice (Khao neow mamuang), Papaya salad (Som tam) and more. What you will prepare depends on the day and your instructor will let you know the menu when the class begins.

When you are happy with your presentation, step out of the kitchen to enjoy the dishes just prepared in the picturesque setting of a charming roofed dining terrace, on the edge of the rice paddies.

Time: 09:00 - 15:00 (pickup between 07:30 - 08:00)

Inclusion: cooking class with highly experienced, English-speaking teachers, food and all ingredients, roundtrip transfer, tea/coffee and drinking water

Meals: lunch



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Northern Thai Home Cooking

Today you will have the unique opportunity to learn Thai home cooking from a local family. The Raunkaew-Yanon family has been living on the same property in Hang Dong village for more than 150 years, and the local cuisine you will learn to cook and indulge in are deeply rooted in this legacy. Today will be as much a cooking experience as it will be a cultural one! You will be welcomed at the home by Mr. Prapat who will introduce you to his family's home and explain the nuances of the now rare to find Lanna-style houses and rice barns situated across the compound. You will then be led on a stroll through the extensive family gardens and rice field, getting to know many types of fruits, vegetables, and herbs which the family uses in their everyday cooking. And you will as well!

You will be brought to a private, open-air, wooden pavilion housing the preparation section, charcoal braziers, and a charming dining area. No electric stoves here -- this is about learning traditional home cooked recipes with authentic Northern Thai flavors. One of Mr. Prapat's family members will guide you through the preparation of five unique Northern dishes. On the menu are: Auo Kai (dry red curry with herbs), Nam Prik Oong (Northern style tomato and chilli paste - kind of like a Thai Bolognese), Tom Som Kai (hot and sour soup), Phat Makauyay Moo (stir-fried eggplant with mince), and a banana in coconut milk dessert. Enjoy your creations along with the family and let the local vibes soak in before heading back to Chiang Mai.

Note: The drive to Hong Dong village takes around thirty minutes each way. While the cooking experience and meal are private, the introduction to the family, house, and garden stroll may be combined with other visiting guests.

Time: 09:30 - 13:30 (Lunch Session) or 15:30-19:00 (Dinner Session) Inclusion: home cooking experience with English-speaking host, food and all ingredients, roundtrip transfer, tea, drinking water and seasonal fruits

Meals: lunch or dinner



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Extraordinary Road Trip to Chiang Rai

Today we'll drive to Chiang Rai via the scenic route through Fang town. The trip takes about six to seven hours, but we'll break it up with some memorable experiences. We'll pick you up early from your hotel and transfer north to Chiang Rai Province with a meal stop en-route. This will be no ordinary transfer day and no ordinary meal. We will take the most scenic route, driving along the winding roads that straddle the Thai-Myanmar border. After around three hours we will stop for a special hill-tribe jungle lunch. Taking a short, but worthwhile, detour off the main road, we'll head up to a Lahu hill-tribe village where you will enjoy a traditionally prepared meal (ingredients are procured locally and made and eaten using bamboo vessels and utensils created on the spot!). Time permitting we can take a stroll through the village and learn about Lahu ways of life before continuing the picturesque journey east towards Chiang Rai. Before reaching your hotel, we can stop at some other locations along the way, such as the stunning Wat Tha Ton temple, with a view that stretches deep into Myanmar!

Time: full-day. 8:00-16:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: private vehicle and walking

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

Meals: special lunch near hill-tribe village



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

Extraordinary Road Trip to the Golden Triangle

Today we'll drive to Chiang Rai via the scenic route through Fang town. The trip takes about seven hours, but we'll break it up with some memorable experiences. We'll pick you up early from your hotel and transfer north to Chiang Rai Province with a lunch stop en-route. This will be no ordinary transfer day and no ordinary lunch. We will take the most scenic route, driving along the winding roads that straddle the Thai-Myanmar border. After around three hours we will stop for a special hill-tribe jungle meal. Taking a short, but worthwhile, detour off the main road, we'll head up to a Lahu hill-tribe village where you will enjoy a traditionally prepared meal (ingredients are procured locally and made and eaten using bamboo vessels and utensils created on the spot!). Time permitting we can take a stroll through the village and learn about Lahu ways of life before continuing the picturesque journey east towards Chiang Rai. Before reaching your hotel, we can stop at some other locations along the way, such as the stunning Wat Tha Ton temple, with a view that stretches deep into Myanmar!

Time: full-day. 8:00-16:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: private vehicle and walking

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

Meals: special lunch near hill-tribe village



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL

A Day in Timeless Lamphun

Want to experience the original charm of Chiang Mai? In order to do so, ironically, we need to leave Chiang Mai and head a little south to the town of Lamphun. Renowned as the cradle of Northern Thai culture, here we will find some of the region's oldest temples and a quiet, small-town ambiance largely undiscovered by international tourism which harks back to how Chiang Mai felt like fifty years ago.

The day will begin in vintage Thai style. Rather than travelling by van along the highway, we will opt for a short and scenic train ride heading south out of Chiang Mai towards Lamphun. Upon arriving, we'll head straight into the old town to explore some of the most notable temples. You will learn about the Hariphunchai Kingdom, which thrived many centuries before Thai migration to the area, and the subsequent development of Lanna (Northern Thai) culture. All of this through the lense of stunning temple architecture, teak heritage homes, and an eclectic mix of history, legends and folklore!

We will break for lunch at a local restaurant for some regional delicacies and in the afternoon take our exploration out of town and into Lamphun's surrounding countryside. A favorite stop of ours is the temple of Wat Phrathat Chedi Si Khruba which, perched upon a hilltop, offers panoramic views. Ascending the 400 stairs to the temple is a good way to get a bit of a work out in! Or, we can just drive straight to the top (the choice is yours). We will then visit an interesting community co-operative focused on traditional Northern Thai textiles where we will learn about and see the centuries old art of cotton weaving. This will be a great opportunity to learn about local life and culture.

We will head back to Chiang Mai via a scenic route straddling the Ping River.

Note: the local train ride to Lamphun in the morning takes around 20 - 30 minutes. The drive back to Chiang Mai in the afternoon takes around one hour. During the morning exploration of the old town we can arrange for rickshaws to get around the old town.

Time: full-day, 09:00 - 17:00

Explored by: train, private vehicle, walking, and rickshaw (optional in Lamphun old town)

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

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant



CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES



The Smiling Albino Difference

Smiling Albino was conceived to create highly original, tailor-made travel experiences that we'd proudly take our friends and family on. Founded in 2000 by Canadians, Scott Coates and Daniel Fraser, we've grown from our original base in Thailand to offer adventures in Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Laos and Myanmar, bringing unique travel experiences to thousands of happy guests.

Our bespoke trips are the result of continuous travel, innovation and refinement — combining multiple activities, incredible locations and world-class hosts. The signature of our experiences relies on the intimate relationships we've built with a huge network of people throughout the region, both in a professional and personal capacity, as well as through our social projects and work with local communities.

We don't just connect the dots, we create them, delivering unforgettable travel experiences.

We look forward to hosting you!

CHIANG MAI SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

THAILAND | CAMBODIA | VIETNAM | LAOS | MYANMAR | NEPAL