

# Chiang Mai Day Trips



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Chiang Mai City, "Thailand's Rose of the North", is the capital of Chiang Mai province and the largest and most culturally significant city in northern Thailand. It is often referred to as the Gateway to the North due to its proximity to the famed Golden Triangle and provides a perfect base to access great trekking in the surrounding lush, natural countryside. In certain central areas, the city still manages to maintain a funky, smaller town vibe, and is stuffed with great markets, friendly locals and tons of restaurants that will give your taste buds a serious workout.

# Chiang Mai





**Full Day**

# Chiang Mai Life & Legends

**Recommended time: 9:00 - 15:00**

This is the comprehensive introduction to Chiang Mai City. Explore key historical sites that tell the story of Chiang Mai's colorful history while getting to know about local life, customs and fabulous northern Thai cuisine.

We can visit:

- Doi Suthep, the 1,676 meter (5,499 ft) mountain overlooking the city
- 700 year-old Wat Umong
- Wiang Kum Kam, a historic settlement along the Ping River
- Wat Chedi Luang, one of the first temples of Chiang Mai
- The charming streets of the Old City



Evening

# Chiang Mai First Date

**Time: 18:00 - 21:00**

A great first introduction to 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 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. Cruise through the old town before stopping off at a popular local food markets. Crown the adventure with pleasant evening views of the Ping River before enjoying a traditional northern dinner and/or end the evening with a visit to one of Chiang Mai's night markets.





**Full Day**

# Pedal Lanna

**Recommended time: 9:00 - 15:00**

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, mountains, 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.

We've surveyed the best routes, great food stops and a nice blend of soft adventure and Lanna culture. This is an enriching and fun day out for couples, families, and friends.

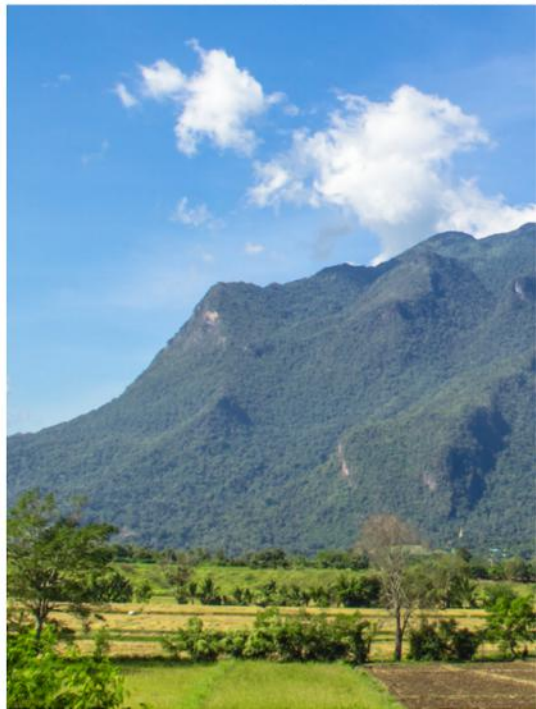


**Half Day - Morning**

# Pedal Lanna

**Recommended time: 8:00 - 12:00**

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 amidst the hills and valleys.





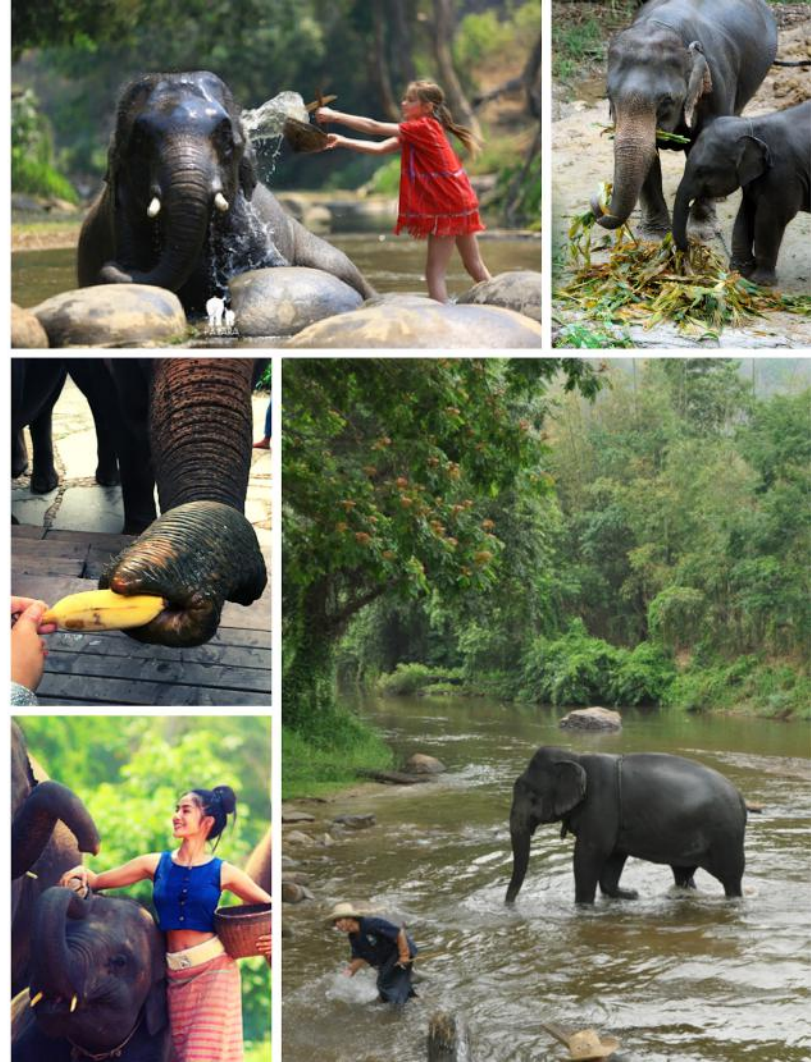
**Half Day - Afternoon**

# Elephant Love

**Recommended time: 12:00 - 16:00**

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.

**Stay: Tamarind Village**

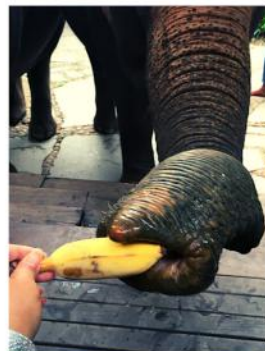


**Full Day**

# Elephant Day Care

**Time: 7:30 - 13:00**

Today you will get to care for some of earth's most majestic animals at an Elephant sanctuary in a valley, a short 50 minute drive from the city of Chiang Mai. This is an ideal excursion to learn about, and to care for these gentle giants. 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.





**Full Day**

# Peddalling & Kayaking the Ping

**Time: 9:30 - 15:00**

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.



**Full Day**

# Trekking & Rafting

**Recommended time: 8:30 - 17:00**

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. 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.





**Full Day**

# Thailand's Highest Peak

**Recommended time: 7:00 - 16:00**

Known as the “roof of Thailand”, Doi Inthanon is Thailand's highest mountain peak standing at 2,575 meters tall. The forested area carpeting Doi Inthanon's slopes 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. We will dodge the crowds and hike a scenic trail before visiting 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'll spend the afternoon exploring some stunning waterfalls and, if you're up for it, a bit more hiking.



Half Day

# Hilltribes of Chiang Mai

**Recommended time: 8:00 - 13:00**

Many travelers 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 (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.





**Full Day - Transfer**

# Extraordinary Road Trip

**Recommended time: 9:00 - 17:00**

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. 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. We'll head up to a Lahu hill-tribe village to 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 onwards.



# The Smiling Albino Difference

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

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience.



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