

Many great things come in 3's, like 3-day weekends and 3-point shots in basketball. This 3 week Road Trip in Thailand will prove yet again that 3's are great!

This 21 day adventure will take you down to the south to enjoy some of the country's most exotic beaches, up to the north to discover the wonders of Chiang Mai, and then trekking to meet an authentic Hill Tribe village. This is the chance to explore some of the best that the country of Thailand has to offer and enjoy every step of the way!

Culture
Learning
Leisure
Community Engagement
Physical Demand

# **Program Description**

#### Trunk to the South

Come and explore the beautiful South of Thailand! Whilst travelling through the provinces of Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon and Surat Thani by bus, you will witness and experience the thorough beauty of the Southern Thai culture, people and natural beauty. These locations include Angthong National Park and Thailand's finest island: Koh Samui! While helping out at the beach and snorkeling in the clear blue sea, you will be warmly greeted by the very friendly and ever smiling people of the South.

#### **Train Tracks Northern Thailand**

This program is designed to give you a full insight into the culture and local customs of the northern Thai people. Through traveling and helping in local projects, you will get to fully experience this gorgeous part of Thailand. During the expedition, you will learn some things about Thai culture, visit the "big giants" at an Elephant Conservation Center, explore Chiang Mai, teach at a local school and much more!

## **Trekking to Hill Tribes**

Go on a trekking expedition to the famous hill tribes of Northern Thailand. During this visit you will be warmly welcomed by various hill tribes into their villages and livelihoods. Experience and witness the authentic way of living that these hill tribes have practiced for hundreds of years. This unique cultural encounter together with the beautiful and lush green covered mountain areas of Northern Thailand will make this an unforgettable experience!

Mostly Thai style dishes will be served during the trip. This means that the meals will consist of mostly rice and noodles. There will usually be some vegetables and some meat in these dishes, but vegetarian options can be arranged as well. We do not offer Western style meals, but you can feel free to supplement the menu at your own cost to include any of your favorite dishes.

# **Program Duration & Availability**

Min duration (weeks): 3
Max duration (weeks): 3

# **Aims & Objectives**

• The aim of this program is to bring you closer to the authentic Thailand. Through different projects and activities, you will get to truly immerse yourself in the Thai culture, customs and lifestyle.

## **Schedule**

# Week 1: Trunk to the South Sunday

- Brunch at Hua Hin center
- Free day (no lunch will be served)
- Dinner at Hua Hin center
- Overnight stay in Hua Hin center (hot water, fan & Wi-Fi)

## Monday

- Breakfast at the Hua Hin center
- Visit to a famous Bhuddist temple nearby
- Lunch
- Take a scenic train from Hua Hin to Bang Saphan Yai
- Dinner
- Overnight stay at hotel in Bang Saphan Yai

## **Tuesday**

- Breakfast
- Sightseeing and snorkeling on a three hour boat trip
- Lunch on the boat
- Back to the hotel
- Free time at the beach
- Dinner
- Free time
- Overnight train journey to Surat Thani

#### Wednesday

- Breakfast in Surat Thani
- Minivan to pier
- Boat to Koh Samui (2 hours)
- Check in to hotel at Choeng Mon Beach
- Lunch at the hotel
- Explore the local area near the Hotel/Beach.
- Dinner at the guesthouse
- Night market
- Overnight stay at the hotel/guesthouse (hot water, air-con & Wi-fi)

#### **Thursday**

- Travel to Angthong National Park by boat
- Breakfast on the boat
- Snorkeling and hiking, visiting the park and two islands
- Lunch on the boat
- Continue with the above program
- Boat transfer from Angthong National Park to Koh Samui (2 hours)
- Back to the hotel/guesthouse in Koh Samui
- Dinner at a local restaurant in Koh Samui.
- Overnight stay at the hotel/guesthouse (hot water, air-con & Wi-fi)

#### **Friday**

- Breakfast at the guesthouse
- Visit Wat Phra Yai
- Visit Grandmother and Grandfather stones at Koh Samui
- A visit to a beautiful waterfall where swimming is possible
- Lunch back at the hotel
- Dinner at Thai restaurant
- Overnight stay at the hotel/guesthouse (hot water, air-con & Wi-fi)

## Saturday

- Breakfast at the hotel in Koh Samui
- Free time on the beach
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Check out from the hotel and head to the bus station

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# Overnight bus/boat from Koh Samui to Bangkok Sunday

- Arrive at Mo chit bus station in Bangkok early in the morning.
- Transfer to Singburi
- Brunch at center (if arriving early enough)
- Free time
- Dinner at center

# Week 2: Train Tracks Northern Thailand Monday

- Breakfast at the Singburi center
- Transfer to Lopburi bus station
- Lunch in Chum Saeng
- Introduction at the homestay
- Dinner
- Small Thai welcome BBQ in the evening
- Overnight stay at the homestay (fan, cold water & no Wi-Fi)

#### **Tuesday**

- Breakfast at the homestay
- Thai traditional farming/agriculture activity
- Lunch at the homestay
- Train from Chum Saeng to Uttaradit (4 hour ride, no air-con)
- Check in at the hotel in Uttaradit
- Visit to Hero Monument
- Dinner at a local Thai restaurant
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Uttaradit (hot water, aircon & Wi-Fi)

## Wednesday

- Breakfast at the school
- Teaching at Tungkalo school
- Lunch at a local Thai restaurant
- An educational visit to Tungyang Temple to learn about Buddhism by the Monks and assist the Monks with cleaning of the temple premises
- A visit to the local shopping center
- Dinner at the shopping center
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Uttaradit (hot water, aircon & Wi-Fi)

## **Thursday**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Train from Uttaradit to Lampang, with very nice mountain landscapes en route (3 hours, no air-con).
- Check in at the hotel in Lampang
- Have lunch at local Thai restaurant
- A visit to an old Burmese Temple, where you will learn about Buddhism by the Monks and assist the Monks with cleaning of the temple premises
- A visit to the local market
- Dinner at the local market
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Lampang (hot water, aircon & Wi-Fi)

#### **Friday**

- Breakfast across the hotel in a local Thai restaurant
- A visit to the Elephant Conservation Center in Lampang to about elephant care
- Lunch at a local market where you can buy souvenirs
- After lunch take the train to Chiang Mai
- Dinner at a local Thai restaurant in Chiang Mai
- Train from Lampang to Chiang Mai (2 hours and 15 minutes, with no air-con)
- Visit a famous Chiang Mai Night Bazaar
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Chiang Mai (hot water, air-con & Wi-Fi)

#### **Saturday**

- Breakfast at a local restaurant in Chiang Mai
- An educational and cultural excursion to Doi Pui villages, Hill tribe people
- A visit to Doi Suthep Mountain and Wat Phrathat temple
- Lunch at a local restaurant in Chiang Mai
- During the afternoon: free time in Chiang Mai
- Dinner in Chiang Mai
- Free time during the evening
- Overnight stay at the same hotel in Chiang Mai (hot water, air-con & Wi-Fi)

#### Sunday

- Breakfast in the hotel
- After breakfast take bus to Chiang Rai
- Check-in hotel in Chiang Rai for overnight stay (hot water, air-con & Wi-Fi)
- Free day (no lunch will be served)
- Dinner at a local restaurant Chiang Rai
- Free time during the evening

# Week 3: Trekking to Hill Tribes

#### **Monday**

- Breakfast at a local restaurant in Chiang Rai
- Cycle to Boon Rowd farm
- Visit White Temple
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Visit a 70m tall beautiful waterfall and swim (depends on weather)
- Overnight stay at a village nearby (no wifi at this village)

#### **Tuesday**

- Breakfast at the homestay
- Visit a Ban Mai Pattana Village
- Lunch at Akha Village
- Trekking to Doi Chaang, the coffee mountain and a chance to see the sunset.
- Dinner
- Overnight stay at Doi Chaang hill tribe village (WiFi)

## Wednesday

- Trek through the the coffee farm to visit the waterfall
- Lunch
- Learn how to cook some rice with bamboo shoots.
- Camping in the forest (depends on season, if it rains we will stay at Doi Chaang village)

## **Thursday**

- Breakfast at the Akha hill tribe village
- Trekking through the hills trekking to visit viewpoint at Doi Chaang; coffee mountain 2 -3 hours
- Lunch
- Visit Bann San chaloen Akha homestay
- Dinner

#### **Friday**

- Breakfast
- Visit coffee house and learn how to make your own coffee, coffee roasted and grounded.
- Visit Mae Suay dam, you will be canoeing and will have the chance to swim
- Lunch
- Go to visit a local market for cooking and interact with the hill tribe people.
- Participate in a goodbye ceremony from the hill tribe.
- Dinner
- Engage in cultural exchange activities such as dancing and singing.
- Overnight stay at the homestay in Sang Charung hill tribe village (cold water, fan & no Wi-fi)

#### **Saturday**

- Breakfast
- Trekking to hot springs, relax in a natural hot spa.
- Lunch
- Back to Chaing Rai City and visit a nearby mall for shopping and supplies
- Take an Overnight bus back to Singburi

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

# **Starting Dates**

## During 2019

| Jan 7th   | Feb 4th  | Mar 4th  | Apr 1st  | Apr 29th | May 27th | Jun 24th |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| July 22nd | Aug 19th | Sep 16th | Oct 14th | Nov 11th | Dec 9th  |          |

# During 2020

| Jan 6th   | Feb 3rd  | Mar 2nd  | Mar 30th | Apr 27th | May 25th | Jun 22nd |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| July 20th | Aug 17th | Sep 14th | Oct 12th | Nov 9th  | Dec 7th  |          |

# **Participant Criteria & Requirements**

Minimum age:

Maximum age: -

Minimum English level: Basic

**CRB required:** On Signup **Passport copy required:** On Arrival

**Resume copy required:** No **Required qualification:** None

## **Additional Requirements**

• Due to the length and active nature of this program, a decent level of fitness is required.

# **Additional Equipment**

- Shoes suitable for hiking
- Some warm clothes for when you are in the northern, cooler parts of Thailand