



Tour 11 – The long loop across Northern Thailand (10 days)

53440 bahts - (**approximately 1781 \$ CAD**)
Single price up to 9 persons

Activities

Day 1 - Chiang Mai

Suthep Mountain Temple (Wat Doi Suthep) - (30 bahts / person)

Rich temple magnificently decorated and located on the slopes of a mountain. You reach it by a typically Lanna style large staircase (former kingdom of Chiang Mai) characterized by two giant snakes who act as banister. Magnificent view of Chiang Mai and Ping river valley.

Craftsmen villages

Visit factories where they create the most beautiful travel souvenirs of Thailand. These factories are real museums dedicated to arts and crafts: furniture, sculpture, painting on parasol, silver jewels, silk clothes, traditional ceramic called celadon...

Night Safari (800 bahts / person)

Visit a zoo by night in a small train. Take advantage of the amazing experience of seeing hundreds of free living animals by night.

Overnight stay at Chiang Mai

NOTE : The 3 activities are far from Chiang Mai and cannot be visited without transportation. Chiang Mai can be visited on foot.



Day 2 - Chiang Dao and the ethnic minorities

NOTE: Chiang Dao is a 2 hours ride from Chiang Mai.

Orchid farm and butterfly farm visits (40 bahts / person)

The orchid is the most beautiful flower of Thailand. You will see hundreds of vivid colour species and then will be delighted by the butterfly farm. It occurs to be a great place to buy elegant jewelry made of orchid petals and butterfly wings. Marvellous!

Visit a factory of handmade paper

You will be amazed to learn which vegetal fibres are used by the craftsmen to create beautiful handmade paper and objects.

NOTE: When the factory is closed on holidays, you visit an other factory at the elephants farm.

Market visit

On your way to Chiang Dao from Chiang Mai discover in the old fashioned market the richness of Thailand: fruits, vegetables, grocer's shops, butcher's shops, fishmonger's shops, delicacies...See also some food of the ethnic minorities: snakes, frogs, insects...

Karen village visit

Karen, is the most important ethnic minority in Thailand. Half a million live in 1,912 villages. They specialize in elephants training and forest work. Then we stop in a small village near Chiang Dao situated at the end of the road, in a beautiful site against the cliffs.



Visit a Palong village

The Palong's are a Myanmar (ex-Burma) ethnic minority. They recently came to Thailand running away from the war between the taiyai state and the central government of Burma. There are very few villages of this minority in Thailand. Located near Chiang Dao at a two hour drive from Chiang Mai this village recently opened itself to tourism. You will visit the village at the end of the afternoon, after the tourist's minivan have left, and will be closer to notice their lifestyle.

Overnight stay at Chiang Dao

Day 3 – Surroundings of Chiang Dao area

NOTE: One hundred fifty kilometers ride in one day.

Surroundings of Chiang Dao

Discover an old fashion general store, hot springs, local market, bathe under a surprising waterfall and see a gigantic temple.

Overnight stay at Chiang Dao

Day 4 - Visit a Thai village and caves of Chiang Dao

Visit a Thai village

Discover a typical village near Chiang Dao: rice fields, temple, child's nursery, school, rice mill, houses, orange grove and fruit trees.

Visit an easily accessible cave

In a hillside cave a holy friar settled a monastery where the monks meditate. This sacred place is full of beauty and serenity. You reach this perfect place to have a closer look at the tropical forest and enjoy the unique scenery.



Visit a second easily accessible cave (40 bahts / person)

Enter Chiang Dao Mountain within 500 meter depth, cross magnificent rooms crowned with stalactites.

Overnight stay at Chiang Dao

Day 5 - The elephants

Elephants farm visit (1500 bahts / person)

Assist to their bath and enjoy a didactic and festive entertainment whose stars are elephants. Take advantage of elephant riding, ox carting, and bamboo rafting on the river. After the visit, enjoy an excellent meal. All included in the admission charges.

Overnight stay at Chiang Dao

Day 6 - Maemae¹

Reach Maemae and hike in the mountain

(1000 bahts for taxi pick up round trip) - The slope is very steep, so a special vehicle will take you to Maemae. Upon arrival to the village, travelers can take an hour walk in an hallucinating landscape. The trail follows softly the forest and the valley. Level: easy.

NOTE: taxi pick up is payable on spot and is already deducted from the price of the minivan. Pong's minivan will stay at Chiang Dao and Pong will stay with the travelers.

¹ - English transcription of a small village called «River Mae».



Tour in the village of Maemae

Perched on the mount Chiang Dao the village of Maemae is one of the most beautiful villages of Thailand. Its unique street follows the cliff made by the mountain stream Mae. A village of another world, of another century, where very few travelers go. Level: easy.

Sauna (100 bahts per person)

Have a sauna, in nature, as made traditionally. Enter a heated wooden hut and enjoy the cold water fountain directly pulled from the river. Very relaxing.

Massage (200 bahts per person)

Have a massage in the peaceful atmosphere of the mountain. Enjoy a traditional massage by the ladies of the village. This art has been transmitted from mothers to daughters for generations.

Overnight stay at Maemae

Day 7 - From Maemae to Thaton

NOTE: Thaton is a 3 hours drive from Maemae.

Visit a royal project, a hmong village and an ethnic minorities market

Discover a real example of assistance to the minorities thanks to the help of the royal family. The project is to train people in the mountains to modern agricultural techniques. You will also be able to buy products made on site and visit a small village market and see new products taking place of the culture of poppy.

Long tail boat ride on Kok river - (1600 bahts per boat/ up to 6 persons on the boat)

Bucolic landscapes during an unforgettable hour.



Taiyaï village visit

Taiyaï (also called Chan) form one of the federal states of Myanmar (ex-Burma). Formerly independent and powerful they are still in conflict with the central power and demand more autonomy. Fleeing these conflicts several Taiyaï emigrated in Thailand and gathered in villages. You will visit a temple on a beautiful site along the Kok river near Thaton. The Burmese architecture of the temple will catch your attention.

Overnight stay at Taton

Day 8 – From Thaton to Mae Salong

Tour at the chedi of Thaton

You can reach the site on foot or by vehicle. At the top a spectacular mausoleum offering magnificent views of the valley of Kok river on one side and of Myanmar (ex-Burma) on the other side. Level : easy.

Orange grove visit (30 bahts / person)

One of the biggest orange grove of Thailand, divinely well landscaped.

Akha village visit (50 bahts /person)

Akha is a small nation of approximately a million persons. Most of them live in southern China (Yunnan). In the 19th century some emigrated towards the Myanmar (ex-Burma) where they still live. At the beginning of the 20th century some came in Thailand particularly in the province of Chiang Rai. There is approximately 70,000 Akha in Thailand scattered in 271 small villages. The visit is led by Pong who is himself Akha. This village is a great example of the support by the villagers of their tourism industry and responsible tourism. You will see how they live, you will enter their homes, go to the forging plant, to a special swing; you will experiment how they celebrate, how they hunt...



Visit the Chinese village of Mae Salong

Sino-thai are most of the time Chinese mixed with Thai blood. They represent 11 per cent of Thailand population and the majority arrived long time ago. Others are soldiers who came in Thailand in the sixties (following the defeat of the nationalist against Mao, after wandering during 10 years in Burma) and they established villages. Situated on the border of Myanmar (ex-Burma) Mae Salong developed and grew rich due to the tea culture. Mae Salong offers the most beautiful landscapes of northern Thailand. Tea market and tea tasting guarantee!

Overnight stay at Mae Salong

Day 9 – Doi Tung and the Golden Triangle

Visit the Royal Villa of Doi Tung and the gardens of Mae Fah Luang (200 bahts / person)

Magnificent villa made in tek wood and raised for the Queen mother then transformed in a museum, the site recalls her efforts to eradicate the opium culture and her support to the ethnic minorities. At Doi Tung, on the slopes of the Royal Villa, admire a beautiful flower garden in the middle of rocks.

Mae Sai

Border crossing to Myanmar (ex-Burma) where numerous Burmese markets are settled. Pleasant stop to shop and buy different products and enjoy a Burmese meal.

Tour on the Mekong in a long tail boat - (1500 bahts per boat up to 6 persons on the boat)

From Thailand the boat will take you to the land of Myanmar (ex Burma) and Laos. That is the Golden Triangle... You will see magnificent landscapes.

Overnight stay at Chaen Saen



Day 10 – From the Golden Triangle to Chiang Mai

NOTE: Chiang Mai is a 5 hour ride from the Golden Triangle.

Visit the *Hall of Opium Museum* (200 bahts / person)

Most developed museum of Thailand. This museum tells us about the history of opium, its culture in Thailand and its beneficial and harmful effects. It also reveals the history of great men and women who devoted to it.

Visit the *Chiang Rai White Temple (Wat Rong Khun)*

One of key attraction of Chiang Rai. This magnificent White Temple was recently designed by a famous artist of Thailand to celebrate the actual King, Rama IX.

Overnight stay at Chiang Mai

The price includes the minivan, the driver, the gasoline, the transportation to restaurants for dinner and supper and the driver's meals.

The baht value is generally between 29 to 31 bahts for 1 canadian dollar. For information purposes only we have calculated our prices using the value of 30 bahts for 1 canadian dollar.

Meals, accommodations, and activities are at the expense of the traveler.

The price of the activities are payable on the site. Prices are decided by the suppliers and can change without notice. Pong is not responsible for these changes. by the suppliers and can change without notice. Pong is not responsible for these changes.

CREATE YOUR OWN MENU

Combine Tour 11 with one or more tours from the following

3-7