

Action On Shore

A family adventure holiday in Thailand



This wonderful 15-day trip lets the whole family get away from it all and experience adventures from exploring lush rainforests and paddling amongst monkeys on the Andaman coast to snorkeling on coral reefs teeming with tropical fish. You'll also spend time in the capital city, Bangkok, where you'll benefit from local insight as you explore this teeming metropolis.

Discover tropical landscapes and learn about simpler ways of living. You can get involved in the action or step back while your children have adventures, explore nature and learn about other cultures and make new friends. There will be plenty of inspiration for school projects, as well as gaining memories to last a lifetime.

We have designed this itinerary to have the perfect balance between adventurous activities, time with local insiders and time on your own. **This is a private tour and can be taken at your family's own pace (and can also be perfect as a couples' getaway).**



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Day 1 - Saturday

Fly from London Heathrow on a direct flight with Thai Airways (regional departures available via an add-on with BMI). This direct flight departs just after midday and takes just under twelve hours, arriving in Bangkok at around 7am the next morning, local time. The complimentary activity books we include in Tell Tale guest packs help keep teenagers as well as younger children occupied on the flight. **Tell Tale Tip** *We have chosen this particular flight as it fits best with this recommended itinerary, however, it is also possible for you to take a flight departing in the evening with Thai Airways or Eva Air if it is more convenient for you.*

Day 2 – Sunday

Welcome to Thailand! One of our drivers will meet you, just look out for a sign with the Tell Tale Travel ‘pink peacock’! He will whisk you away to hustle and bustle of Bangkok airport and the city traffic to a residential suburb, close to the Chao Praya river that runs through the sprawling metropolis.



You will have the morning to settle into the charming wooden house that will be your base for the few days you spend in Bangkok. It is located in the garden of the home of a professional Thai couple (English-speaking), who live in the main house with their teenage children as well as grandma. You will certainly benefit from their insider tips on making the most of your time in Bangkok, as well as having the opportunity to experience life in a real neighbourhood. Your guesthouse has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area and kitchen (although there is certainly no need for you to cook!).

Later on, your hosts Wan and Goi and their teenage children will take you for a walk in their local area, which is known for the wooden furniture made by local craftsmen, followed by a welcome dinner with the whole family, which will be a great introduction into local culture as well as Thai food. *Please note that the wooden guesthouse is cosy, so if your family consists of more than four people, please contact us with details of your family breakdown/ ages of children so we can advise on suitability and/ or substitute accommodation.*



Day 3 –Monday

You will have a late start today so your family has a chance to get acclimatised. You can sleep in or relax in the guesthouse or garden.



Your driver will pick you up around midday and take you into the city. You can have lunch at a riverside café before you have a private boat trip along the Chao Praya river with our boatman, Mr Tai. This will give you a unique glimpse into life in Bangkok, both present and past and you can also stop along the river at places such as the ‘Temple of Dawn’ (Wat Arun) an enormous tower covered with small pieces of broken Chinese porcelain - it’s certainly worth climbing the steep steps for an amazing view over Bangkok.

At the end of the afternoon, your driver will take you to Suan Lum night bazaar, where you can have a drink and watch the world go by or fit in some quick bargaining for lightweight clothes for your holiday before you take in a show at the Joe Louis Puppet theatre. The troupe here is the only one remaining to perform in the traditional way; the puppeteers are very much part of the show and the intriguing stories



will leave your whole family spellbound. Your driver will wait and take you back.

Day 4 – Tuesday

This morning, you'll be picked up by a guide and taken to the nearby island of Ko Kret where you will explore this historic part of the city by bicycle. This car-free island, set in the Chao Praya river, is home to descendants of the Mon people who originally came to the island in the 1700s.

Life on Ko Kret is far more relaxed than the rest of busy Bangkok - people sit in the shade beside their houses, completing household chores and chatting to pass the time. You will cycle through local villages and past palm trees swaying in the wind and rice paddy fields. The people of Ko Kret are renowned for their fine craftsmanship skills in pottery, covered in intricate carvings, and you'll end your day at a village to watch this time-honored tradition in motion.



You'll then be taken back and will have some time to relax in the garden before a home-cooked dinner with Goi and her family.

Day 5 – Wednesday

Now you are settled in, it's time for some sightseeing. This day is touristy by Tell Tale standards but lets you tick off the main sites.



Your driver will pick you in the morning and take you into the old part of Bangkok. You can visit the famous Wat Pho, with its massive 'sleeping' Buddha, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the Grand Palace – stroll through the vast ceremonial gardens or admire the giant door guardians and mural paintings of strange monsters and monkey armies. We recommend hiring personal audio guides at the Grand Palace, although you can also book one of the official (human) guides when you arrive.

You'll have your driver with you for the rest of the day; have a look at the maps and tips in your Tell Tale pack. From feeding the turtles in Lumpini Park to shopping to taking in the extraordinary views from the tallest building in Bangkok, you'll definitely find ideas to suit your family.

Day 6 – Thursday

This morning, you will have time to pack up as it's time to move onto the Andaman Sea where you will have many adventures both on shore and sea. First, your driver will take you to Bangkok airport where you will take a short flight to Krabi, in the south of the country.

When you get to Krabi, you will be picked up by one of our drivers, who will whisk you away into the hills, geographically a short distance away from the main tourist areas but a world away from massmarket tourism. This sleepy area is one where the people make their living from smallscale farming and between your Andaman Sea adventures, you will get an insight into local lives through our many friends in the area, including Eh and his family. You will stay just down the road from their village in air-conditioned bungalows, the



land these are built on were previously used for a palm plantation, and both the bungalows and the small swimming pool have been built sensitively around the giant palm trees.

You will have time to settle in and enjoy the pool. Later on, Eh will pick you up and take you for a walk around his village, of which he is Deputy Headman. All members of your family will enjoy this for different reasons, from learning about the local economy to the opportunity to join the locals for their early evening football matches.



This evening, you will stay at Eh's for dinner, cooked by his sister Pah. The food in the south is heavily influenced by flavours from neighbouring Malaysia and the large local Chinese population - these blend with Thai style cooking for a delicious and distinctive taste. Pah is lucky as she has a constant supply of the freshest fish and seafood as well as the best of vegetables and spices. Her version of Massaman chicken curry (with a mild coconut base), which is made throughout these parts, is legendary.

Day 7 – Friday

This morning, it's time to start your adventures on sea!

You'll be picked up in the morning and taught how to use sit-on kayaks. These are suitable for beginners and easy to learn, although you will be accompanied by kayaking experts the entire time.

You'll then paddle along the mangrove forests that protect the shoreline, through the limestone karsts that have served as stunning backdrops in several films ranging from James Bond to Star Wars. The mangroves are home to hidden wildlife – you may encounter monkeys, tropical birds, lizards and butterflies. After lunch, you'll explore more of the area before ending the day at Tha Pom, a stream where freshwater and salt water meet. This is perfect for a refreshing dip, although there is also a nice nature trail. *Please note that today is a join-in day with a small number of other people.*



This evening, our co-ordinator in the area, Elizabeth, who lives here with her Thai husband, Sun, will pick you up and take you into Krabi town to visit the local night market and have dinner – this will help you get to know the area better and the opportunity to ask insiders for tips to make the most of your time in Krabi.

Day 8 – Saturday

This morning, Elizabeth and Sun will pick you up and take you out on their boat to explore the uninhabited islands that dot the Andaman Sea.



Drifting along on a long-tail boat is a great way to experience the stunning scenery and extremely relaxing. Today, you'll explore the Hong Islands, considered to be some of the most beautiful in the area - the main island has a hidden emerald lagoon and perfect white beaches, although you may have to share these with the giant monitor lizards that live here! You can also put your new kayaking skills to good use as Elizabeth and Sun have a kayak on board that can be used to explore the caves that are not accessible by boat.



This evening, our driver will pick you up and take you into Krabi town and wait for you whilst you have dinner, explore the town or visit the various shops and market.

Day 9 – Sunday



Be prepared to get wet today – you’re going white water rafting! You’ll have an early start and it’s a 1.5-2 hour drive up to the river, but once you get there, the area is very beautiful. Whilst these manmade rapids are not the very powerful rapids in the northern parts of Thailand they are perfect for families who are new to rafting and want to try something adventurous but not too hardcore! After your excitement, you can have lunch by the river, before heading back to Krabi to spend the afternoon by the pool.

Later on today, you’ll go to Eh’s where as well as making you a delicious dinner, his sister Pah will teach you to make delicious Thai desserts. She serves these in the family’s café and they are popular with the locals at all times of the day.

Day 10 – Monday

This morning, if you’re up early enough, you can visit Eh on his smallholding as he quietly strolls around during his morning round of rubber-tapping. You start off carefully cutting the rubber tree trunks until precious drops of white sap start to gently flow. You can then press the formed resin with your feet or squeeze the drying rubber through the mangle. It’s a fantastic way for children to learn where their trainers come from! Then, you will have breakfast at Eh’s family café whilst songbirds twitter around you and see if the desserts you made the previous evening make the grade with the daily visitors.

Then, Eh will take you to Khao Nor Chuchi Wildlife Sanctuary. Although the Krabi area is only eight degrees of separation from the equator, this national park is the last remaining significant rainforest in southern Thailand.

You can wander along the nature trail that winds through the forest, under the shadow of giant trees and climbing vines, finally arriving at a large ‘Emerald Pool’. This large pool is crystal clear and is always an intense shade of green or blue, depending on the temperature of the water at the time (ranging from 30-40 degrees celsius), perfect for a refreshing swim. You’ll also stop at hot springs. You will have a free evening today - we recommend taking a local taxi to one of the seafood restaurants on the seafront.



Days 11 and 12 – Tuesday and Wednesday



Pack an overnight bag - you’re off on an overnight camping adventure! Elizabeth and Sun will pick you up to take you out on their boat to take you to Bamboo Island, which is some way away. You’ll spend the day cruising along the Andaman sea, stopping in the best spots for snorkelling, these places are absolutely teeming with tropical fish. When you reach Bamboo Island in the late afternoon, you can relax on the beach or help set up camp or prepare dinner before dining under a blanket of sparkling stars.



The following day you will have another day out on the open seas, swimming, snorkelling and sunbathing.

You only need to pack an overnight bag as your bungalows on the mainland will be kept for you, however, please note that this camping excursion is only for the adventurous due to the implications of camping in a tropical country (heat, insects etc). If this may not suit your family, we recommend spending Day 11 on a day trip to Bamboo Island and replacing Day 12 with an alternative excursion, either on sea or land.

Day 13 – Thursday

You will have a slightly later start today to give you a rest from your adventure. Then our driver, will pick you up for a day on the shore of the mainland. You'll start your day visiting a local village to watch its residents make handicrafts before driving to magnificent waterfalls where you can take a refreshing swim under the shade of giant trees, or have a walk around the surrounding forest. Later, you will be taken to Tub Kaak beach, one of the quieter beaches in the Krabi area. You are welcome to do something different on the day.

Day 14 – Friday



Today, you'll explore the local area further. Elizabeth and Sun will pick you up and take you for a trek up a mountain. When you reach the top, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views and a picnic lunch. Then you'll trek back down the mountain and visit one of the neighboring villages to watch coconut harvesting, this is dependent on a very special workforce - monkeys! Finally you will visit a fish farm set amongst tropical gardens with ponds are teeming with giant catfish. Just one handful of fish food will make you their best friend.

Please note that this day is a very active one, if you'd like a gentler day, you can choose to visit a national park instead (either in advance or on the day).

Day 15 – Saturday

Sadly, it's time to leave Thailand today. In the morning, your driver will take you to Krabi airport where you will take a short internal flight to Bangkok to connect to your international flight home. You will get back to London Heathrow at approximately 7pm UK time.

This specially designed 15-day itinerary costs from £1,700 per person (25% discount for under 12s). This includes accommodation, activities, transport and meals except as listed below. Please allow £50 per person for local expenses such as entrance fees plus whatever you wish to spend on items not included (see below). Please note that your itinerary may change, we will endeavour to keep you informed.

EXCLUDED:

Lunch: Days 3, 5-6, 10, 13, 15

Dinner: Days 3, 8, 10, 12-14

Personal travel insurance

Entrance fees



Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, internet access and drinks (though some water and soft drinks will be provided)
Expenses during free time
Tips for guides and drivers (discretionary)



Background Information

Tell Tale Travel is a specialist tour operator. Each trip is tailor-made yet affordable, while respectful of local people and places. We are small enough to give you true personal service yet experienced and knowledgeable enough to make sure you have the organisation and back-up you need. When you are on your holiday, you will have a detailed itinerary and plenty of tips and recommendations. As well as support from our unique network of local people, you can also contact either our London office or Thai office at any time.

Tell Tale Travel is a London-based company, subject to English law. We are licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority so your holiday will be protected by ATOL. We are also licensed by the Travel Trust Association, which gives you 100% protection on all elements of your holiday.

What makes Tell Tale Travel holidays so special?

Hand-selected

Every element of a Tell Tale journey has been hand-selected by us, not by other people. We painstakingly hunt out the best authentic experiences. If we don't think it's the finest Thailand has to offer or we wouldn't want to do it, we won't tell you about it.

Local Insight

You'll meet local people that we have chosen to show you the real Thailand. Furthermore, you'll experience the overwhelming warmth of genuine hospitality throughout your holiday.

Just For You

You don't have to share your experience with a tour group or a tour leader. And as it's just for you – just tell us what you want to do and we'll make sure you do it.

Responsible Tourism

You will be able to see first-hand how your money benefits local people and communities. A supplementary income enables a better quality of life in small villages and a chance to share their culture, history and lifestyle with the outside world.

Hassle Free Organisation

We will organise everything we can. This means you can get the best Thailand has to offer, such as a particular scenic train journey without the inconvenience of organising it. Where we are not able to organise something in advance for you, we will give you guidance or a local contact.

Guidance

Guidebooks by their nature are out of date from the day they're published. We give you insider up-to-the-minute information on the best things to do. We also give you general advice that will help you throughout your journey to the extent of cultural and clothing tips depending on what you are doing on a particular day.

Fair Prices

We only sell our own holidays, this means we can make sure everyone involved, you and our network of local people, get a fair price. And unlike other operators, we don't have surcharges - whether you're booking with your credit card or if after you've booked there's a change in the exchange rates that makes our costs higher, you still pay the same.

