Essential Thailand
University of Denver

$2,699 per person, land only
● 13 Days / 12 Nights ● 13 February 2025

costsavertour.com
essentials by us tailored by you.
Essential Thailand
University of Denver

13 DAYS
1 COUNTRY(IES)
$2,699 per person, land only
TWIN SHARE
$410 (single rooms are limited in availability) *Single Supplement Price

Highlights

Essentials
• Visit Wat Rong Khun - the White Temple
• Visit the Hall of Opium, take a boat trip along the Mekong River, visit a local market in Laos
• Visit the Night Market and the temples of Wat Phra Singh and Wat Chedi Luang
• Visit Sukhothai Historical Park
• Visit the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, the War Cemetery, the infamous Death Railway and the Bridge on the River Kwai
• Visit Wat Pho, the Grand Palace and observe local life along the canals during a khlong tour

costsaver.
Essential Thailand

DAY 1
13 February 2025
Departing US
Board your international flight to Thailand from your preferred US airport.

DAY 2
14 February 2025
Arrive Bangkok
“Sawadee ka” and welcome to Thailand! Your trip will kick off in buzzy Bangkok, an urban wonder boasting all the soaring skyscrapers and glistening malls of any capital city, but with a distinctly Thai touch. Here you can see it all: orange robe-clad monks strolling the streets with smartphones in hand, while glowing temples and neon-lit bars co-exist peacefully side by side.
After transferring to your hotel you’ll meet up with your Travel Director to get a glimpse of what’s to come on your Thailand value tour; then dinner tonight will have you sampling some of Thailand’s tasty cuisine while you get to know your fellow travelers.
Complimentary transfers available from Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) and Don Mueang International Airport (DMK) in Bangkok.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch.
Hotel(s): Galleria 10 Hotel Bangkok

DAY 3
15 February 2025
Bangkok Sightseeing
Get ready for a full day of sightseeing in Bangkok. We’ll show off Bangkok’s best cultural and spiritual delights, starting at Wat Phra Kaew, Bangkok’s most ancient temple. Set eyes on the hugely impressive Reclining Buddha, the largest in Thailand, before moving on to the Grand Palace, a former royal residence. The intricate architecture of this massive complex never ceases to amaze and be sure to see the jewel in its crown, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. We’ll make a pit stop for lunch at a local restaurant then board a private boat and take to the maze of canals (klongs) that snake through the city. Kick back and enjoy the ride as you pass by traditional stilted family homes and soak up the quiet river lifestyle of those who work and live on the water.
Still keen for more?

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch.
Hotel(s): Galleria 10 Hotel Bangkok

DAY 4
16 February 2025
Bangkok Free Day
Today is all yours to explore Bangkok your way and the adventures are limitless. Want to check out the markets? You can find flower species of every shape, color and origin at the lively Pak Klong Talad (Bangkok flower market), while the charming streets of Chinatown are the perfect place to munch on street food and shop for jade. If you love architecture, you’ll likely choose to join our trip to the ancient city of Ayutthaya, the former capital city of Thailand. We’ll make a stop along the way at the stunning Bang Pa Summer Palace, then continue on to Ayutthaya, an archaeological hotbed of temples, monasteries and statues that offer a glimpse into the glory days of this ancient land. We’ll head back to Bangkok on a cruise and enjoy a buffet lunch as you watch the local life go by along the banks of the Chaophraya River. This afternoon, you can join our optional visit to Jim Thompson’s House, an exquisite example of traditional Thai residential architecture, where you’ll find an incredible collection of Asian art.

Meal(s): Breakfast.
Hotel(s): Galleria 10 Hotel Bangkok

DAY 5
17 February 2025
Bangkok - Kanchanaburi
It’s goodbye Bangkok and hello Kanchanaburi town today, where we’ll jump straight into the action with a visit to the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, and the War Cemetery where over 6000 prisoners of war were laid to rest. Next up, we’ll pause for lunch then see the infamously named Death Railway, before boarding a local train for a ride with a difference. Gorgeous views over the river and a journey across wooden viaducts will keep your camera busy, as will the next and final stop for today – the famous Bridge over the River Kwai. Our hotel is just a short distance from here, where we’ll dine as a group this evening.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.
Hotel(s): Royal River Kwai Resort and Spa
Essential Thailand

**DAY 6**
18 February 2025
**Kanchanaburi Free Day**
With a completely free day today on your Thailand tour package, Kanchanaburi town is yours to explore your way. Those keen to take it easy can rest up at the hotel and take advantage of the spa facilities, or perhaps you'll take the opportunity to explore the town and its surroundings. Hoping to get out on the river? Our optional River Kwai Longtail Boat Cruise could be just what you're looking for. This adventure will begin with a visit to Hellfire Pass, a 500 meter long and 26 meter deep section of rock that was dug by Prisoners of War with nothing more than picks, rocks and their bare hands, to allow for the construction of Death Railway. From here you'll then travel on to the River Kwai and travel 30 minutes downstream by longtail boat to the River Kwai Jungle Rafts. Fuelling up on a yummy lunch, you'll then visit the Mon Tribal Village before continuing downstream, where the coach will meet you and carry you back to the hotel.
Meal(s): Breakfast
Hotel(s): Royal River Kwai Resort and Spa

**Sukhothai Sightseeing and Free Time**
Being famed as the birthplace of Thai civilization is a pretty big reputation to uphold, but Sukhothai does it with ease. Still historically significant to this day, we'll start our adventures today with a visit to the UNESCO listed Sukhothai Historical Park, where we'll get to explore the centuries old temples and palace ruins. History itch scratched, this afternoon will then be yours to explore as you wish. Hungry to learn more about Thai cuisine? Our optional cooking class is there for all the budding chefs amongst you. You'll start this foodie adventure by learning about the unique herbs and spices of Thailand courtesy of your host, then put the farm to table craze into action by using these ingredients to make a signature Thai dish, such as "Pad Pak Bung Fai Daeng". And the best part? You get to eat your tasty creation for dinner.
Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel(s): Le Charme Sukhothai Historical Park Resort

**DAY 7**
19 February 2025
**Kanchanaburi - Sukhothai**
We'll be up bright and early this morning to travel north to Sukhothai. The Thailand essentials just keep on coming and along the way we have a treat in store, with a visit to Bhutsaya Khiri Suvarnabumhi, or Rock Buddha. This impressive carving of a seated buddha, masterfully etched out of the hillside, was only finished in 2018 and is a true sight to behold. Stopping for a local lunch on route, we'll arrive into Sukhothai later this afternoon, then dinner tonight will be a group affair.
Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel(s): Le Charme Sukhothai Historical Park Resort

**DAY 8**
20 February 2025
**Golden Triangle Sightseeing**
Today is free for you to explore Chiang Rai as you choose. You may wish to journey to the heart of the Golden Triangle. This morning hop on board a boat that will take you cruising along the mighty Mekong River to the exact spot where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Laos collide. You'll have time to step out onto dry land in Laos and head into the Don Sao Island Markets where you can browse all the handicrafts and local snacks on offer. It's the only part of Laos that can be visited without a visa, so make the most of it! Next, we'll stop for lunch at a local restaurant, before heading to the self-proclaimed 'edutainment' Hall of Opium, a fascinating museum that reveals an incredible 5000 years of history. The state of the art exhibitions, harrowing recounts and even a tiny opium plantation all tell a vivid story of the conflicts, rituals and abuse that have all stemmed from opium, a trade that once ruled the Golden Triangle over the past century.
Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel(s): Wiang Inn Hotel Chiang Rai
Essential Thailand

DAY 11
23 February 2025
Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai
Who’s ready to dip their toes in some bubbling hot springs? We hope all of you, as our first stop today en route to Chiang Mai, are the lovely Mae Kajan Hot Springs. Feeling refreshed, we’ll grab lunch in a local restaurant before traveling on to the laidback city of Chiang Mai. Sprawling in size but with a historic center that has managed to retain the charm and pace of a low-key country town, Chiang Mai is also THE place for temple exploring. So, guess what we’ll be doing this afternoon? You got it! We’ll be exploring both Wat Phra Singh temple, which was built in 1345, and Wat Chedi Luang temple, a charming wooden creation famous for its huge Lanna style chedi. This evening, prepare to discover the charm of Chiang Mai by night as we head out to visit the city’s iconic night markets.
Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch.
Hotel(s): The Empress Chiang Mai

DAY 12
24 February 2025
Chiang Mai Free Day
Your day your way is what today is all about, and with it being your last day, be sure to make the most of it.
Meal(s): Breakfast.
Hotel(s): The Empress Chiang Mai

DAY 13
25 February 2025
Depart Chiang Mai
Your incredible journey through Thailand’s cities, rivers, mountains, temples and markets has come to an end. You’ve encountered diverse cultures, tasted all kinds of Thai foods and experienced the warmth of Thai hospitality and we’re sure you’ll be leaving with the iconic Thai smile on your face!
Transferring to Chiang Mai International Airport, you’ll catch your onward flight. Complimentary transfers available to Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) as per your flight details.
Meal(s): Breakfast.
Notes

- Dress codes must be observed for visiting the temples included on this tour. Ensure guests bring suitable clothing.

- Porterage is not included, guests will be required to handle their own luggage throughout their tour.

- Luggage allowance: A single bag is allowed with dimensions not exceeding 30”x18”x10” (76x46x25cm) and weight not exceeding 50lbs (23kg). Carry-on/hand luggage is restricted to one piece per person, not exceeding 12”x11”x6” (30x28x14cm) to fit under the coach seat or in the small overhead compartment.

- Recommended Gratuities per person per day (subject to change) - cash only: USD$3.50 Drivers USD$6.00 Travel Directors