



THE TUK TUK CLUB – 5 DAY ADVENTURE

THE BEST TRAVEL EXPERIENCE IN NORTHERN THAILAND?

The perfect trip for anyone wanting to combine unique adventure with stunning locations and a real insight into of the magic of Northern Thailand over 5 days.

Ever wanted to drive your own Tuk Tuk? Want to join the very exclusive Tuk Tuk Club and get back to the days when travel was a real ‘adventure’? Then join us on this awesome 5-day experience of the best of Northern Thailand including stunning locations, off the beaten track trekking and fantastic accommodation.



NOTE: The 5-day adventure joins up with the first section of the 11-day adventure so when you end your trip on day 5, you’ll be saying goodbye to your Tuk Tuk and other adventurers as they head onwards on their trip.

Inclusions:

- Your very own Tuk Tuk (up to 3 travellers per vehicle)
- Transfers to and from Chiang Mai city (meeting point and drop off point is the Chiang Mai Gate Hotel)
- Driver training
- 2 guides with you every step of the way
- 4 nights accommodation in stunning locations
- 1 day trekking in Doi Inthanon National Park
- A support vehicle for your luggage
- Travel stories to beat everyone else’s...



ITINERARY:

Day 1: ARRIVAL, DRIVER TRAINING AND MAKING MERIT AT A LOCAL TEMPLE

We'll pick you up at 10:00am from the CHIANG MAI GATE HOTEL in Chiang Mai city and transfer you to our training base for the adventure ahead.

On arrival at our 'base camp' in Mae Wang at around 11:30 we'll check you in to your accommodation, have lunch together and then begin your driver training. Once everyone has got to grips with the basics we'll head on your first test drive to a local Temple where we can 'make merit' for the journey ahead!

In the evening it's time to spend more time getting to know your Tuk Tuk and enjoying a great Thai feast.



Inclusions:

- Transfer from Chiang Mai Gate Hotel to our 'base camp'
- Full Tuk Tuk orientation and training
- 'Making merit' at the local temple
- Lunch and dinner
- Twin / triple share accommodation in a beautiful resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite rooms (single rooms can be requested but a surcharge applies)

Day 2: MORE TRAINING AND ELEPHANTS

After breakfast we'll go through more driver training, building on what you learned yesterday, and run through all the nitty-gritty of the trip ahead.

Then it's time to venture a little further afield with a test drive through small country roads to a fantastic elephant home that is leading the way in taking elephants away from a life of trekking and instead creating an environment where people can learn about and spend time with elephants on their terms, not ours!

We'll head slowly in convoy to the elephant home giving all the opportunity to get some 'road time' and confidence. On arrival, you'll learn about the history of the elephants, what the team at the Elephant home are doing and then, after a great lunch at the home, it's time to enjoy the company of these wonderful animals. You'll be able to feed them, get to know them and then walk with them (no riding allowed!) to the local river where you'll bathe with them.

In the late afternoon we'll have a change of pace as we float gently downstream on bamboo rafts before it's then time for a little more driving practice as we head back to the base camp for dinner and getting ready for an adventurous day tomorrow.



Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuk driver training
- Visit to the elephant home, bamboo rafting and all associated activities
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Twin / triple share accommodation in a beautiful resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite rooms (single rooms can be requested but a surcharge applies)

Day 3: AND WE'RE OFF – DOI INTHANON HERE WE COME

After an early breakfast we're hitting the road and heading along small country roads towards Thailand's highest mountain, Doi Inthanon. Your guide will be in the lead Tuk Tuk and we'll travel in convoy with the support vehicle at the rear. The first 20-30km of the route is simple with gentle curving roads but we soon hit stunning switch back bends, incredible scenery and tiny Karen hill tribe villages as we make our way towards the National Park.

Enjoy the look of complete surprise from everyone as they see Tuk Tuks this far up in the mountains – trust us, novelty doesn't not even begin to cover it – and we'll stop frequently to have a look at different villages / views and of course to sample some of the great coffee and snacks in small villages. Lunch will be in a roadside snack bar – real Northern Thai style.



We arrive at our accommodation mid-afternoon before jumping in another classic Thai mode of transport - a 'Sorngtaew' - a shared taxi adapted from a pick up truck, which drives us to the summit of the mountain.



Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuks and support vehicle
- Breakfast and dinner (lunch at own expense – (+/- 50THB)
- National Park entry fees
- Twin / triple / quad shared accommodation in Doi Inthanon – this is the most 'basic' of the accommodation but intentionally so to ensure you're located in the most stunning area and perfectly located for the trek tomorrow. Fan cooled, en-suite bathrooms

Day 4: TREKKING

We're giving the Tuk Tuks a well-deserved rest today and exploring the National Park on foot. Accompanied by an expert trekking guide we'll explore the stunning forest around the area on a trek of around 6km which takes in great vista's and the obligatory waterfall.

Lunch is provided on the trek and your trekking guide is a mine of information on both the people and wildlife inhabiting the area all around you.

NOTE: This trek is suitable for all as long as you're able to walk 4-5KM. The pace is gentle but there are some up and downhill sections, as you'd expect, in the mountains.

We'll arrive back at the accommodation around mid – late afternoon, just in time to rest up, relax and then enjoy a great countryside Thai feast.



Inclusions:

- Trek and trekking guide
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Twin / triple / quad shared accommodation in Doi Inthanon – this is the most basic of the accommodation but intentionally so to ensure you're located in the most stunning area and perfectly located for the trek tomorrow. Fan cooled, en-suite bathrooms

Day 5: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR TRUSTY TUK TUK

The 5 day adventure comes to an end this morning as you say goodbye to your Tuk Tuk and transfer back to Chiang Mai City.

The transfer will take place in the morning and you will arrive in Chiang Mai (The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel) before midday.

Inclusions:

- Transfer to The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

By it's very nature this trip is an 'adventure' – when it's hot....it's hot and when it's cold....it's cold (and it does get cold in the mountains between November and February). And as with any trip of this nature there is some inherent risk which must be accepted by all travellers – without a small amount of risk there is no adventure! However, all routes and roads have been extensively researched (in Tuk Tuks of course), there is plenty of training and practice of driving before we hit the winding roads heading up into the mountains and your guides will always set a sensible pace for the conditions for each different day.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

We will pick you up at **10:00am** at the **CHIANG MAI GATE HOTEL** in Chiang Mai City. If you're not staying there the night before your tour starts please make your own way to the hotel which is just outside the South side of the old city walls. The address is: **Chiang Mai Gate Hotel, 10/11 Suriyawong Road, Haiya, Chiang Mai, 50100**. Telephone number: +66(0) 53 203 895 9



It's easy to find and very well- known so any hotel you are staying at will be able to help you get a taxi there.



What driving experience do I need?

- All travellers who wish to drive a Tuk Tuk **MUST** have a driving license from their own country (manual gear) and ideally an International License (particularly for those whose Driving License is not in English)
- No previous Tuk Tuk driving experience is necessary!

Can I book on my own / can I take a whole Tuk Tuk?

- This experience is perfect for solo travellers, couples or groups of friends (or even adventurous families).
- Each Tuk Tuk can seat a maximum of 3 adults or 2 adults and 2 children (11 and older)
- If you are keen on having your own Tuk Tuk then please book with 2 other friends and get a 10% discount on your trip!

Group size

- The maximum group size for each trip is 15 – 3 adventurers per Tuk Tuk.
- Each trip will consist of up to 6 Tuk Tuks - the lead vehicle driven by one of your guides – and a support vehicle, driven by an additional guide, carrying bags, spare parts, water, snacks etc.

The Tuk Tuks

- All the Tuk Tuks are original, classic 'Bangkok style' Tuk Tuks with the relevant registrations to allow them to be driven by the group on all the roads taken during the tour
- Whilst Tuk Tuks are relatively simple to drive, training and experience is provided in the driver training sessions on Days 1 and 2 of the trip
- All fuel is provided as part of the adventure
- No-one is forced to drive! There is space for 2 people comfortably on the back seats
- Simple mechanical training will be given on Days 1 and 2 and how to care for your Tuk Tuk sessions will take place. In addition, our team are on hand to assist in the event of any mechanical issues.
- All travellers must ensure that they obey local traffic laws and agree to abide by the driving rules of The Tuk Tuk Club – this is for everyone's safety.

Accommodation

The accommodation is intentionally of a very high standard throughout the trip to allow you to 'adventure' during the day but relax and enjoy great surrounding in the evenings and free days.

Mae Wang 'base camp' – nights 1 and 2 – 3*- 4*

Khum Khun Wang Resort (or similar), Mae Wang. A stylish Northern Thailand hotel in peaceful grounds with a laid back small dining area. Perfect for our 'base camp'.



Doi Inthanon – nights 3 and 4 – 2*

Forest ‘huts’ – simple rural rooms (fan cooled) with twin / triple / quad rooms. Basic facilities but ideally located for a real rural experience and the trekking on day 4



What do I need to bring? How much will I spend?

The most important thing to pack is a sense of **adventure** and a sense of **humour**! However, there are of course a few other essentials:

IMPORTANT - Your driving license and an International Driving Permit (IDP):

If you are planning to drive one of the Tuk Tuks it’s essential that you bring your home driving license with you and an International Driving Permit (IDP)



International Driving Permits are little 'grey' books recognized around the world that back up your regular driving license and they are usually obtainable quickly and easily and for a nominal fee.

How and where you apply to get an IDP of course varies by country but a quick Google will turn up the best way to sort things out.

- In the UK you can apply through designated Post Office's or The AA
- In the US you can apply through the American Automobile Touring Alliance
- In Australia you can apply through the RACV or the AAA

Please try not to forget either your drivers' license or your IDP and without them you won't be able to drive your Tuk Tuk.

Travel Insurance - IMPORTANT

Travel insurance is **compulsory** for all of our trips but is not included and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have appropriate cover for all aspects of your trip. Whilst we can't judge or know every single insurance provider out there, we do know that the very good people at Campbell Irvine (www.campbellirvinedirect.com) DO cover the use of Tuk Tuks for recreational purposes so they are the perfect place to start.

Clothing:

- Obviously this is up to you but we recommend trainers (or similar) for driving days (not flip flops / sandals) and comfortable shorts / t-shirts / long sleeved t-shirt for driving days (that you don't mind getting dirty and grimy!)
- If you're travelling between late October and February please don't forget some warm clothes for the evenings – it can get quite chilly from time to time at night in the mountains and a warm jumper / fleece is well worth bringing.
- The trek doesn't require walking boots although its paths can be muddy and slippery in the rainy season (approximately July through to late October)
- Sunglasses

Spending money

- This is always difficult to gauge but you do need to budget for 1 lunch on day 3 during the trip. Lunch on the road is between 50 and 100THB.
- Of course you also need to budget for drinks throughout the trip. Beers range from 60THB up to 150THB for a large bottle (depending where you buy them – sometimes even 150THB for a small bottle)
- Whilst everyone's needs are different we'd suggest that you budget for around 2,000THB or so for food, snacks, drinks etc during your trip. ATM's machines are widely available on most days