



3 DAY TUK TUK ADVENTURE IN NORTHERN THAILAND

SELF DRIVE and CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN OPTIONS

A stunning Tuk Tuk Adventure taking you deep into the heart of the mountains and Hill Tribe communities around Chiang Mai – and what better way to travel than in your very own Tuk Tuk, either driving (self-drive) or relaxing in the back seat (chauffeur option) right in the heart of the sights and sounds of this wonderful part of the world.

An incredible adventure awaits as you travel by Tuk Tuk and explore the mountains and remote communities of Northern Thailand. Take in the stunning views from these iconic vehicles, camp in a remote Karen Hill Tribe village, learn to cook a 'jungle' feast with the community, hike in the foothills of Thailand's highest mountain and experience Thailand at it's very best.



Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuks – 2 travellers per Tuk Tuk (up to 3 for the self-drive option)
- Transfers from and back to Chiang Mai city (the meeting point and drop off point is The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel) at the start and the end of the adventure
- Experienced and passionate adventure guide and support team with you every step of the way (*and an experienced driver for the chauffeur driven option*)
- Thorough and detailed driver training on Day 1. *Please note that if you choose the 'chauffeur' option you will still be able to have a go a learning to drive on our 'off road' training area if you'd like*
- 1 night tented accommodation in a mountain Hill Tribe village
- 1 night accommodation in a rural lodge overlooking rice terraces – twin share, en-suite, wi-fi
- A Karen Hill Tribe village experience
- Karen 'jungle' cooking class
- Trekking near Doi Inthanon National park
- All meals and water throughout the adventure
- A very real and unique Thailand travel experience!

PRICE:

£329 per person covering all the inclusions above

ITINERARY:

THE TUK TUK CLUB – 3 Day Tuk Tuk Adventure - Detailed Itinerary 2021-2022

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Day 1: TEMPLES, WATERFALLS, REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND KAREN HILL TRIBE CAMPING

You'll be picked up at **8:00am** from the CHIANG MAI GATE HOTEL in Chiang Mai city and our team will transfer you by minivan to The Tuk Tuk Club base in Mae Wang, around 45-60 minutes South West of the city.

On arrival at our base you'll be introduced to your trusty Tuk Tuk and driver (chauffeur option) and get settled in for the adventure ahead.

Our Tuk Tuks are specially modified to not only cope perfectly with the winding mountain roads but also to give extra comfort and views from the back seat. There are Bluetooth speakers for you to play your road tip selections and you can even roll back the roof if you fancy catching some sun!



PLEASE NOTE:

For those on the self-drive option there will be a detailed, in-depth driver training session followed by a test that all drivers must pass before heading out onto the road. For those who've chosen the chauffeur option this is a great experience to learn more about the Tuk Tuks, how they work and, if you'd like, the opportunity to have a quick go yourself!

You'll the start the journey by heading through fantastic winding lanes passing through small farming communities (think classic SE Asia photo ops) and up and visiting stunning remote (and almost never visited) Temples, and at one of them we'll even make a small blessing for the adventure ahead.





You'll have a simple but hearty lunch at a great local restaurant and then start to head up into the serious mountains. On the way you'll stop to take the short hike to a forest waterfall and explore a tiny Karen community and then you continue to wind up the hairpin bends to your overnight destination of a remote Karen village where you'll camp and have an incredible authentic 'Hill Tribe' experience.



Once you've arrived at the campsite you'll have a traditional Karen greeting and then have the opportunity to explore the local village and meet the 'elders' and learn about their community, culture and way of life.

In the evening you'll learn how to cook jungle style with an open fire and lessons from our Karen hosts before spending the night under the stars – a proper Thailand adventure.

NOTE – the tents are actually very comfortable with mattresses / cushions / pillows / blankets etc and there are 'Western' style toilets and a hot shower available!



- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 5 HOURS INCLUDING DRIVER TRAINING
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 75 km

Inclusions:

- Transfer from Chiang Mai Gate Hotel to our 'base camp'
- Full Tuk Tuk orientation
- Professional guide and driver (chauffeur option)
- In depth Tuk Tuk driver training (self-drive option)

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- Lunch, Dinner (jungle cooking class included!) and drinking water
- Karen Hill Tribe village experience and overnight camping

Day 2: MOUNTAINS, MORE HILL TRIBE VILLAGES AND A THAI FEAST

After breakfast you'll explore the local area and forest around the village with your guide and members of the local community before getting back into the Tuk Tuks and heading along yet more stunning roads (plenty of stops to take in the views) into the heart of the foothills of Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain.



This is a fantastic journey through spectacular mountain scenery, along rarely travelled roads, giving you a real insight into Thailand, well away from the tourist trail.

You'll stop for a late lunch at a small roadside restaurant – the real deal in terms of local Thai country fare – and then head on to the small Karen community of Ban Mae Khlang Luang, your overnight base.



Your overnight accommodation in the village is surrounded by mountains and rice terraces and is the perfect setting for the second night of the adventure.

Once you've checked in you'll explore the village, see how the community live and get to sample some of the freshest coffee around in one of the most atmospheric coffee shops we've ever come across!

In the evening it's time for a traditional Thai style BBQ in the rice fields! Great fun and a real Thailand tradition.



- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 2 HOURS
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 40 km

Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuks and all related costs
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and drinking water
- Professional guide and driver (chauffeur option)
- Twin share accommodation in the hill tribe village – this is relatively simple accommodation but is still en-suite with hot water and wi-fi. The rooms are fan-cooled only but air-conditioning is not needed this high in the mountains

Day 3: HIKING, WATERFALLS AND BACK TO CHIANG MAI CITY

After breakfast you'll head out to hike and explore the forests around the village in the foothills of Doi Inthanon.



The hike is 'only' around 5 – 6 km (lead by a local village guide) but takes you through fantastic forests and eventually to a series of stunning waterfalls.



You'll have lunch at the foot of the largest waterfall and there's plenty of time to swim in the pool below.



After lunch you hike downhill out of the forest and back to the Hill Tribe village where you stayed last night. It's then time to say goodbye to your Tuk Tuk as you transfer back to Chiang Mai city by private minivan, arriving back at The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel at around 4:30pm

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** NA – no Tuk Tuk driving today
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** NA

Inclusions:

- Breakfast, Lunch and drinking water
- Trekking through the forest
- Transfer back to Chiang Mai City by private minivan



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

By its very nature this trip is an 'adventure' – when it's hot....it's hot, when It's wet....it's wet and when it's cold....it's cold (and it can get cold in the mountains between November and February with overnight temperatures sometimes dropping to 10C or even a bit less). And as with any trip of this nature there is some inherent risk which must be accepted by all travellers....but without a small amount of risk there is no adventure!

However, all routes and roads have been extensively researched (in Tuk Tuks of course), and our driving team always follow a gentle pace and adapt to the weather and road conditions at any given time.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

We will pick you up at **8:00am** 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.

Can I book my own Tuk Tuk?

- This experience is perfect for solo travellers, couples or groups of friends (or even adventurous families). If you're travelling on your own you'll be teamed up with a fellow solo traveller to enjoy your time travelling in these wonderful vehicles



- For those booking the chauffeur driven option each Tuk Tuk can take a maximum of 2 adults, for those booking the self-drive option each Tuk Tuk can take a maximum of 3 adults.

NOTES ON THE SELF-DRIVE OPTION

- All travellers who wish to drive a Tuk Tuk **MUST** have a driving license from their own country (manual gear) and an International Driving Permit (**IDP**)
- No previous Tuk Tuk driving experience is necessary as you will be trained on Day 1 but please note that if you don't usually drive a manual / stick shift car then we strongly recommend you choose the chauffeur driven option
- At the end of training session all drivers must pass a test. If the guide / training team believe you have not passed the test then unfortunately you will not be able to drive on the roads. The decision of the training team is final.

Group size

- The minimum group size for this adventure is 2 people, the maximum is 10

The Tuk Tuks

- All the Tuk Tuks are original, classic 'Bangkok style' Tuk Tuks but specially built and designed for the trips we run. This means more legroom and head room, BlueTooth speakers and a roll back roof should you be looking for a bit more sun!

Accommodation

The accommodation on this trip is intentionally adventurous to really allow you to experience the Hill Tribe communities and their way of life. **Night 1** is in tents (showers and 'Western style' toilet facilities are available)





Night 2 is in a simple rural lodge in a small village. Wooden cabins with twin / double beds, en-suite bathroom and wi-fi all with fantastic terraces overlooking the rice fields and forest.





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**!

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

Clothing:

- Obviously this is up to you but we recommend trainers (or similar) for walking / exploring and flip flops / sandals for travelling and the evenings. and comfortable shorts / t-shirts / long sleeved t-shirt (that you don't mind getting dirty and grimy!)
- NOTE – the mountains can be quite chilly in the winter (November through February) and warm clothes for the evening (jeans / jumper / jacket) are highly recommended!
- 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)
- Hat / sunglasses / sunscreen

Spending money

- All meals and drinking water are included throughout the trip as are all activities – you'll be given a re-useable Tuk Tuk Club drinking bottle (to take away at the end of the trip) and we transport plenty of water to re-fill your bottle with
- All you need to budget for are any soft drinks, snacks and alcoholic drinks you might want. Around £25 (1,000THB) should be more than enough even for the thirstiest adventurer!