



## TWO DAY TUK TUK ADVENTURES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CHIANG MAI

### Self-drive and 'Chauffeur' driven options available

Do something very different and join The Tuk Tuk Club for a unique and very special way to explore the mountains and culture of Chiang Mai.

Drive your very own specially built 'mountain' Tuk Tuk (don't worry – if you prefer not to drive we can provide a driver so you can sit back and enjoy the ride!) and explore the mountain backroads and communities of Chiang Mai

From small Karen Hill Tribe communities and remote Temples to incredible views, forests, hiking and waterfalls – there's no better way to get off the beaten track in Chiang Mai and have a weekend adventure to remember.



#### Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuks – 2 travellers per Tuk Tuk
- Transfers from and back to Chiang Mai city at the start and end of the adventure
- A superb guide and support team with you every step of the way (and of course drivers if you choose the chauffeur option)
- Expert driver training Day 1. *Please note that if you choose the 'chauffeur' option you will still be able to 'have a go' at learning to drive on our 'off road' training area if you'd like*
- 1 night accommodation in a rustic 'lodge' in a Karen village with lovely views overlooking the rice terraces.
- Visits to small mountain communities, remote mountain Temples and forest waterfalls
- Trekking in the foothills of Doi Inthanon
- All meals and water throughout the adventure
- A unique experience in the heart of Northern Thailand



## ITINERARY:

### Day 1: TEMPLES, WATERFALLS, REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND AN EVENING FEAST ABOVE THE RICE FIELDS

You'll be picked up at **08:30** from your hotel in Chiang Mai and transfer by private minivan to The Tuk Tuk Club base in Mae Wang, around 45-60 minutes South West of the city.

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

Our Tuk Tuks are specially modified to not only cope 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 trip 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 adventure proper by heading along small country lanes, passing through picturesque rural farming communities and remote Temples. There is plenty of time to stop and learn about life in these communities and soak up the atmosphere.



You'll have lunch at a fantastic family run rural restaurant and then it's back in the Tuk Tuk convoy and heading high into the hills. You'll take a stunning side road into the Mae Sapok valley - think classic South East Asian vistas of rice terraces, water buffalo relaxing in the shade, small wooden village houses and mountains all around where you'll walk the short distance through the forest to the local waterfall.



Hairpin bends come next as you drive up a spectacular road taking us into the heart of Karen Hill Tribe country. You'll notice the temperatures drop and the views really open up as you travel gently through yet more Karen communities, stop to explore, take photos and sample some local snacks. It's hard to describe just how beautiful this area is with forest, small farming communities and Thailand's highest mountain, Doi Inthanon, rising up ahead of us.



By late afternoon you'll arrive in the Karen mountain community of Ban Mae Khlung Luang where you're staying overnight. Surrounded by forest, mountains and rice fields the village delivers the perfect mountain experience and whilst the rooms are simple, they are clean, have en-suite facilities



and hot water, fans (air-conditioning is not needed this high up) and wi-fi. And all the rooms have lovely balconies overlooking the rice fields. The perfect spot to unwind after a very adventurous day.

In the evening you'll have a traditional Thai BBQ overlooking the rice fields and the forest and hills all around.

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME:** +/- 6 HOURS INCLUDING DRIVER TRAINING AND STOPS ALONG THE WAY
- **DISTANCE COVERED:** +/- 85 km

Inclusions:

- Transfer from Chiang Mai city to our 'base camp' in Mae Wang
- Professional English and Thai speaking guide and driver (chauffeur option)
- In depth Tuk Tuk driver training (self-drive option)
- Lunch and Dinner
- Visits to small mountain communities, remote Temples and the odd surprise along the way!
- Overnight accommodation in a Karen mountain village. The rooms are simple but clean, with en-suite facilities and hot water, fans and wi-fi
- A re-fillable water bottle (yours to keep) and fresh drinking water throughout the day



## Day 2: TREKKING, WATERFALLS AND RETURN TO CHIANG MAI

After breakfast you'll head out to explore the forests around the village in the foothills of Doi Inthanon accompanied by an expert village guide.



The hike is 'only' around 5 – 6 km and heads deep into the forest and then follows the river and a series of spectacular waterfalls



You'll have lunch in a small clearing with great views of the waterfalls before then continuing along the trail through the rice terraces heading back to the village where you stayed last night where you'll then be able to experience a traditional Karen coffee shop serving up superb coffee grown in the surrounding mountains.



It's then time unfortunately say goodbye to this amazing part of the world as you head back to Chiang Mai city by private minivan, arriving around 4:30 pm

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

Inclusions:

- Breakfast and Lunch
- Trekking through the forest with a local expert
- Professional English and Thai speaking guide and driver (chauffeur option)
- Water throughout the day
- Transfer back to Chiang Mai City by private minivan



### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

By its very nature this trip is an 'adventure' and a very different off the beaten track Thailand experience. We're in the heart of the mountains travelling along small rural roads and that's the whole point of the adventure – enjoying something very different and a little unpredictable! Whilst the day time temperatures will still be relatively warm, do expect the evening / early morning to be a bit chilly and please bring a sweater / jacket / jeans. Our accommodation provides plenty of blankets so you will be nice and warm in bed! We may of course still get a bit of late rainy season 'activity' but the Tuk Tuks do have rain covers and we always take a storm in our stride, it's all part of the adventure....

### **ARRIVAL INFORMATION:**

We will pick you up from your hotel in Chiang Mai city at 08:30 to get the adventure started.

### **How many people are in each Tuk Tuk?**

- For this experience there will be two people per Tuk Tuk – perfect for booking as a couple / friends or to get to make a new friend if you're a solo traveller.

### **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)
- 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 4 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, BluTooth speakers and a roll back roof should you be looking for a bit more sun!

### **Accommodation**

We stay overnight in a simple rural lodge in a small village high up in the mountains. The rooms are simple but have large beds, en-suite facilities with hot water and are all in a lovely location throughout the village and the atmosphere, experience and views in the village more than make up for the simple nature of the rooms



### What do I need to bring?

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 evening. and comfortable shorts / t-shirts / long sleeved t-shirt (that you don't mind getting dirty and grimy!)
- It will almost certainly be quite cool in the evening and early morning in the mountains – please do bring a jumper / fleece and some trousers or be prepared to be pretty cold!
- The trek doesn't require walking boots although its paths can be muddy and slippery when it's rained!
- Hat / sunglasses / sunscreen



## **Money**

- This adventure includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 breakfast and we provide clean drinking water throughout the trip.
- All you need to budget for are any soft drinks / coffee, beers etc and any snacks you may want en-route.