THE TUK TUK CLUB

THE TUK TUK CLUB – NEW 5 DAY ADVENTURE IN NORTHERN THAILAND – 2028

SELF DRIVE and CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN ITINERARY

A brand new incredible 5 day adventure taking you high into the mountains of Northern Thailand all enjoyed from Thailand's most iconic vehicle – the Tuk Tuk. There is no better way to get under the skin of this stunning part of the world and get an insight into the 'real' Thailand that most travellers miss completely.

An action packed adventure putting you right into the heart of the most beautiful part of Thailand. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the mountains with the best view possible – our specially converted Tuk Tuks able to cope with the mountain roads with relative ease. Remote Temples, off the beaten track Hill Tribe communities, giant Buddha images, elephants, bamboo rafting, trekking, incredible food and of course, your very own Tuk Tuk. Adventures don't come any better.

NOTE: You must have a Category A stamp in your International Driving Permit (IDP) in order to drive on the adventure ('self-drive' option). Please contact us for more information!



Inclusions:

- Tuk Tuks – 2 travellers per Tuk Tuk (up to 3 for the self-drive option)
- Transfers from and back to Chiang Mai city (we will pick you up from any hotel in Chiang Mai City) 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)*
- Visits to remote Temples and tiny rural communities, meeting wonderful elephants, bamboo rafting and trekking in the foothills of Doi Inthanon
- 4 nights' accommodation in superb locations including 1 night 'camping experience' a remote *Karen* Hill Tribe community
- All meals (4 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners) and water throughout the adventure
- A support vehicle for your luggage

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- The best travel stories, after all who else has travelled through the mountains of Thailand by Tuk Tuk…

PRICES: Self-drive and Chauffeur Driven options – both the same price!

2028 START DATES

ADULTS (ages 18 and up)

- £845 pp / AUD $1,665 pp / NZD $1,944 pp – Jan / Feb and May to December start dates
- £745 pp / AUD $1,468 pp / NZD $1,714 pp - March and April Start Dates

CHILDREN (ages 5 - 17)

- £425 pp / AUD $837 pp / NZD $978 pp – Jan / Feb and May to December start dates
- £375 pp / AUD $739 pp / NZD $863 pp - March and April start dates

PRIVATE ROOM FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS (optional)

- £188 pp / AUD $370 pp / NZD $432 pp – Jan / Feb and May to December start dates
- £167 pp / AUD $329 pp / NZD $384 pp - March and April start dates

DEPOSIT – FOR ALL START DATES

- £200 pp / AUD $400 pp / NZD $460 pp

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ITINERARY:

Day 1: ARRIVAL, MEET YOUR TUK TUK, EXPLORE REMOTE TEMPLES AND SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES

You'll be picked up from your hotel in Chiang Mai city (pick up will be between around 09:30 and 10:00am depending on where you are staying and we will confirm this for you prior to the trip) and our team will transfer you by minivan to The Tuk Tuk Club HQ in Mae Wang, around 60 minutes South West of the city.

On arrival you'll check into the lovely local hotel which is your base for the next couple of nights and then immediately get to meet your Tuk Tuk (you'll become very fond of this wonderful machine over the next few days!) and of course meet your guide and support team.





Note – our Tuk Tuks are specially modified to not only cope perfectly with the twisty and sometimes steep mountain roads but also to give extra comfort and views. There are Bluetooth speakers for you to play your favourite road trip tunes and you can even roll back the roof if you fancy catching some sun!

You'll then head for a delicious lunch at a 'laid back' local restaurant where your guide will run through all of the adventures ahead.



NOTE:

For those choosing 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 on our off road training area.

Once your training is complete, you're then off exploring tiny winding rural lanes, passing through rarely visited communities and fascinating Temples with stunning views. At one of the Temples you'll receive a blessing for the adventure ahead giving you a real insight into how communities interact with Monks and their local Temple.





You'll arrive back at base in the late afternoon in time to freshen up and head out for a delicious Thai dinner at a local 'country – pub'. Great food, live music, brilliant views across the fields and a great way to end the day.

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME**: +/- 3 HOURS INCLUDING DRIVER TRAINING
- **DISTANCE COVERED**: +/- 35 km

Inclusions:

- Transfer from The Chiang Mai Gate Hotel to our 'base camp' in Mae Wang
- Guide and support team
- Full Tuk Tuk orientation / driver training (for those on with the self-drive option)
- Exploration of remote Temples, rural communities and off the beaten track locations
- Lunch, dinner and drinking water throughout the day
- Twin / double accommodation in a very pleasant rural resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite facilities, wi-fi.

Day 2: TEMPLES, HILL TRIBE VILLAGES, ELEPHANTS AND BAMBOO RAFTING

After breakfast you're back into your Tuk Tuk (we guarantee you'll already be possessive about which Tuk Tuk is 'yours'!) and you'll head through the countryside and small communities to a fantastic Pagoda at a hill top Temple with great views of the surrounding mountains, giving you a glimpse of where you'll be heading tomorrow!





You're then heading North up the valley in your Tuk Tuk to a fantastic small 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!

On arrival you'll learn about the history of the elephants and what the team at the Elephant home have been doing to continually improve the lives of the elephants. Then, after a simple but filling lunch at the home (right next to the elephants), it's time to enjoy the company of these wonderful animals. You'll be able to help their mahouts feed them and then walk with them (no riding allowed!) to the local river where they take their daily bath.





After the elephants are clean, you'll have a change of pace as you float gently downstream on bamboo rafts before it's then time for a late afternoon Tuk Tuk convoy as you head back to the base camp to freshen up before heading out for another great dinner at a local family restaurant.





- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME**: +/- 3.5 HOURS SPREAD OUT OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY
- **DISTANCE COVERED**: +/- 55 km

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Tuk Tuk and driver (chauffeur option)
- Visits to Temples, Pagoda's, elephant home experience and bamboo rafting
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinking water throughout the day
- Twin / double accommodation in a very pleasant rural resort in Mae Wang – air-conditioning, en-suite facilities, wi-fi.

Day 3: WINDING MOUNTAIN ROADS, REMOTE TEMPLES, A GIANT BUDDHA AND AN INCREDIBLE CAMPING EXPERIENCE

After an early breakfast you're back in the Tuk Tuk convoy and heading along some of the most spectacular roads towards Thailand's highest mountain, Doi Inthanon.





After an initial 25 minutes or so drive there is the first stop of the day and you'll switch into local 'songtaews' to head deep into the forest to explore a stunning remote Temple. (*NOTE – during heavy rain this road may not be useable and the songtaew drivers always make the final decision as to whether we can travel up to the Temple or not).*

You'll then continue up into the hills and after around 10km you hit a series of stunning switch back bends, and breathtaking scenery as you head to your lunch spot – a giant Buddha image towering out of the trees. You'll park up the Tuk Tuks and walk up to the Buddha image to explore– we won't say anymore but there are a few surprises in store…

NOTE: You'll have lunch along the way and the exact location will depend on how the morning drive is proceeding, the weather etc etc. But don't worry, whilst lunch will be a simple affair, it will be tasty and filling giving you all the energy you need for the afternoons drive!





After exploring the giant Buddha it's then time to continue along the mountain roads, winding your way through small mountain communities and perhaps even stopping for a mountain coffee before arriving at the camping area just outside a small *Karen* Hill tribe community. Don't worry, whilst this isn't 'glamping', all the tents have comfortable sleeping mats, lovely warm blankets (it can get cool overnight), pillows, access to 'Western style toilets' and a shower. There's even a small stream to keep your beers cool and the local team then cook up an incredible feast over the campfire for dinner – so delicious this meal alone is worth travelling all the way to Thailand for.

In the evening, sitting around the campfire gives you a great opportunity to share travel stories, learn more about the local area and to chat with both your Tuk Tuk Club guides and members of the local team based in the mountains.





- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME**: +/- 3 HOURS SPREAD OUT OVER THE DAY

- **DISTANCE COVERED**: +/- 50 km

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Tuk Tuks, support vehicle and driver (chauffeur driven option)
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinking water throughout the day
- *Karen* Hill Tribe camping experience

Day 4: MORE WINDING MOUNTAIN ROADS, A SMALL HILL TRIBE COMMUNITY AND THAILAND'S HIGHEST PEAK

After breakfast it's time to jump back into your Tuk Tuk and continue on the winding roads through the mountains as you head towards today's destination. You'll pass through plenty of small communities – keep your eyes peeled for the look of surprise to see Tuk Tuks this high in the hills – and arrive at the small *Karen* community of Mae Khlang Luang in time for lunch.



Enjoy a simple but tasty lunch overlooking the fields and surrounding hills, take some time to soak up the views and then you'll head (by local songtaew taxi rather than Tuk Tuk!) up to Thailand's highest point, the summit of Doi Inthanon at over 2,500 m above sea level. There's time to explore the simple trail through the forest to the actual highest point and also to explore the two giant 'chedi's' built in honour of the previous King and Queen of Thailand and take in the stunning views.





And then this evening it's time for a traditional Thai style BBQ in the village. Great fun and a real Thailand tradition.

- **TUK TUK DRIVING TIME**: +/- 1.5 HOURS OVER THE MORNING
- **DISTANCE COVERED**: +/- 25 km

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Tuk Tuks, support vehicle and driver (chauffeur driven option)
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinking water throughout the day
- Twin / double accommodation near Doi Inthanon – simple accommodation (but it's the best available) and by staying here we can ensure that you're located in a stunning location and perfectly located for the trek tomorrow. Fan cooled, en-suite bathrooms, wi-fi available. And the lovely family running the accommodation – and the views – more than making up for any lack of luxuries

Day 5: HIKING

The Tuk Tuks have a well-earned rest today as you head to explore the foothills of Doi Inthanon on foot.

Starting with a quick transfer by truck you then walk up into the forest led by a local guide (who knows everything about every tree and plant – and can spot a snake from miles away!) and then hike past stunning waterfalls, rivers and through the towering forest.





Youll have a packed lunch along the route or in the small village at the end of the route depending on the weather!

The hike ends with a walk back down into the village where you stayed last night and there's the chance to enjoy the freshest coffee around at a local old-style mountain coffee shop – one of our favourite coffee shops in Northern Thailand.





NOTE – the hike is suitable for all. The total distance is around 5-6km, we take it at a gentle place and after the initial uphill section, the majority of the hike is flat or downhill.

Once you return to the village it's time to say goodbye to this wonderful part of the world as you transfer back to Chiang Mai city by private minivan. You'll arrive back in the city (Chiang Mai Gate Hotel) by around 4:00pm (timings will be flexible).



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

Inclusions:

- Guide and support team
- Trek and trekking guide
- Breakfast, lunch and drinking water throughout the day
- Transfer back to Chiang Mai city

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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 where is the 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.

Please note that some activities may be amended / changed due to weather conditions. This happens rarely but the final decision always rests with the local experts – either our guides or those operating the activity (i.e. bamboo rafting).

ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

We will pick you up from any hotel in Chiang Mai city on the start date of your adventure to transfer you to The Tuk Tuk Club base in Mae Wang (around 60 minutes away) to get the adventure underway. Pick up times will usually be between 09:30 am and 10:00 am depending on where you – and other members of the group – are staying and we'll confirm your pick up time no later than 4 weeks before the trip start date. Please do remember to let us know where you are staying at least 8 weeks before your trip start date so we can plan the pick ups and make sure all travellers know what time to be ready!

And if you need any advice / suggestions on where to stay in Chiang Mai city please do let us know – we're always happy to help with advice.

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 people, for those booking the self-drive option each Tuk Tuk can take a maximum of 3 people.

NOTES ON THE SELF-DRIVE OPTION

- All travellers who wish to drive a Tuk Tuk MUST have a driving license from their own country and an International Driving Permit (**IDP**)
- **IMPORTANT NOTE – YOUR IDP MUST HAVE A <u>CATEGORY A STAMP</u> IN ORDER TO DRIVE THE TUK TUKS**
- All our Tuk Tuks now have AUTOMATIC gears making them much easier to learn to drive and making the winding country roads much easier to navigate. And of course, giving you (if

you're choosing the self-drive option) much more opportunity to soak up the surrounding scenery
- No previous Tuk Tuk driving experience is necessary as you will receive in-depth training on Day 1 but if in doubt 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 reached the standard to pass the test then unfortunately you will not be able to drive on the roads (although of course more time and training will be given to help you as is possible). The decision of the training team is final.

Group size

- The maximum group size for each trip is 10.
- Each trip will consist of up to 5 Tuk Tuks and a support vehicle carrying bags, spare parts, water, snacks.

The Tuk Tuks

- All the Tuk Tuks are original, classic 'Bangkok style' Tuk Tuks but specially designed and built 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 varies throughout the trip to allow you to 'adventure' during the day but relax and enjoy great surroundings in the evenings. Starting with two nights in a lovely, small, rural resort providing a great base to get the adventure underway. You then camp on night 3 – adventurous of course but the experience afforded by staying here, and the amazing food cooked over the campfire, more than makes up for the lack of luxury. And then your final night is in simple but clear and spacious cabins in a small mountain village with wonderful views over the fields and forest.

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

Khum Khun Wang Resort (or similar), Mae Wang. A lovely rural Northern Thailand hotel in peaceful grounds with a laid back small outdoor meeting area. Run by a very friendly team and perfect for our 'base camp'. Twin, double and family rooms available.



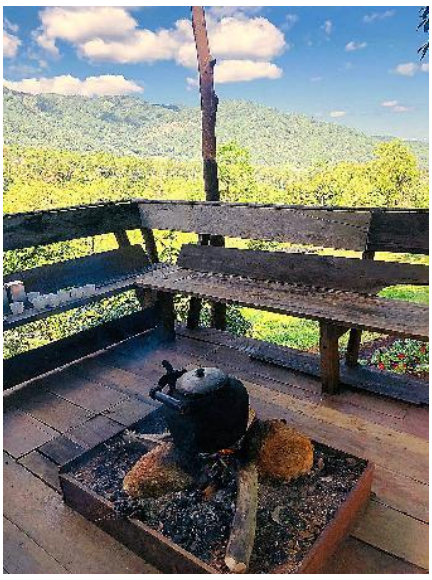


Camping experience – night 3 – 2*

Whilst not 'glamping', this camping area high in the mountains is spectacular and probably worth travelling to Thailand for all on its own. Whilst the tents are simple, all have comfortable sleeping pads, warm blankets and pillows. There are 'Western style' toilets, a warm shower and even wi-fi available. But the real highlight is the location. There's a small stream running next to the site – perfect for keeping any evening beers cool – the views are fantastic and the peace, quiet and 'x' factor of being in this unique location more than makes up for the simplicity of the set up. And that's before we even think about the food – the local hosts cook up a spectacular meal over the campfire combining both Thai and *Karen* dishes and you'll enjoy a fantastic feast in this most amazing of locations.







Mae Khlang Luang – night 4 – 2*

You'll stay in the *Karen* Hill Tribe village of Mae Khlang Luang. Whilst this is the 'simplest' accommodation of the adventure the rooms are spacious, clean and, being situated overlooking the rice terraces, in a superb location. All the rooms have en-suite facilities, hot water and are fan-cooled – there's no need for air-conditioning this high in the mountains.

The fantastic location and the experience of staying in the village far outweighs the simple nature of the rooms!







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

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

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.

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***Clothing*:**

- Obviously this is up to you but we recommend trainers (or similar) for hiking / exploring and flip flops / sandals for relaxing in your Tuk Tuk and the evenings 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 November and February please **don't forget** to bring 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 / jacket is well worth packing.
- The hike doesn't require walking boots although it paths can be muddy and slippery in the rainy season (approximately July through to late October)
- Hat / sunglasses / sunscreen

Spending money

- This is always difficult to gauge. All meals are included on the adventure but you may wish to buy the odd snack en route, sample the mountain coffee and of course enjoy a cold beer from time to time!
- 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 THB 1,500 – 2,000 pp or so for snacks, drinks and so on during your trip. This should be more than enough for even the thirstiest of travellers.

Luggage

- Both regular suitcases and soft travel bags are fine for the adventure but we do ask that you don't bring the kitchen sink with you. If you stick to the standard flight allowance of 20-23kg that's fine, but if you're bringing more luggage with you then there is space to sort extra bags in either our small office or the hotel where you're staying on nights 1 and 2.
- A day bag / small backpack is very useful for the bits and pieces you might need during the day and there's plenty of room for this in your Tuk Tuk