

# Chiang Mai Cultural & Elephant Sanctuary: Temples, Crafts & Ethical Wildlife

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination  
**Thailand**

Duration  
**5 Nights 6 Days**

Starting from  
**Rs. 29,000 / person**

ITINERARY ROUTE

Chiang Mai · 5N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/thailand/thailand-5-nights-6-days-package-914>

## Overview

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5 nights / 6 days. This thoughtfully designed Thailand tour package blends northern Thailand's rich spiritual heritage, artisan traditions and ethical wildlife encounters. Perfect as a Thailand Pilgrimage tour package or a cultural escape, the itinerary emphasizes respectful temple visits, hands-on craft experiences and a responsible visit to an elephant sanctuary. Ideal for travelers searching for a Thailand Pilgrimage package or a 5 and 6 Thailand Pilgrimage tour package.

### Highlights:

- Wat Phra That Doi Suthep – panoramic city & spiritual landmark
- Elephant Nature Park – ethical elephant rescue & rehabilitation experience
- Old City Temples – Wat Chedi Luang & Wat Phra Singh
- San Kamphaeng Handicraft Village & Baan Tawai – traditional Thai crafts
- Doi Inthanon National Park – highest peak of Thailand, King & Queen Pagodas
- Khantoke Dinner – traditional Lanna cultural performance

Note: This itinerary is customizable. Some activities (e.g., markets, walking streets) depend on local schedules and may be swapped for alternate experiences if unavailable.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation in Chiang Mai (3 - /4/5 options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (as indicated)
- ✓ Private airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ✓ Full-day guided visit to Elephant Nature Park (entrance, lunch, activities as per sanctuary rules)
- ✓ Guided excursions to Doi Suthep, Doi Inthanon, and craft villages
- ✓ Thai cooking class (market visit + class)
- ✓ Khantoke dinner with cultural show
- ✓ Entrance fees and local guide services as per itinerary
- ✓ Transportation in air-conditioned vehicle
- ✓ Local taxes
- ✓ Note: Accommodation upgrades, domestic flights, and travel insurance available at extra cost.

### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Thailand
- ✗ Thailand visa fees (if applicable)
- ✗ Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips/gratuities
- ✗ Meals not specified in the itinerary (lunches/dinners unless noted)
- ✗ Any activities not listed in inclusions or listed as optional
- ✗ Peak-season surcharges, national park fees if increased locally

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival, Orientation & Old City Introduction**

Arrival at Chiang Mai International Airport. Private transfer to your hotel in Chiang Mai. Relax and freshen up before a gentle walking orientation around the Old City. Visit Wat Chedi Luang and Wat Phra Singh to experience classic Lanna architecture and devotional practices. Evening at leisure — explore Chiang Mai Night Bazaar or nearby markets on your own.

Tip: Dress modestly for temple visits (shoulders and knees covered). Carry a light scarf.

Day

2

### **Doi Suthep, Doi Pui & Lanna Panorama**

Morning drive up to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep for sunrise or morning prayers — enjoy sweeping views over Chiang Mai. Continue to Doi Pui Hmong Village to learn about hill-tribe life and local handicrafts. Optionally visit Bhubing Palace (seasonal). Return to the city for a relaxed afternoon. In the evening enjoy a traditional Khantoke dinner with Lanna music and dance.

Important: Doi Suthep can be cooler; bring a light layer.

Day

3

### **Elephant Nature Park — Ethical Wildlife Experience**

Full-day visit to Elephant Nature Park (or similar ethical rescue center). Learn about elephant rescue, observe rehabilitated elephants, help with feeding and bathing sessions where permitted, and attend educational talks on wildlife conservation. Return to Chiang Mai in the evening with deeper insight into ethical wildlife tourism.

Note: This is an ethical sanctuary — no riding. Activities are subject to sanctuary rules and animal welfare considerations.

Day

4

### **Craft Villages, Silverware & Cooking Class**

Explore San Kamphaeng Handicraft Village to see silk weaving, silver-smithing, wood carving and umbrella-making demonstrations. Visit Baan Tawai artisan village (optional) for gallery-style craft shopping. Afternoon hands-on Thai cooking class (market visit + lesson) or enjoy a traditional Thai massage and free time to explore boutique shops.

Tip: Bargaining is common in craft markets — be polite and appreciative of artisan work.

Day

5

## Doi Inthanon National Park — Thailand's Highest Peak

Full-day excursion to Doi Inthanon National Park: visit the King & Queen Pagodas, stroll short nature trails (Ang Ka Nature Trail), see Mae Klang Waterfall, and explore local Karen/Hmong markets. Enjoy mountain scenery and birdwatching opportunities before returning to Chiang Mai for a farewell evening — sample local northern dishes or revisit favorite spots.

Important: Temperatures at Doi Inthanon are significantly cooler — pack a jacket.

Day

6

## Farewell & Departure

Morning visit to Warorot Market (Kad Luang) for last-minute souvenirs and local snacks. Leisure time for hotel check-out and transfer to Chiang Mai International Airport for your onward flight.

Tip: Allow extra time for airport transfer during peak local traffic.

## 🔗 Frequently Asked Questions

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### 🔗 When is the best time to visit Thailand from India?

The best time to visit Thailand is during the cool/dry season from November to February, when temperatures range from 24–30°C with clear skies and minimal rainfall. This is perfect for beach activities on the Andaman coast (Phuket, Krabi) and sightseeing in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. However, this is peak season with higher prices and crowds. The hot season (March–June) offers good deals but temperatures can reach 35°C. During monsoon (June–October), the Andaman side experiences rough seas, but the Gulf side (Koh Samui) is often better July–September. Northern Thailand (Chiang Mai) can get quite cool in winter mornings (15–20°C), so pack layers. Book early for November–February travel.

### 🔗 How can I reach Thailand from India?

Flying is the most convenient option with direct flights from major Indian cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad to Bangkok (BKK/DMK), Phuket (HKT), and seasonal flights to Chiang Mai and Krabi. Flight times are short: Kolkata (2.5 hours), Chennai/Bengaluru (3.5–4 hours), and Delhi/Mumbai (4–5 hours). Airlines like Thai Airways, IndiGo, Air India, and budget carriers operate these routes. There's no direct rail connection, and overland travel via Myanmar requires complex permits and is only recommended with specialist operators. Once in Thailand, domestic flights, trains, and buses connect major destinations efficiently.

## ❓ **Do Indian citizens need a visa for Thailand?**

Visa requirements for Indian passport holders change frequently, so always check the latest policies before travel. Thailand has offered various schemes including visa exemption periods, visa on arrival, and e-visa options for Indians. Currently, you may be eligible for visa-free entry for short stays or visa on arrival, but policies can change based on diplomatic agreements. Keep multiple passport-sized photos handy and ensure your passport has at least 6 months validity with blank pages. Check with the Royal Thai Embassy or consulate in India, or visit the official Thai immigration website for the most current requirements. It's advisable to have proof of return tickets and accommodation bookings.

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## ❓ **What are the local transportation options in Thailand?**

Thailand offers excellent transportation options. In Bangkok, use the BTS Skytrain, MRT subway, and Airport Rail Link for efficient city travel. Get a Rabbit Card for quick payments. Metered taxis, tuk-tuks, and Grab (ride-hailing) are widely available. For intercity travel, domestic flights are quick and affordable. The State Railway offers comfortable overnight sleepers to destinations like Chiang Mai and Surat Thani. VIP buses provide good connectivity between cities. For islands, ferries and speedboats are essential - book through reputable operators. In tourist areas, songthaews (shared pickup trucks) are common. Always insist taxi drivers use the meter, and compare Grab prices. Motorbike taxis are available but use caution and wear helmets.

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## ❓ **Where should I stay in Thailand and what accommodation options are available?**

Thailand offers accommodations for every budget. In Bangkok, stay near BTS stations in Sukhumvit (shopping/nightlife), Silom (business district), or riverside areas for convenience. Chiang Mai's old city puts you near temples and markets. For beaches, Phuket offers variety from Patong (nightlife) to quieter Kata/Karon. Krabi's Railay Beach provides stunning limestone scenery. Koh Samui has family-friendly resorts and boutique properties. Options range from budget hostels (₹500-1500/night) and mid-range hotels (₹2000-6000/night) to luxury resorts (₹10000+/night). Popular chains include Anantara, JW Marriott, and InterContinental. Book early for peak season (November-February). Consider location carefully - beach proximity, transport links, and nearby attractions matter more than just price.

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## ❓ What are the must-visit attractions in Thailand?

Thailand's top attractions span culture, nature, and adventure. In Bangkok, visit the Grand Palace and Wat Pho temple, then explore floating markets and take a Chao Phraya river cruise. Ayutthaya's UNESCO ruins make an excellent day trip. Chiang Mai offers the old city's temples, Doi Suthep mountain temple, and vibrant markets. For beaches, Phuket and Phang Nga Bay provide island-hopping to James Bond Island. Krabi's Railay Beach offers world-class rock climbing and stunning limestone karsts. Koh Samui features palm-fringed beaches and Ang Thong Marine Park. Don't miss Kanchanaburi's Bridge on River Kwai and Erawan Falls. Sukhothai's quieter ruins are perfect for cycling. Each region offers unique experiences - temples in the north, beaches in the south, and urban energy in Bangkok.

## ❓ What Thai food should I try and where can I find good restaurants?

Thai cuisine offers incredible variety beyond the familiar Pad Thai. Must-try dishes include Tom Yum Goong (spicy-sour soup), Green/Red/Massaman curry (Massaman is milder), Som Tam (papaya salad), and Khao Soi (Chiang Mai's coconut curry noodles). Don't miss Mango Sticky Rice for dessert. For vegetarians, say 'gin jay' for vegan options without fish sauce. Top dining spots include Raan Jay Fai (Bangkok) for legendary crab omelette, Thipsamai for classic Pad Thai, and Gaggan Anand for progressive Indian-Thai fusion. In Chiang Mai, try Khao Soi Khun Yai for authentic northern flavors. Street food is generally safe at busy stalls with high turnover. Start with milder dishes and gradually increase spice levels. Always drink bottled water and eat at crowded local spots for the freshest food.

## ★ Traveller Reviews



**Suman Verma**

★★★★★ 5/5

### A Perfect Mix of Relaxation and Fun

This tour struck the right balance between relaxation on the beaches and adventure in the cities. I appreciated the variety in activities.



**Tarun Singh**

★★★★★ 5/5

### A Foodie's Delight

Food lovers will find Thailand irresistible! The variety of flavors and dishes we experienced on this tour was phenomenal.



**Jasmin Ali**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Cultural Richness

The depth of culture and tradition in Thailand is remarkable. The tour offered plenty of opportunities to immerse ourselves in local customs.



**Kavya Gupta**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Thrilling Activities

From scuba diving to zip-lining, every activity in this tour package was exhilarating. An adventure-seeker's dream come true!



**Ajay Kapoor**

★★★★★ 5/5

### A Journey of a Lifetime

Thailand was an incredible destination with amazing experiences. This tour truly made it a journey of a lifetime.

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