# **EXPLORE!**



### Why book this trip?

Southern Thailand's warm, clear waters and west coast tropical islands provide a perfect winter getaway. Combine some of the world's most beautiful beaches by kayak, speedboat and longtail boat with time to explore ancient jungles that are home to whooping gibbons, long tailed macaques and wild elephant. A few days in Bangkok adds contrast with the opportunity to try Thai boxing and cruising the city's klongs.

- Bangkok Take part in a Muay Thai boxing training session and absorb local life on a long-tail boat journey through Bangkok's canal network
- Khao Sok National Park Enjoy guided jungle walks and a canoe trip through this ancient jungle
- Khao Lak Do as much or as little as you like in this unspoilt beach destination, with a full day snorkeling around the Similian Islands







TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
Boat
Ferry
Train



ACCOMMODATION



TRIP PACE: Relaxed



**GROUP SIZE**: 14 - 20

# **Itinerary**

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

# **Trip information**

### **Country information**

### **Thailand**

#### Climate

Generally hot with high humidity. There is some rainfall from April to September with most days being hot (around 33 Degrees) and a light breeze on the islands. If it does rain, it will be more of a heavy tropical downpour that lasts a few hours. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at http://www.explore.co.uk/weather.

Time difference to GMT Plugs Religion Language +7 2 Pin Round Buddhism Thai

### **Budgeting and packing**

## **Optional activities**

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Bangkok - Excursion on Tik Tuk to Grand Palace, Emerald Budha and Wat Po Khao Sok NP - Night Safari US\$25 Koh Lanta - Snorkelling trips US\$35

### **Clothing**

Pack essentially for hot weather. Bear in mind that the region is tropical (humid) and that days can be very hot. Lightweight rainwear or an umbrella is advisable all year. Casual clothes are the most practical (something with long sleeves, and long trousers for evenings), and tight fitting garments should be avoided. A fleece is useful for the overnight train. Laundry facilities are available on the islands. A swimming costume is a must and waterproof sandals are a good idea for wading out of boats. When visiting the Grand Palace in Bangkok shorts are not permitted and shoulders and feet must be covered.

### **Footwear**

Comfortable shoes and sandals. Flipflops are useful when hopping on and off boats.

### Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

### **Equipment**

A small torch and insect repellent. Bring a beach towel and high factor sunscreen. If you intend to do much snorkelling we recommend you bring your own mask and snorkel, as local equipment is not always top quality. A disposable waterprof camera can be useful whilst snorkelling. Any qualified divers should remember to bring logbooks and certification with them if intending to dive. We advise you bring a water bottle for day to day use.

## Tipping

#### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

#### Local crew

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest \$25 per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

### **Thailand**

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£4.00 - 8.00	£1.5	£0.5

### Foreign Exchange

Local currency Recommended Currency For Exchange

Thai Baht We recommend that you bring your money in GBP or US\$.

### Where To Exchange

Most major towns and on the islands - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

### ATM Availability

**Credit Card Acceptance** 

ATMs are available in Bangkok but are limited on the islands. Major stores and restaurants.

#### **Travellers Cheques**

Can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices throughout the tour although rates may not be as favourable.

#### **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, Boat, Ferry, Train

### Family swimming

The hotels have pools plus you can swim when staying on the islands.

### **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click here.

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click here

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. Booking Conditions

### **Visa and Passport Information**

Thailand: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens for a stay of less than 30 days. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry to Thailand. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### **Transfers**

Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

#### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers. If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click here

#### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

### Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

#### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

#### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

### Ability to swim

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

### **Thailand**

#### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and infectious hepatitis. Although not compulsory, travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on Dengue, Malaria and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

### **Family information**

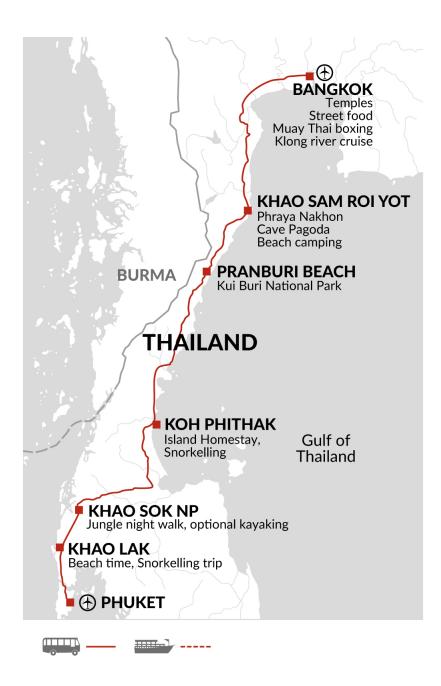
Southern Thailand is blessed with warm clear waters, tropical islands, dense jungles and generous hospitality, making it a perfect introduction to South East Asia for families. With time split between vibrant Bangkok, tranquil Khao Sok with its spectacular landscape of limestone cliffs soaring out of its lakes and a week hopping between tropical islands it's an action packed family adventure.

**Triple Rooms:** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

**Average Age:** As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who have travelled on this trip over the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 12 years old.

**Minimum age:** This trip is suitable for children of all ages from 7 upwards. On certain trips there may be some flexibility to accept children from the age of 5 if travelling with older siblings, please speak to our reservations team for details.

#### **Additional Information**



# Why book this trip

This tour is designed for families who want an a relaxing holiday with a few added activities which are varied and sometimes unusual - how about jungle walks, a Thai boxing lesson and a canoe ride in the jungle! The holiday also provides a number of beach stops and overnight stays with plenty of time to relax and snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean.

# **Reviews**









AIRPORT TRANSFERS