



FLAIWAY

TRAVEL GUIDE · 10 DAYS

Thailand in 10 days: Temples, Markets and Northern Routes

This journey links bustling street markets in Bangkok with sacred mountain temples in northern Thailand and coastal landscapes in Phuket. Travelers move south from the high peaks of Chiang Rai to the Andaman Sea. The contrast between ancient urban sanctuaries and southern islands creates a varied ten-day route.

Flaiaway editorial team · Data updated 2026-10-29

DAY

1

BANGKOK

Royal Heritage and Sacred Temples Along the River

Explore the historic heart of Bangkok along the Chao Phraya river, where magnificent royal palaces and iconic temples stand side by side.

1

Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaew

Walk through historic royal courtyards and admire the revered Emerald Buddha housed inside the main chapel. It is better to book ahead to skip ticket lines and ensure entry with appropriate attire covering shoulders and knees.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

2

Wat Pho

Marvel at the massive reclining golden Buddha and stroll through quiet courtyards filled with colorful stupas. Walk toward the back of the temple grounds to experience a traditional massage from the famed resident school.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

3

Wat Arun

Cross the Chao Phraya River on a local ferry to examine the intricate porcelain mosaics decorating this striking spire. Visit during the late afternoon to capture the best light on the central tower.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

4

Pak Khlong Talat Flower Market

Wander along bustling aisles filled with fresh orchids, marigolds, and hand-woven floral garlands. Arrive early in the evening when vendors assemble fresh floral offerings for local temples.

5

Giant Swing Plaza

Observe the tall red wooden landmark standing in the public square in front of Wat Suthat. Explore the surrounding historic streets to discover traditional shops crafting metal monks' bowls.

DAY

2

BANGKOK

Historic Riverside Lanes and Modern Skyline Views

Uncover Bangkok's rich trading history through old mercantile neighborhoods before enjoying panoramic views from above the city.

1

Talat Noi

Stroll through narrow alleyways lined with vintage auto-parts shops, colourful street art, and historic courtyard homes. Keep an eye out for hidden riverfront alleys offering scenic views across the water.

2

Song Wat Road

Walk along this former commercial shipping corridor to admire early twentieth-century architecture and creative storefronts. Look out for detailed building facades and quiet shrines tucked away in side lanes.

3

Yaowarat Road Chinatown

Experience the vibrant energy of Chinatown as neon signs light up the streets and open-air food stalls fill the sidewalks. Arrive just before dusk to watch the avenue turn into a bustling night scene.

4

Mahanakhon SkyWalk

Ascend to the open-air rooftop observation deck for sweeping views across the entire cityscape. It is better to book ahead to secure entry for sunset and walk across the glass floor.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

5

Lumphini Park

Walk along shaded paths framing the central lake and watch locals practicing tai chi on the open lawns. Scan the water edges to spot large monitor lizards roaming freely through the park.

DAY

3

BANGKOK

Creative Hubs, Teak Architecture, and Night Markets

Discover Bangkok's artistic side through contemporary galleries, preserved heritage residences, and modern urban wetlands.

1

Jim Thompson House

Take a guided walk through traditional teak houses nestled in a lush tropical garden setting. It is better to book ahead to reserve a spot on your preferred language tour.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

2

Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Walk up the curved spiral ramps to inspect contemporary art exhibits, craft shops, and creative installations. Check the central atrium notice board for current temporary exhibits and performance art schedules.

3

Benjakitti Park

Walk along elevated skywalks weaving above restored urban wetlands and natural water retention ponds. Visit late in the day when cooler breezes sweep through and the city skyline lights up.

4

Jodd Fairs Night Market

Browse bright rows of white canvas tents featuring trendy goods, handicrafts, and local snacks. Head straight to the central dining corridors to sample popular street food specialties.

DAY

4

CHIANG MAI

Old City Temples and Historic Moat Walks

Explore the historic heart of Chiang Mai inside the old city walls, discovering ancient Lanna architecture, wooden temples, and lively evening markets.

1

Wat Chiang Man

Walk through the serene grounds of Chiang Mai's oldest temple and observe the elephant-buttressed chedi. Arrive early in the morning to enjoy quiet reflection before mid-day crowds.

2

Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre

Browse the detailed historical exhibits that explain the founding and urban layout of the Lanna capital. Take time to view the traditional art displays on the upper floor.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

3

Wat Phra Singh

Examine the classic Lanna wood carving details and gold-leaf decoration inside the assembly halls. Wear clothing that covers shoulders and knees to show respect in the sacred spaces.

4

Wat Sri Suphan (Silver Temple)

Admire the detailed repoussé silver and zinc metalwork covering the temple structures and surrounding artisan workshops. Note that local customs restrict entry to the central shrine to men only.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

5

Tha Phae Gate

Stand before the historic red-brick eastern gate that once protected the fortified city. The open plaza is an ideal spot to pause, watch street performers, and take photographs.

6

Sunday Walking Street

Stroll along Ratchadamnoen Road to discover local handicrafts, wood carvings, and northern street food stalls. Start walking at dusk when the street is closed to vehicle traffic.

DAY

5

CHIANG MAI

Forest Sanctuaries and Mountain Heights of Doi Suthep

Journey west towards the forested slopes of Doi Suthep, visiting hidden jungle shrines before climbing up to sweeping views of the valley.

1

Wat Umong

Explore the ancient underground brick tunnels where monks once meditated in quiet darkness. Keep an eye out for free-roaming deer in the surrounding woodland grounds.

2

Wat Pha Lat

Follow the forest paths to a quiet temple nestled beside a rushing stream and mossy stone figures. Wear sturdy walking shoes as the stone pathways can be slippery.

3

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep

Climb the 306 steps framed by naga serpents to reach the golden mountain chedi overlooking the valley. Bring a light wrap or sweater as the higher elevation can feel cooler.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

4

Wat Suan Dok

Walk among the field of bright white pagodas that hold the ashes of the Lanna royal family. The wide open courtyard offers clear views of Doi Suthep mountain against the horizon.

5

Chiang Mai University Night Market

Browse affordable clothing, accessories, and local snacks at this energetic market popular with university students. Look for northern noodle dishes and freshly made fruit drinks.

DAY

6

CHIANG MAI

Cascades and Summit Forests of Doi Inthanon

Travel south to the high-altitude trails of Doi Inthanon, spending the day amidst cascading waterfalls, royal monuments, and cloud forests.

1

Wachirathan Waterfall

Observe the powerful spray of water dropping over granite cliffs from the wooden viewing platforms. Stand on the lower bridge for clear view points, but prepare for light mist.

2

Phra Mahathat Napamathanidon & Napapholphumisiri

Walk around the twin royal chedis built to honor the royal family amidst landscaped flower gardens. Take the outdoor escalators to reach the upper terraces for wide mountain views.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

3

Ang Ka Nature Trail

Follow the elevated wooden boardwalk loop through high-altitude mossy cloud forest. Look for rare bird species and unique mountain flora along the damp forest floor.

4

Doi Inthanon National Park

Reach the highest peak area in the country to experience mountain trails and cool forest air. Bring comfortable walking shoes and extra layers of clothing for the high elevation.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

DAY

7

CHIANG RAI

Surreal Temples and Artistic Heritage of Chiang Rai

Chiang Rai stands out for its bold contrast of contemporary sacred art and traditional Northern Thai architecture. This itinerary takes you through the city's most visually distinct shrines and creative museum spaces in one seamless loop.

1

Wat Rong Khun (White Temple)

Walk across the bridge of rebirth to admire the intricate white plasterwork and mirrors reflecting the sunlight. Remember to cover your shoulders and knees before entering the main hall.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

2

Wat Rong Suea Ten (Blue Temple)

Explore the intense blue walls decorated with detailed gold trim and observe the large white Buddha statue inside the main sanctuary. It is better to arrive near midday when sunlight streams through the stained-glass windows.

3

Wat Huay Pla Kang

Climb the steps to the nine-story pagoda and admire the giant white statue of Guan Yin rising above the surrounding hills. Take time to walk around the grounds to see the dragon-lined staircases up close.

4

Baan Dam Museum (Black House)

Wander among dark wooden structures containing animal horns, hides, and woodwork created by artist Thawan Duchanee. Wear easy-to-remove shoes since you must step out of your footwear before entering several pavilion buildings.

 **Tickets · Klook** [Partner link](#)

5

Chiang Rai Clock Tower

Stand near the central intersection in the evening to watch the golden spire illuminate with changing light displays. Position yourself on the sidewalk opposite the main street for a clear view without blocking traffic.

DAY

8

PHUKET

Southern Peaks and Sacred Landmarks

Explore the dramatic coastal ridges and spiritual monuments of southern Phuket. This route takes you from serene temple grounds up to sweeping peninsula viewpoints.

1

Wat Chalong

Walk through the serene courtyard to admire the golden pagodas and intricate wall paintings depicting Buddha's life. Arrive early in the morning to experience the complex before the mid-day heat and crowds arrive.

2

Phuket Big Buddha

Ascend Nakkerd Hill to stand beside the imposing forty-five meter white marble statue overlooking Chalong Bay. Dress modestly with covered shoulders and knees out of respect for this active place of worship.

3

Karon Beach

Stroll along the wide strip of fine golden sand and enjoy the sea breeze along the west coast. Ocean currents can be strong, so always pay attention to warning flags before swimming.

4

Black Rock Viewpoint

Trek up the steep jungle trail to reach a granite cliff edge with sweeping panoramas of southern islands. Wear sturdy shoes with good grip as the dirt path can become slippery.

5

Promthep Cape

Follow the rocky path down toward the headland tip to watch waves crash against the granite cliffs. Arrive well before sunset to secure a comfortable vantage point along the ridge.

DAY

9

PHUKET

Heritage Lanes and Rainforest Canopy

Discover the rich cultural history of Phuket Town before venturing into surrounding forested hills. This journey pairs historic shophouses and quiet shrines with treetop adventures and evening markets.

1

Shrine of the Serene Light

Step through the narrow alleyway into a peaceful courtyard containing intricate Taoist wall murals. Keep your voice low and observe local etiquette when entering the main altar room.

2

Phuket Old Town

Wander along Thalang Road to observe preserved Sino-Portuguese architecture and colorful street art. Take time to explore the quiet side alleys where craft shops and traditional herbal stores operate.

3

Monkey Hill Viewpoint

Head up the winding road to enjoy wide perspectives over the island's capital and eastern coastline. Keep all snacks and loose belongings inside your bag, as resident macaques actively look for food.

4

Hanuman World

Glide high above the jungle floor across ziplines and suspended skywalks built into the rainforest canopy. It is better to book ahead to secure your preferred start time.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

5

Phuket Walking Street Market (Lard Yai)

Browse colorful handicraft stalls and watch street performers along the vibrant pedestrian strip. Bring cash in small denominations to easily sample a wide variety of fresh local snacks.

DAY

10**PHUKET****Sanctuaries and Northern Wilderness**

Focus on ethical animal conservation and pristine natural habitats across northern Phuket. This itinerary connects lush waterfall trails, peaceful forest temples, and coastal mangrove reserves.

1

Phuket Elephant Nature Reserve

Observe rescued elephants roaming freely across natural jungle habitats while learning about ethical conservation efforts. It is better to book ahead as visitor numbers are strictly limited to protect the animals.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

2

Wat Si Sunthon

Visit this quiet hillside temple to see the large reclining Buddha stretched across the roof of the central building. Walk quietly around the peaceful grounds to appreciate the detailed statues representing daily monastic life.

3

Bang Pae Waterfall

Follow the shady jungle trail along the rushing stream to reach natural rock pools hidden beneath dense foliage. Bring insect repellent and watch your step on moist rock surfaces near the water.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

4

Sirinath National Park

Trek along elevated wooden boardwalks that weave through coastal mangrove forests and secluded beaches. Keep an eye out for mudskippers and shorebirds living in the protected estuarine ecosystem.

 **Tickets · Klook** Partner link

Tickets: indicative costs

Phuket Elephant Nature Reserve	55 €
Hanuman World	45 €
Mahanakhon SkyWalk	25 €
Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaew	14 €
Wat Pho	8 €
Doi Inthanon National Park	8 €
Bang Pae Waterfall	6 €
Jim Thompson House	6 €
Sirinath National Park	5 €

Wat Rong Khun (White Temple)	3 €
Wat Arun	3 €
Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre	3 €
Phra Mahathat Napamathanidon & Napapholphumisiri	3 €
Baan Dam Museum (Black House)	2 €
Wat Sri Suphan (Silver Temple)	2 €
Wat Phra That Doi Suthep	2 €

Indicative prices in euros. Always check the price on the partner's site before booking.

Where to stay

Bangkok Riverside

First-time visitors wanting easy riverboat transit

Staying along the Chao Phraya River allows quick ferry access to key sights like Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaew. Boats run frequently to major historical landmarks. The area offers river breezes away from congested central streets.

Chiang Mai Old City

Travelers seeking walkability and heritage

The walled center keeps historic temples like Wat Phra Singh within walking distance. Evening markets like the Sunday Walking Street open right outside local guesthouses. It offers a compact layout surrounded by ancient moats.

Phuket Old Town

Culture enthusiasts preferring historic architecture over direct beach front

Sino-Portuguese streetscapes house boutique stays away from heavy beach crowds. Centrally located, it provides easy access to events like the Phuket Walking Street Market (Lard Yai). Coastal beaches remain accessible via short drives.

Patong Beach

Nightlife seekers and active beachgoers

Located on Phuket west coast, this area stays busy day and night. Bangla Road hosts dense evening entertainment, while the adjacent shoreline offers water sports.

What to eat



Pad Thai

Stir-fried rice noodles cooked with tofu, eggs, dried shrimp, and bean sprouts. Locals eat this staple dish as a quick street food meal at lunch or dinner.



Khao Soi

A northern Thai coconut curry noodle soup topped with crispy fried egg noodles and fresh lime. It is traditionally served in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai for lunch.



Tom Yum Goong

A spicy and sour soup infused with lemongrass, galangal, kaffir lime leaves, and fresh prawns. Diners consume it alongside steamed jasmine rice during dinner.



Som Tum

Green papaya salad pounded with chili, garlic, fish sauce, lime, and crushed peanuts. Street stalls prepare it fresh as an afternoon meal or side dish.



Mango Sticky Rice

Sweet glutinous rice cooked in coconut milk and served with fresh mango slices. It is eaten as a dessert after main meals.

When to go

- November to February offers dry weather across most regions with lower humidity.
- March and April bring intense heat and agricultural smoke in the northern provinces.
- May to October brings the rainy season with heavy afternoon downpours and fewer visitors.

Getting there

- Suvarnabhumi Airport and Don Mueang International Airport serve as the main international gateways into Bangkok.
- Express rail links run directly from Suvarnabhumi Airport to central Bangkok districts.
- Phuket International Airport receives direct international flights and frequent domestic shuttles.

Getting around

- Domestic flights connect Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket in under two hours each.
- Long-distance coaches run regularly between Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai across mountain passes.
- In Bangkok, elevated trains and river boats avoid central road traffic.
- Local open-air songthaew trucks and tuk-tuks cover short distances in northern cities.

Mistakes to avoid

- Wearing shorts or sleeveless shirts when visiting sacred sites like Wat Phra Kaew or Wat Phra That Doi Suthep.
- Expecting to visit Maya Bay on Phi Phi Islands without checking annual environmental conservation closures.
- Trying to cover Chiang Rai on a rushed day trip from Chiang Mai instead of staying overnight.
- Forgetting to agree on tuk-tuk fares before stepping inside the vehicle.
- Underestimating street traffic in Bangkok when traveling to catch domestic flights.

Frequently asked questions

How do I travel from Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai?

Public buses operate frequent routes between the two northern cities, taking around three to four hours. Private drivers and local tours also cover the mountain highway.

What is the best way to travel from Bangkok to Phuket?

Direct domestic flights run continuously between Bangkok airports and Phuket International Airport, taking about one hour and fifteen minutes.

Are shoulders and knees required to be covered in temples?

Yes, places like Wat Pho and Wat Phra Kaew enforce strict dress codes. Both men and women must wear clothing covering shoulders and extending past knees.

Is it easy to visit night markets in northern cities?

Yes, markets like the Saturday Night Market in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai Night Bazaar are central and easily accessible on foot or by songthaew.

Before you go

✈ Flights

Search flights on the partner's site and choose your own departure and dates.

[Flights to Bangkok](#)

[Flights to Phuket](#)

[Flights to Chiang Mai](#)

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