

# Bangkok, Chiang Mai, & Krabi, Thailand



**Time Frame:** 13 days + 4 travel days

**Destinations:** Bangkok, Chiang Mai, & Krabi, Thailand

## Travel Days 1-2

### Depart for Bangkok with Doha Stopover

Take a morning flight on Qatar Airways with a stopover in Doha, Qatar (**DOH**)

Book a **Discover Qatar Transit Tour** on your layover of at least 6 hrs for a 3 hr guided tour of Doha

- Dhow Harbour, Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, Corniche waterfront, Katara Cultural Village
- <https://www.discoverqatar.qa/transit-exclusive-discover-doha/overview>

Take an evening flight to Bangkok (**BKK**)

## DAY 1

### Arrive in Bangkok

Arrive in the morning and allow multiple hours for customs & immigration lines

Arrange a private transfer to airbnb ahead of time (~1 hr drive from airport); get an airbnb in the Sukhumvit or Riverfront/Grand Palace areas

Take a power nap, grab a coffee, & head out for the evening to try to adjust to the time change

Get a Grab (their Uber) to the **Jodd Fairs Night Market** for food

Stop by a **7/11** for a famous cheese toasty & plenty of bottled water (don't drink the tap!)

## DAY 2

### Bangkok

#### **Grand Palace & Wat Phra (Temple of Emerald Buddha)**

- Take a Grab early to beat crowds
- 500 baht per person (pp), can buy tickets online 24 hr ahead of time
- Must have shoulders & knees covered, remove shoes prior to entering (**\*required for all temples**)
- *Common scam: People outside will claim it's closed or that you are not dressed properly & will try to give you a private tour of another part of Bangkok for \$\$*

**Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha):** Beside Grand Palace, 200 baht pp

Lunch nearby at **Hello Sit Down** & coffee at **ViVi the Coffee Place** for Wat Arun riverfront views

**Wat Ratchabophit:** Short walk from ViVi's, free entry

Get a Grab back to your airbnb

Dinner at **Tamnathai Thai Restaurant** & dessert at **Jodd Fairs Night Market**

# Bangkok, Thailand



## DAY 3

### Bangkok

**Wat Arun:** Take a Grab early to beat crowds

- 100 baht pp, includes a bottled water

**Iconsiam Mall:** Take a ferry taxi down the river to the mall

- Check out the floating market **Sook Siam** in the basement level (G floor)
- Get lunch here & then get lost in this insane mall, be sure to check out the top floor overlook

**Wat Traimit Withayaram Worawihan:** Take a ferry taxi here from the mall, 40 baht pp

**Talad Noi Neighborhood:** 5 min walk from Wat Traimit

- **Hong Sieng Kong Museum & Coffee Shop** for a coffee & river views

**Chinatown:** 10 min walk from Hong Sieng, try the Yaowarat St food

## DAY 4

### Bangkok

Take a Grab to **Lumphini Park** for a morning stroll with the monitor lizards

Relax this afternoon at your rooftop pool, do some laundry, & check in for your flight in the morning

*Other things to do in Bangkok: Khao San Road, Asiatique the riverfront, tuk tuk food tour, street food tour, floating markets, Sky Bar Bangkok, Saket Temple (Golden Mount at sunset)*

## DAY 5

### Depart for Chiang Mai

Arrange a private transfer to the airport (often **DMK** airport, not the int'l airport, has cheaper domestic flights) & take a short morning flight to Chiang Mai (**CNX**)

Arrive in Chiang Mai & take a quick 15 min Grab to the **Garden Yard Inn airbnb**

Have lunch across the street at **Bodhi Tree Cafe** vegan restaurant (try thai papaya salad & morning glory here!)

Walk around the **Old City** & to **Tha Pae Gate**

Walk to **Coffee Telling** for the best lattes

Dinner at **Musashi Sushi**

Walk to **Chang Puak Gate Night Market** for dessert

# Chiang Mai, Thailand



DAY 6

## Chiang Mai

Walk to breakfast at **Nice Kitchen**

**Grandma's Home Cooking School:** Book the morning session ahead of time for 1190 baht pp

- Includes 8:30am hotel pickup, visit to a local market & tour of the farm, 2pm drop off
- You will make Tom Yum sweet & sour or coconut soup, pad thai, khao soi or green curry, mango sticky rice, & thai iced tea (& get an e-book of recipes!)

Coffee at **CoolMuang Coffee**

Dinner nearby before your pre-booked thai massage at **Time to Massage** in the evening (or one of the hundred traditional thai massage parlors nearby!)

DAY 7

## Chiang Mai

Walk to breakfast at **Cafe de Thaan Aoan**

**Old Town temples:** All are walkable from each other (*just females need shoulders & knees covered*)

- **Wat Phra Singh**- 40 baht pp (open 9a-6p)
- **Wat Chedi Luang**- 40 baht pp (open 5a-10p)
- **Wat Phantao**- free (open 8a-7p)
- **Wat Chiang Man**- free (open 5a-7p)
- **Wat Rajamontean**- free (open 8a-5p)

Lunch at **Khao Soi Khun Yai**- open 10a-2p, go early for the best Khao soi & thai milk tea in Chiang Mai

Smoothie bowls at **Khan Kae's Juice Bar** & coffee at **Nowhere Coffee**

Dinner at **Wua Lai Walking St Night Market**

DAY 8

## Chiang Mai

Walk to breakfast at **Early Bird 626**

**Elephant Nature Park:** Book the day trip ahead of time for 2500 baht pp

- Includes 7:30am hotel pickup, lunch, & 2pm drop off

Coffee at **Coffee Telling** again for the best lattes, then stop by **7/11** for snacks & a toasty

Check in for your flight in the morning

Make sure you're here for the **Sunday Night Market** (one of the largest in Thailand!)

- Along Rachadamoen Road & Prapakklao Road, steps from your airbnb!

→ Other things to do in Chiang Mai: Mae Ping River cruise, Ploen Ruedee Market, Sticky Falls, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple

# Krabi, Thailand



## DAY 9

### Depart for Krabi

Walk to breakfast at **Blue Diamond Breakfast Club**

Relax by the pool until check out

Lunch at **Inner Cafe & Bistro** until it's time to get a 15 min Grab to the airport

Afternoon flight to Krabi (**KBV**)

Arrange transport ahead of time with **Krabi Shuttle** from the airport to **Avani Ao Nang Cliff Resort**

Dinner at **Pyramids Restaurant**

## DAY 10

### Krabi

Breakfast at hotel

Take a boat to **Railay Beach** for the day

- 20 min boat ride from Ao Nang longtail boat service club for 200 baht pp round trip (open 8a-6p)
- Walk through main strip to **East Railay** → trail to **Phra Nang beach & cave**
  - Relax at the beach, watch the mtn climbers, & pass by the cave shrine
- Lunch at a restaurant here & then boat back to Krabi

Dinner at **Spaghetti House** & enjoy the sunset from the resort pool

## DAY 11

### Krabi

Breakfast at hotel

**Hong Island tour:** 6 hr private longtail boat tour booked ahead of time for 6000 baht total

- Includes 7:30am hotel pickup, lunch, water, snorkel, life jacket, & 1:30pm drop off
- Visits **Koh Lao Lading, Hong lagoon, Hong island** (300 baht pp fee, 15 min hike to viewpoint), **Koh Pakbia, & Daeng Island**
- <https://visatravelphiphi.com/product/hong-island-trip-from-krabi/>

Dinner at **Sushi Sababa**

# Krabi, Thailand



## DAY 12

### Krabi

Breakfast at hotel

**Phi Phi Island tour:** Private longtail boat tour booked ahead of time for 8000 baht total

- Includes 8am hotel pickup, lunch, water, snorkel, life jacket, & 4pm drop off
- Van transfer to marina → public speedboat to **Phi Phi** → private longtail boat at 10:45am to **Phi Lay Lagoon, Monkey beach, Viking cave, +/- Maya Bay** (we skipped to avoid crowds), +/- **Shark Point** → 3pm speedboat back to Krabi → transfer to hotel by 4pm
- <https://visatravelphiphi.com/product/long-tail-boat-trip-in-phi-phi-from-krabi/>

Dinner at **Ali Baba** for the best Indian food!

## DAY 13

### Krabi

Breakfast at hotel

Check in to flight for tomorrow

Walk the **Monkey Trail** from **Ao Nang beach** to **Pai Plong** (10 min hike) → be aware of monkeys stealing your sunglasses!

Lunch at **Thai Me Up**

Watch the sunset at **Ao Nang Beach**

Dinner at **Plant-etarian** vegan restaurant & dessert at a nearby night market

*→Other things to do in Krabi: Kayak in Ao Thalane, Ao Nang Landmark night market, jungle ATVs, Dragon Crest hike, Tiger Cave Temple (40 min stair hike)*

## Travel Days 3-4

### Depart for home

Breakfast at hotel

Check out & transfer to airport with **Krabi Shuttle** transfer

Take flight from Krabi to Bangkok (**BKK**) → will have to recheck in for international flight home

Lunch & coffee at the airport

Board your long flights back home!

# Thailand Travel Tips



## Thailand Tips

Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- US plugs will work in Thailand</li><li>- <u>7/11</u>: A mecca in Thailand, try all their snacks &amp; a toasty, buy all bottled water here, can buy bug spray (Soffel) at 7/11 if needed</li><li>- Do <b>NOT</b> drink tap water or ice at restaurants, <b>only</b> use bottled water (even for brushing teeth)</li><li>- Public bathrooms will not have toilet paper (bring travel tissues) &amp; often charge to use (have small coins on you)</li><li>- Common culture to bargain at shops &amp; with taxis</li><li>- <u>Packing</u>: Lightweight clothing that covers knees &amp; shoulders (for temples &amp; Thailand heat), shoes that are easy to remove (must be taken off to enter temples), sun protection, pack GI medications (pepto, imodium, tums → your stomach is not used to the bacteria &amp; spice here!)</li><li>- <u>Tipping</u>: Loose change is enough for taxis, 20-40 baht for waiters &amp; masseuses, 100-200 baht for tour guides</li><li>- <u>Apps to get</u>: Grab &amp; Bolt (their Ubers), download offline google translate &amp; google maps</li></ul>						
Eat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Will typically have to flag someone down to order &amp; get bill at restaurants</li><li>- Only eat at market stalls that are busy, are cooking to order, &amp; have meat/seafood stored on ice</li><li>- Be careful not to eat fresh fruit and vegetables that may have been washed in tap water</li><li>- If you try durian at a night market, be sure not drink alcohol in the same evening</li></ul>						
Get Around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <u>Taxis</u>: Only get in taxi if they turn on meter/tell them price up front (<i>common scam to not turn meter on</i>), never call one right in front of a tourist attraction to avoid high prices</li><li>- Use Grab (takes cards) or Bolt (cash only) to book or to prove what price should be<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Short journeys should be 50-200 baht (~\$3 usd per 15 min) + tolls are 25-50 baht</li><li>→ Ferries, buses, skytrains are 20-50 baht</li></ul></li><li>- <u>Tuk tuks</u>: An iconic way to taxi around Thailand, they can be pretty pricey but you must try one for a short distance!</li><li>- Can also use <a href="https://12go.asia/en">https://12go.asia/en</a> to book transfers</li></ul>						
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Exchange currency at Superrich in basement of BKK near train for best rates</li><li>- Have small currency with you (taxis never have change)- get change by buying waters at 7/11 with 1000s -&gt; always have 100s, 50s, 20s</li><li>- If using ATM- fee is 220 baht, never press "with conversion" (allow your home US bank convert)</li><li>- <u>Estimated currency conversions</u>:<table><tr><td>20 baht = 50 cents USD</td><td>500 baht = \$15 USD</td></tr><tr><td>50 baht = \$1.50 USD</td><td>1000 baht = \$30 USD</td></tr><tr><td>100 baht = \$3 USD</td><td></td></tr></table></li></ul>	20 baht = 50 cents USD	500 baht = \$15 USD	50 baht = \$1.50 USD	1000 baht = \$30 USD	100 baht = \$3 USD	
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Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very few people know English but google translate &amp; hand gestures to order will work just fine, everyone is very friendly in the Land of Smiles!</li><li>- <u>Some phrases to know</u>:<table><tr><td>Ending of: Kha=female; Krub=male</td><td>Chi (<i>chai</i>) = yes; Lekh ti = no</td></tr><tr><td>Sa-wad-dee kha/krub = hello</td><td>Tao-rai kha/krub= how much does this cost?</td></tr><tr><td>Khob-khun kha/krub = thank you</td><td>A-roi = tasty</td></tr></table></li></ul>	Ending of: Kha=female; Krub=male	Chi ( <i>chai</i> ) = yes; Lekh ti = no	Sa-wad-dee kha/krub = hello	Tao-rai kha/krub= how much does this cost?	Khob-khun kha/krub = thank you	A-roi = tasty
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Khob-khun kha/krub = thank you	A-roi = tasty						
Planning	<p><u>Bangkok</u>: We stayed in the Sukhumvit area but would recommend staying closer to sites in the Riverfront/Grand Palace area. Public transit is not reliable &amp; drive times to sites are very long.</p> <p><u>Chiang Mai</u>: Stay inside the walled Old City area to be walking distance to restaurants &amp; markets.</p> <p><u>Krabi</u>: Stay in the Ao Nang Beach area. Can also add on an overnight stay in Railay, or spend a few nights in Phi Phi instead of doing a long day trip. Phi Phi is much more touristy &amp; crowded, so we opted for a day trip instead.</p> <p><u>Resources</u>: <a href="https://alikinwanderlust.com/">https://alikinwanderlust.com/</a> &amp; Thailand travel facebook groups</p>						