

# Amazing *Thailand*

What kind of holiday do you enjoy? Are you a sun - worshipper looking for perfect sandy beaches and sparkling seas? Or do you prefer culture and history? Perhaps you'd rather hike up mountains or explore rainforests. Maybe you are a party person, looking for non - stop merrymaking; or a water-sports enthusiast looking for incredible diving and snorkelling. Whatever your inclination, Thailand has all this and more Bangkok is where most people start and end their trip.

It's a huge, busy, noisy and polluted capital, but also one of the most exciting and vibrant cities in the world. If you have some time in Bangkok there is much to do. Visit the Grand Palace or choose from any number of spectacular temples. Take a boat tour on the Chao Phraya River and see its floating markets with countless boats plying their wares, or hop in a taxi to visit one of the many temples.

Wat Pho is the largest and oldest temple in Bangkok and home to The Reclining Buddha, a magnificent 46 metre long golden statue with feet inlaid with mother-of-pearl. It's an oasis of peace within the chaos of Bangkok. When visiting any temple, respect the Buddhist faith by dressing conservatively and removing your shoes before entering the main rooms. A day trip from Bangkok, is a visit to Kanchanaburi, the site of the notorious River Kwai Bridge. If you wish to spend a night there, you can stay on a floating raft house on the river and take some time to explore the spectacular waterfalls and forests around the area.

Northern Thailand is home to the second largest city, Chiang Mai, with its dramatic backdrop of mountains and forests. It's a great base to venture a little further afield to visit hill tribes and the Golden Triangle, where Thailand borders Laos and Myanmar. The southern peninsular is where you find the beautiful unspoiled beaches and countless idyllic islands rising up from a clear turquoise sea. Visit the picturesque Phi Phi Islands where

