



THAILAND

BOOK BY MAY 29, 2026
SAVE \$200 PP



HEART OF THAILAND • OCT 21- NOV 7, 2026
18 DAYS • 40 MEALS • SMALL GROUP
JOURNEY LEADER: KIM COLIZZA

Traditional Thai wooden longtail boat on the sandy shores of Koh Poda, Krabi

From golden temples and floating markets to hill tribe villages and elephant sanctuaries, Thailand offers a captivating mix of natural beauty and cultural depth. This is a country where everyday life is shaped by centuries-old traditions, Buddhist values, and an unmistakable warmth of spirit. On this thoughtfully paced journey, you'll experience Thailand's many layers, starting in the capital with visits to Bangkok's Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, then travelling west to ride the infamous Death Railway before heading north to the misty mountains of Chiang Mai. There, you'll spend meaningful time with rescued elephants, meet local artisans, and learn about the customs of the hill tribes. The journey ends with three nights in sunny Krabi, where you can unwind at the beach and join a full-day island-hopping adventure. Along the way, enjoy authentic Thai meals, uncover the country's spiritual traditions, and witness daily life in markets, villages, and quiet countryside. Much more than a tropical escape, this is a chance to connect with the heart of Thailand.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIMITED TO ONLY 25 MEMBERS

Tour Highlights

- Explore Bangkok's Grand Palace and the sacred Temple of the Emerald Buddha
- Ride the historic Death Railway
- Discover the charm of Thailand's floating markets
- Savour Thailand's diverse flavours: from street food to a home-cooked meal with a local family
- Spend a day with rescued elephants in Chiang Mai
- Visit the striking White Temple (Wat Rong Khun)
- Discover hill tribe culture and Buddhist temples in the Chiang Mai region
- Unwind with three nights at a seaside resort in Thailand's tropical south
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Krabi on a full-day island-hopping tour
- Watch skilled artisans at work in Chiang Mai's handicraft villages
- Walk through jungle trails to the turquoise pools of Erawan Falls

Journey Leader

Kim Colizza is an experienced journey leader and North American tour guide with a passion for exploration. An energetic leader, she retired after 13 years as a parole officer and 33 years of managing committees, conferences, and charities to pursue her passion for travel. Kim has led groups across Canada, the USA, Vietnam, and India. Her personal travels have taken her to Southeast Asia, numerous European countries, and parts of Central America. From planes and trains to elephants, ostriches, camels, and tuk-tuks, Kim has embraced various modes of transportation. Kim looks forward to sharing her next adventure with you.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from/to Canada
- 15 nights in first-class hotels as indicated or similar, including early check in in Bangkok
- 40 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 16 Breakfasts, L - 12 Lunches, D - 12 Dinners)
- Transfers and intercity transportation by private coach and domestic flights, as indicated
- Services of your journey leader plus our professional tour guide and local guides
- All surcharges, taxes, and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

OCT 21-22, Wednesday-Thursday DEPART CANADA
Tour members from across Canada will gather for our overnight flight(s) to Bangkok.

OCT 23, Friday BANGKOK, THAILAND
Upon arrival this morning, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel for early check-in. Enjoy the day at leisure before gathering for a welcome dinner this evening.
Four Points by Sheraton Bangkok Ploenchit (3 nights) BD

OCT 24, Saturday BANGKOK
This morning, visit the Grand Palace, one of Bangkok's iconic landmarks and former royal residence. Explore its richly decorated halls and courtyards, including Wat Phra Kaew Temple, home to the sacred Emerald Buddha. After lunch, discover a quieter side of Bangkok on a long-tail boat ride through the canals, or "Klongs", of Thonburi. Pass stilt houses, temples, and daily life along the waterways. Conclude the day with a visit to Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn, known for its gleaming spire and riverside views. BL

OCT 25, Sunday BANGKOK
Venture west to Damnoen Saduak, Thailand's most iconic floating market. Watch merchants in colourful boats trade fruits, vegetables, and local goods, a glimpse into a centuries-old way of life. Continue to the Maeklong Railway Market, famous for its stalls set directly on the tracks,

cleared only when trains approach. Dive into Bangkok's vibrant street food scene on a guided culinary tour. Sample a variety of northeastern Thai dishes, including the Michelin-awarded Guay Tiew Kua Gai, and learn how these crispy noodles are prepared. Wander through the bustling flower market before heading to Bantadthong Road, a lively street lined with local eateries. Cap off the night with a drink at a hidden rooftop bar. BLD

OCT 26, Monday BANGKOK / KANCHANABURI

Kanchanaburi is home to the historic Bridge over the River Kwai, part of the Thailand–Burma Railway built by Allied prisoners of war during World War II. Visit the Thailand–Burma Railway Centre, an interactive museum that tells the story of its construction under harsh and often deadly conditions. Nearby, pause at the Allied War Cemetery, a moving tribute to those who lost their lives while working on the line. Later, board the train for a scenic ride along the surviving section of the track, now known as the “Death Railway”. **Royal River Kwai Resort & Spa** or similar (2 nights) BLD

OCT 27, Tuesday ERAWAN WATERFALL

This morning, we head into Erawan National Park to explore its seven-tiered waterfall and emerald pools. Follow the beautiful forest trail through the park and take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters. BLD

OCT 28, Wednesday KANCHANABURI / AYUTTHAYA

After a late morning transfer to Ayutthaya, we enjoy some time at leisure. This evening, we board a traditional teak rice barge for a cruise along the Chao Phraya River. As Ayutthaya's historic landmarks drift by, enjoy a specially prepared menu of traditional Thai dishes.

Kantary Ayutthaya (1 night) BLD

OCT 29, Thursday AYUTTHAYA / CHIANG RAI

Explore the ruins of Ayutthaya Historical Park, including Wat Phra Sri Sanphet and the Grand Palace grounds, once the spiritual and royal heart of the old capital. At Wat Mahathat, see the iconic Buddha head entwined in tree roots, a symbol of Ayutthaya's enduring legacy. Before leaving Ayutthaya, we stop to learn how locals make traditional Thai candy floss, known as “roti.” Later, transfer to Bangkok Airport for our flight to Chiang Rai.

The Legend Boutique River Resort & Spa (2 nights) BD

OCT 30, Friday CHIANG RAI

Begin the day in the Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge. Visit the House of Opium museum, then enjoy a scenic boat ride on the Mekong before continuing by car to the ancient town of Chiang Saen. Afterwards, visit Ban Had Pai, a Tai Lue weaving village, and the hilltop Hmong village of Baan Kiew Karn. BLD

OCT 31, Saturday CHIANG RAI / CHIANG MAI

A cruise along the Mae Kok River takes us to Fang Hot Spring and a Lahu village, home to a Tibeto-Burmese hill tribe. Next, we drive to Chiang Mai, with a stop at the striking White Temple, Wat Rong Khun. In Chiang Mai, explore the city's renowned handicraft villages before heading to Hangdong for a special experience. Spend the afternoon with a local Thai family, exploring their home and gardens. Together, pick fresh ingredients and learn how to prepare authentic dishes with recipes passed down through generations. The day ends with a shared home-cooked dinner and warm conversations.

Empress Premier Hotel (3 nights) BLD

NOV 1, Sunday CHIANG MAI

Spend the day bonding with rescued elephants in an ethical, hands-on experience at Ran-Tong Save & Rescue Elephant Centre, a sanctuary devoted to rehabilitation and



Spend a day with rescued elephants in Chiang Mai



Explore the Grand Palace in Bangkok



Take a dip in the turquoise waters of Erawan Falls



Damnoen Saduak, Thailand's most iconic floating market

education. This is a chance to support the health and happiness of these gentle giants through meaningful interaction. Learn their rescue stories, prepare and feed them nutritious treats, and discover the importance of responsible elephant care during a guided educational session. After lunch at the sanctuary, take part in wellness activities like mixing herbal medicines and giving mud or compress treatments that help protect the elephants' skin. End the day with a fun river bath, and a health check observation, before returning to Chiang Mai. BLD

NOV 2, Monday

HILL TRIBE VILLAGES

Nestled near the Doi Suthep temple complex lies the Hmong village of Doi Pui, home to a community with roots tracing back to South China. Learn about their unique history and way of life, once shaped by opium cultivation. Next, visit the revered Wat Doi Suthep Temple. As we drive up, enjoy sweeping views of Chiang Mai city. In the afternoon, explore the San Kamphaeng district, the heart of the region's silk and cotton industries. Watch artisans weave intricate fabrics, then continue to Bor Sang, the renowned umbrella village, where delicate paper parasols are hand-painted. Marvel at designs inspired by centuries-old Sawankhalok pottery before ending the day observing local lacquerware and silverware craftsmanship. BLD

NOV 3, Tuesday

CHIANG MAI / KRABI

Today we fly to the sunny beaches and clear blue waters of Krabi. Upon arrival, enjoy a free afternoon to unwind and explore at your own pace. Sink your toes into the soft sand of its stunning beaches, or enjoy the amenities at our resort. **Ao Nang Villa** (3 nights) BD

NOV 4, Wednesday

KRABI

Get ready for a captivating half-day guided tour as we uncover the natural and cultural treasures of Krabi. Our morning begins at a lively local market, where you'll catch a glimpse of everyday life in Krabi. Then, head to Khao Khanab Nam, Krabi's iconic twin limestone mountains rising beside the gentle Krabi River. Board a traditional long-tail boat and drift through peaceful waters lined with mangrove forests, hidden caves, and riverside villages. Keep an eye out for stalagmites, stalactites, bats, monkeys, and water lizards along the way. Return to Krabi Town with time to browse the shops or wander at your leisure. BL

NOV 5, Thursday

FOUR ISLANDS

Today is all about sun, sea, and sand on a full-day island-hopping tour in Krabi. Board a speedboat and set off for the uninhabited Ko Tup, known for its clear waters and powdery white sands. At low tide, a natural sandbar appears, allowing you to walk across to Ko Kai, or Chicken Island, named for its chicken-shaped limestone outcrop. Relax on the beach or snorkel in the warm shallows, where you might spot colourful fish, sea urchins, stingrays, and even small reef sharks. Lunch is served on the beach, followed by time to swim or snorkel in Ko Poda's turquoise waters and coral reefs. The final stop is Phra Nang Beach, home to the Princess Cave. Local fishermen leave offerings here in honour of a princess believed to protect them at sea, who is said to have drowned here. Enjoy free time for sunbathing or a final snorkel before returning to our hotel for our farewell dinner. BLD

NOV 6, Friday

KRABI / BANGKOK

Spend your final morning in paradise relaxing at the resort or browsing the local market. This afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the capital.

Hyatt Regency Bangkok Airport (1 night) BL

NOV 7, Saturday

BANGKOK / CANADA

Early this morning we gather our things and check in for our flights back to Canada. B

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: Travellers should be prepared for a moderately active itinerary and Thailand's tropical climate. Days may include walking on uneven terrain, climbing stairs, and boarding long-tail boats with wet landings. Group members will need to carry their own luggage where porter service is not available. Modest clothing is required at some sites, with shoulders, arms, and legs fully covered. As shoes must often be removed to enter temples, sandals or flip-flops with socks are recommended. To fully enjoy this program, participants should have no mobility limitations.



**Book by May 29, 2026
and save \$200 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only (includes internal flights)	\$7,125
Vancouver.....	\$8,945
Victoria / Calgary / Edmonton.....	\$9,045
Winnipeg / Halifax.....	\$9,515
Regina / Saskatoon / St. John's	\$9,545
Toronto	\$9,235
Montreal / Ottawa	\$9,345
Single Supplement	\$1,495

Land only price includes domestic flights within Thailand and excludes international airfare and airport transfers. Land only members join and leave at the Bangkok hotels.

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for more details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin room and on a minimum of 15 members, based on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted from Canada with a minimum of 15 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Deposit is \$800 per person

Final payment is due July 15, 2026

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:

1092 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, ON M4P 2M6

416-484-0926 • 1-800-387-8890

tours@craigtravel.com • craigtravel.com



**A Proud Canadian
Family Business
Since 1969**

