

Culturally Curious Itinerary

2 Weeks in Thailand



Thailand is one of those places that people go to and fall in love with. Whether it's the beautiful beaches, the incredible sense of culture or the never-ending smiles of the people, your time there will be unforgettable. Here's a two-week itinerary that will have you stopping at all the best places.

Day 1: Spend the day getting your bearings in Bangkok and visiting some of the main temples. Stop by the Grand Palace and Wat

Phra Keaw. Make sure to stop in the **Queen Sirikit Silk Museum** there as well. Then head over to Wat Pho to see the large reclining Buddha. Exchange your money for some coins to drop into the bowls and make some merit for a good trip. Afterwards, head over to Wat Arun and enjoy the views over the Chao Phraya river.

Day 2: Take a day trip to the floating market in Amphawa. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of this interesting market. Return to Bangkok in time to see the traditional dancing at the Erawan Shrine.

Day 3-6: Catch a cheap flight or bus down south for the next four days for some beach time. Here are some of the best places.

Koh Tao: Fly to Surat Thani and take a ferry to Koh Tao. Spend the next few days getting SCUBA certified.

Krabi: Get yourself set up in Ao Nang, which is close Railay. Enjoy the beaches and do some rock climbing on the magnificent limestone karsts.

Trang Islands: Island hop from Koh Ngai, Koh Lipe and Koh Lanta for some of the best beaches that are a bit further away from the crowds. Enjoy snorkeling and SCUBA diving.

Travel Tip: If you are a planner, most of the local airlines have the option to book your ferry to the island with your flight.



Day 7-11: Catch a flight up to **Chiang Mai**. If you're feeling adventurous, you could spend about 24 hours on a train or a bus getting here from southern Thailand. Here, spend a day wandering around Old Town and visiting the old wats. Stop in for a chat with a monk at one of them to learn more about Theravada Buddhism.

Then, book a day with elephants at **Elephant Nature Park** or **Patara Elephant Farm**. Get up close and personal with these amazing creatures. Spend the evening wandering around the night market.

Next, book yourself a spot in a Thai cooking class. You'll get to visit a market to buy the ingredients and then spend the day learning how to make some amazing food. In the evening, visit the flower market.

Spend a day going up to Doi Suthep, visiting the temple on top of the mountain. Also, stop by the winter palace with some incredible gardens.

Finally, top off your trip to northern Thailand with a day trip to the **White Temple** and **Black House** in Chiang Rai. These two places are excellent examples of contemporary art in Thailand.



Day 12: Make your way back to Bangkok. Stop by the Jim Thompson House to learn about the man who helped to revive the silk industry in Thailand. Stop by the Bangkok Museum of Art and take in the rotating exhibits.

Day 13: Take a day trip to **Ayutthaya**, the former capital of Siam. Rent a bicycle and take a leisurely ride around the temple ruins.

Day 14: Spend a day wandering around Chatuchak Market and pick up some souvenirs before heading home.