

Birding Watching in Thailand: The South & Peninsular | 13 Days



Thailand situated in South-east Asia, the Indo Chinese peninsula of the Oriental Region and has been described as a “zoogeographic crossroads” because the country’s avifauna comprises Sino-Himalayan, Indo-Burmese, Indo-Chinese and Sundaic elements and large number of migrant visitors from the Palaearctic Region. There are approximately 1,012 species (BCST – Mar 2012) at present or 10% of the world species are recorded in Thailand. Thailand has a tropical monsoonal climate. Generally dry season is during November to April and the rainy season from May to October but, the far south and South-eastern provinces receive rain during November – January.

This beautiful country with its diverse ethnic groupings, much revered, age-old monarchy and rich cultural heritage has great appeal for the traveller as well as the birdwatcher. This is one of our favourite tours, a journey through an exotic, vibrant land that has an infinite capacity to delight and surprise the visitor. It is also home to a rich and ancient culture many of whose ruins are also excellent places to look for birds. With many wonderful national parks and reserves supporting huge numbers of resident and migrant birds. This tour explores a classic Southeast Asian birdwatching destination that not only has a very rich avifauna but very friendly people, beautiful landscapes and some of the best food in the world.

Our tour visits the marshy plains, mangrove coastline, and salt pans at Phak Tale & Laem Phak Bia south of Bangkok, where we may encounter nearly 40 species of wader including the threatened Nordmann’s Greenshank and Asian Dowitcher and the critically

endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and three splendid national parks at Khao Yai, Kaeng Krachan, Sri Phang Nga National Park and Ao Phang-Nga Wildlife Sanctuary in peninsular Thailand, each with vast tracts of uninterrupted evergreen forest supporting a wide mix of northern and southern species as well as a wide variety of mammals.

Trip Highlights

- Explore unspoiled wilderness and wildlife in Thailand’s three national parks: Khao Yai, Kaeng Krachan, Si Phang Nga
- Chance to spot endangered (Spoon-billed Sandpiper), threatened (Nordmann’s Greenshank) and rare bird species (Ratchet-tailed Treepie)
- Scout mangrove forest near Ao Phang-Nga NP by boat for chance to spot Mangrove Pitta, the huge Brown-winged Kingfisher, Ruddy Kingfisher, Chinese Egret
- Explore Sri Phang Nga National Park, in moist evergreen forest and the low altitude of the region gives birdwatchers a great opportunity to search for some of the difficult to find species from southern Thailand.
- Unwind in the golden beaches of Phuket
- Experience the vibrant, colourful, bustling, exciting, turbo-charged Bangkok

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Bangkok

Welcome to Thailand! Upon arrival in Bangkok a *travel-to-nature Asia* guide will be at the airport to greet and take us to our hotel. Please look out for your name-card once you exit out of arrival area.

Rest of the day free for individual activities. Overnight in Bangkok.

Accommodation: Royal Princess Larn Luang

Day 2: Bangkok - Pak Thale (122 km | 2 hrs)

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This morning we will drive southwestwards to the shores of the Gulf of Thailand at Pak Thale, an area of marshy pools, mangroves, mudflats, shrimp-ponds and salt-pans. The numbers and diversity of wintering waders from northern Asia makes a visit to this area an exciting experience. Best of all, the rare Spoon-billed Sandpiper has begun wintering in this area in recent years and it is quite possible to see up to five or more of these bizarre little waders here.

Our second main quarry will be the rare Nordmann's Greenshank, an endangered species whose world population is estimated to be just 1000 birds. Nordmann's Greenshank breeds in the remote forest bogs of northern Sakhalin Island and on the adjacent shores of the bleak Sea of Okhotsk and winters or migrates through scattered sites across southern Asia, this being one of the most accessible and reliable. Great Knot is regularly present and we also have a chance of picking up the rare Asian Dowitcher, which migrates through the Gulf of Thailand at this time of year. Overnight in Pak Thale.

Accommodation: Fisherman's Resort
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Pak Thale - Laem Phak Bia - Kaeng Krachan National Park (93 km | 1.5 hrs)

This morning we will again visit Pak Thale and later we will explore Laem Phak Bia. We'll spend much of the day birding the brackish and saltwater mudflats, sandflats, mangroves, and salt pans of Phetchaburi Province in the western sectors of the Gulf of Thailand. We'll search for 40 or more shorebird species, including Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, Great Knot, Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers, and Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers. If we get lucky, we may see the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (there were about three individuals here in 2015), the threatened Nordmann's Greenshank, and possibly Asian Dowitcher. We should also find Brown-headed and possibly Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gulls, Brahminy Kite, and Black-capped and Collared Kingfishers, among many other species.

In the past several years one or two White-faced Plovers have wintered on the sand spit at Laem Phak

Bia; the species was actually first collected in 1861 by Swinhoe, who described it as a new species in 1870 — after which it was forgotten for well over a century! Some taxonomists regard this as a separate species while others treat it as a subspecies of Kentish Plover. We're also likely to see Chinese and Pacific Reef Egrets, Malaysian Plover, Great Crested and possible Lesser Crested Tern. From Pak Thale we continue on our way to Kaeng Krachan National Park for a three-night stay. Overnight stay in Kaeng Krachan National Park.

Accommodation: Baan Maka Nature Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4-5: In Kaeng Krachan National Park

Park/Phetchaburi Province

Kaeng Krachan National Park is situated on the eastern side of the remote Tenasserim mountain range near the Burmese border. The National Park was established in 1981, after a visit to the area by the King of Thailand, and is the largest in the country, over 3000 square kilometres (1158 square miles) in extent, encompassing a wide range of forest habitats and possessing the richest forest avifauna in the entire country.

Kaeng Krachan, with its range of habitats from drier deciduous forest to huge expanses of evergreen forest, is a wonderful place to watch birds and we'll spend two full days and a final morning exploring this region. At our highest point we'll be searching for Ratchet-tailed Treepie at its only location in Thailand, along with its frequent traveling companion the

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striking White-hooded Babbler. Black-throated Laughingthrush occur here too, and we have at least a chance of seeing Spot-necked Babbler. At this season many Oriental Honey-Buzzards should be moving north. Other raptors we might see include Black Eagle and Mountain Hawk-Eagle and with good luck an Oriental Hobby. At middle elevations we'll search for Germain's Peacock Pheasant (we'll certainly hear them!), and we might also hear the rarely seen Ferruginous Partridge. Also possible is Southern Brown Hornbill and six species of broadbills, including Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red, Banded, Dusky, and Silver-breasted. Wintering Palearctic species should be numerous and might include some more southerly winterers like Eastern Crowned Warbler and Chinese Blue Flycatcher - the list of uncommon to rare species we might encounter is very long and different every year. In the drier deciduous forest, woodpeckers are particularly numerous and we could see more than ten species including Heart-spotted, Black-and-buff and possibly Great Slaty Woodpeckers.

The park harbours many mammals too, and we might encounter Asian Elephant, Golden Jackal, Fea's Muntjac, Crab-eating Mongoose, and possibly Dhole and even Gaur. A number of cats occur, Leopard being the most frequently seen but also Tiger, although we would be exceptionally lucky to see one. Dusky Langurs are present along with a few Banded Langurs, as are the distinctive Stump-tailed Macaques. Overnight stay near the park entrance.

Accommodation: Baan Maka Nature Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6: Kaeng Krachan National Park - Khao Yai National Park (354 km | 6 hrs)

The sun rises on Halong in the morning and breakfast is served (also brunch on some boats) while the vessels cruises are slowly back towards port. Disembark and afterward, take the 4-hour drive to your hotel in Ninh Binh.

Accommodation: Ninh Binh Hidden Charm Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Day trip to Hoa Lu & Tam Coc

Today we will head for Khao Yai National Park, where we will spend the next three nights. As we skirt Bangkok en route, we will stop at some marshy areas to look for Cinnamon and Yellow Bitterns, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, and Asian Golden Weaver. Afterwards the journey takes us through cultivated lowlands northeast of Bangkok where some paddy fields are still worked by water buffaloes and duck herders tend their huge flocks on roadside pools. We will keep a lookout for Asian Openbill along the way. As we approach Khao Yai the fields give way to scrub and then to tall evergreen forest as we approach the hills, where we will visit a site for the localized Limestone Wren-Babbler.

Accommodation: Balios Resort Khaoyai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7-8: Khao Yai National Park

Khao Yai National Park protects an extensive area of forested mountains and open grassland in central Thailand, Walking the trails of Khao Yai is an unforgettable experience. Here the forest giants are quite stupendous: supported by huge buttress roots, some tower over 70 m above ground level and even the average canopy height is some 50 m. In areas where the forest floor is open one has the feeling of being inside some vast natural cathedral. Strangler figs entwine the trunks, vines and creepers hang down from the branches and brilliantly coloured butterflies flash through shafts of sunlight filtering down through the green canopy above. The incessant 'took-arrook' of barbets and the whine of giant cicadas is broken from time to time by the whooping cries of a troop of White-handed Gibbons. From time

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to time a faint twittering heralds the approach of a mixed feeding flock of anything up to a dozen or more bird species.

We'll spend three days exploring the densely forested hills, clear rivers, and waterfalls at Khao Yai, one of the best-preserved tracts of tropical evergreen forest in all of Indochina. Khao Yai is noted particularly for larger forest birds, among which are three or four species of hornbill, including the magnificent Great, as well as Orange-breasted and Red-headed Trogons, Banded Kingfisher, Banded and Long-tailed Broadbills, and sometimes Sultan Tit. In addition, we can expect a fine collection of raptors, pigeons, barbets, woodpeckers, leafbirds, bulbuls, laughingthrushes, babblers, warblers, sunbirds, and flowerpeckers. Red Junglefowl and Siberian Blue Robin haunt the undergrowth, and there is a chance of finding other, scarcer ground birds such as the elegant Siamese Fireback, Silver Pheasant, the elusive Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo or Blue Pitta. At dusk we'll look for Great Eared-Nightjars, and we'll make a nocturnal excursion in our hotel grounds for Brown Boobook or Collared Scops Owl as well as other night birds.

Khao Yai is also extremely rich in mammals, including Pig-tailed Macaque, gloriously vocal gibbons, Black Giant Squirrel, civets, Sambar and Barking Deer (Red Muntiac), East Asian (Malaysian) Porcupine, and Asian Elephant. Nights near Khao Yai National Park.

Accommodation: Balios Resort Khaoyai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Drive Khao Yai National Park - Bangkok (190 km | 3 hrs) | Fly to Phuket | Drive to Phang-Nga (62 km | 1 hr)

This morning we'll drive to Bangkok and fly southwards to Phuket in Peninsular with our local birding guide. Upon arrival we will meet our driver and drive 35 km /45 min to Phang-Nga for an overnight stay. Rest of the day free for individual activities. Meet in the evening for dinner.

Accommodation: Khao Lak Palm Hill Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: Birding in Ao Phang-Nga NP and Drive to Si Phang Nga National Park (70 km | 2 hrs)

We leave early today to Ao Phang Nga National Park. Declared as a marine national park in 1981, Ao Phang Nga National Park is situated along the coast of Phang-Nga Province south of Thailand in the Andaman Sea. The popular attractions are James Bond Island, other picturesque limestone karst islands, a number of white sandy beaches and a few caves. The turquoise waters surrounding the islands are consistently calm, very ideal for canoeing. There are interesting canoeing spots that are sea level caves, leading to inland lagoons.

The park encompasses an area of 400 km², including the biggest native mangrove forests in Thailand along the mainland and many islands. The nearest popular towns and tourist destinations are Phuket, Phi Phi Islands, Krabi, Khao Lak and Ko Lanta.

Besides the natural beauties, the park also has a few archaeological sites that date back more than 1,000 years but also some prehistoric paintings on the cliffs. Stone tools and pottery items have been found in some sites.

Ao Phang Nga Bay is about 35 km from Rassada Pier in Phuket, about 50-65 km from various piers in Krabi and about 70 km from Khao Lak



Wildlife

The native mangrove forests along the coast of Phang-Nga Province of which a significant bit is within Ao Phang Nga National Park is the largest in Thailand. The mangrove forest is home to a unique habitat for some species.

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Some of the mangrove plant species found along the coast are; *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Avicennia alba*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Bruguiera parviflora*, *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Xylocarpus moluccensis*. The islands are covered with *Hopea ferrea*, *Parkia timoriana* (the pea plant), *Acacia catechu*, the mulberry tree *Artocarpus lacucha*, *Garcinia cowa*, *Morinda coreia*, *Colocasia gigantea*, *Pandanus monotheca* and *Cycas ingas*.

Around 180 bird species are recorded in the park. Some rare bird species are Kamchatka leaf warbler, Von schrenck's bittern, brown-winged kingfisher, scarlet-breasted flowerpecker, spotted wood owl, Malayan banded pitta, lesser fish eagle, thick-billed spiderhunter, red-crowned barbet, Rufous-bellied Swallow, Black-and-red Broadbill, Brown-winged & Ruddy Kingfishers, Streak-breasted Woodpecker, White-chested Babbler, Mangrove Whistler, Copper-throated Sunbird, chestnut-bellied malkoha, buffy fish and lesser cuckooshrike. The park is a great place to find mangrove pitta. The park is also an ideal place to find seven different kingfisher species. Great hornbills and Oriental pied hornbills are the only hornbill species found in the park.



First we will explore the mangrove forest by boat, where we should find the superb Mangrove Pitta, the huge Brown-winged Kingfisher and the attractive Ruddy Kingfisher, while we may encounter a Chinese Egret on the mudflats. Other birds that we should find amongst the mangroves include White-bellied Sea Eagle, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, Dusky Crag Martin, Ashy Tailorbird, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Mangrove Whistler and Ruby-cheeked Sunbird. With a bit of luck we will also find the endangered Chinese Egret, which winters here in very small numbers, and Streak-

breasted Woodpecker. The secretive Masked Finfoot occurs very sparingly and irregularly. Even if present, we would be very fortunate to spot one as it emerges from the shadows of the mangrove roots as they are typically extremely elusive. Crab-eating Macaques are also present in this interesting habitat.

In the afternoon we will drive to Si Phang Nga National Park. Wildlife Sanctuary for three nights stay.

Accommodation: Retreat Khaolak Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11-12: Si Phang Nga National Park

For next couple of days we will explore Sri Phang Nga National Park, in Phang Nga province, covers an area of 246 square kilometers, stretching along a range of hills parallel to Andaman Sea coast. Most of the national park is moist evergreen forest and the low altitude of the region gives birdwatchers a great opportunity to search for some of the difficult to find species from southern Thailand.

Any location that has a stake-out for both Blyth's and Gould's Frogmouths has to be worth a visit even without the host of other southern specialties that occur at Sri Phang Nga National Park. This little visited location is not only home to birds such as Moustached Babbler, Drongo Cuckoo, Chestnut-winged Babbler and other small forest species but it is a good spot for finding colourful, medium-sized species like Banded Broadbill, Banded Pitta and Black-and-Yellow Broadbill. Hornbills are a highlight of any bird watching trip and Sri Phang Nga regularly provides birders with sightings of the spectacular Great and Helmeted Hornbills along with Bushy-crested Hornbill which usually travels in flocks. Night birding can be productive here too. Along with the Frogmouths, both Oriental Bay Owl and Buffy Fish Owl have been seen in the past. Other excellent birds that have been seen at Sri Phang Nga from time to time are Chestnut-naped Forktail, Pale Blue Flycatcher and Black Hornbill – a species very seldom encountered in Thailand.

Other notable species possibly seen are Wallace's Hawk Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Chestnut-naped Forktail, Crested Jayshrike,

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Large Blue Flycatcher, Green Broadbill, Bamboo Woodpecker, Rufous-collared & Banded & Blue-eared & Blue-banded Kingfishers

Accommodation: Retreat Khaolak Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13: Depart Phuket (1.45 hr | 93.5 km)

Today we will drive from Phan Thiet directly to Saigon Airport to catch our homeward-bound flight.

Meal: Breakfast

Includes

- Airport (pick up/drop off) transfers by private A/C vehicle
- Twin room sharing accommodation at all hotel/resort as mentioned
- Daily breakfast throughout the trip and other meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- Domestic flight from Bangkok - Phuket
- Escorted by an English-speaking local professional Birding tour guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Boat cruise on the canals and rivers
- All excursions and entry fees & permits to all the national parks & monuments.
- Applicable government taxes

Excludes

- International flight tickets
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance & vaccinations
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Tips for trip leader/guide, driver, hotel staff, and porters
- Items of personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, telephone calls and other unforeseen expenses
- Items/services not listed in the "included"

- Compulsory gala dinner on Christmas or New Year (if applicable)
- Extra expenses/payment for 'Optional' activities/programs if participated

Accommodation

Royal Princess Larn Luang, Bangkok

Royal Princess Larn Luang is a venerable local institution, situated in the heart of historic old Bangkok amidst sweeping tree-lined boulevards, centuries-old canals, the Grand Palace, ancient temples, and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, United Nations agencies including Khao San Road. This charming boutique hotel offers 167 wonderfully appointed guest rooms with a gracious welcome and warm personalized service.

Fisherman's Resort, Phak Thale

An exclusive retreat set in a private enclave, the resort fronts the beach and has successfully blended the comforts and services of a luxury resort with the authentic tradition and heritage of Thai architecture. Green is the dominant colour of the landscape combined with water features, flora and attractive marine elements.



Baan Maka Nature Lodge, Kaeng Krachen

Baan Maka is a small hotel dedicated to making your visit to Kaeng Krachen as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. We offer comfortable rooms with hot showers & air conditioning. There is a restaurant on-site using homegrown produce. The lodge is situated a few kilometres from Kaeng Krachen NP in five hectares of gardens, forest & farmland.

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Balios Resort Khaoyai, Khao Yai

Balios Resort Khaoyai is a comfortable 3-star hotel in Pak Chong minutes from Palio Khao Yai and close to Nam Phut Natural Spring. This hotel is within the vicinity of Bonanza Golf and Country Club and Jungle Golf Club. Make yourself at home in one of the 132 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and LCD televisions.

Khao Lak Palmhill Resort, Khao Pra Bang

Escape the chaos of the city to the tranquility and relaxation on the hill of the Evergreen Forest. Breathe the fresh air in the tropical garden of exotic plants and flowers which is surprisingly located in the center of Khao Lak Town. Enjoy our large swimming pool and sundeck, Khao Lak Palmhill is the ideal place for couples and families.



Pullman Phuket Panwa Beach Resort, Phuket

Nestled on the picturesque shores of Markham Bay, the resort offers sweeping views of the Andaman Sea. Travelers have a choice of 211 spacious contemporary rooms, including 28 suites and 29 villas with a private pool. With just 20 minute-drive to Phuket Town, the hotel is ideally located to explore the many attractions on Phuket Island.

Group/Individual

On this trip you will be traveling privately with your family & friends. Our representative/tour partner will look after your transfers to and from the airport and will be around to answer other questions you may have about your trip.

Accommodation – Hotel, Resort

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a fine heritage hotel in another or a family-run guesthouse or lodges in a smaller town. Accommodation in remote areas tend to be basic and may not have western amenities.

Single Accommodation

Single (room) supplements are provided on request (single supplement charge applies) and are subject to availability.

Food & Transport

All breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners are included.

Southeast Asian cuisine is known for its abundance of freshly prepared dishes with strong aromatic flavours. There is a focus on herbs and citrus, ensuring each dish packs a punch; chilli features highly too, but is easily avoided if desired.

Typically, most dishes will come with rice and many are often served in a banana leaf with a variety of dips and herbs served separately.

Western food is readily available almost everywhere.

Vegetarian food is widely available; however, the offering will be fairly similar in most places. Please advise at time of booking if you have any dietary requirements.

For airport, sightseeing transfers, and for long drives we use a private air-con car, jeep, van depending upon group size.

Weather

The weather will be hot and humid throughout, with daytime temperatures between 28C and 34C (82F and 93F). At times, it may reach 40C (104F). It is only a

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little cooler at nights. The region is mostly dry between December and April; there's a rainy season from May to November, when rain comes in short, heavy bursts with bright sunshine between.

Baggage Allowance

The standard baggage weight limit on international flights (generally from Europe) is one checked baggage of 25kg (55lb) and hand baggage 7kg (15lbs).

We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage. Luggage allowances for both hand and checked luggage are subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure or purchasing your flight tickets.

ESSENTIAL/PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passport & Visas

All nationalities require a passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for EU passport holders, and other nationalities should check with the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visas are not required to enter Thailand for German and most other European countries including UK for up to 30 days. However, some other European nationals still need to obtain a visa.

Please note: Visa regulations can change without notice, therefore please check the current regulations or contact us.

Vaccination & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad and enjoy holidays to the fullest.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements. Recommended vaccinations are: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, and influenza. The risk of malaria is slight, but you may wish to consult your GP or travel health clinic for further advice. You will also need a yellow fever vaccination certificate if you're arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission or transiting for more than 12 hours through a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Please confirm your vaccine recommendations and requirements with your doctor or travel clinic.

Dengue fever, a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes, is a known risk in places visited. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available, so take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Local Time

GMT/UTC + 7 hours.

Electricity

Thailand operates on 220 volts AC and 50 Hz. There are five plug types in Thailand - A, B, C, F & O. Type A is the plug which has two flat parallel pins, type B is similar to A with extra pin for grounding, type C & F plug has two round pins. Plug O is unique to Thailand but it works with plug C and F.

ATM | Credit Cards

ATMs are a common sight in Thailand cities, and you should have no trouble locating one in most destinations. Rural areas have fewer ATM locations for obvious reason.

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Thai ATMs work with MasterCard (Cirrus, Maestro) and Visa (Plus) cards. Your bank can confirm whether your card belongs to one of these networks.

ATM daily withdrawal limits vary depending on the bank. But generally, it's around ฿25,000 (US\$740). Unfortunately, the fees for using an ATM in Thailand are expensive. Most local banks charge ฿300 (around US\$9) per transaction for withdrawals with a foreign bank card.

While using ATM please be mindful of your surroundings.

If you bring cash, to get the best exchange rates for Baht, bigger denominations Euro/US\$ that are in pristine conditions (no fold, no mark, no tear, no stain) are required.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will need to bring some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, souvenirs and any other personal expense, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Though it totally depends on individual but generally an approximate (rough estimate) amount of Euro 200 (US\$220) per person, per week should be sufficient (more if you enjoy a few beers); however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount. Or if you are the one frugal with money probably allocating less would also suffice.

Optional Tours may be offered in some city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each optional tour/activity will be arranged locally by our local partner/guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Tipping

Tipping isn't mandatory or customary in Thailand, but it is always appreciated. If you're happy with the services provided by waiters, drivers and other service workers, leaving a small tip is a good way to show your appreciation.

Itinerary Change

In case of some unusual events/incidents the order of programs (sightseeing, excursions etc.) might have to change in order to accommodate the local situations. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements while maintaining the overall integrity of your trip.

The domestic airlines (if your program includes) may change their schedule frequently and, in such cases, our local partner/guide will inform you about the changes.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend to choose/get an insurance plan/policy that covers your requirements/needs. And please make sure to keep/carry a hard-copy of your travel insurance documents on your person while on tour. It's prudent to check thoroughly the inclusions and procedure to file claims prior to purchasing insurance coverage. *travel-to-nature Asia* will not be responsible for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to purchase appropriate travel insurance from the date of booking.

Important Information

On all guided trips although our guides (leaders) are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.