

Ancient Kingdoms Ride



a 14 day Thailand Bike Tour

The ancient kingdom of Thailand is a land of many discoveries historic colorful temples spicy cuisine exotic cultures lush jungles and more smiles per mile than anywhere you may travel. Our Thailand bike tour through this magical country highlights it all. We meet in Bangkok, but immediately head out to quiet Nakhon Sawan. Our bike tour heads northward through the flat agricultural central plains of Thailand. This region provides many opportunities to explore small villages, ornate Buddhist temples and ruins from Thailand's long and colorful past, including fabled Sukhothai, where we have to take a full day off the bikes to discover and fully appreciate this ancient capitol.

The flat plains start giving way to rolling hills and you'll cycle through thick forests and mid-sized market towns as we wend our way further north, stopping to visit ancient temples in Lampang, before heading into Chiang Mai. You'll enjoy another free day in Chiang Mai, one of the original Thai Kingdoms, with its vibrant night market, outstanding handicrafts and numerous temples.

The last cycling leg winds its way through the Karst outcroppings of the hill country north of Chiang Mai. Here you'll discover elephant training camps, Buddhist temples built into caves and many of Thailand's ethnic tribes, still living their traditional ways. We relax in a remote mountain lodge near Chiang Dao and by the Mae Kok River in Tha Ton, before reaching the finale of our Thailand cycling holiday in the tiny village of Sop Ruak on the edge of the Mae Khong River, flowing out of China's highlands. Come discover the land of smiles !

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Your group will gather this morning at Bangkok's Suwarnabhumi Airport, then drive north of the city to ancient Ayutthaya. We'll embark on a walking tour to explore some the more significant ruins of this former capital city. After lunch, we continue north to the historic town town of Uthai Thani, our launching point for this cycling holiday. We enjoy dinner at a floating restaurant followed by the launching of traditional khom loy (Thai Fire Balloons) for good luck.

Day 2 - The first bike tour of the trip travels through the flat farmlands of the central Thailand, with emerald green rice fields stretching as far as the eye can see, punctuated by vibrantly colored temple complexes and wooden houses. Our small hotel tonight is tucked away just outside the tiny village Bahnpot Phisai. After reaching our hotel, we will shuttle over to explore Khao Noi, with its temple cave and thousands of monkeys roaming the grounds. 61 mi / 98 kms

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Day 3 – Continuing north along smaller farm roads, we may have the opportunity to witness traditional agricultural methods, duck powered pest control, sun drying of tapioca and peppers, wind winnowing of rice hulls. Our goal for the evening is Kamphaeng Phet, another of Thailand's ancient kingdoms, dating from the Sukhothai Era (500 to 700 years ago). We head out for dinner at the night market at a small, simple cafe with a fabulous chef. 59 mi / 95 kms

Day 4 - In the morning we will pedal the short way through town to Kamphaeng Phet Historical Park. This UNESCO World Heritage Site has a section of ruins within the city containing the Imperial Temple complex among others and a second section tucked away in the forests outside the city. We will enjoy a walking tour of the first and then take our bikes for a ride through the second. From Kamphaeng Phet is it a short, scenic ride through rural Thailand to our next stop at the renowned ruins of Sukhothai and our hotel sitting just outside the historical park. 53 mi / 85 kms

Day 5 - We start our day with a cycling trip through the Sukhothai Historical Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), where we will discover many fabulous ruins dating back some 500 to 700 years. The complex is an amazing tribute to the ancient kings and their visions. The afternoon is free to do as you please, relax poolside, stroll through town. For dinner, we will go "grazing" at the night food market, tasting an array of everyday Thai food, watching as the locals come to get their dinners (very few Thai's have full kitchens at home, preferring to buy their prepared dinners at the markets).

Day 6 - We head north out of the agricultural regions and into the foothills of the northern mountains today. Much of the day is quite flat, but does give way to hills as we approach the crossroads town of Thoen. At one point during the ride, it appears that massive mountains block our way, but as we approach, we come to discover that they are really flat slabs of granite turned up on edge and are only a 100 feet thick, yet towering way above our heads. We will bed down tonight in Thoen. 72 mi / 117 kms

Day 7 - Our last bike ride of the first week follows rolls through the forested hills of the north. We'll see Teak trees with their ever present flowers, small rural villages where cyclists like us generate big smiles and lots of hellos. In late afternoon, we will shuttle into Chiang Mai to avoid the afternoon rush hour traffic. Tonight we head out for a traditional northern Khan Toke dinner with classical Thai and hill tribe dancing. 46 mi / 75 kms

Day 8 - Today is a free day. A variety of options of things to do in Chiang Mai is available, from cycling tours of Wiang Kum Kam, visits to handicraft shops, cooking classes, etc. Your guides will be glad to fill you in on the options and help you plan your day. (lunch / dinner on your own)

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Day 9 - We head north this morning, following small roads along the Mae Ping through villages and past flower farms. Lunch time will find us in the town of Mae Rim, where we will break from cycling to visit an orchid grower, butterfly farm and the Mae Rim Elephant camp, where we enjoy a demonstration of the elephant's former work. In late afternoon, we remount our bikes for a beautiful ride through emerald rice paddies and past colorful temples en route to our overnight stop in the village of Baan Rai. 31 mi / 50 kms

Day 10 - Our morning ride takes us first to Mae Malai, where we visit a traditional market featuring a broad selection of local vegetables, fruits and fish, along with a tasty array of prepared foods from pad se yu (noodles) to fried insects. We will also visit the magnificent Wat Baan Den, before heading north into the rolling, forested countryside. Our bike tour winds down the day at a picturesque resort tucked in amongst the impressive karst hills ... relax by the lake with a cold Singha beer or on the porch of your teak cottage hidden in the gardens. 57 mi / 92 kms

Day 11 - After breakfast this morning, we will pedal up to a beautiful giant Buddha, perched beneath the golden cliffs, then enjoy a thrilling descent onto the agricultural realm around Fang. We will visit Tham Tub Tao, an ancient temple complex with 100s of Buddha images inside a giant cavern. Each year a gathering of 2500 monks takes place at this temple and has been happening for hundreds of years. In the afternoon we will spend some time exploring Wat Mae Ai Luang, with its historic wooden temple featuring Burmese architecture, before rolling further north to Tha Ton, our overnight stopping point. 54 mi / 88 kms

Day 12 - As the morning fog burns off, we head out for a leisurely ride along the Mae Kok, watching as the villagers start their days in the fields. In late morning, we will load up in our sag and drive to a Kayan Village perched on the mountain top (avoiding a very steep climb). The Kayan, also known as 'long neck women' or 'Paudang', have a village cooperative that sells their handwoven products to visitors like ourselves. We will re-mount our bikes in the afternoon and continue our ride to a nice lodge out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by dramatic landscapes and bucolic quiet. 52 mi / 85 kms

Day 13 - The last ride through the Land of Smiles takes us to the Mae Khong (or Mekong River as many may know it). We will explore the ancient ruins of Chiang Saen, which date back some 900 years, visit the notorious Golden Triangle (though today is a bustling tourist destination), then settle down for the evening in our hotel overlooking the river and celebrate the end of a great ride with a great dinner riverside. 36 mi / 58 kms

Day 14 - Our cycling holiday must come to an end today. After breakfast we will visit the White Temple, a

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unique Buddhist temple featuring incredible carvings by a Chiang Rai artist. Then saying our fond farewells at Chiang Rai Airport. Khap khun khap, sawasdee khap

Dates & Prices:

Please check our website for the currently available dates and the applicable pricing.

<https://pedalers.travel/thailand-bike-tours-ancient-kingdoms.htm>

At Your Request:

Private departures can be arranged pretty much year round. November thru March is best with warm temperatures and little rain. April & May are hot and sunny. June until October is the rainy season, cooler temperatures but a chance of several days of rain. Get your wheels rolling and request your At Your Request date today. Plan a trip for your bike club or corporate incentive, contact us for more details.

Lodging:

Boutique Hotels, Inns & Resorts

What's Included:

- 13 nights Accommodation in the area's better hotels (double occupancy)
- Meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 14, except as noted in itinerary
- Water, sodas or beer included at dinner
- Service of bilingual Team Pedalers Guide(s)
- Full Van Support
- Daily route directions and maps
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off

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Meeting & Flights:

The tour meets at 8 am on Day 1 at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

The trip ends at Chiang Rai Airport in late morning on Day 14. Guests who have booked their post tour accommodations in Chiang Mai through our office will be dropped at their lodges after the airport drop off.

Fly into Bangkok (BKK) before 6 am on Day 1

Fly out of Chiang Rai (CEI) after 12noon on Day 14

Note: Most flight schedules require overnighing in Bangkok upon departure.

Domestic Flights:

We suggest booking your flight from Chiang Rai back to Bangkok separately from your international flight, as it will usually work out much more economical. For ease of connecting with international flights at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, we suggest using either Thai Airways or Bangkok Airways. For more info on the various carriers and links to their websites, please visit our Thai Travel page.

Route Conditions:

The entire ride is on paved roads, most with nice pavement and wide shoulders. Traffic is moderate to light and very bike friendly. The route is suitable for performance road, sport road and touring bikes. Terrain is a mix of flat, with some moderate hills on Days 6, 7, 11 and at the finish point.

Visas & Travel Documents:

Passports are required for all guests. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended travel dates. Visas are not required for citizens of the USA, Canada, UK, EU, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, a 30 day Entry Permit is issued upon arrival in Bangkok.