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Department of Tourism of Thailand license No. 22/00782

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### Chiang Mai Chiang Rai / Full Day Tour

Highlights: Wat Rong Khun Temple (White Temple) / Wat Rong Suea Ten temple (Blue Temple) / Golden Triangle / Mekong River Cruise (Lunch)

07:00 AM

Pick up from the hotel.

Our adventure begins in Chiang Mai as we head towards Chiang Rai, Thailand. Our first stop is a sight that will leave you breathless – Wat Rong Khun, also known as the White Temple. This captivating sanctuary is the brainchild of Professor Chalermchai Kositpipat, a renowned Thai artist. Wat Rong Khun is more than just a temple; it's a masterpiece where contemporary art blends seamlessly with traditional Lanna aesthetics. As you approach, the gleaming white exterior shimmers in the sunlight, adorned with intricate stucco patterns that sparkle with embedded glass pieces. Prepare to be mesmerized by a large-scale mural gracing the walls, its vibrant colors adding to the temple's captivating aura. Step onto the bridge leading to the main chapel, a pathway symbolizing the journey towards enlightenment. Observe the intricate sculptures lining the bridge, each one a visual representation of religious precepts, subtly guiding you through the concepts of hell and heaven. The chapel itself is a vision of serenity. Imagine a pure white structure, reminiscent of a celestial castle, its contemporary architectural style adding a unique touch. The interior is adorned with shimmering silver mirrors, creating a sense of infinity and reflection. Allow yourself to be captivated by the art galleries showcasing Professor Kositpipat's work and the numerous exquisite sculptures scattered throughout the temple grounds. Each piece is an invitation to ponder and explore the deeper meanings woven into the artistic tapestry of Wat Rong Khun. Prepare to be awestruck by the sheer creativity and profound symbolism that permeate this extraordinary sanctuary.

Leaving the mesmerizing White Temple behind, we continue our exploration of Chiang Rai's artistic treasures. Our next stop is Wat Rong Suea Ten, also known as the Blue Temple, a sight that will leave you equally spellbound. Tourists flock to this temple for a reason – it's widely regarded as one of Chiang Rai's architectural marvels. Designed by Mr. Puttha Kabkaew, a renowned local artist, Wat Rong Suea Ten boasts a unique aesthetic that stands in delightful contrast to the White Temple we just visited. The vihara (sanctuary) is the centerpiece of the complex, and it's where your eyes will truly be drawn. Prepare to be captivated by the dominant use of blue – a color symbolizing peace, tranquility, and wisdom in Thai culture. This stunning blue is masterfully complemented by gold accents, creating a harmonious and visually striking effect. As you explore the vihara, pay homage to the revered Phra Buddha Ratchamongkol Bodi Tri Lokanath statue. This sacred image is believed to house

relics within its head, making it a particularly significant pilgrimage site for many visitors. Wat Rong Suea Ten offers a unique blend of artistic expression and spiritual reverence. The vibrant blue hues and intricate designs create a serene and calming atmosphere, inviting reflection and inner peace.

Lunch at the restaurant.

Our journey takes a fascinating turn as we delve into the captivating story of the Golden Triangle. Located in Sop Ruak Village, Chiang Saen District, this region is where the mighty Mekong River forms a natural border between Thailand and Laos. Here, the Ruak River joins the Mekong, marking the boundary with Myanmar. From this vantage point, you'll be able to see glimpses of both Myanmar and Laos across the water, offering a truly unique geographical perspective. As you stand here, your guide will regale you with captivating stories of the Golden Triangle's past. This region was once notorious for being the world's biggest opium producer. The convergence of the three countries fostered a lucrative yet destructive trade, reflected in the name itself. "Golden" refers to the vast amount of gold used to purchase raw opium, also known as "black gold." However, with changing times, opium cultivation and trade have thankfully become relics of the past. Thankfully, times have changed. Opium cultivation and trade have been eradicated, leaving behind a legacy that serves as a cautionary tale. However, the Golden Triangle is no longer defined by its past. Today, it's a place of serenity and beauty. Following our exploration of the region's history, we'll pay our respects at the Golden Triangle Buddha. This majestic bronze statue, gilded with topaz, stands as a symbol of peace and hope. Weighing a staggering 69 tons and towering at 15 meters tall with a lap width of 10 meters, the Buddha is a truly awe-inspiring sight. This impressive statue was built to replace a previous Buddha image that sank into the Mekong River. Enshrined outdoors on the river's shore, the Golden Triangle Buddha now serves as a beacon of peace, watching over the region as it embraces a brighter future.

Our exploration of the Golden Triangle culminates with a scenic cruise along the majestic Mekong River. This majestic waterway holds the distinction of being one of the world's most important rivers. Its journey begins high in the Tibetan Plateau, where melting ice and snow feed its powerful current. The Mekong winds its way through China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, forming a natural border between Thailand and Laos in the Golden Triangle region. As we cruise along, you'll be mesmerized by the breathtaking natural beauty that flanks the river. Lush greenery carpets the landscape, and rolling hills paint a picturesque backdrop. Observe the unique way of life of the communities residing on both sides of the Mekong. Witness the rhythm of their daily routines, deeply connected to this life-giving river. Here, the Mekong serves not only as a geographical boundary but also as a vital economic and cultural artery. Imagine the stories whispered by these waters, connecting people and fostering trade for centuries. This tranquil cruise allows you to soak in the serenity of the environment and appreciate the vital role the Mekong plays in the region's ecosystem and culture.

With a heart full of unforgettable experiences, we'll bid farewell to Chiang Rai and its captivating Golden Triangle. We'll return comfortably to Chiang Mai in the evening, where we'll drop you off at your hotel, marking the end of this enriching exploration of Northern Thailand's cultural tapestry and breathtaking landscapes.

**Prices:**

- 1 Person 9,600 THB
- 2 Persons 5,450 THB
- 3 Persons 4,250 THB
- 4 Persons 3,250 THB
- 5 Persons up 2,700 THB
- Price per person / In Thai baht / Private tour

**Included:**

- English speaking guide
- Travel accident insurance
- Admission fees as tour mentioned
- Meals as mentioned in the program (1 Lunch)

**Excluded:**

- Personal expenses
- Meals are not mentioned in the program

**Tour Difficulty Levels:**

- **Easy** / Moderate / Challenging

**No Hidden Costs:**

We are committed to providing complete transparency and ensuring that the prices and services listed on our website or in the quotation letter are the final and all-inclusive prices for our valued customers. You can rest assured that there will be no hidden or extra charges added to the quoted price. Our goal is to offer a seamless and hassle-free booking experience, and we understand the importance of providing accurate and upfront pricing to our customers. We take pride in our integrity and customer-centric approach, and we want you to feel confident and assured when booking with us. Should you have any questions or concerns about the pricing or services offered, our dedicated team is always available to address any queries and provide you with the necessary information.