

Itinerary specially prepared for  
**USC EMBA Group**  
**Thailand Post-Program Extension to Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Number of client(s):	From 2 – 10 people
Type of trip:	Culture & Local Life, Soft Adventure
Journey destination(s):	Chiang Mai

## ITINERARIES IN DETAILS

### Day 1– Sat, Jun 03: Flight Bangkok/Chiang Mai

Your time will be your own until you'll be met and transfer to the airport for the flight to Chiang Mai. Upon arrival at the airport, meet with your guide and transfer to downtown with a brief introduction enroute.

*Destination Info: Chiang Mai (New City) was founded in 1296 by King Mengrai as the capital of the first independent Thai state, Lanna Thai (Kingdom of One Million Rice Fields). It became the cultural and religious center of the northern Tai, those who had migrated from southern China to dwell in Thailand and remained so throughout the turbulent period of recurring Burmese attacks. The Burmese finally captured Chiang Mai in 1556 and occupied it until King Taksin retook the city in 1775, driving the Burmese forces back to near the present border. Burmese influence on religion, architecture, language, cuisine, and culture, however, remains strong. The city stands on the Ping River, a major tributary of the Chao Phraya River.*

**Meals:** None

### Day 2– Sun, Jun 04: Full Day Tour Chiang Mai

**For early risers: Highly recommended because this is a gentle way to see Chiang Mai Buddhist people's life:** wake up early in the morning and take a ride to Kruba Sri Vichat Statue, the holy monk of Northern Thailand to take part in a daily Buddhist ceremony "Tak Bat" or "Merit Making" by giving offerings to monks on their arms-rounds with local people. Purify your mind and learn how to give and learn a part of Buddhism. After Tak Bat, continue to Wat Suan Dok to offer some requisites to monk and receive blessings from him on this special time. Travel back to the hotel and have breakfast.

After leisurely breakfast, drive around the city, passing some of Chiang Mai's famous temples: **Wat Chiang Man** situated in town, the first temple built in Chiang Mai around 1300 AD built by the founder of the city 700 years ago, King Mengrai, on the spot where he stayed while planning his new capital; **Wat Phra Singh** founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century to enshrine the ashes of King Kam Fu has the most complete version of Lanna chapel and is home to Phra Buddha Singh, considered Chiang Mai's most important and sacred Buddha image.

Afterwards, drive to visit **Wat Suan Dok** which was built by King Keu Na of Lanna for a revered priest visiting from Sukhothai as a place for the monk to spend the rains retreat. The principal Buddha statue is a huge cast image named Phra Chao Kao Tu. Here, you will have a talk with the monk who will explain about the Buddhism, Lord Buddha, Buddhist way of life and how to do meditation. **The Monk Chat Session** gives an opportunity to have an interactive communication with Thai monks via talking in formally Buddhism and Thai Culture as well as general topics about Thai ways of living are discussed at the session. **Lunch is at a local restaurant.**

In the afternoon, drive up **Doi (Mount) Suthep** to visit **Wat Phrathad Doi Suthep** built in 1383 on Doi Suthep (3500 feet above sea – level), is the symbol of Chiangmai. It is the most sacred temple in the city and contains the holy relic of the Lord Buddha which is enshrined in the magnificent golden pagoda with a challenging flight of over 300 steps, flanked by enormous mythological Nagas. A panoramic view of the city and the surrounding countryside can be seen from the temple grounds.

After visiting Doi Suthep, we suggest a stop at the **Nimmanhaemin Street**, the most chic neighborhood where you will find cool cafes, trendy shops featuring best of Chiang Mai art & craft, fashion and antiques.

**Meals:** Lunch



### Day 3– Mon, Jun 05: Full Day Chiang Mai with different options

#### Option 1: Patara Elephant Farm - Elephant Caregiver for a day



After early breakfast, pick up and depart to the **Patara Elephant Farm & take part in tour “Elephant Caregiver For A Day”**. On arrival, you will make registration, and then get change to our training outfit, prepare for the training.

Afterwards, you will learn how to hike, track and approach your elephant in the bush, unchain the elephant, walk, feed, bathe and brush your elephant in the river. You will be trained to ride on the elephant’s neck using many different techniques with spoken commands for the elephant. Set out on a bare-back adventure and ride to a local temple, village and waterfall. You will have an opportunity to swim with your elephant. **Enjoy picnic lunch today.**

Afterwards, ride the elephant back to the farm and say goodbye to the mahouts and everyone. Return to your hotel for refreshment and the balance of the afternoon will be at leisure.

**Meals:** Lunch

## Option 2: Full Day Doi Inthanon National Park

After breakfast at about 08:00am, drive about 2hours to **Doi Inthanon National Park** located in Chiang Mai Province. Doi Inthanon National Park is one of Thailand's most famous National Parks and one of the highest mountains in Thailand. It covers some 1005 square kilometers and 8,500 feet above sea level. The Doi (mountain) is largely a granite batholith intruding a southerly extension of the Shan Hills range and forming the divide between the Nam Mae Ping River to the east and the Nam Mae Chaem River to the west. Lower elevations in the most easterly part of the park are limestone formations and contain a number of caves.

Visit the summit, the highest peak in Thailand. Make stops at: **Wat Phrathad Chom Thong** with its holy relic and ancient treasures, Wachiratharn Waterfall, the twin chedis, and the summit – containing the shrine of Chao Inthawitchayanon, the former prince of Chiang Mai. **Take a short trek along Michael's Trail** is a beautiful and unforgettable experience, the Twin Royal Pagoda to honour King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. **Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.**



This afternoon, continue your excursion to the **Royal Project, Karen village** before being back to your hotel for relaxation.

**Meals:** Lunch

## Day 4– Tue, Jun 06: **Chiang Mai Departure (Client's own tickets)**

Your time will be your own until you'll be met to transfer to the airport for the international departure flight.

**Meals:** None

**Accommodation:** None