



Terrific 13 Day Northern Thailand Tour of 2023

The tour is 13 days/12 nights with 10 days riding. Approximately 2300kms. This includes one rest day, in the infamous Golden Triangle

2023 Tour Date: 23 June to 5 July 2023

Every day is filled with incredible scenery, through lush mountainous roads with endless corners, mainly on smooth sealed hot mix. It will keep you smiling everyday, as you experience the joy of riding in Northern Thailand.

You will be accompanied by us, Karel and Howard (Joe), and our local Thai Guide. Its our goal to ensure you have the ride of a lifetime, making this a truly unbelievable adventure that you will never forget!



We are both riders, we know what riders want and like. We have designed this ride with that in mind, it is not a bus tour on motorcycles, it is a fantastic bike ride for people who love riding, with some stops (which we all need when riding), at interesting places.

We have years of experience of riding with and managing groups, we understand the dynamics of group rides, the difficulties of getting everyone ready, stopping while wearing bike riding gear in hot conditions, variant riding speeds, fear of getting lost, the need for coffee stops, stopping for fuel etc. We have these all managed and we use techniques that make it easy for you.

For you it's about having fun with likeminded people and not having to worry about any of the logistics. There are lots of jokes, great camaraderie and you may well make some new riding friends for back in NZ.

About the Ride

Starting in Chiang Mai we ride up Thailand's highest mountain, follow the Myanmar border all the way to the Golden Triangle where three countries meet on the famous Mekong River. Then we follow the Laos border on some of Thailand's most exciting motorcycling highways, visiting two more Northern Thailand cities and finally completing a grand 2300km circle back in Chiang Mai.

The Roads:

The ride is almost all on tar sealed (mostly hot mix) roads, many of which are VERY tight and twisty, with seemingly endless elevation changes. The surface, camber, and signage is generally very good and traffic volumes are low. We ride between 200 and 370 km per day which will take more hours to ride than in NZ due to the tight nature of the roads. We are on the bikes from approximately 8am to 3-4pm, with stops about every hour.

We are riding on a lot of backroads which don't have much traffic, so there's lots of space to enjoy the corners, hills and scenery.



Accommodation:

Lovely boutique hotels and resorts, with pools and individual air-conditioned rooms await you every night. You will have your own room, no sharing with others (unless you want to 😊)

Meals:

Fully cooked breakfasts, good lunches, and plenty of breaks for coffee/refreshment/snack stops along the way are provided each day. Every night you will have dinner at the hotel or nearby. All meals are provided apart from two lunches during the trip. Most of the lunches and dinners are Thai food, which is part of the experience of being in this beautiful country, with the odd variation of western food where possible. You don't have to worry, we have them all well organised and planned ahead.



The Bikes we ride:



The standard and perfectly suitable bike for this ride is the Honda CB500X which are all 2021/22 models. These bikes do a brilliant job of giving you a great ride on a nimble, fun bike.

The second option is to upgrade to a late model Suzuki Vstrom 650 if you are a larger person or riding with a pillion.

Both bikes come with a top box (40 litre, medium size) which is suitable for your daily needs although panniers are available at an extra price, however with the VIP luggage service, you won't need extra luggage space.

Support Vehicle:

We have a registered Thai Guide who travels with us in a pick-up ute. He is there to act as interpreter, we can load a bike onto the pick-up if necessary and there are always cold drinks, snacks and fruit available at every stop in the pickup. If someone gets sick or if a pillion needs a break they can also ride in the pick-up.

VIP Luggage Service:

We also have a vehicle to transport your luggage bag for you, so you can ride with just a few essential things in your top box and enjoy arriving at the hotel each day, with your luggage already in your room. The next morning, before you leave, your bag will be collected from outside your room and will be transported to the next location.

The Weather:

It is between the hot and wet season when we are there, so it's likely that we may get some rain at various times (usually late afternoon when we are just getting off the bikes). It is also low tourist season in Thailand and is one of the best times to ride there as there is less traffic on the road.



PLEASE NOTE:

This is a very challenging ride – it is a ride for experienced and confident riders. We will need to ensure that everyone's riding skills are suitable for the ride. We reserve the right to accept or decline participants. We may also recommend that riders participate in specific activities as part of the requirement to meet a minimum skill level (this may be various training courses or rides) This is to safeguard both your welfare and our H & S requirements.

Itinerary

- Day 1** - Chiang Mai, arrivals sometime in the days before or on this day, just be there for the ride information conference at 4pm at the hotel.
- Day 2** - Chiang Mai, picking up the bikes, go for a ride up Doi Suthep to familiarise yourself with the bike. Adjust lever positions etc to suit you. Fit Camera's etc if you wish. Sort out your gear and get it stored at the hotel.
- Day 3** - Chiang Mai to Mae Sariang, via Doi Internon (highest peak in Thailand)
- Day 4** - Mae Sariang to Pai with beautiful mountain roads and interesting stops on the way
- Day 5** - Pai to Chang Dao with more great roads and caves to visit.
- Day 6** - Chang Dao to Doi Mae Salong with even more great roads the amazing White Temple in Chiang Rai.
- Day 7** - Doi Mae Salong to Golden triangle (time for a quick stop at the cave where the children were rescued in 2018)
- Day 8** - Staying at Golden Triangle 2 nights, rest and relax, take a boat trip on the Mekong River, visit Laos perhaps, the Opium Museum, or the Chinese Casino in Laos (No Visa Required), this day is yours to rest, relax or sight see.
- Day 9** - Golden Triangle to Nan with a stop at a wild-west café on the Mekong riverside, into some great hill country, then ride one of the best motorcycle roads in Thailand, the HW1148).



Day 10 - Nan to Uttaradit, a ride into the more uninhabited areas of North Eastern Thailand, this is our “Intrepid Day” in the wilds of North-Western Thailand

Day 11 - Uttaradit to Phayao. More great roads traveling north, visit a dinosaur.

Day 12 - Phayao to Chiang Mai, an awesome hill climb, then a huge mountain range and finally return bikes and dinner out for a final “End of Match Function”

Day 13 - Checking out unless staying on.

Tour Cost NZD\$

13 Day Northern Thailand NZD\$	Solo Rider Honda CB 500X	Solo Rider Suzuki Vstrom 650	Pillion
	7,450	8,150	4,470

Inclusions:

- Experienced guides– you will have 2 guides riding with you, (Howard and Karel plus their local Thai guide)
- Honda/Suzuki motorcycle with hard/lockable case(s)
- Motorcycle insurance with full cover with NZD\$500 excess.
- Support vehicle follows riders, with refreshments. Can carry 1 passenger if a pillion needs a break from being on the bike
- All accommodation for the tour (12 nights) in 4 and 5 star hotels/B&Bs with own room.
- All breakfasts (12) for the tour
- All dinners (10) except on rest days; most of them in traditional local restaurants
- All water and soft drinks during included dinners
- 11 Lunches with soft drinks
- Refreshment stops + water in the van throughout the tour

Exclusions:

Flights, Travel insurance, Alcoholic drinks, lunch/dinner on the rest days, fuel for the bike, rest day activities, personal spending.

Terms and Conditions:

Deposit of \$2000 per person to confirm your place. Please complete one booking form per person.

Full payment is required 8 weeks before the start of the Tour.

Cancellation policy

Cancellations received 60 (and more) days prior to departure will be subject to a NZ\$1,000 per person cancellation fee.

For cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure, cancellation fee (per person) is as follows:

59-30 days= 40% of tour cost

29-15 days= 70% of tour cost

within 14 days= 100% of tour cost.

Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.



Please note: Prices may increase due to unforeseen events that could occur around the world, prior to the start of the tour.

Travel Agent

We have a preferred travel agent that we recommend you use. They have a great travel app, but more importantly, they can be contacted 24/7 which can be very useful when you need to change things, or when things don't go to plan.

The best contact is-

Jim Mallory, Orbit World Travel, Nelson

03 546 3904

or

jmallory@orbit.co.nz

Tell him you are with Karel & Howards Magic Thailand tour; he knows the flights you will need.

Extra luggage: You will be able to leave your travel luggage bags in secure storage at the hotel in Chiang Mai while away on the ride, so you can just take what you need for that trip in a smaller bag. This will be transported by the Luggage vehicle each day, and it will be waiting for you in your hotel room when you arrive.

Bike Insurance: Damage to or total loss of the bike is covered, with an excess of NZ\$500. This is underwritten by Magic Ltd as there is only 3rd Party insurance available in Thailand. We do have conditions and will supply an insurance document outlining the terms and conditions.

Ready to Book on?

Please complete the booking form.

One booking form per person

Once booked, you will receive a second, more detailed information pack helping you with information regarding flights, visa, health concerns, insurances, licenses etc. aimed at helping you to prepare for the ride.

Other Activities

Dental work: We have arranged a lot of dental work for clients in Chiang Mai, everything from implants to root canals and crowns, our experience is that it is about 50% of the cost of NZ. The Dental Company we deal with are a very professional organisation, very thorough and deal mostly only with Foreigners so the language is not a barrier. Ask us about this if you are interested in having some dental work done before or after the ride.

Optician:

We have a very reliable optician in Chiang Mai. They can easily organise new glasses for you while you are away riding, prices are about half NZ prices and the quality is very high.



Five night Resort beach holiday after the tour.

Interested to have a some R & R time at a stunning beach resort in the south of Thailand, before you head back home? We are going and you are welcome to join us. See attached information. This is additional to the tour and is not included in the price.

Still not sure?

Please feel free to ask any questions at any time.
Phone or email is fine.



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