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Chiang Mai Mountain Challenge

Tour ID: E

Thailand's Trans-Alp Challenge, including Doi Inthanon at 2565 masl (8565 ft), the summit of Thailand. This journey through Northern Thailand is our most challenging mountain tour.

11 days | 10 nights | 8 stages from 40 to 150 km long (25 to 93 miles) | Rest day in Pai.

Total distance of 793 km (493 miles) | Total ascent of 14 276 m (43 513 ft)



Chiang Mai – the Rose of the North is located about 700 km (450 miles) northwest of Bangkok and is surrounded by jungle-covered mountains that rise up to 1500 m (5000 feet). In Northern Thailand, a Mediterranean climate prevails, resulting in an outstanding richness of vegetation. Several unique species of orchids and roses can be found here, as well as strawberries and numerous tropical fruits. It is Thailand's second city, and features over one hundred temples and pagodas within a delightful walled old town. This ancient trading stronghold is considered the centre of many sophisticated arts & crafts including woodcarving, silk weaving, embroidery, silver jewellery, furniture, pottery, and many more. In its world-famous night market, these objects d'art are displayed on the streets after sunset. Chiang Mai is an ideal starting point for our biking tour across the fascinating Northern Thailand.



1st day

Chiang Mai

Individual arrival and transfer to the hotel, where we will meet and spend the next two nights. In the evening we will gather for a welcome and orientation in the hotel. You will receive all information regarding the tour and learn some interesting trivia about our host country. We will also hand out the Siam Bike Tours jerseys to all participants. We follow on with a dinner together, during which we will have the opportunity to get to know one another.

2nd day

Sightseeing Chiang Mai

1st stage Chiang Mai – Chiang Mai = 40 km / 25 miles, flat warm up stage

In the morning, we take a trip in our minibus to the justly famous temple Doi Suthep, which perches at 1050 m (3.500 ft) above sea level. 290 steps up the dragon staircase take you to the main entrance and to its centre, where the holy pagoda contains Buddhist relics. In the afternoon we can choose to visit various arts & craft workshops that will give you an insight into the manufacture of silk, paper umbrellas and varnish. Later in the afternoon the bikes will be set up and adjusted. We start to a short warm up stage along the Mae Ping river. You may use the rest of the evening to visit the night market or simply enjoy the idyllic old town's charm and exotic ambiance. **B**

3rd day

2nd stage, Chiang Mai – Mae Rim = 74 km / 46 miles, 1714 m / 5224 ft ascent

After a short ride through the town, we bid farewell to Chiang Mai (300 m / 1000 ft above sea level). After about 20 km (12 miles), the road slowly begins to climb and wind through rice fields, plantations and mountain villages. We cycle through jungle and into an amazing hilly landscape before ascending to this stage's highest point at 1145 m (3800 ft) above sea level. For the final 20 km (12 miles), we roll down through the valley of Mae Sa to Mae Rim where our hotel is located in a wonderful setting.

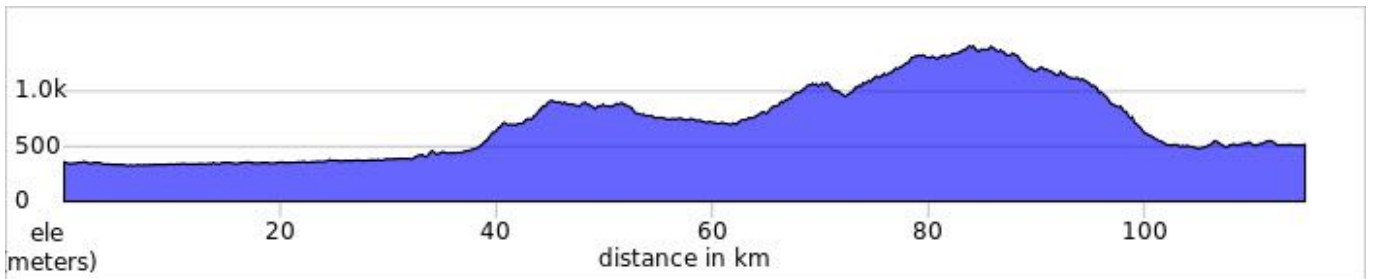
B | L



4th day

3rd stage, Mae Rim – Pai = 115 km / 71 miles, 2255 m / 6873 ft ascent

The initial 40 km (25 miles) take us on flat roads along rice fields, constantly moving towards the mountains. We then climb the four main ascents of the day ranging from 400 to 500 meters (1300 ft to 1650 ft). The winding road takes us across mountainous, jungle-covered landscapes, and through traditional villages. The highest pass lies at an elevation of 1439 m (4800 ft). Our stage ends in the small town of Pai, set in a beautiful Alpine valley. This region used to be famous as a transfer point in the opium trade. **B | L**



5th day

Rest day in Pai

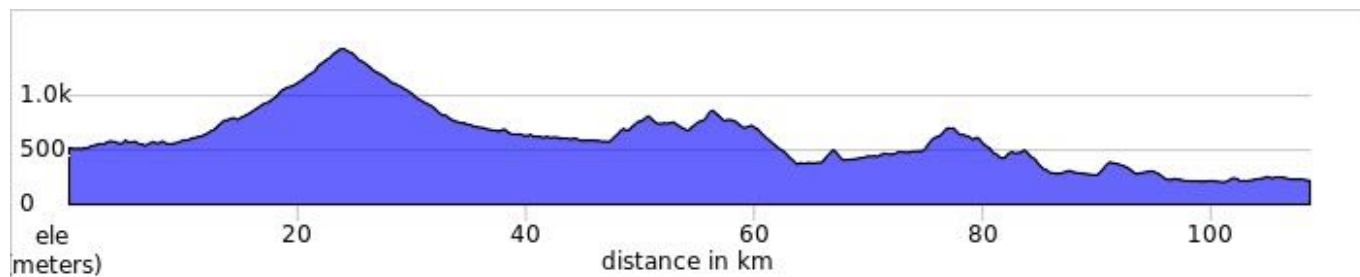
Pai is the perfect place for a day of relaxation. This cozy little town, located in a high valley, is well known for its laid-back atmosphere and music scene. The rest day offers you the opportunity to relax and take a massage by the hotel pool. Adventure seeking cyclists may prefer river rafting or a trekking tour. **B**



6th day

4th stage, Pai – Mae Hong Son = 109 km / 68 miles, 2537 m / 7733 ft ascent

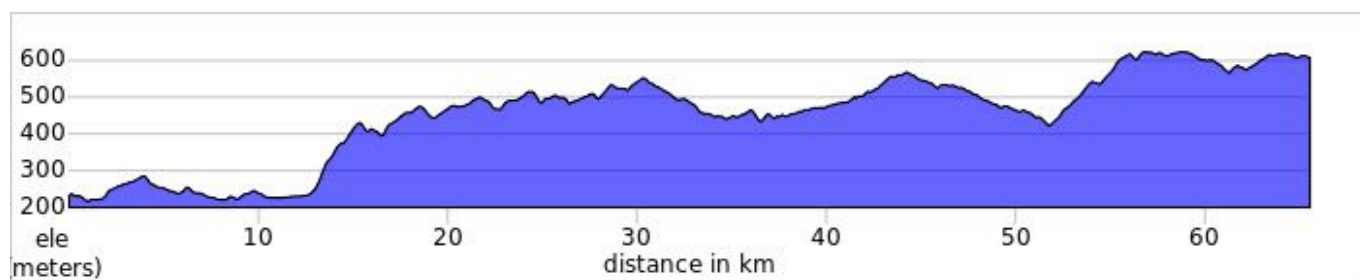
On leaving Pai, the road begins to ascend, giving hints of the climbs to come. We begin to tackle the slope towards the first peak. At an elevation of 1443 masl (4734 ft), we will be rewarded with a stunning view of the mountain landscape. We enjoy the downhill and build our enthusiasm for several more climbs along the edges of plantations and through mountain villages. Our day's ride will end at Mae Hong Son, which lies on the Burmese border. **B | L**



7th day

5th stage, Mae Hong Son – Khun Yuam = 66 km / 41 miles, 1146 m / 3493 ft ascent

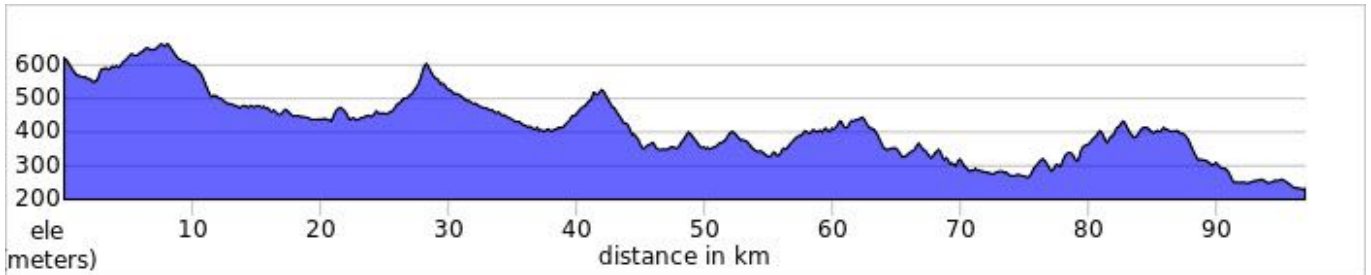
Today's moderately hilly ride consists of three longer climbs of 200 m (650 ft) each. We pass through jungle and enjoy the pristine scenery. We stay overnight in Khun Yuam, a tiny traditional Thai village. We will be wowed by the simple life and the friendliness and hospitality of the locals. **B | D**



8th day

6th stage, Khun Yuam – Mae Sariang = 97 km / 60 miles, 1401 m / 4270 ft ascent

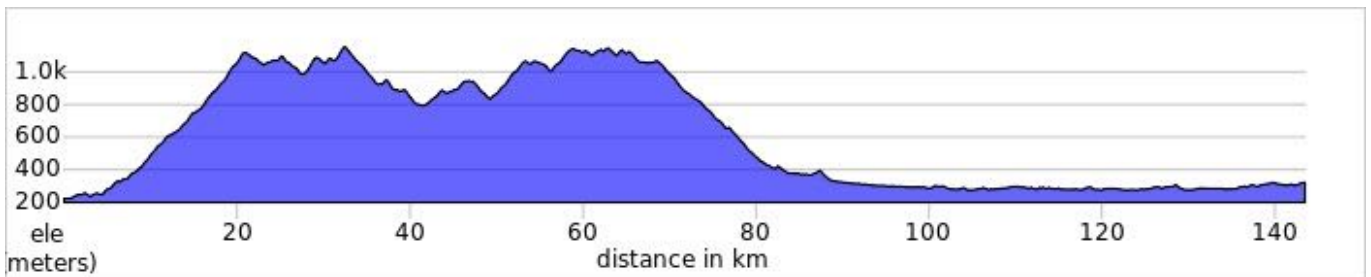
Up and down once again, we pass plantations and plenty of tiny traditional villages. The road takes us straight to Mae Sariang. Again, members of various hill tribes characterize this place. The Salween River forms the natural border with Burma. **B | L**



9th day

7th stage, Mae Sariang – Chom Thong = 144 km / 90 miles, 2333 m / 7111 ft ascent

The day's first climb begins shortly after the stage begins. At km 20 (mile 12), we reach the 1210 m high pass (4030 ft) after completing the 860 m (2.800 ft) climb. Several other ascents follow as we cross through the beautiful mountains, in and out of the jungle. Before lunch, we are rewarded with a 10 km (6 miles) long descent through a beautiful forest. We spend a relaxing night near the entrance of Doi Inthanon National Park. **B | L**

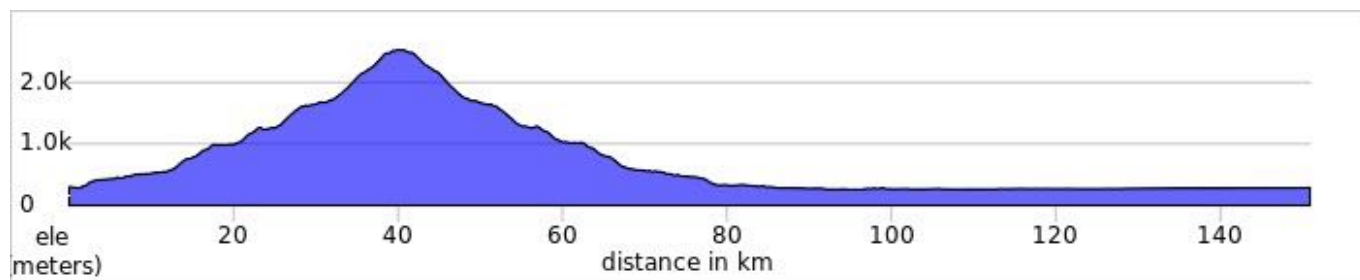


10th day – the Queen’s stage

**8th stage, Chom Thong – Doi Inthanon – Chiang Mai = 150 km / 93 miles
2711 m / 8263 ft ascent**

The last cycling day of this Northern Thailand tour is the "Queen's Stage". We climbing to the top of "Doi Inthanon", to reach Thailand's highest peak.

The road begins to gently climb as soon as we begin. After 30 km of riding, we pass a picturesque pagoda on the way to the final 10 km (6 miles) climb, that takes us to the "Summit of Thailand" at 2565 m (8565 ft) above sea level. Here we have time for pictures and to catch our breath before enjoying the downhill ride back to Chom Thong. The last 70 km (44 miles) are totally flat, as we leisurely roll towards Chiang Mai. Here, we can look forward to spending another night in our delightful hotel and enjoying a final group dinner where we may toast to a great tour and reflect on our experiences and accomplishments. **B | L**



11th day – end of an exciting tour

Extension or continuation of individual journey as one chooses

Included services

- 🚴 All overnight accommodation includes breakfast - **B**
- 🚴 **All meals during the stages – L | D**
- 🚴 Coffee breaks including ice coffee, or hot coffee, or tea
- 🚴 Isotonic drinks, coke, water and fruits provided on all stages
- 🚴 English-speaking tour guide
- 🚴 Team jersey
- 🚴 Team back pack
- 🚴 Team wallet
- 🚴 0.75 l drinking bottle
- 🚴 Isotonic drinks and fruits provided on all stages
- 🚴 Trip to Doi Suthep
- 🚴 Handicraft tour
- 🚴 Escort bus with luggage trailer, passengers possible
- 🚴 National Park fees
- 🚴 Repair service
- 🚴 Additional insurance throughout duration of tour
- 🚴 Pictures for download
- 🚴 **Royal Service** (first-class all-round service. We collect your helmets and shoes, fill up your bottles, serve you with refreshing towels and maintain your bike.....)

Not included services (rates in Thai Baht per taxi)

- 🚴 Bike rentals (**A large selection of rental bikes is available**)
- 🚴 Transfer to Hotel Chiang Mai, appr. THB 200
- 🚴 Optional tip for the staff
- 🚴 All other meals

