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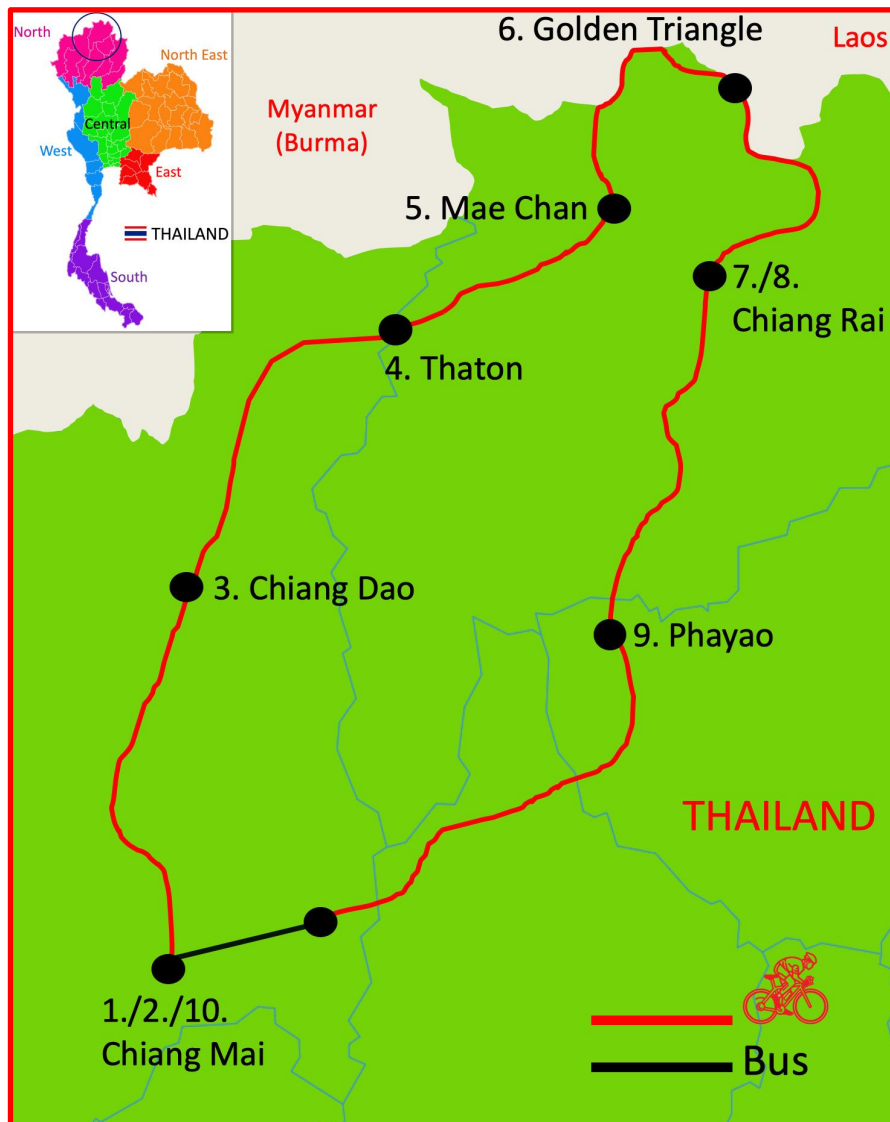


**Northern Thailand – Golden Triangle**

**Tour ID: I**

The golden triangle denotes the border region between Burma, Laos and Thailand, once notorious for the cultivation of opium. Our journey takes us there from the cultural oasis Chiang Mai in an exciting loop, then on via Chiang Rai and Phayao through the “land of a hundred thousand rice fields” back to the Capital of the North. The tour profile is mostly flat with some moderate climbs through the breathtaking, rugged landscape. Due to the cooler and drier climate, this region is not only suitable for fruit growing, but also ideal for cyclists. The wild and romantic, hilly surroundings and the excellent, low-traffic roads make this trip an unforgettable experience.

**11 days | 10 nights | 8 stages from 40 to 105 km | Total 635 km | Rest day in Chiang Rai**





**Chiang Mai – the Rose of the North** is located about 700 km northwest of Bangkok and is surrounded by jungle-covered mountains that rise up to 1,500 masl. 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.

### **Day 1** **Chiang Mai**

Individual arrival and transfer to the hotel where we will spend the next two nights. In the evening we will gather there for a welcome and orientation. You will receive all information regarding the tour and learn some interesting trivia about our host country. Each participant then receives a high-quality Siam Bike Tours Team cycling jersey.

### **Day 2** **Sightseeing Chiang Mai** **1<sup>st</sup> stage Chiang Mai – Chiang Mai = 40 km, flat warm up stage**

In the morning, we take a trip in our minibus to the justly famous temple Doi Suthep, which perches at 1,050 m 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. In the afternoon we start the first stage with a flat 40 km along the Ping River. In the evening we take the opportunity to visit the night market or simply enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Nimmanhaemin, the cool bohemian quarter with its numerous restaurants and cafés in which our hotel is located. **B incl.**



### Day 3

**2<sup>nd</sup> stage, Chiang Mai - Chiang Dao = 93 km, 500 m ascent**

With a short ride through the city we say good-bye to Chiang Mai. An undulating ride takes us through the jungle covered mountains to Chiang Dao. Here springs the source of the Maenam Ping, the biggest river in the Chiang Mai province. The nearby Doi Chiang Dao catches our eyes, as it stands at an impressive 2,175 masl making it the third highest mountain in Thailand. Nearby is the famous Dao cave (Tham Chiang Dao), which you can explore in the afternoon. **B | L incl.**

### Day 4

**3<sup>rd</sup> stage: Chiang Dao - Thaton = 102 km, 610 m ascent**

We carry on along the undulating road through the jungle covered mountains to Thaton, with some steeper climbs and small hamlets along the way. Ban Thaton is a little village in the very north of the Chiang Mai province, bordering Myanmar. In the afternoon we enjoy a long tail boat cruise on the Maekok river. **B | L incl.**

### Day 5

**4<sup>th</sup> stage: Thaton - Mae Chan = 72 Km, 785 m ascent**

This stage leads us through a hilly landscape surrounded by rice paddies. We ride through little fruit orchards and idyllic hamlets. Outside of Mae Chan, a small road leads us to a hill where the Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa is located like an oasis in the middle of the forest, offering a breath-taking view. The pure luxury of this estate will make this an unforgettable hotel for us all - "where luxury meets nature". **B incl.**



### **Day 6**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> stage, Mae Chan - Golden Triangle = 70 km, 140 m ascent**

Today we ride into the little border town of Mae Sai "The northernmost town of Thailand", which borders Myanmar. This flat stage of our tour leads us to the infamous golden triangle. The name "Golden Triangle" derives from the triangular shape formed by the three countries: Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Laos. A river cruise along the banks of the Golden Triangle on the Mekong River excited us in the afternoon. **B | L incl.**

### **Day 7**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> stage: Golden Triangle - Chiang Rai = 70 km, flat**

For the first few miles, we pedal along the Mekong river towards Chiang Saen. We then turn and ride in the direction of Chiang Rai, passing an ocean of rice paddies along the way. Chiang Rai is the northern most provincial capital of Thailand. It is located 730 km north of Bangkok. The town is nestled in the midst of a splendid mountain range within the Golden Triangle. It lies to the right of the Maekok River, a contributory to the mighty Mekong River. We stay here for the following two nights in the luxury Le Meridien – Chiang Rai resort, and enjoy the magnificent estate. **B | L incl.**

### **Day 8**

#### **Rest day in Chiang Rai**

The Le Meridien is the only 5 Star Resort in Chiang Rai province, and offers its guest's rooms that are both luxurious and stylish. The resort is located on a huge estate directly on the Maekok river bank and only a few minutes' drive away from Chiang Rai. There are a multitude of activities on offer, including spa therapy, refreshing and cooling off in the beautiful pool, or simply enjoying the beauty of the place. The hotel also offers trips to the surrounding attractions on request. We leave you to explore the fascinating region of Chiang Rai at your own pace. **B incl.**

## **Day 9**

### **7<sup>th</sup> stage: Chiang Rai - Phayao = 105 km, 315 m ascent**

Today's stage is basically flat with a few undulating parts. We ride past countless rice paddies and through traditional hamlets. The city of Phayao is located in the mountainous landscape, on the banks of a 6 km long and 4 km wide Kwan Phayao Lake. We spend the night directly on the beautiful lake promenade. **B | L incl.**

## **Day 10 – Mae Kachan Hot Spring & Geyser**

### **8<sup>th</sup> stage: Phayao - Chiang Mai = 83 km, 1,100 m ascent**

#### **Bus transfer to the hotel 70 km**

Today we enjoy another exciting stage, with a few longer, but not steeper ascents. We roll through the beautiful hills and forests. As we pedal through traditional villages, friendly locals greet us. In Mae Kachan we get off the bike and relax our legs in the thermal spring. After lunch, the bus brings us to Chiang Mai, where we can look forward to spending the night in the already well-known hotel. While enjoying our final dinner together (not included), we raise a toast to the fantastic tour, and reflect on our experiences and impressions of the stunning country. **B | L incl.**

## **Day 11 - Departure day**

### **Individual journey back home or extension as one chooses**

#### **Included services**

- All overnight accommodations with breakfast
- All meals mentioned: 10 x B = Breakfast | 6 x L = Lunch
- All coffee breaks: Iced coffee, delicious hot blended coffee beverages or tea
- Isotonic drinks, cola, water and fresh fruit on all stages
- German or English speaking tour guide
- Team jersey | Team backpack | Team wallet | Drinking bottle 0.75 l
- Accompanying van with possibility to ride along
- Trip to Doi Suthep and Handicraft tour
- Cave tour Chiang Dao and National Park fees
- River cruise Thaton and Golden Triangle
- Repair service
- Additional insurance during the tour
- Photos for downloading
- **Full Service** (Bottle refills, refreshing towelettes, storage of helmets and shoes and much more...)

#### **Services NOT included**

- Bike rental (we offer a large selection of [Canyon rental bikes](#))
- Transfer to Hotel Chiang Mai, THB 200
- Alcoholic beverages
- Voluntary tips