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5D4N MAE HONG SON (via Chiang Mai)





DAY 1: CHIANG MAI - PAI (L/D)

Arrival Air Asia flight AK 1914 8.40am at **Chiang Mai airport**. Transfer to **Pai** town in Mae Hong Son province, located in a scenic valley surrounded by mountains. Visit and have lunch in **Ban Santichon**, a village started by ex-Chinese Kuomintang soldiers who migrated here decades ago.

Visit **Wat Phra That Mae Yen** with an outdoor Buddha statue, **Coffee In Love café** viewpoint, **WWII Memorial Bridge** and **Pai Canyon** (Kong Lan). Evening, dinner and visit the **night shopping street** of Pai. Overnight in Pai.

DAY 2: PAI - THAM LOD - MAE AW (B/L/D)

Early morning, transfer to **Yun Lai Point** for **sunrise viewing of the valley**. Back to resort for breakfast. Then continue to **Tham Lod Cave** to take a **slow bamboo raft ride** into the cave and visit the ancient wooden coffins.

Lunch in Tham Lod area. Then transfer to **Mae Aw**, en-route visit **Pang Ung Lake** with scenery earning it the nickname **"Switzerland of Thailand"** and **Ban Pang Ung Coffee Growing Village**.

Arrival in **Mae Aw**, also known as **Ban Rak Thai Village** (meaning *"Love Thai Village"*); referring to it being a settlement started by former Chinese Kuomintang soldiers who had migrated here. Explore the village with a small lake and surrounding tea plantations. Overnight in resort in Mae Aw.

DAY 3: MAE AW - MAE HONG SON (B/L/D)

Transfer to **Mae Hong Son provincial capital town**, en-route visit **Pang Tong Summer Palace** (also an agro-tourism project belonging to the Thai Royal family), **Pha Sua Waterfall** and **Su Tong Pae Bamboo Bridge** (built to connect Wat Tham Phu Sa Ma temple with Ban Kung Mai Sak village).

Arrival in Mae Hong Son town for lunch. After lunch, go for **Pai River long-tail boat ride** to visit the **Long Neck Karen** village (the Long Neck Karen are refugees who cross the border from Myanmar escaping war). Return back to Mae Hong Son town for dinner. After dinner visit the 2 lakeside temples; **Wat Chong Kham** and **Wat Chong Klang**;(both temples are of Shan ethnic design); with an adjacent **night market**. Overnight in Mae Hong Son.

DAY 4: MAE HONG SON – domestic flight - CHIANG MAI (B/L/D)

Early morning, transfer with packed breakfast to **Microwave Tower Hill** for **Sunrise & Sea of Clouds viewing**.

THEN CHOOSE only 1 of 3 OPTIONS BELOW:

OPTION 1: MEXICAN SUN FLOWER FIELDS (during flower season only) Transfer to Khun Yuam to view Mexican Sunflower fields, locally called "Dok Bua Tong". The plant originated from Central America; the seeds being brought to then colonial Burma (Myanmar) by British teak loggers. The locals who worked at the logging sites brought the seeds back to Mae Hong Son and the plant flourished in the wild. It only flowers during Nov to Dec period. Khun Yuam area has the highest concentration, becoming a sea of yellow to enjoy.

OPTION 2: ELEPHANT RIDE OPTION; add surcharge RM40 per person

Transfer to enjoy Elephant ride across river and plantation area. In the past, elephants have been used in Mae Hong Son area for teak logging operations where they haul timber to the riverside.

OPTION 3: PHU KLON MUD SPA

Transfer for spa treatment (*cost of treatment not included*, guest choose package and pay direct to spa counter). The spa center uses hot spring water and mud of the area, with healing and relaxing properties attested by locals.

Lunch in Mae Hong Son town. Then visit **Wat Phra That Doi Kong Mu**, a temple and stupa perched on a hill top overlooking Mae Hong Son town.

OPTIONAL: Visit **Dhammagiri Foundation Orphanage**, founded by Malaysian monk, Ajahn Cagino and funded by donations from many supporters from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore & other countries. The orphanage's design is stunningly simple yet practical, blending in with the natural topology and environment of rice terraces and forests; using natural materials where possible. The roof of the main complex is used to grow rice!

Transfer to airport **for late afternoon flight to Chiang Mai**. Dinner in Chiang Mai. Evening, visit **Night Bazaar**. Overnight in Chiang Mai.

DAY 5: CHIANG MAI departure (B/L)

Check out hotel after breakfast. Transfer to visit **Queen Sirikit Botanical Park** (including buggy ride for sight-seeing). Then proceed for lunch at **Khao Mao Khao Fang Restaurant**, famous for good food in pleasant natural environment of trees and a waterfall. After lunch, transfer to airport for Air Asia 3.10pm flight home.

RATES: twin/triple sharing, for group size as below, travel NOV 2019 to MAR 2020. Surcharge to be advised for periods DEC 20 to JAN 6 and Chinese New Year 2020.

8 paxs (1 tour van): RM 1,660

6 paxs (1 tour van): RM 1,780

Single supplement: RM 485

Rates & Itinerary subject to changes in FOREX rates, domestic air ticket price, unforeseen surcharges, weather, etc.

INCLUSIVE:

- a) Airport transfers and tour excursion on private basis using tour van
- b) Accommodation with daily breakfast:
 PAI: Belle Villa @ PAI (Superior room) 4 star or similar
 MAE AW: Ban Rak Thai Village Resort (Superior room) 3 star or similar
 MAE HONG SON: Mountain Inn (Superior room) 3 star or similar
 CHIANG MAI: Star Hotel (Deluxe room) 3 star, night bazaar area or similar
- c) Meals as per itinerary above
- d) Entrance fees for attractions and activities as per itinerary
- e) English speaking tour guide (Mandarin guide on request)
- f) Guide & Driver tipping
- g) Daily 2 bottles of drinking water per person (except last day, 1 bottle)

EXCLUDING:

a) Return KL-Chiang Mai Air Asia airfare, airport taxes and fuel surcharges

b) Domestic Mae Hong Son to Chiang Mai air ticket

c) Travel insurance – can be arranged separately – RM 40 per person (5 days coverage)

d) Malaysians don't need visa to visit Thailand. Other nationalities to be advised.

e) Personal expenses like optional activities not included in itinerary (such as surcharge RM40/pax for Elephant riding and cost of spa treatment at Phu Klon Mud Spa), ala-carte drinks during meals, hotel staff tipping, laundry charges, mini-bar charges, etc.