

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**Note: Itinerary
Subject to Change.**



**Tentative Itinerary
Trip 2017-18 Trip NF (18 days in Thailand)
Thailand Travel Adventures
Northern Thailand
January 5 – 22, 2018**



Through the entire trip, we'll feast on wonderful Thai meals three times daily!
Plus countless snacks!



January →
2018

4	Travel Day Arrive Bangkok	5 Bangkok to Phitsanulok – Head north after breakfast, arriving mid-day in Phitsanulok – once a powerful city of the highly revered King Naresuan of the Ayuthaya era. Visit an interesting folk museum, exhibiting an impressive collection of artifacts collected by Sgt. Thawee, and the nearby Buddha statue foundry and tropical bird aviary.	6 Phitsanulok to Phrae – Explore two magnificent temples: Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat, housing Phra Phutta Chinnarat – one of Thailand's most sacred Buddha images; and, enroute to Phrae, the extensive and fantastically overwhelming Wat Sutone overseen by a gigantic and very feminine reclining Buddha. Stay at a lovely garden inn in Phrae.
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7 Phrae – Morning walking tour of the quiet, old city, visiting temples, a beautiful teakwood mansion museum and the stately residence of the last ruler of Phrae. After a lunch of northern specialties, we'll sight-see an elegant Shan temple built of teakwood and a temple of the ethnic Tai Lue with an awesome chedi surrounded by elephants.	8 Phrae – Walk among unusual rock formations at Phae Muang Phi Park, then head for the Long district of Phrae to visit an exquisite textile museum and see how the famous "tinjok" fabric is intricately woven. Stop by a temple with centuries-old, carved wooden Buddhas and a large bell made from the casing of a US World War II bomb.	9 Phrae to Nan – After breakfast at our homey garden inn, we'll head up a hill to the large Wat Phra That Chaw Hae dedicated to people born in the tiger year. Colorful murals in one of many chapels. Also see Wat Phra That Jom Jaeng with a giant standing Buddha. Shop for indigo cotton clothing for which Phrae is known before heading to Nan.	10 Nan – Walk from our boutique hotel to the heart of old Nan, sightseeing four temples in close proximity to each other, including Wat Phumin with the North's most acclaimed murals. Discover Nan's history in the local branch of the Nat'l Museum. Watch the sun set over Nan valley at the hill-top Wat Phra That Khao Noi. Dine on fine northern cuisine.	11 Nan – Morning trip to the Na Noi area in the southern part of Nan province to explore an extensive area of otherworldly rock formations in Sri Nan National Park. Return to town after lunch to visit a temple museum with interesting antique artifacts preserved from a bygone era. Also visit a teak mansion museum nearby.	12 Nan – Stop by a small cafe with wonderful, locally grown and roasted coffee on our way to view art at the Nan Riverside Gallery, Sightsee Wat Suan Taan, guarded by imposing green nagas, and the eye-popping golden Wat Sri Pan Ton across from a popular dessert house. Visit the Hilltribe Silver Museum in a Hmong silver center.	13 Nan to Bo Klua – Head up the mountains to the Crown Princess's Phu Fah Cultural Center – take an educational walk through woods preserved for two of the country's most "primitive" tribal peoples: the Lua and Mlabri. Continue to Bo Klua to see the renown, ancient mountain salt wells. Stay at a lovely resort with sweeping views.
14 Bo Klua to Pua – Drive the picturesque, winding road through Doi PhuKa Nat'l Park, stopping at viewpoints along the way. This time of year, an indigenous tree often called Thailand's "cherry blossom tree" is in full bloom, billowing with pink blossoms. Wind down the mountains to the beautiful Pua valley where we'll stay at a teak lodge.	15 Pua – Sightsee the ethnic Tai Lue temples of Pua with their own architectural features, delightful murals, colorful banners and learn about their culture: Wat Ratchasima, Wat Ban Ton Lang, Wat Rong Ngae and Wat Phuket with scenic views of the tranquil valley. Visit a weaving village and Hmong silver center; shop for local handicrafts.	16 Pua – Daytrip to the Tha Wang Pha district to visit one of the oldest and most revered Tai Lue temples – Wat Nong Bua, with splendid murals and a Tai Lue house museum. After lunch, head up the mountains to a remote Mien (or Yao) hilltribe village where coffee plantations have replaced the largest opium fields in Thailand.	17 Pua to Chiang Rai – Drive through mountainous country towards Chiang Rai, stopping in the town of Chiang Kham in Phayao province to see one of the most gorgeous Shan temples in the North, the main chapel made of intricately carved teakwood inside out. Continue on to the city of Chiang Rai. Optional night bazaar walk after dinner.	18 Chiang Rai to Doi Tung – Daytrip to the Doi Tung mountains, a deforested area now lushly reforested by the late Princess Mother. Tour the Mae Fah Luang Royal Villa, the lovely gardens and the absolutely moving Hall of Inspiration. Support the PM's work with Doi Tung coffee, macadamia products, ceramics and textiles produced by once impoverished ethnic peoples.	19 Doi Tung to Mae Salong – Explore the Mae Fah Luang Arboretum on Doi Tung where colorful rhododendrons and azaleas are in full bloom in a forest setting. Visit the MFL Foundation projects – textiles, ceramics, coffee and macadamia nut products. Continue on to the picturesque Mae Salong mountain range settled by KMT Chinese soldiers now naturalized citizens.	20 Mae Salong to Chiang Rai – Morning market walk in the Chinese village, where many Akha hilltribe people sell their wares. Tea tasting in a breathtaking setting of neatly cultivated plantations and blooming cherry blossom trees on steep slopes. In Chiang Rai, we'll visit the magical Black House Museum, once the residence of an acclaimed, visionary national artist.

21 Chiang Rai – Explore the fabulous Mae Fah Luang Art and Culture Center in a lush garden setting, showcasing a priceless collection of art artifacts from ancient to modern. Then experience the almost fairytale-like "White Temple" (Wat Rong Khun), a work in progress by another well-known artist and a big contrast with the Black House Museum.	22 Chiang Rai to Bangkok – Return to Bangkok by air, arriving around mid-day. Eat our way through the city's finest and most colorful fresh food market, with top quality fruits and irresistible snacks. Shop for organic herbal products to take home. Farewell Feast! (with live traditional music and dance performance).	23 Travel Day Depart Bangkok
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