

Thailand

A Greentours Itinerary

Days 1 & 2

Arrive Bangkok and fly to Chiang Mai

An overnight flight takes us to Bangkok and there we board a connecting flight to Chiang Mai where we'll settle into our hotel, our base for the next two nights.

Day 3

Huay Kaew Waterfall

Waterfalls set amid the forested hills of Doi Suthep offer a great introduction to the butterflies of Thailand. We can expect to see two hundred and fifty species or more on this tour and we'll start with some real beauties such as the shimmering green and blue Paris Peacock and the yellow and black Golden Birdwing. There are other swallowtails too including Common Windmill, *Papilio polyuctes* and the impressive Red Helen. Feisty White Dragontails are great fun and as Cruisers and Clipeps fly past we'll note birds such as the lovely Green Magpie, Silver-breasted Broadbill and Streaked Spiderhunter.

Black-crested Bulbul and Flavescent Bulbul are common in the trees by Huay Kaew Waterfall and we'll see parties of Short-billed Minivets, long-tailed dark grey birds with striking red markings in the male and bright yellow markings in the female. The gorgeous Asian Fairy Bluebird will be watching us as learn more of the local butterflies. The deep orange Cruiser is a strong flier but stops along the path edges, much calmer on the wing is the equally big Clipper, a beautiful species with complex markings of green, blue, white and grey. Nymphalids are particularly varied and especially common here are the barons and dukes – we'll see *Athyma cama*, *Lexias pardalis*, *Tanaecia julii*, *Laringa horsfieldi*, and the Palmfly. Other species on the wing include *Lamproptera meges*, *Eurema andersonii* and *Eurema simulatrix*, as well as the lovely jezebel *Delias descombesi*.

In the trees more birds are passing - groups of pretty Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, whilst in the understory are Puff-throated Bulbul, Rufous-fronted Babbler and Hill Blue Flycatcher. The lovely 'lacewing' *Cethosia biblis* will certainly keep the photographers working hard, and there's range of more cryptic species in the forest understory including *Discophora sondaica*, *Thauria aliris*, *Lethe confusa*, *Lethe naga*, *Mycalesis sangaica* and both *Ypthima confusa* and *Ypthima savara*. The lovely sapphires (*Heliophorus* species) will be much appreciated and we'll see *Parantica sita*, *Aemona amathusia*, *Aemona lena*, *Zemeros flegyas*, *Abisara echerius*, *Abisara fylla*, *Abisara neophron*, *Dodona egeon*, *Ancistroiodes nigrita*, *Iambrix salsala*, *Lotongus caluthus*, *Matapa cresta*, the Striped Blue Crow, and Dark, Tailed, and Forest Judies.

Days 4 – 6(am)

Doi Inthanon National Park

A paved road takes us all the way to the top of Doi Inthanon, the highest point in Thailand. We'll make various waterfall stops en route – the waterfalls perhaps a secondary interest to the butterflies visiting them! The striking large red, black and white swallowtail *Parides zaleucus* will be a highlight but the supporting cast of *Lethe chandica*, *Lethe europa*, *Penthema darlisa*, *Faunis canens*, both *Symbrenthia hypselis* and *Symbrenthia lilaea*, *Euthalia alpheda* and *Euthalia teuta*, and the gorgeous orange long-tailed 'yamfly' *Yasoda tripunctata*, is pretty special.

At the summit a boardwalk takes one through surprising habitats for Thailand, for here we'll walk amongst elfin forest and sphagnum bog. Butterflies are few, but there's great birds here, notably Grey-chinned Minivet, Ashy-throated Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Rufous-winged Fulvetta and Grey-cheeked Fulvetta. There's the colourful Chestnut-tailed Minla, cryptic Eyebrowed Wren Babbler, impudent Rufous-backed Sibia, subtle White-bellied Erpornis, shy White-browed Shortwing and the elegant White-rumped Shama. Two stunning sunbirds are likely to be seen, Mrs Gould's and Green-tailed. Butterflies we are likely to see include *Euthalia aconthea*, *Lebadea martha*, *Loxura atymnus* and the strikingly striped orange *Chersonesia rahrioides*. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes are active in the herbage and we'll see Black-headed Woodpecker and the diminutive Collared Falconet.

The Doi Inthanon Highland Resort has some great habitats around it and we'll see plenty of butterflies here including several swallowtails - *Troides aeacus*, *Papilio demoleus*, and *Papilio polytes*. Pretty *Delias agoranis* and *Delias descombesi* visit flowering *Ixora* and we'll enjoy *Hebemoia glaucippe*, *Pareronia anais*, *Parantica aglea*, *Ariadne merione* and the widespread but rarely common Blue Admiral. Amongst *Lycaenidae* there will be *Chilades pandava*, *Surendra quercetorum*, and *Ampittia maroides*. Both Lineated Barbet and Golden-throated Barbet are noisy and the lovely Black-naped Monarch is tolerably common and we'll also see Mountain Tailorbird and hopefully the shy but strident Slaty-bellied Tesia.

Days 6(pm) - 8

Erawan National Park

A whole day will be spent driving from Doi Inthanon to Kanchanaburi. We will stop a few times en route, but essentially it is a day lost to travel, necessary to get to southern Thailand.

Here we'll gratefully settle into the lovely Dheva Mantra whose fine rooms back on to the River Kwai. The whole region is stunningly beautiful with extensive forests cloaking architectural limestone hills. The hotels gardens will keep us busy

Gorgeous Ruby-cheeked Sunbird visit the many flowering shrubs whilst visiting the garden's trees are Bronzed Drongo and the strikingly coloured Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. The birdwing *Troides aeacus* drifts majestically around the garden

and we'll see the 'rose' *Pachliopta aristolochiae*. Among the commoner whites are orange *Ixias pyrene*, and two grass yellows *Eurema ada* and *Eurema laeta*. Dark Blue Tiger is a frequent visitor to flowers here and these also attract *Ariadne ariadne*, the jester *Symbrenthia lilaea* and *Syntarucus plinius*. The Restricted Demon *Notocrypta curvifascia* buzzes around the flowerbeds and other butterflies we'll encounter in these rich grounds include *Ethope diademoides*, *Cethosia cyane*, *Cirrochroa tyche*, *Rohana parisatis* and *Drupadia ravindra*.

We'll find abundant butterflies around scenic Erawan waterfall. However we'll also find plenty of visitors for this beautiful place is a major tourist attraction. However the butterflies seem to care little about the heavy footfall and we'll have a great time sorting through them! We'll see Orange Gull, Common Bluebottle, Black and Tawny Rajahs, Black Prince, Red-spot Marquis, Marbled Map, and both *Libythea geoffroy* and *narina*.

The swallowtails *Papilio polytes*, *Papilio memnon* and the Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon* fly back and forth stopping occasionally to shiver their wings and sip salt. *Delias hyparete* and *Delias pasithoe* are two pretty species of jezebel found here and we'll note *Euploea aglea*, and the tree browns *Lethe europa* and *Lethe minerva*. *Neptis nata* and *Moduza procris* pose beautifully on the wet rocks, and we'll look for *Caleta roxus*, *Anthene emolus*, and a triumvirate of 'flashes' namely *Rapala iarbus*, *Rapala manea*, and *Rapala pheretima*. As is often the case where there's plenty of people we'll find the birds here reasonably habituated. Groups of Black-bellied Malkoha are joined by both Green-eared Barbet and White-browed Piculet, and with luck we'll find Dark-necked Tailorbird, whilst elegant Tickell's Blue Flycatcher sally forth from low twigs.

An hour from our accommodation is Sai Yok National Park. Northern Pig-tailed Macaque are found here and there's a cave where we can see a roost of Kitti's Hog-nosed Bats. Striped Tit Babblers fossick in the pathside vegetation and we'll also encounter both White-throated Fantail and Pied Fantail in the same habitat. Both Grey-headed and Bamboo Woodpeckers work the trees close by the cave and we'll see Plain Flowerpeckers and Forest Wagtails in the area.

We'll seek *Lamproptera curius* and the albatrosses *Appias libythea* and *Appias albina*, *Euploea aglea* occurs in small numbers and we'll likely encounter *Mycaleses mnasicles*, *Euthalia dunya* and *Euthalia recta*, This is a good area for sailors and we'll hope to see both *Neptis harita* and *Neptis miah*, as well as *Tanaecia cocytus* and *Charaxes solon*, The small *Pithecops corvus* will amaze us and other smaller butterflies we expect to see include *Castelius rosimon*, and the skippers *Halpe porus* and *Iton watsonii*.

Days 9 – 11

Kaeng Krachang National Park

There's plenty of Elephants in the area around Pala U Waterfall however they are not easy to see. Butterflies are a different matter and we can expect *Cirrochroa tyche* and *Terinos atlita* as well as whites such as *Cepora iudith* and *Cepora*

nadina. *Papilio mahadeva* is found here and other swallowtails will include *Graphium aristeus*, *Graphium doson* and *Graphium xenocles*. The spectacular Great Hornbill feeds in large fig trees at the top of which lurk *Mycalesis anaxias* and *Euploea modesta*. Black-hooded Orioles are common in the trees as are Olive Bulbuls and we'll see butterflies such as *Pareronia valeria*, *Gandaca harina*, *Vagrans egista* and *Celaenorrhinus aurivittatus* flying among them. The beautiful *Cyrestis themire* is likely during our stay and other highlights will likely include Larger Harlequin, Red-spot Saw-wing, Tailed Jay, Siamese Raven, Common Nawab and the lovely little Green Dragontail.

On Day 11 we'll head south to Brassiere Beach where we'll stay the night. The garden here overlooks the forested limestone slopes of KSRV National Park and we can watch our first Dusky Langurs whilst eating breakfast. The park has a rich variety of coastal habitats including mangroves and salt pans, coast. *Danaus melanippus*, *Chilades laius* and *Badamia exclamationis* should be seen during a short walk through the mangroves and we'll see Long-tailed Macaques, Osprey, the unusual Bell's Butterfly Lizard, and both Black-capped and Mangrove Kingfishers.

Days 12 – 15

Khao Sok National Park

Dusky Langurs and Long-tailed Macaques cavort around the forest edge by our accommodation in Khao Sok National Park. Trails lead into the forest where we'll soon hear the bubbling calls of White-handed Gibbons as they pass through the forest. We'll likely see family groups of this beautiful primate on more than one occasion. Both Little Spiderhunter and Streaked Spiderhunter search the boughs of the rainforest trees as we follow a trail close to a beautiful river. The birdwing *Troides helena* flies up and down the trail and there's plenty of dragonflies alongside the river. Soon we'll see the large white black-spotted *Idea stollii* floating about like a piece of tissue in the air ahead of us and in the understory, as Red Junglefowl scratch in the leaf litter, several *amathusids* such as *Amathusia phidippus*, *Amathidia amythaon*, *Discophora sondaica* and *Faunis kirata* might flush up. There's plenty of swallowtails, among seven species of *Graphium* are *Graphium antiphates*, *Graphium arycles*, *Graphium bathycles* and *Graphium evemon*. The lovely windmill *Pachlioptera coon* is found here. We'll search the lower subcanopy where Bulbuls include Straw-headed, Spectacled, Yellow-bellied and Hairy-backed and searching carefully at head height we'll find the oakblues *Arhopala democritus* and *Arhopala ijauensis* as well as the beautiful *Drupadia ravindra*. The tree yellow *Gandaca harina* and skippers such as *Notocrypta pria*, *Ochus subvittatus*, *Oriens gola*, and *Pseudokerana fulgur* will be seen. The forest trail is a great place for birds and we'll come across Vernal Hanging Parrot, Plaintive Cuckoo and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha as well as Great Hornbill. Forest nymphalids are very well represented with several 'barons' such as *Euthalia dunya*, *Euthalia evelina* and *Lebadea martha*, and 'archdukes' include *Lexias canescens* and *Lexias dirtea*. There's the commander *Moduza procris*, the eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina* and both *Athyma ranga* and *Tanaecia iapis*. We'll see the fast-flying

Charaxes bernardus and the autumn leaf *Doleschallia bisaltide*. Crows (the butterflies!) include *Euploea eyndhovii*, *Euploea mulciber*, and *Euploea radamanthus*, and both *Terinos terpander* and *Xanthotaenia busiris* inhabit the undergrowth. There's really an impressive range of butterflies here – there's still plenty to see such as Spotted Jay, *Thaumantis klugius*, Common Posy, Tiger Hopper, *Neorina crishna*, *Thauris lathyi*, *Cethosia hypsea*, *Cyrestis nivea*, *Cyrestis themire*, *Cyrestis thyodamas*, *Rhinopalpa polynice*, *Polyura moori*, *Polyura hebe*, and *Iton semamora*.

There's also plenty of variety around the lodge with whites such as *Appias libythea*, *Appias lynxida*, *Appias paulina*, *Cepora nadina*, *Pareronia valeria* and *Saletara liberia* flying about the flowering shrubs, these also visited by two striking birds, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker and Crimson Sunbird. Blyth's Hawk Eagles soar overhead as we watch *Neomyrina nivea*, *Zeltus amasa*, *Zemeros flegyas*, and the leopard *Phalanta alcippe*. The Atlas Moth can be found here too and we're very likely to come across a Chestnut-breasted Malkoha or two.

This forest reserve is particularly good for reptiles and we know a great spot to look for Dumeril's Monitor and we are likely to see Tokay Gecko, Masked Spiny Lizard, Forest Crested Lizard, Common Four-clawed Gecko, Common Sun Skink, Bowring's Supple Skink, the Parachute Gecko and the marvellous Orange-winged Flying Lizard.

In the evening of Day 15 we'll fly back to Bangkok.

Day 16 departure from Bangkok

Call 01298 83563 or visit www.greentours.co.uk for the latest trip report from our previous tours to Thailand. If you would like to ask about any other aspect of this holiday, please call 01298 83563 or email us at enquiries@greentours.co.uk.

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