

Luxury Villa in Northeast Thailand



Highlights

Relax in a private holiday villa set amongst the paddy fields of the Isaan plateau, in northeast Thailand. This eco-friendly retreat is designed to reflect the Thai architecture of the region, positioned on stilts and with a sloping roof of terracotta. This pleasing design and the fact that the villa was built with sustainable tourism in mind, make this place the perfect antidote to the tourist traps of the south.

Nestling among rice paddies, orchards and tropical woodlands, Green Gecko is a far cry from the busy beaches of Thailand's rambunctious south. The traditional-style villa boasts extensive grounds (3 hectares, featuring walled gardens, ponds and plantations of sugar cane and cassava), a private infinity pool and chic wooden decking and verandas, while inside there are two king bedrooms (en suite), a large living and dining room (raised on stilts for stunning views of the surrounding countryside), two kitchens, a sunken snug with widescreen LCD TV and DVD library and a "sala" (a sheltered but open-air relaxation area). All this is exclusively yours during your stay!

You might be thinking that this doesn't sound that different to most other villa rentals, but you'd be wrong. Although the villa is a great place to come for some luxury and seclusion, it's even better as a launch pad to explore the culture and landscape of the north-east, and the Green Gecko team are only too happy to help you. You can hike, bike or boat around the nearby villages and wetlands, visit the local school, join in the rice harvest or try Muay Thai (boxing), followed by a soothing pool-side massage. Fancy learning to cook Thai food? The villa is fully catered and serviced, and the chef loves to show off his skills. Or why not brush up on your Thai language over a rice whiskey? It's completely up to you what you make of the Green Gecko experience. Whether you want to enjoy the luxurious villa in complete privacy or to immerse yourself in the local culture and legendary hospitality, Green Gecko is a top choice. And the best part? All proceeds from your time at the villa stay in the village, where they're used to assist the local primary school and to promote ecological sustainability through tree-planting and conservation measures. Now if only the rest of Thai tourism was like that!

Is it for me?

Isaan is a long way from Phuket, so if this is your first trip to Thailand and if you're expecting beach bars and full moon parties you'll probably want to stick to the south. The rural north-east of the country sees very few tourists, which means it's friendlier but also more traditional, so it's more important to be respectful here (covering up in temples, showing deference to older people, etc.). The Gecko team can fill you in on this sort of thing, and with their help you'll have the chance to see and do all kinds of things that most tourists have little clue about: rice-harvesting, buffalo-steering, pig-rearing, etc. etc.! All this is optional of course; if you'd rather laze by the pool all day that's fine too, though most guests tell us that it's the lovely host family that make the trip that bit special. Either way, Green Gecko is most suited to those who enjoy lush landscapes, tranquil surroundings and getting off the infamous "beaten track". If you're an adrenalin junkie or a party animal, though, you best look elsewhere!

Accommodation

The house is set among woodlands, with serene views over to rice paddies and tropical plantations. It offers two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a living room, dining room, fully-equipped European and professional Siamese kitchens, a typical "sala", a large wooden deck and a private swimming pool.

Prices from

167 GBP (1 night) per person

Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ **The Best Local Operators**
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ **Local Price Guarantee**
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ **Secure Online Payments**
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ **ABTA Bonding for your protection**
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover


ABTA No. L7477

All meals are prepared for you on this holiday. Thai - and Northeastern food in particular - is by its nature searingly spicy but you can have it as mild as you like. Vegetarians and people on special diets are also catered for, just let your chef know beforehand.

Itinerary

The villa is a place to relax and enjoy yourself, but there are a whole wealth of activities to get involved in if you want to learn more about the Isan way of life. Below are a few suggestions.

Enjoy a traditional Thai massage.

Learn Thai cooking.

Make a cultural trip to the Ban Chiang archaeological museum and see its traditional pottery.

Try rice farming - plant the seedlings and harvest and thresh the rice.

Experience local festivals such as Loy Krathong, Songkran and Ork Phansa.

Attend a mor-lam music festival with its particular dancing style, and drink copious amounts of the preferred moonshine - rice whisky!

Star-gaze your nights away at the villa.

Cycle around the countryside.

Learn to drive the Thai tuk-tuk.

Muay Thai (Thai boxing) training session.

Visit the local village temples, or awake early to participate in morning alms giving.

Visit a local school and encourage the children to practice their English skills. If you have an old laptop or other articles that the school could use, any donation would be highly appreciated. Teachers are delighted to welcome guests to Nam Thieng primary school where around 165 local children study. Help the schoolchildren improve their basic English.

Visit local waterfalls; Phu Phra Bat Park with its prehistoric cave paintings and old rock formations; Phu Foilom historical park; the silk weavers of Nha Ka village; the cobra farmers of Kok Sa-Nga; and the border town of Nong Khai on the Mekong river, from where you can cross the Friendship Bridge over into Laos and its capital, Vientiane.

Photograph the landscape and take portraits of the people you meet.

Some activities are seasonal, such as rice planting and harvesting.

Details

Getting there

Udon Thani is easily accessed by car, train, bus or plane.

By plane...

There are daily non-stop flights from Bangkok to Udon Thani (UTH) on the national airline, Thai Airways, as well as on the budget airlines Nok Air and Air Asia. Book your air tickets to Udon Thani online via the internet sites of Thai Airways, Air Asia or Nok Air. Air Asia operates several flights a week between Udon Thani and Phuket. Nok Air operates direct flights between Chiang Mai and Udon Thani. Free transfers are provided to and from the villa and the airport.

By train...

The nearest small railway station is Huay Sam Phat, but the house is also easily reached from Udon Thani train station. Tickets can be booked ahead of the date of travel (or immediately prior to departure) via the State Railways of Thailand.

By car...

If you wish to drive to the house, you will be met and guided on the last leg of your journey to the property.

Price includes

Airport transfers, the entire house and private pool, all your meals prepared by your personal chef, bottled water, and local assistance (including complimentary maid and laundry services.) A good supply of cold beer is also provided free of charge...

Price details

Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing. Price per person for 3 to 4 guests is £185 / 8,500 THB.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 days - 6 days

Travellers should bring

A sense of adventure A good appetite Suncream