

Chiang Mai to Pai on scooter

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Pai is always mentioned as must-visit for everybody visiting Northern Thailand. Distance from [Chiang Mai](#) to [Pai](#) is not big, so we decided to go there.

Many people go there for one or two day-trip from Chiang Mai. Most of them use bus. But only a few decide to go there by scooter.

Why? Because you can read on the Internet that it's dangerous and the road is difficult. Also many companies in Chiang Mai refuse renting scooter for someone willing going on it to Pai.

It's true that the way is risky. But in our opinion it's a risk worth taken.

We've come back from our trip to Pai few days ago. And we think it was one of the best journeys we have ever had!

TIPS:

1. Take your time.

The road from Chiang Mai to Pai takes at least 3 hours. We were driving about 5-6 hours because we took about 10 short breaks.

Our advice for you is to do the same. You won't be exhausted and you will be able to enjoy the beautiful views!



2. Leave early in the morning.

This is the most important advice:

- it's not very hot in the morning
- views are incredible (we even saw elephants without any chains on the way back to Chiang Mai)
- you will have a lot of time in case if something bad happens (flat tire etc.)
- you will avoid traffic jams



3. Make sure you know what you are going to do.

We don't think the road it's difficult. It's true it's a little curvy but all the stories about extremely winding road that you can read on the Internet are a little exaggerated.

The most difficult part of the trip is... painful butt. Sitting on the scooter for a very long time is not comfortable. Make sure you are resistant to that kind of pain ;).



4. Dress wisely.

We were traveling on April and sweat suit+ t-shirts were enough for us.

Wear sunglasses and helmets. They will protect you from the sun and wind.



5. Get some fuel.

If you have a full tank in Chiang Mai, you should get to Pai without fueling up on the way.

Remember that there won't be any place to buy gas about 50 km before Pai. If you are looking for the best and the cheapest way to refueling your scooter, choose gas machines.

They are very easy to use- just put in the money (coins or 20, 50, 100 baths) and fuel your motorbike up.



Enjoy your trip! Let us know in comments if our tips were helpful for you :).