Off the Beaten Track: Thailand

**THA TON**
Come to this remote-feeling riverside town for the scenic long-tail boat to Chiang Rai, but stay for hill-tribe trekking and frontier exploration.

**PHAYAO**
Break up your journey to Chiang Rai with a detour to this little-visited northern town. The mountain-framed lake provides sunset views and evening dining.

**BUENG KAN**
This Mekong River town boasts Wat Phu Tok, which sits atop a sandstone outcrop accessed by a network of rickety staircases.

**PHRAE**
Reminiscent of Luang Prabang and Chiang Mai without the tourists (or the tourist infrastructure), this northern town is a wanderer’s best friend. Antique teak houses, tasty food and totally tout free.

**THA TON**

**E-THONG**
Snoozing in thick jungle on the border with Myanmar, this former tin-mining outpost is a village escape with a frontier feel.

**BUENG KAN**

**UM PHANG**
A mysterious park of wild rock formations and spiritual remnants from ancient times.

**PHU PHRABAT HISTORICAL PARK**

**THA TON**

**KOU SUKORN**
Ko Sukorn is a cultural paradise filled with tawny beaches and rubber plantations. It’s the perfect place to experience village life.

**KO SUKORN**

**KO PHAYAM**
A beach retreat for the resort-averse, Ko Phayam has fine sand, a range of accommodation and motorbike-friendly paths. Sand and sea without the distractions.

**UM PHANG**

**KO PHAYAM**

**AO KHANOM**
A pretty Gulf of Thailand bay with long beaches and regular visits from pink albino dolphins. It is a dreamy natural setting without much development.

**AO KHANOM**

**KO PHAYAM**

**KO TARUTAO**
Tarutao, part of a marine park, is so far south it is practically in Malaysia. But it is a top castaway contender with secluded alabaster beaches.

**KO TARUTAO**