



**Discover Corps**

*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*



## THAILAND: THE LANTERN FESTIVAL



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Bike through Sukothai's Historical Park, visiting ancient ruins**
- **Release a lantern as part of the Chiang Mai Yi Peng Festival**
- **Bathe and feed elephants at the internationally recognized Elephant Rescue Park**
- **Try a local coffee or tea in rural Mae Kampong and relax with a traditional Thai massage**
- **Create a clay amulet Buddha and learn traditional Thai cooking from a local chef**

*Experience  
Loy Krathong  
celebrations in  
both Sukhothai  
and Chiang Mai*

# TRIP AT A GLANCE

8 Days / 7 Nights

## PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

## GROUP SIZE

Average 6, Maximum 16

## LODGING

Premier



FESTIVAL

## CHIANG MAI

**DAY 1** - Settle in and dine at one of the city's top restaurants

**DAY 2** - Visit a local herb garden, bustling market, and an ancient temple

## SUKHOTHAI

**DAY 3** - Create your own clay amulet Buddha and learn traditional Thai cooking from a local chef

**DAY 4** - Bike Sukhothai's Historical Park and participate in the city's Lantern Festival celebrations

## CHIANG MAI

**DAY 5** - Explore the ancient Sri Satchanalai and enjoy Loy Krathong activities in Chiang Mai

**DAY 6** - Bathe and feed elephants at the Elephant Rescue Park and enjoy an immersive Loy Krathong and Yi Peng Festival

**DAY 7** - Take in the scenery of Mae Kampong and relax with a traditional Thai massage

**DAY 8** - Depart for home

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- Phuket & Koh Phi Phi
- Bangkok
- Angkor Wat

## THAILAND: THE LANTERN FESTIVAL

### OUR PURPOSE

Embark on an unforgettable adventure in the colorful Southeast Asian country of Thailand. The epicenter of traditional culture, the Kingdom of Thailand is known for its lush greenery, crystal blue waters, exceptional cuisine, ancient architecture, and rich cultural traditions. With Discover Corps, you'll explore this multi-faceted country and experience all it has to offer with one of our expert guides.

We'll journey through Northern Thailand to the ancient cities of Chiang Mai and Sukhothai, exploring their ancient history and cultures, visiting beautiful temples and savoring tasty Thai cuisine at buzzing food markets. We'll also venture into the beautiful countryside of Northern Thailand, experiencing the scenic village of Mae Kampong and visiting an Elephant Sanctuary.

In these cities, we'll enjoy the festivities of Loy Krathong, known as Thailand's Festival of Lights. Dating back nearly 800 years, Loy Krathong is one of the biggest festivals in the country and takes place over multiple days. Your Discover Corps Guide will take you behind the scenes in both Sukhothai and Chiang Mai to learn about the festival, make your own krathong (a small boat/basket with candles and flowers), and participate in the festivities alongside locals.





# DISCOVER THE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Loy Krathong, known as Thailand’s Festival of Lights, dates back nearly 800 years and is one of the biggest festivals in the country. Taking place over one or two days, the people of Thailand celebrate by making krathongs, small lotus-shaped boats traditionally made from banana leaves and decorated with flowers that are then released along waterways as an offering of thanks to the Goddess of Water. The festival also includes firework shows, kathrong building competitions, beauty pageants, and more.

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



### KRATHONGS (BOATS/BASKETS)

A krathong is a small lotus-shaped boat usually made from banana leaves, decorated with flowers, and filled with 3 sticks of incense and a lit candle. On the evening of the Loy Krathong festival, people gather around rivers, lakes, and canals to release these baskets in honor of the Goddess of Water.



### TRADITIONAL THAI DANCING

Dance is an important part of Thai culture and plays a prominent role in Loy Krathong festivities. Celebrations throughout the festival can feature many dance forms, including traditional Lanna dances such as the fingernail dance (Fon Lep), candle dance, and circle dance. Dancers wear colorful, traditional Thai costumes and are joined by skilled musicians, often accompanying the dancers on traditional instruments.



### LANTERNS

Thousands of floating lanterns are released into the sky, symbolizing the lantern bearer letting go of misfortunes from the previous year and wishing good luck and fortune for the coming year. As part of the Discover Corps experience, you will have the opportunity to release lanterns into the sky while listening to the chanting of monks in a truly immersive experience.



### FIREWORKS

Along with lanterns and krathongs, immaculate firework displays are one of the most visually stunning aspects of the Loy Krathong experience. Each region's festivities are slightly different, but nightly firework displays remain constant across most celebrations. In Sukhothai, we'll attend a special evening performance of light shows, fireworks, and dance that encompasses the surrounding temples.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



### ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

Elephants are one of the most iconic symbols of Thai wildlife and play an important role in their culture and folklore. However, the population is facing threats from poaching, habitat loss, and the unethical use of elephants in trade and tourism. During this unforgettable excursion to the Elephant Rescue Park you'll have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to feed and bathe the elephants with park volunteers, while learning more about the plight of the elephant and the role this renowned sanctuary plays in education and conservation.



### MAE KAMPONG

Just 50 kilometers east of Chiang Mai is the village of Mae Kampong, a small town of <400 people, nestled in the mountains of Northern Thailand. One of the town's most famous attractions is the Flight of the Gibbon zipline, which offers visitors the chance to glide high in the rainforest canopy from one tree to another. The Discover Corps experience includes meeting with locals for a hike and tour of local plantations as well as a special opportunity for a home-cooked lunch with residents and a traditional Thai massage. Flight of the Gibbon is optional.



### LOY KRATHONG FESTIVAL

*Loy Krathong*, known as Thailand's Festival of Lights, dates back nearly 800 years and is one of the biggest festivals in the country, honoring the Goddess of Water and the Buddha. Taking place over one or two days, the people of Thailand celebrate by making krathongs (boats/baskets) at home with friends and family before heading to waterways or temples for religious rituals before releasing their krathongs. The festival also includes firework shows, krathong building competitions, beauty competitions, and more.



### YI PENG FESTIVAL

The Yi Peng Lantern Festival also dates back nearly 800 years to the ancient Lanna Kingdom and was traditionally celebrated to mark the end of the monsoon season and beginning of the cool season. Many locals view the festival as a way to release negative energy and wish for good luck and fortune in the coming year, as well as honoring the Buddha. The most popular practice of the festival in the launch of thousands of lanterns into the night sky, but you can also expect to see rituals of worship, decoration contests, parades, traditional Thai dance shows, and live music.

## WHY TRAVEL WITH DISCOVER CORPS?

- Get a front-row seat to the most magical time of year in Thailand joining both the Yi Peng & Loy Krathong Festivals
- Expert local knowledge from your Discover Corps guide will help you get the most out of the experience & festivals
- A curated, behind-the-scenes itinerary of culture, nature and festivities will come together to create a truly once-in-a-lifetime trip
- Extend your journey to other regions of Thailand and Southeast Asia on one of our post-trip extensions



# ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** Arrive and relax before dinner at one of the top restaurants in Chiang Mai

Arrive in Chiang Mai and meet your Discover Corps guide and driver, who will assist with your hotel transfer. Get settled and relax before our welcome dinner at one of Chiang Mai's top restaurants. (D)

**DAY 2:** Experience the charm of Chiang Mai with visits to an herb garden, a local market, and an ancient temple

Today, we'll slow down and immerse ourselves in the laid-back pace of life and culture of Chiang Mai. We'll begin our morning with an intimate visit to a traditional herb garden before boarding a long tail boat for a scenic cruise on the Mae Ping River to the famous Warorot market. After taking our time to peruse the wares of local vendors, we'll climb aboard a pedal-powered rickshaw and travel the streets of Chiang Mai to the ancient Wat Phra Singh temple. Spend time enjoying the serenity of this tranquil, historic temple before returning to the hotel for a relaxing dinner together. (B,L,D)

**DAY 3:** Make your own amulet clay Buddha and learn traditional Thai cooking in the home of a local chef

After breakfast, we'll begin our drive to Sukhothai. After settling into our hotel and enjoying lunch, we'll head to a cultural center, Baan Phra Phim. Local expert, Mr. Kob, will guide us as we make a clay amulet Buddha, sharing with us the history and significance of such amulets while we create. He'll also provide a tour of the museum and live demonstrations of ancient activities. Enjoy a unique Discover Corps dinner experience in the home of talented local chef, Miss Na. She'll teach us how to make a few traditional Thai dishes, using local ingredients such as herbs and vegetables typical to Central Thailand's home gardens. You won't experience local, home-cooking quite like this anywhere else. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4:** Explore Sukhothai Historical Park by bike and participate in the city's Loy Krathong festivities

Enjoy a leisurely morning on your own or join the Suthep Sangkhalok making workshop. This hands-on experience allows you to paint your own ceramic bowl at the iconic Suthep Sangkhalok factory while learning about this historic bowl and how its produced. This afternoon, we'll hop aboard bikes to explore Sukhothai Historical Park (tuk tuk ride also available for those that do not bike). In the evening, we'll enjoy the Loy Krathong celebration where you can expect to see displays of lighted candles and fireworks, folk dancing, and a spectacular light and sound presentation. (B,D)





**DAY 5:** Explore the ancient Sri Satchanalai temples and enjoy Krathong celebrations and activities in Chiang Mai

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we'll drive to the site of an ancient town at the Sri Satchanalai Historical Park. Visit numerous monuments throughout the park including stunning ancient temples and the Thuriang Kilns, an archeological site containing the ruins of a 13th century pottery factory that features the oldest known kilns in Thailand. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before making the drive back to Chiang Mai. Once we've arrived, you can either rest or take an evening walk around the town to enjoy the Krathong celebration, decorations, activities, and more. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6:** Bathe and feed elephants at the Elephant Rescue Park and enjoy an immersive experience at the Yi Peng Festival event

Prepare yourself for an unforgettable excursion to the Elephant Rescue Park in the picturesque valley of Chiang Mai, a sanctuary and rescue center for Asian elephants. Experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to feed and bathe the elephants with park volunteers. Later that night, we'll join the annual Yi Peng Event for an unforgettable evening of traditional dance performances as thousands of candle-lit offerings are sent out on the river. (B,L,D)



**DAY 7:** Experience Mae Kampong's scenery and relax with a traditional Thai massage

Sleep in for a bit before we head for the rolling hills of North Thailand, specifically the beautiful rural village of Mae Kampong. We'll make a stop along the way at a local market where we'll purchase fresh ingredients for our lunch. In Mae Kampong, your Discover Corps Guide will introduce you to locals who will take us on a light hike to explore and learn about their coffee and tea plantations before we enjoy a home-cooked meal. Relax after lunch with a Thai massage, allowing the tranquil setting and traditional techniques refresh your body and mind. You'll also have the option to tour the village further or put your thrill to the test with the "Flight of the Gibbon" adventure ziplining across the rainforest canopy. We'll end the evening back in Chiang Mai with an elegant farewell dinner. (B,L,D)



**DAY 8:** Return Home

After breakfast at the hotel, your guide will transfer you to the airport to catch your flight home. (B)

**PREMIER LODGING**

You will have two bases on this adventure. In Chiang Mai, an exquisite centrally located boutique hotel complete with a refreshing pool is your home, with top sights and markets right at your doorstep. While in Sukothai, you'll be treated to picturesque views and five-star amenities at a luxurious resort and spa, designed with the sentiment of harmony and an added emphasis on green and eco-conscious practices.

# THAILAND: THE LANTERN FESTIVAL

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
Nov 23 - Nov 30, 2023	<b>\$3,995</b>	<b>\$3,795</b>
Nov 11 - Nov 18, 2024	<b>\$3,995</b>	<b>\$3,795</b>

<b>OPTIONAL EXTENSION</b> Phuket & Koh Phi Phi	<b>\$1,195</b>	<b>\$1,095</b>
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<b>OPTIONAL EXTENSION</b> Bangkok	<b>\$1,195</b>	<b>\$1,095</b>
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<b>OPTIONAL EXTENSION</b> Angkor Wat	<b>\$995</b>	<b>\$895</b>
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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights lodging at Ratilanna Riverside Spa Resort in Chiang Mai
- 2 nights lodging at Sriwilai Resort & Spa in Sukhothai
- All meals throughout the trip except one lunch in Sukhothai
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Private, air-conditioned car for transfers
- Snack, water and local fruits every day while doing activities
- Admissions and entrance fees to parks, historic sites and all transportation during the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All gratuities for drivers, porters, and restaurant staff
- 2 welcome and farewell drinks per person
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- One lunch
- Tips for Discover Corps guide(s)
- Laundry services, phone calls, and Internet service
- Optional zip-lining at Flight of the Gibbon

*The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$895 per person for the trip, \$395 per person for the Phuket & Koh Phi Phi extension, \$195 for the Bangkok extension, and \$195 for the Angkor Wat extension. You are required to pay the SRS for the extension if we cannot find a suitable roommate.*

*Price does not include a \$200 one-way domestic flight supplement if you are taking the extension to Phuket & Koh Phi Phi or Bangkok, or the \$250 flight supplement if you are taking the Angkor Wat extension.*

## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner



# Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	ITALY
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BELIZE	KENYA
BHUTAN	MEXICO
BRAZIL	MOROCCO
COSTA RICA	PERU
CUBA	SOUTH AFRICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



**Discover Corps**  
*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*

Visit [discovercorps.com/register](https://discovercorps.com/register) to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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