



GRASSROOTS
EXPEDITION



Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



THAILAND: THE ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Explore the rich culture of the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai**
- **Volunteer with rescued elephants at the Thai Elephant Nursery**
- **Live the life of a mahout as you walk, bathe and feed the elephants**
- **Explore Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a magnificent Buddhist temple and monastery dating back to the 1300s**

Help Care for Rescued and Vulnerable Elephants in the Valleys of Northern Thailand

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

GROUP SIZE

Average 6, Maximum 8

LODGING

Standard Nights 1-4, 8-9 / Rustic Nights 5-7



GRASSROOTS
EXPEDITION

TRIP AT A GLANCE

10 Days / 9 Nights

CHIANG MAI

DAY 1 - Arrive in Chiang Mai and meet your Discover Corps group

DAY 2 - Explore Chiang Mai on a walking tour and experience an interactive Thai cooking class

DAY 3 - Venture to Doi Inthanon National Park home to Thailand's tallest mountain.

DAY 4 - Visit the Elephant Parade House and a fascinating organization making eco-conscious art from elephant dung.

DAY 5 - Visit the countryside outside Chiang Mai and the Buddhist temple Wat Doi Suthep. Meet a nearby hilltribe community.

MAE TANG

DAY 6 - Travel to the Elephant Sanctuary to meet the elephants and mahouts

DAY 7 - Help care for the elephants as you walk, feed, and bathe them

DAY 8 - Continue your interactions with the elephants at the sanctuary

CHIANG MAI

Day 9 - Return from the Elephant Sanctuary. Visit a women's empowerment project and a bustling local market.

Day 10 - Transfer to the airport to return home or catch your flight to Phuket and continue on to the beaches for the optional extension

THAILAND: THE ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE

OUR PURPOSE

Help care for elephants at an elephant sanctuary, living the life of a mahout and helping to protect Thailand's vulnerable population of these magnificent creatures. Explore the ancient temples and buzzing markets of Chiang Mai, and the unspoiled beauty of the northern Thai countryside.

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. At Changland Elephant Sanctuary, where you'll spend the bulk of your trip, rescued elephants are cared for by expert mahouts, who you'll work alongside and learn from. You'll immerse yourself in the life of a mahout, rising early to walk and bathe the elephants, collecting grass for their meals, and feeding them. As you work, you'll learn about these beautiful, intelligent creatures, and gain a deeper respect and appreciation for their relationship with humans.

In addition to our interactions at the elephant nursery, we'll delve into the ancient history and culture of Chiang Mai, exploring beautiful monasteries and savoring Thai cuisine at food markets. We'll also venture into the beautiful countryside of Northern Thailand, experiencing the jungle in an unforgettable way as we raft along the waterways.

Optional Extensions

- Phuket & Koh Phi Phi
- Bangkok
- Angkor Wat



HIGHLIGHTS



CHIANG MAI

The largest city in northern Thailand, Chiang Mai is steeped in history and culture. You'll explore the city's historic old town on a walking tour, taking in historic Buddhist temples and bustling street markets. The immaculate Wat Phra Singh is Chiang Mai's most sacred temple, while Talat Pratu is the best place to come to savor Thailand's famous street food. To get a feel for the region's traditional folk culture, head to the Lanna Folklife Museum.

WAT PHRA THAT DOI SUTHEP

Overlooking Chiang Mai from its position high in the green hills outside the city is Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a magnificent Buddhist temple and monastery dating back to the 1300s – although judging by its gleaming golden stupas, it could have been built yesterday. Legend has it that the site for the temple was chosen when a white elephant carried a relic here, believed to be one of the Buddha's shoulder bones.



ELEPHANT PARADE HOUSE

Founded in 2006, Elephant Parade is an internationally renowned organization that creates uniquely decorated elephant statues aimed at promoting elephant conservation. These life-sized statues are designed by artists and celebrities which then tour major cities across the globe. You'll have the unique opportunity to meet the team and design your own mini baby elephant statue - a special keepsake to remind you of your time with these amazing creatures.

Changland Elephant Sanctuary

The bulk of your elephant adventures will take place at the Changland Elephant Sanctuary, where you'll spend several days working with mahouts (elephant handlers) to care for Thailand's vulnerable elephant population. You'll roll your sleeves up and dive in to daily life with the elephants, walking and bathing them, collecting grass to prepare their meals, and feeding them. You'll also meet adorable younger elephants frolicking through the trees (*note that these elephants do grow fast so may be bigger than pictured by the time you arrive*)!



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Meet Your Discover Corps Guide and Group

Arriving in Thailand, you'll be met at the airport by your Discover Corps guide and taken to the hotel, where you'll meet our group for the trip. We'll enjoy a local dinner at the Sunday Night Market and outline the plans for the next ten days as we get to know each other. (D)

DAY 2: Take a Walking Tour of Chiang Mai and Experience an Interactive Thai Cooking Class

This morning we'll take a walking city tour of Chiang Mai, visiting local temples, trying new food at an outdoor market and simply taking in the sights and sounds of this northern Thai city. After lunch, we'll exercise our creative juices with an interactive Thai cooking class with a chef, learning how to make the most important Thai dishes. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Visit Majestic Doi Inthanon National Park

Enjoy a relaxing morning before setting out to Doi Inthanon National Park. Known as "the roof of Thailand", this sprawling park is home to the highest peak in the country, remote villages and cascading waterfalls. Return to Chiang Mai in the evening for dinner together. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Visit the Elephant Parade House and Experience Art Inspired by Elephants

Start the day with a visit to an organization reusing elephant poo to make eco-conscious art and paper products. It sounds funny but this organization is on a mission to recycle waste and raise awareness about elephant welfare. Take a crack at making your own "poo paper" products and see these artisans in action. After lunch, visit the Elephant Parade House, which is creating a global movement through painted baby elephant statues. The life-size statues are exhibited in international cities and raise awareness about elephant conservation. Travelers will also have the opportunity to paint their own "mini" baby elephant! For dinner, be wow-ed by a traditional dance while you eat. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Head into the Countryside and Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep

Heading into the green hills around Chiang Mai we'll visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, an ornate Buddhist temple which offers breathtaking views. Next we'll explore the lush botanical gardens of Doi Pui and visit a local market, getting a sense of the traditions of the Hmong, the ethnic hill tribe community that inhabits the area. (B,L,D)





DAY 6: Live the Life of a Mahout at the Elephant Sanctuary

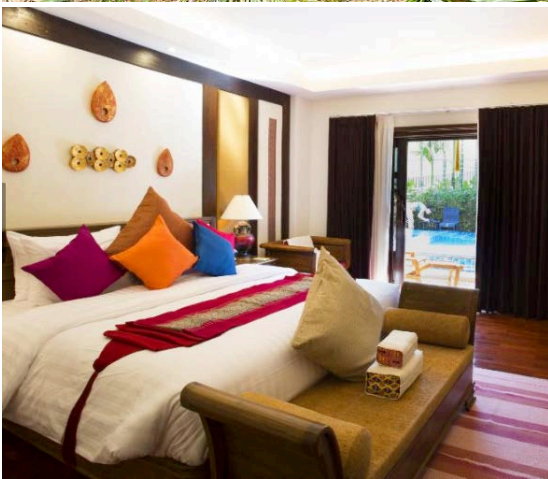
Over the next two days, we'll experience the life of a mahout, rising early to feed and bathe the elephants, compost their poop, and collect grass for their food. Set in its own valley about 1.5 hours from the city, drive through stunning mountain landscapes to reach Changland Elephant Sanctuary, a place where elephants often roam free and forage in the nearby forests. Throughout the day, spend your time walking with the elephants through the mountains, bathing them, and feeding them. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Continue to Care for the Elephants

Start your day with an early morning walk with the elephants, helping to feed and bathe them. You will also experience the life of a mahout - harvest food for the elephants, learn about sustainable agriculture, compost with elephant poop, and make herbal medicine balls to feed to the elephants that need it. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Spend a Final Day Caring for the Elephants

Today sees our final day caring for the elephants. After morning walking, we'll continue to collect grass for food and feed the elephants, soaking in our last moments with these magnificent creatures. (B,L,D)



DAY 9: Visit the Wildflower Home & Explore a Traditional Market

Today, head back to Chiang Mai to make a special visit to the Wildflower Home, a women's empowerment project. This will be an insightful opportunity to learn ways they are protecting women & the local communities. After lunch, experience a guided local market visit, a must for any visit to Southeast Asia!. In the evening, enjoy a candlelit river cruise and relaxing farewell dinner onboard. (B,L,D)



DAY 10: Return Home

Today sees the end of your Thai adventure, and we'll return you to the airport for your flight home. If you're not ready to depart just yet, continue on to our Koh Phi Phi, Angkor Wat or Bangkok Extension, discuss on the next page.(B)

STANDARD / RUSTIC LODGING

You will have two bases on this adventure. Whilst in Chiang Mai, a centrally located boutique hotel complete with a refreshing pool is your home, with top sights and markets right at your doorstep. Up in the mountains at the Elephant Sanctuary, traditional thatched roof cabins nestled in the jungle offer rustic accommodation in a lush valley.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION: PHUKET & KOH PHI PHI

DAY 10: Evening Tour of Phuket and Summit of Rang Hill

Arrive by plane in the beach side city of Phuket and enjoy a relaxing free day to explore nearby markets, local cuisine, or a drink by the pool. In the evening, experience a unique evening tour of the city's historic quarters. Marvel at the mix of old and new buildings, learn about the history of the people, and drive up to the summit of Rang Hill for sweeping views of Phuket by night. Wind down with a traditional Thai dinner amidst terraced gardens. (D)

DAY 11: Travel by Speed Boat to Koh Phi Phi Island

Watch the lush mountainside disappear as you boat 1.5 hours to the island of Koh Phi Phi (the journey is as great as the destination!). Experience a free night on the island where you'll find plenty of restaurants, beautiful lookout points, and local performances. (B)

DAY 12: Explore Koh Phi Phi Island

Today is a free day to enjoy the beautiful Koh Phi Phi. Your 4.5 star resort offers plenty of options to relax by the pool or sign up for an excursion such as kayaking, snorkeling, or boating to other nearby islands. The choice is up to you! (B)

DAY 13: Return Home

Today sees the end of your Thailand adventure, and we'll say our goodbyes before your speedboat back to Phuket for your flight home. (B)

Extension Lodging

In Phuket, relax by one of the two outdoor swimming pools (poolside bars included!), enjoy complimentary wifi, a 24-hour fitness center, and let your kids loose at the children's pool in a 4.5 star hotel.

In Koh Phi Phi, your 4.5-star resort will have you falling asleep to the sounds of the ocean in spacious, secluded bungalows. Just steps to the crystal Andaman Sea, enjoy a half-mile stretch of private white sand beaches.





OPTIONAL EXTENSION: BANGKOK

DAY 10: Sail Up the Chao Phraya River to Wat Arun and Wat Pho

After an afternoon relaxing, shopping, or swimming in the rooftop pool of your hotel, start your first evening with a stunning trip up the Chao Phraya River before enjoying dinner overlooking the glistening Wat Arun temple. After sunset, stroll the peaceful temple grounds of Wat Pho before hopping in a tuk tuk through the city's historic quarter. Visit Pak Klong Talad, one of the country's largest fresh markets, before settling in for the evening. (D)

DAY 11: Visit a Family-Run Workshop and the Famous Grand Palace

Day two introduces you to a more local side of Bangkok with a ride on the city's Skytrain – mimicking the commute of many during rush hour. Hop on a public boat and enjoy views of the city skyline as you pass by houses balanced on stilts along the river's edge. Stop at the iconic Grand Palace along the way, and visit a family-run workshop that produce monks' alms bowls and begin to better understand life in the region.

Rarely used by tourists, you'll end your night gliding through the city's canals before a traditional Thai meal on the riverfront. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Experience a Traditional Floating Market

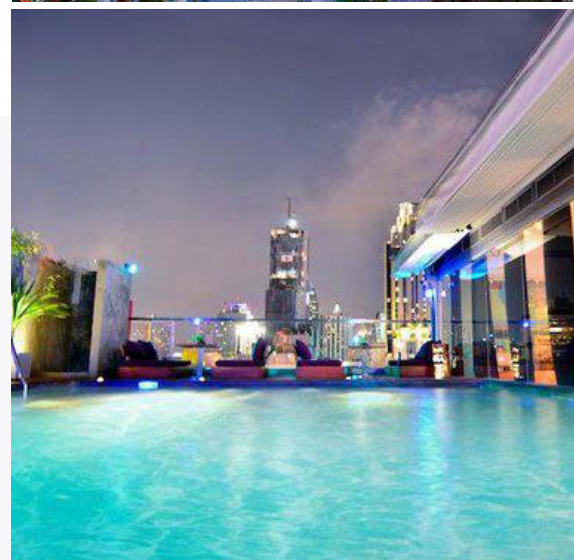
Stop at a local railway station where a bustling country market has sprouted up along the tracks. As a train pulls into the station, witness the vendors quickly clearing their stalls off the railway. Then, after the train departs, watch them set up shop and resume business as usual.

From here, continue to the famous Damnoen Saduak Floating Market and purchase your souvenirs as you float through the stalls on the water. Leave the hustle and bustle for a quiet paddle boat ride nearby before heading back to your hotel for airport transfer back home. (B)

Extension Lodging

Stay at a unique, boutique 4-star hotel in the city center. The salt-water rooftop pool and fitness center offer stunning views of Bangkok, making it easy to relax after your long trip and just before your Bangkok adventure begins.

**Note: If you are interested in traveling on both of the extension options, just call Discover Corps or let your travel specialist know and we will happily accommodate!*





OPTIONAL EXTENSION: ANGKOR WAT

DAY 10: Arrive in Siem Reap

Arrive later in the afternoon by flight to Siem Reap. Meet your new guide and settle into your accommodations. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Cambodian dinner before a relaxing evening as we prepare for the adventures ahead. (D)

DAY 11: Catch the Sunrise over Angkor Wat and Visit Other Nearby Temples

Start early to experience the sunrise over Cambodia's five iconic towers, including Angkor Wat. On this full day of exploring, start by visiting Bayon, the temple at the center of Angkor Thom city. Because we'll get there early, you will miss the crows and be able to start by exploring the upper platform where the temple's iconic face-towers are located. You will then continue to Ta Prohm, the temple made famous by Angelina Jolie in *Tomb Raider*, and gaze at the gorgeous trees and vines growing atop the temple wall.

The final stop of the day is the incredible Angkor Wat. As you journey through this sprawling temple, it is easy to see why it has become the symbol of Cambodia. A 12th century structure that took 30 years to build, the temple is full of carvings and beauty that you won't soon forget. (B,L)

DAYS 12 & 13: Travel to Banteay Srei, Experience a Blessing Ceremony, and Visit a Path-breaking Organization

Start your morning with a visit to the "pretty" temple of Banteay Srei, also known as the *Citadel of the Women*. This remains the best preserved temple in Cambodia and is the only temple build of pink sandstone. We then head to a local pagoda where a monk will perform a private blessing ceremony before an opportunity to mingle with local communities to learn more about their everyday life. After lunch, visit APOPO, a locally-run organization that is working to remove landmines buried in the countryside. On your final night, Enjoy an evening of culture at Phare Cambodian Circus Show, setup by refugees of the Khmer Rouge era as a way to promote the arts and traditional Khmer culture. The following day, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight home. (Day 11: B,D / Day 12: B)

Extension Lodging

Base yourself in the heart of the Cultural Quarter at Treeline Urban Resort, a gorgeous 4-star hotel complete with a spa, restaurant, pool, fitness center, air conditioning, and more to make you feel comfortable and right at home. A truly luxurious stay to end your Southeast Asia adventure.

**Exact property may differ but will remain in 4-star boutique category*⁸





THAILAND: THE ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
November 17-26, 2024	\$3,695	\$3,495
Dec 17-26, 2024	\$3,695	\$3,495
Dec 29-January 7, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
January 12-21, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
January 26-Feb 4, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
February 9-18, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
February 16-25, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
May 4-13, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
June 29-July 8, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
July 6-15, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
July 20-29, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
August 10-19, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
August 31-Sept 9, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495

OPTIONAL EXTENSION - Phuket & Koh Phi Phi	\$1,495	\$1,395
--	----------------	----------------

OPTIONAL EXTENSION - Bangkok	\$1,295	\$1,195
---	----------------	----------------

OPTIONAL EXTENSION - Angkor Wat	\$1,495	\$1,395
--	----------------	----------------

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$695 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. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. See full details on the website page for the trip. You are required to pay the SRS for the extension.

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 \$300 flight supplement if you are taking the Angkor Wat extension.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 6 nights lodging in Chiang Mai, 3 nights lodging at the Elephant Sanctuary
- All meals throughout the trip (9 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 dinners)
- An active daily itinerary including hands-on experiences with elephants & their caretakers
- English-speaking guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All in-country transportation with experienced drivers
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- All alcoholic beverages
- Laundry and phone services
- Extension: Activities on Koh Phi Phi Island (provided by your resort at an extra cost: snorkeling, kayaking, etc.)
- Tips for the local guide & driver

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 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

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.

CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

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

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

**Dates don't work? Contact us about
adding a new date for the trip.**



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



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



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit 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.

+1.619.758.3030 • www.discovercorps.com • info@discovercorps.com