

Travel to...

Thailand

...with the **National Peace Corps Association**



Memorable Moments...

- Explore the rich culture & shimmering temples of the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai
- Lend a hand at a local primary school helping to teach basic English
- Care for rescued elephants at a leading elephant sanctuary
- Connect with a pioneering organization called the Wildflower Home that is working to promote women's empowerment in Thailand
- Meet with a monk to learn about Buddhism in contemporary Thai society
- Uncover the beauty of Thailand alongside fellow NPCA members



Operated by



Itinerary

Dates: December 6-15, 2026

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights

Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Lodging: 4-star boutique hotel lodging

Optional Post-Trip Extension: December 15-18, 2026 in Phuket & Koh Phi Phi
(Thailand's southern islands)

Day 1: A warm welcome awaits you as you arrive in Chiang Mai International Airport where the Next Step Travel team will meet you with open arms. After bags are collected and everyone is set to go, we'll venture into the historic city center of Chiang Mai to our boutique hotel accommodations. Upon arrival, check-in, relax and enjoy a tasty welcome dinner hosted by your guide. Over the next week and half, we will explore the natural beauty of northern Thailand as well as engage with local schools, a pioneering women's empowerment organization & a leading elephant sanctuary. (D)

Day 2: Enjoy a relaxing breakfast before a morning orientation which will cover the program for the week, a bit of Thailand's history and cultural do's & don'ts. We'll also dive into an introductory Thai language lesson so you'll be equipped to navigate Chiang Mai over the next week!

After lunch, we'll embark on 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. Along the way, 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)

Days 3 & 4: The next two mornings will be spent lending a hand at a very special project called the Wildflower Home. A women's empowerment project that works with single mothers and their children to provide a safe place to live, learn and grow. We'll be assigned to a range of projects with the organization including working on their sustainable farm as well as directly with the women & children at the home. The exact activities here will depend greatly on the needs of the Wildflower Home at that time, the number of women and children at the shelter. This will be an insightful opportunity to learn ways this forward-thinking organization is protecting women & the local communities.

The afternoons will be reserved for cultural exploration. One afternoon, we'll pay a visit to the Elephant Parade House, which 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!



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Another afternoon, we'll take a tour of the markets & temples of Chiang Mai. Each evening, we'll have a delicious group dinner together. *(B,L,D)*

Day 5: After breakfast, we'll begin our preparation for teaching at a local primary school for the next two days. Along with a visit to the school and introduction to the teachers, we'll learn a bit about the education system in Thailand as well as some of the English language lessons we'll be facilitating.

In the afternoon, we'll venture to a nearby temple for an intimate discussion with a local monk. We'll learn a bit about Buddhism & the important role it plays in Thai society. This will be an open discussion – questions are welcome! Later in the evening, head into Chiang Mai for a charming dinner together. *(B,L,D)*

Day 6: This morning, we'll be assigned to classrooms to assist local teachers in their daily English activities. This will be a fascinating opportunity to engage with local school children while helping to improve their English through real world exercises. This will also be a chance to see how schools operate in Thailand and be directly immersed in the local culture.

In the afternoon, meet with local Peace Corps Volunteers to learn about their service placements & impact on the local villages they support. We'll then have dinner together for an enlightening Q&A. *(B,L,D)*

Day 7: After breakfast, we'll venture out to the countryside for a full-day immersion at a local, ethical elephant sanctuary. Upon arrival, meet the mahouts, or elephant caretakers, and learn a bit about elephants, their role in Thai society and their daily routines. Spend the day assisting the mahouts in a variety of tasks including harvesting food, feeding, and bathing elephants. We'll also join the mahouts and their elephants on a walk through the valley. This will be an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience! *(B,L,D)*

Day 8: 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 as well as a visit to Chiang Mai's iconic Sunday Night Walking Street Market. *(B,L,D)*

Day 9: After breakfast, we'll return to the primary school to finish our English Language exchange with the students.

In the afternoon, we'll venture out to explore beautiful landscape of Northern Thailand. Head into the green hills around Chiang Mai to visit Wat Phra That Doi



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Suthep, an ornate Buddhist temple which offers breathtaking views. 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. In the evening, enjoy a relaxing Farewell Dinner on a riverside boat cruise together. *(B,L,D)*

Day 10: After breakfast, depart for the Chiang Mai International Airport for your flight home or onwards to our extension to Thailand's tropical southern islands (see below). *(B)*



Chiang Mai Boutique Hotel Lodging

While in Chiang Mai, we'll base ourselves at the Away Resort, a charming 4-star hotel walking distance to the historic streets, temples and markets of Chiang Mai. The hotel is unique in that it is set back from the hustle and bustle of town but still centrally located so you can access all that Chiang Mai has to offer. Relax by the pool & enjoy the carefully curated rooms of this boutique property. *(please note the exact property is subject to change)*



Post-Trip Extension to Phuket & Koh Phi Phi Island

Day 10 (post-trip extension): 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: 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: 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 (at your own cost). The choice is up to you! (B)

Day 13: 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 Hotel Lodging

In Phuket, stay at the Old Phuket Resort, a charming 4-star hotel walking distance to Phuket's beaches & markets. relax by one of the two outdoor swimming pools (poolside bars included!), enjoy complimentary wifi, a 24-hour fitness center.

In Koh Phi Phi, stay at the Saii Koh Phi Phi Resort. 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. *(please note the exact properties are subject to change)*



Trip Details

Group Price

- **Per Person Trip Fee (Double Occupancy):** \$3495
- **Single Room Supplement:** \$450
- **Optional Post-Trip Extension:** \$995 + \$200 one-way flight supplement (*Single Room Supplement - \$395*)

What's Included - Your trip price includes the following:

- 9 nights of 4-star hotel lodging on 10-day itinerary & 3 nights of 4-star lodging on extension
- Discover Corps Guide
- All meals listed in itinerary
- Gratuities for all local staff on the trip
- All scheduled activities in the itinerary
- All in-country transportation via air-conditioned motor coach and water taxi
- Unlimited drinking water aboard the bus
- Secondary international medical insurance
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline

Terms & Conditions

It just takes \$365 per person to register for the trip. The remainder of the trip fee is due 30 days after registering for the trip or 60 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. The registration can be completed [HERE](#).

Refund Policy

The amount of your refund is based on how far in advance from the start date of the trip you notify us of your cancellation.

- More than five months prior, everything is refundable!
- Less than five months prior, 75% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable \$30 registration fee. There is no fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than four months prior, 50% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable \$30 registration fee. \$100 fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than three months prior, 25% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable \$30 registration fee. \$395 fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than two months prior, the program fee is non-refundable. Changes to trip destination or start date are not possible and will be subject to refund policy.

If the balance has not been paid in full, the above percentages apply to all monies paid at the date of cancellation.



About the National Peace Corps Association

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is a mission-driven social impact organization that encourages and celebrates lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals. NPCA supports a united and vibrant Peace Corps community, including current and returned Peace Corps volunteers, current and former staff, host country nationals, family and friends in our efforts to create a better world. NPCA exists to fulfill three specific goals:

- Help the Peace Corps be the best it can be
- Empower members and affiliate groups to thrive
- Amplify the Peace Corps community's global social impact



About Discover Corps

Discover Corps believes that partnering with local programs, tours, and villages is the best way for both travelers and the communities to gain value and rejuvenate the human spirit. Discover Corps offers access and insight into our destinations' rich tapestry of cultures, for all ages, helping you and your family create memories that stay with you for a lifetime.

Our trips are split into two types: Signature Journeys & Grassroots Expeditions. All types of tours are purposeful for both our travelers and the communities we visit, so whether your focus is lending a hand teaching English to schoolchildren in Tanzania, being a part of The Sea Turtle Initiative in Costa Rica, or discovering the vibrant energy of Cuba, expect the unexpected experiences that keep life rich, no matter your age. Through responsible and sustainable initiatives, Discover Corps will connect you with the people and wildlife that keep our world inspiring.