SIGNATURE JOURNEY

Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

THAILAND: ELEPHANTS & ISLANDS EXPEDITION

Care for elephants and explore tropical beaches on this Thai adventure





MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Lend a hand at a sanctuary caring for elderly and orphaned elephants
- Take elephants out for their morning walks through the jungle
- Relax on the world-class beaches of Koh Phi Phi
- Experience traditional Thai cuisine and flavors
- Uncover ancient temples and shrines in Phuket Town

TRIP AT A GLANCE

PHUKET

Day 1 - Arrive and meet your Discover Corps group and guide

Day 2 - Explore Wat Chalong Temples and the famous Big Buddha

Day 3 - Experience traditional island village life in Koh Yao Noi

Day 4 - Arrive at the elephant sanctuary and meet the residents

Day 5 - Walk the elephants, prepare their food and learn from their caretakers

Day 6 - Spend a final morning with the elephants and free afternoon on the coast

KOH PHI PHI

Day 7 - Explore the tropical island paradise of Koh Phi Phi

Day 8 - Enjoy a final free day on Koh Phi Phi

Day 9 - Return home or continue on a post- trip extension

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS:

- Chiang Mai
- Bangkok
- Angkor Wat





SIGNATURE JOURNEY

THAILAND: ELEPHANTS & ISLANDS EXPEDITION

OUR PURPOSE

Spend three days volunteering at a beautiful elephant sanctuary in the tranquility of the jungle while enjoying the comfort of your hotel in the evenings. This sanctuary promotes the highest of standards in elephant welfare, retiring, re-homing and rehabilitating elephants that have formerly worked in the logging and trekking industries. Lend a hand to the mahouts (elephant handlers) and other staff at the sanctuary as you learn exactly what it takes to care for an elephant. This includes gathering food and feeding the elephants, maintaining their enclosures, and other projects around the park.

The sanctuary is specifically set up to care for elderly and abused elephants, and mimics their native habitat, with the elephants roaming free over acres of rainforest and cool bathing pools. Whether it's taking the elephants out for their morning walk through the jungle or feeding them bananas picked off a nearby tree, you'll learn first-hand how elephant conservation and tourism intertwine in present day Thailand.

Away from the sanctuary, you'll explore Phuket's bustling street markets, experience village life on Koh Yao Noi Island, and visit serene Buddhist temples. Offshore, relax under swaying palms on the beautiful Phi Phi Islands, and explore the crystal blue waters of Phang Nga Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS



EXPLORE THAI CUISINE

Throughout our adventure, the food available will primarily be traditional Thai cuisine, loved the world over for its spicy punch and rich flavors. There are a great variety of Thai dishes from all regions of the country, and you will have the opportunity to try many of them. Step out of your comfort zone and embrace the opportunity to eat like the locals! You'll learn some of the secrets of Thai cuisine yourself with cooking classes at the elephant sanctuary.



EXPERIENCE AN ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

The centerpiece of this trip is three days spent lending a hand at a sanctuary for elderly and abused elephants, who have been rescued from unethical tourism practices, the logging industry, and illegal trade. The sanctuary mimics the elephants' natural habitat, and you'll walk the elephants through the jungle, meet their caretakers (mahouts), and prepare them meals of banana and sticky rice. You'll also learn some basic elephant commands along the way!



OLD PHUKET

Many visitors are so tempted by Phuket's admittedly beautiful beaches that they don't spend any time exploring the town itself-- they are missing out! The capital of Phuket province is home to ancient Buddhist temples, Chinese shrines, and unique East-meets-West architecture, a style known as 'Sino-Portuguese'. Be sure to visit the Phuket Thaihua Museum for an overview of the town's history, and the atmospheric Shrine of the Serene Light, a Taoist place of worship.



KOH PHI PHI ISLAND

Our trip ends up on one of Thailand's most famous island destinations, Koh Phi Phi. Actually two islands – Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh – this is a paradise of white beaches, palm trees and azure ocean. Your days here are free – take a Thai cooking class, snorkel the surrounding coral reefs, or enjoy a speedboat tour around the islands' beautiful coastline.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Phuket and Meet Your Discover Corps Group



Fly into Phuket, in the south of Thailand, where you will start your Thailand adventure. We will spend the first few days in a 5-star hotel by the beach. You will start off the trip with a welcome dinner and get to know your group and guide. (D)

DAY 2: Visit Wat Chalong Temple & the Famous Big Buddha



Today we'll head out and explore the Wat Chalong Temple, a beautiful Buddhist temple said to hold a splinter of Lord Buddha's bone. Most of our morning, however, will be spent at the famous Phuket Big Buddha - offering the best 360-degree views of the island with sweeping views of the town, Chalong Bay and more.

After a peaceful visit to this ancient site, enjoy a free afternoon exploring the town's bustling markets, and take in the stunning views before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Explore Beautiful Phang Nga Bay



This morning we'll hop onto a speedboat to explore the calm turquoise waters of Phang Nga Bay, dotted with tropical offshore islands and rock formations. We'll spend the day at Koh Yao Noi, one of the area's largest islands, spending the day exploring rice fields and nearby fish markets before a relaxing evening at the hotel. (B,L)

DAY 4: Meet the Elephants and Staff at the Elephant Sanctuary



Today, we'll head to the elephant sanctuary for the next three days. Designed to mimic an elephant's natural habitat, this sprawling tract of land is home to a growing number of elephants rescued from the tourism and logging industries, or illegal trade. We'll learn some basic elephant commands, and lend a hand preparing the elephants' food and caring for them. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Continue Our Work at the Sanctuary

Our morning starts with a mahout training program, teaching us what it takes to care for the elephants. Gather food for the elephants by cutting banana trees and grass, prepare sticky rice balls, and feed the elephants. We'll also help clean their enclosures and walk the elephants through the jungle before a cooking class at night. (B,L,D)



DAY 6: A Final Day with Elephants

We'll spend our final day at the sanctuary with the elephants and their mahouts. By now, you'll have a clear understanding of what it takes to care for an elephant - and an appreciation for all that is done to look after these gentle giants. We'll say our goodbyes to the elephants and staff, then spend a relaxing evening together at our coastal hotel. (B,L,D)



DAY 7: Board a Boat to Koh Phi Phi

This morning we'll catch a boat to Koh Phi Phi, a tropical paradise and one of the most celebrated island destinations in the world. How you spend the day is up to you – unlock the secrets of Thai cuisine at a cooking class, hike to a nearby mountain lookout, or just relax on the beach. (B,L - unguided)



DAY 8: Enjoy a Free Day on Koh Phi Phi

Today sees us enjoying a completely free, unguided day on Koh Phi Phi. Take a boat trip out to the coral reefs to go snorkeling, recline underneath a sun lounger, or zoom off on a speedboat to explore the island's beautiful
bays and coastline. Tonight we'll enjoy a farewell dinner together at our oceanfront resort. (B,D - unguided)

DAY 9: Return Home

Your Thai adventure comes to an end today, as we enjoy breakfast before returning you to Phuket International Airport for your flight home. (B)



PREMIER LODGING

The journey begins at a charming hotel just steps to the tropical beaches of Phuket Island. Relax after your long flight by the hotel's pool, venture into the nearby beachside markets or simply take in the stunning seaside views. The next three nights will be spent at a high-end 5-star boutique resort a short drive from the elephant sanctuary where we'll be lending a hand. Perched up on one of the island's highest points, you'll have access to an award winning spa, pool and one of the best places to catch the sunset in Thailand. End the journey with two nights on the world famous Koh Phi Phi Island. From the 4.5 star resort located on the turquoise waters of Phi Phi, explore the best of Southern Thailand or simply relax by the resort's pool and spa.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: CHIANG MAI



DAY 9: Evening Tour of Chiang Mai

Arrive to Chiang Mai by plane 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, and learn about the history that makes Chiang Mai so special. Start with a visit to a local temple at sunset and join the locals in lighting incense and candles, offerings of good luck and health.

For dinner, experience a traditional Thai dinner located on the river. End the evening with a trip to the lively Warorot Market for shopping and Thai desserts. (D)



DAY 10: Explore Wat Chiang Mai and a Thai Cooking Class

Feel the energy of Chiang Mai by day with a walking tour visiting colorful markets and historic sites. Marvel at Wat Chiang Man, Chiang Mai's oldest temple, as you walk alongside the crumbling walls of the old town and admire the city's iconic Three Kings Monument. Dive further into the hisory of Chiang Mai with a tour to the Lanna Folklife Museum and the majestic Wat Chedi Luang.

After a day of walking, relax your body with a traditional Thai massage. For dinner, get creative with a Thai cooking class! (B,D)

DAY 11: Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep and the White Hmong Hilltribe

Travel high into the hills by songtaew, or local truck, for a day away from the city. Visit the sacred pagoda, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, for sweeping views of Chiang Mai from above. Continue higher along the dirt roads to the Chang Khien Coffee Research Project and enjoy a fresh cup of locally-grown Arabica coffee. By night, spend time exploring the White Hmong hilltribe village. (B)

Day 12: Return Home

Today sees the end of your Thailand adventure, and we'll say our goodbyes before heading back to Chiang Mai International Airport for your flight home. (B)

EXTENSION LODGING

The Bodhi Serene is a charming 4.5 star boutique hotel that sits amongst the temples and tree-lined streets of the old city. The beauty of this property is its ability to offer true serenity and relaxation right in the center of one of Thailand's greatest cities. Relax by the pool, take in the traditional architecture and design of the property and step outside to the buzz of Chiang Mai's historic city center.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION: BANGKOK



DAY 9: 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 10: 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 rivers 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 11: 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

We've hand chosen one of Central Bangkok's finest 4-star boutique hotels for your stay in the city. This modern hotel is located in the heart of all the action and puts you at the front door of one of Asia's greatest city. 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.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION: ANGKOR WAT



DAY 9: 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 10: 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 11 & 12: 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.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.



THAILAND: ELEPHANTS & ISLAND EXPEDITION

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

SIGNATURE JOURNEY



PRICING

ADULT: $4,495 **CHILD: $3,995**

ANGKOR WAT EXTENSION	ADULT: $1,495	CHILD: $1,395
CHIANG MAI EXTENSION	ADULT: $1,395	CHILD: $1,295
BANGKOK EXTENSION	ADULT: $1,295	CHILD: $1,195

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are $995 per person, and $295 for Angkor Wat, $300 for Chiang Mai and $300 for Bangkok. 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. Child prices apply to those 16 years & younger sharing a room with an adult.

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF DEPARTURE DATES

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE physical activity

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners
- 8 nights in 4 & 5 star premier hotel lodging
- Transportation in private vehicles
- Discover Corps Guide that is there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All scheduled activities and excursions
- $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline while traveling

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- One lunch & one dinner
- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- Optional activities during time on Koh Phi Phi Island
- Extensions: flight supplements (Angkor Wat=$350 / Chiang Mai=$250 / Bangkok=$200)

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

CUSTOM / PRIVATE 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.

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.

PAYMENT PLANS

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:

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

Our Mission

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

Certified B Corporation

OUR DESTINATIONS

- ALASKA
- AUSTRALIA
- BALI
- BAJA
- BHUTAN
- CHILE
- COSTA RICA
- CUBA
- EGYPT
- GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
- GREECE
- GUATEMALA
- JAMAICA
- JAPAN
- KENYA
- MOROCCO
- OAXACA
- PERU
- SOUTH AFRICA
- TANZANIA
- THAILAND
- UGANDA
- VIETNAM



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 to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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