

# Thailand Elephant Care Experience

*Immerse yourself in Thai culture, learning about the role of elephants as you help the mahouts in the elephant camp, exploring the fascinating local area in between.*

Thailand has continued to be one of the most tempting destinations for those who are seeking a combination of enchanting natural surroundings, alluring culture, and incredible biodiversity. Breathtaking silvery beaches lapped by warm, crystal clear waters are complemented by friendly locals, mouth-watering local delicacies, and an ancient and fascinating historical heritage rooted in Buddhist origins.

In its waters live a fantastic array of marine creatures and snorkelling or scuba diving in Thailand is a truly unforgettable experience. However, some of the countries most charming wildlife, elephants, is under threat. Join our elephant project to help contribute towards the care of retired working elephants and help make their remaining days as enjoyable as possible, whilst enjoying all the fun of a gap year or year out abroad!

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in true Thai culture
- Help care for the magnificent elephant
- Make lifelong friends

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Thailand
<b>Activities</b>	Exercising the elephants Washing & feeding the elephants Garden maintenance Working directly with the people of the centre
<b>Transport</b>	Airport pickup from BKK
<b>Accommodation</b>	Eco-style thatched huts

## WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

According to estimates by the World Wildlife Fund, there are only between 2,000 and 3,000 wild elephants remaining in Thailand, and this number continues to decline. Much of this trend can be attributed to the competition for land between local communities and the elephants, while domesticated elephants continue to roam throughout Thailand with their mahouts and are seen begging for food by performing tricks for tourists.

This placement will give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in Thai culture, learning about the

role of elephants as you help the mahouts in the elephant camp that provides a sanctuary for retired working elephants. Your work may include a combination of exercising, washing and feeding the elephants, garden maintenance and working directly with the people of the centre. You will soon learn that the elephants have their own individual personalities and your experience and knowledge will go some way towards resolving the problem of human-elephant conflict. At the weekends you will have free time to explore the surrounding area and enjoy activities such as white water rafting.

Volunteers participating for longer than one week will also take part in an orientation and cultural immersion week. Your introductory week will be the first step towards a successful stay in Thailand and is designed specifically to ensure that you get the most possible out of the trip as a whole. Your culture, language and cooking lessons will help you to settle and feel more at home, and the temple and museum visits will give you a taste of the history of Thailand and the influences on the development of its national identity.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?**

You will be met at Bangkok airport (BKK) by a friendly representative from Frontier-Thailand before being transferred to your accommodation in Singburi, where you will be based for your orientation week. You will then travel to your project site, around 380km north of Bangkok. Please aim to fly into Bangkok on the Saturday before your project begins. We recommend making your return flight/onward travel plans for the day after your project has finished (Sunday) to allow time to return to Bangkok in time for your flight. It's either an overnight bus back to Bangkok from Mae Sot (approx 10 hours), or it also possible to fly from nearby Mae Sot. Volunteers will need to take the bus and a taxi to BKK from the bus station in Bangkok by themselves.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

Throughout your orientation week you will be staying in a shared volunteer house before being transferred to the sanctuary in the north of the country where you will be based for the remainder of your stay. During your time at the sanctuary you will be staying in the jungle hut centre and will have access to all basic amenities, including cold water showers nice and refreshing in the heat of Thailand!

Facilities available in the nearby town include the internet, shops, a hospital, pharmacy, banks and restaurants, and it is possible to hire an affordable local taxi should you need to visit the town while on your placement.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EATING?**

All food is included during your placement, and you will find it to be typically Thai fare. Thai is one of the world's most exciting cuisines, and if you're willing to experiment, you'll be richly rewarded. Contrary to popular belief, not all Thai food is fiery hot and there are plenty of tasty dishes suited to the Western palate. This hybrid cuisine has been influenced by soups and noodle dishes from China, curries from India and satays from Indonesia. Most dishes incorporate four elements, sweet, sour, salty and hot flavours, and many of the dishes are rice or noodle based.

## **COSTS**

1 week	US\$ 795
2 weeks	US\$ 1,145
3 weeks	US\$ 1,745

## DEPARTURE DATES

Weekly. Please aim to fly into Bangkok on the Saturday before your project begins.

This project is available throughout the Christmas period.

## DURATION

From 1 week

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### Before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt

### In-country

- Food (3 meals on weekdays, 2 on weekends)
- Accommodation
- Airport pickup from BKK
- Transfer to project site & in-transit accommodation
- Local orientation
- Project training
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

## AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Bangkok (BKK)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*