

amazing
THAILAND

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Tourism Authority of Thailand

Elephant Holidays in Thailand

Elephant Holidays in Thailand

Tourism Authority of Thailand





Welcome to the Kingdom of Thailand – the land of smiling elephants...

Prepare yourself for a unique experience in Thailand with elephants, the world's largest land animal. This experience not only includes learning about elephants, but also touching, feeling, feeding, walking trunk-in-hand, and even riding these magnificent creatures.

Elephant Holidays in Thailand introduces 17 elephant camps based on four different themes: The Legend of Thai Elephants, Live and Learn the Elephants' Way of Life, A Unique Bond, and Amazing Elephant Shows. Each theme lets you enjoy first-hand experiences with the elephants of Thailand and explore the beauty of the country from their perspective, discovering their charm, intelligence, and friendliness.

Let's go and have fun with our new friends!



A Unique Bond

Elephant Study Centre
Ta Klang Village,
Surin

▶60



The Legend of Thai Elephants

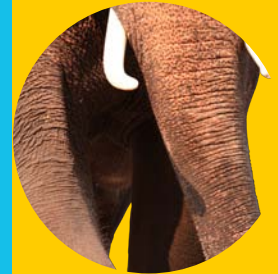
Royal Elephant Kraal,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

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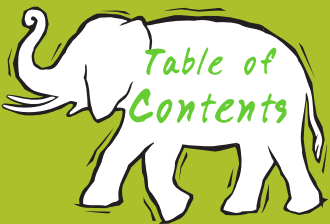
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Thai Elephants, the Pride of Thailand

Thai elephants are held in the highest esteem by the people of Thailand, having served loyally alongside past kings in the protection of the nation's freedom. The animals stand tall, both in terms of physical stature and dignity.

Apart from their socially-prestigious status and their bravery displayed in battle, Thai elephants have been an integral part of the Thai way of life for centuries, serving as a means of transport and as workers in the timber industry. They have traditionally been nurtured as a part of the family and a strong, unique relationship has developed between animals and humans as they live communally.

In contrast to reputations earned due to their large size and fierce fighting qualities, Thai elephants are now respected for more refined and delicate skills; such as, painting and playing musical instruments. Such performances are amazing to watch.

Thai elephants are one of the most valuable, natural resources in the Kingdom of Thailand. To spend some time with them, several days or just a few moments, makes one realise their significance to this nation and the powerful impact that they have on the hearts of all who meet them.





The Legend of Thai Elephants

Elephants are not just ordinary animals to the Thai nation but represent royal power and freedom as many have sacrificed their lives fighting alongside past kings. A journey to Ayutthaya traces the glorious history of Thai elephants and gives the impression that the gigantic size of these elephants is only dwarfed by the strength and loyalty of their hearts.

Royal Elephant Kraal

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province



A visit to the Royal Elephant Kraal offers visitors a priceless insight into the proud and dignified role that elephants have played in the history of Thailand's freedom.



The owner of the Royal Elephant Kraal, Laithongrien Meephan, aims to establish it as a celebration of Thai culture. The Royal Elephant Kraal is a place that contains everything one wants to know about Thai elephants - their role in the country's history and its traditions, the animals' biology, information about their healthcare, and the Royal Elephant Kraal's breeding programme. A visit to the Royal Elephant Kraal allows visitors to observe these magnificent creatures and to start to understand their way of life. In this way, visitors begin to make a small contribution to the elephants' survival in this world.

"We should be proud that today there is still a number of elephants living in Thailand because they have been the nation's guardian, fighting alongside the kings since ancient history."

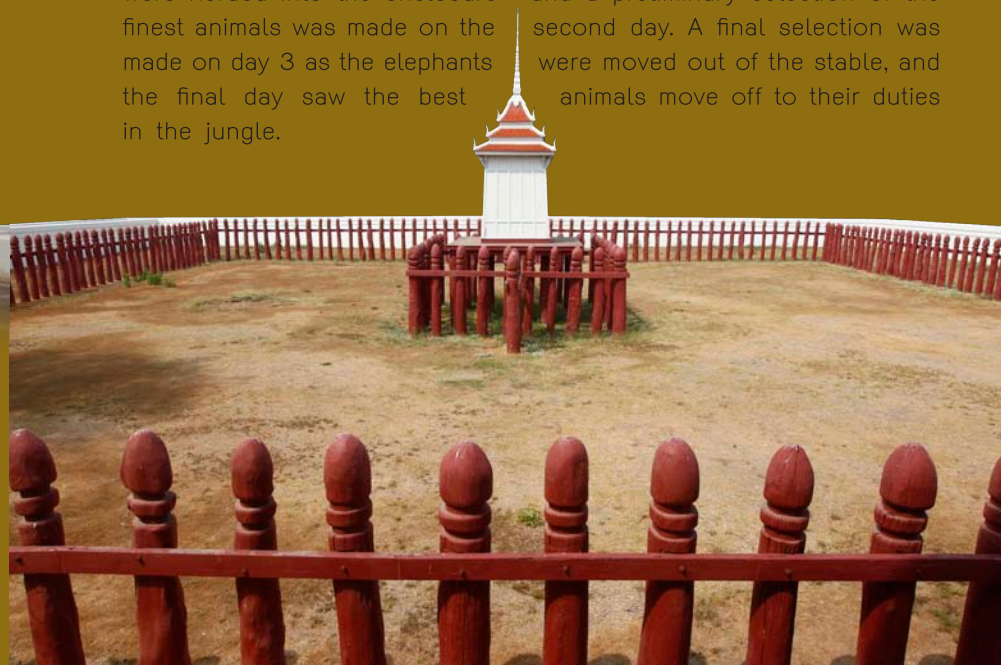


Royal Elephant Kraal, an extraordinary tale from the past



The Royal Elephant Kraal is the place where the roundup of royal elephants occurred in ancient times. It was located next to Chankasem Palace but Somdet Phra Maha Chakkraphat moved it to its present site during his reign between 910-930 A.D. Elephants are regarded as the royal symbol of Thailand and have long served the country in numerous ways; for example, as mounts for past kings in battles for national freedom. A white elephant is considered auspicious and is preserved as the special property of the King.

Apart from this association with the kings in battle, elephants were also used in many important ceremonies. During the Ayutthaya period, the best elephants were selected from the roundup for participation in these rituals. The roundup was organized at the Royal Elephant Kraal and normally lasted for four days following the directions of “Tamra Luang” or the Royal manuscript. On the first day, the elephants were herded into the enclosure and a preliminary selection of the finest animals was made on the second day. A final selection was made on day 3 as the elephants were moved out of the stable, and the final day saw the best animals move off to their duties in the jungle.



The royal elephant roundup became not only a selection of the finest elephants, but also a popular community gathering of entertainers and travellers. It occurred annually in the city of Ayutthaya until it was attacked and left in ruins by the Burmese in 1767. The Kraal was almost completely destroyed but was restored at the beginning of the Rattanakosin Period. The last royal elephant roundup was in 1903 during the reign of King Rama V.



► *Ride an elephant to get an idea of the past glory of Ayutthaya*

The Royal Elephant Kraal takes visitors back to ancient times by following the royal routes once taken by kings and by showing evidence of some of the history of this former capital city. City Pillar, Wat Ket, and Phrachao U Thong Monument are a few landmarks that illustrate the beauty and prosperity of Ayutthaya in past times.



► *Learn to be a mahout*

The mahout training programme allows visitors to understand the life of the mahout and the unique personality of the elephant. The programme includes various engaging activities; such as, learning to ride, bathe and feed the elephants correctly, and most importantly, showing them love and affection.



► *Watch the training of the baby elephants*

In the picturesque, natural surroundings along the Lop Buri River, the Elephant Whisperer School is the place where visitors can observe the training of baby elephants. These innocent youngsters touch the hearts of all audience members.



- "Lae Phaniat" is Thai for "Kraal" - "Lae" is an ancient Thai word meaning "look," and "Pha-niat" is a place used for elephants' roundups since the Ayutthaya period.
- An ancient belief of the Thai people is that taking care of elephants needs to be done with faith and respect as the elephants are believed to possess power and prestigious souls.

► *Watch the elephants take a bath*

Early evening is the time when herds of elephants wade into the Lop Buri River to take a bath and relax after a long day. Visitors enjoy the sight of elephants splashing in the water as the mahouts reward the elephants for their hard work by brushing and bathing them.



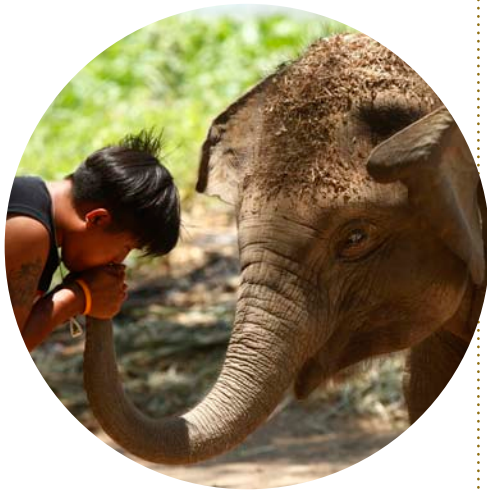
► *Watch a performance of skills by the elephants*

Elephants at the Royal Elephant Kraal are professionally trained to show their surprisingly skillful performances of painting and greeting visitors.

► *Watch the elephants re-enacting an ancient battle*

The elephants are able to show visitors glimpses of their glorious military past through their re-enactments of ancient battles in Muban Phaniat Luang. The show starts with the "wai khru" ceremony in which the elephants make a bawling noise to show their uplifting spirits and then parade in the arena. The most dramatic part of the show is the elephants' duel.





► Play with baby elephants

On average, there is one baby elephant born per month at the Royal Elephant Kraal, therefore, it is not surprising to get the chance of seeing a small baby elephant roaming around the village. Saying hello to and feeding the babies is a heart-warming experience not to be missed.



► Help the elephants

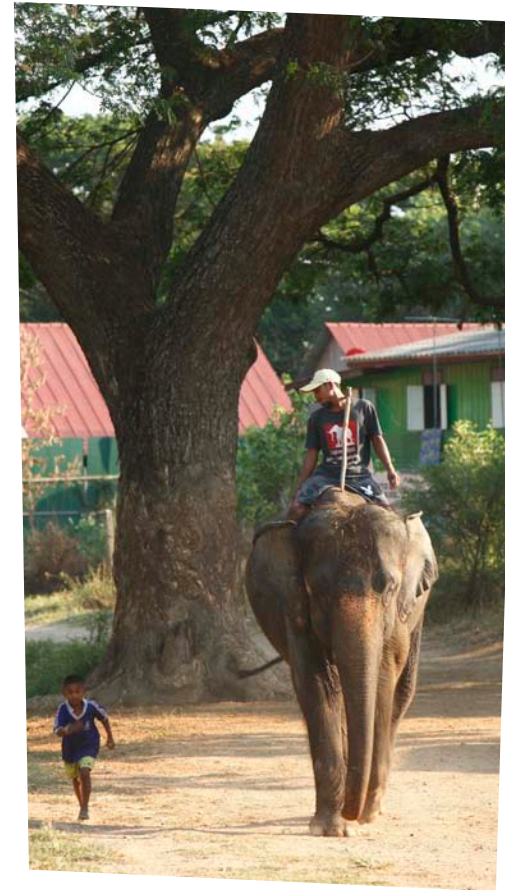
- Phrakochaban Foundation was founded to conserve and help Thai elephants and to introduce people to the history and the nature of the animals.
- The Centre for Medication.
- The Thai Elephant Project includes a breeding programme, and the maintenance of elephants' biographical details.
- The Retired Elephant Project was established to give the opportunity for people to take care of retired elephants by feeding and bathing them.

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Knowing the background of the elephants' role in Thai history makes your elephant ride around the historical park more interesting.

► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Restaurants and Beverage Corner
- Souvenir shop selling paper made from elephant dung, t-shirts, and other souvenirs made from ceramics or silk with elephant designs
- Accommodation
- The Royal Elephant Kraal provides a secure environment for visitors by setting up a partition to separate the elephants and visitors. Security guards are also on duty around the kraal.



Did you know?

- Elephants that are appointed as the Royal Elephants are called "chang ton" and are then separated into "chang suek" (battle elephant) and "chang phueak" (white elephant).

- Apart from transforming elephant dung into fertilizer, it can also be made into paper, bookmarks, and notebooks.



► Contact Information

Address : Pa Thon Road, next to Khum Khun Phaen within the area of Ayutthaya Historical Park, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province 13000

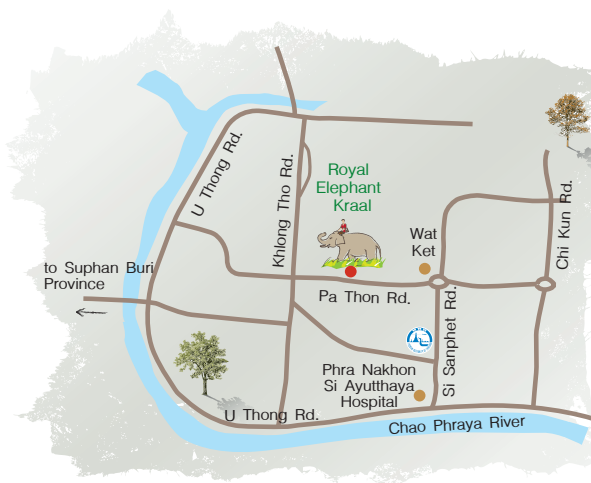
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Fax : +66 (35) 211 001

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Live and Learn the Elephants' Way of Life

Elephants have a grace that belies their size and fascinates people. The mahouts understand these gentle creatures and are willing to share their lives and their invaluable experiences with everyone. An inspiring journey to understand the mahouts' and the elephants' way of life is a sound start to the conservation of elephants for future generations.



Thai Elephant Conservation Centre (National Elephant Institute) Lampang Province



Thai Elephant Conservation Centre (also known as the National Elephant Institute) started as a training centre for baby elephants. Today, it is the world's leading mahout training school and a hospital for elephants.



Thai Elephant Conservation Centre provides comprehensive care for elephants and a place for those interested in studying the animals. The activities available at the centre are designed to give visitors the opportunity to establish relationships with the elephants and to appreciate their role in the world. Some people spend a few hours and others stay for days at the institute – whatever the timeframe, a visit is an important starting point in understanding these magnificent creatures.

"Our main objectives are to develop people's knowledge and awareness of elephants to promote elephant conservation, as well as to preserve local traditions and wisdom for future generations."





► Ride an elephant in a natural setting

While riding an elephant, visitors are immersed in the beauty of nature and the unique way of life of the mahout, but they also discover the fascinating personality of the elephant hidden within that huge body.

► Learn to be a mahout

The National Elephant Institute established the Mahout Training School to provide visitors with information about the nature and well-being of elephants. The training ranges from a one-day to a 30-day programme, depending on visitors' preferences.

Mahout Training Programme

Day One

Morning Participants register and change into mahout outfits before meeting their elephants and mahouts. The first session introduces the correct ways to approach and ride an elephant and practice of these skills.

Afternoon The afternoon session involves riding an elephant to the bathing area and performing in the elephant show for regular tourists. Participants develop their skills and finish off the day by taking their elephants back to rest in the forest.

Day Two

Morning Participants collect their elephants from the forest and feed them bananas and sugarcane. The riders bathe their elephants and then perform in the elephant show for regular tourists. The morning session is completed by a visit to the elephants' hospital.

Afternoon The afternoon session involves a bath and a performance in the elephant show for regular tourists. Participants continue to refine their riding skills with further activities before taking their elephants back to rest in the forest.

Day Three

Morning Participants collect their elephants from the forest and feed them bananas and sugarcane. The riders bathe their elephants and then perform in the elephant show for regular tourists. The programme concludes with the presentation of certificates and farewells to the elephants.

Remarks: Please make reservations 7 days prior to the programme.

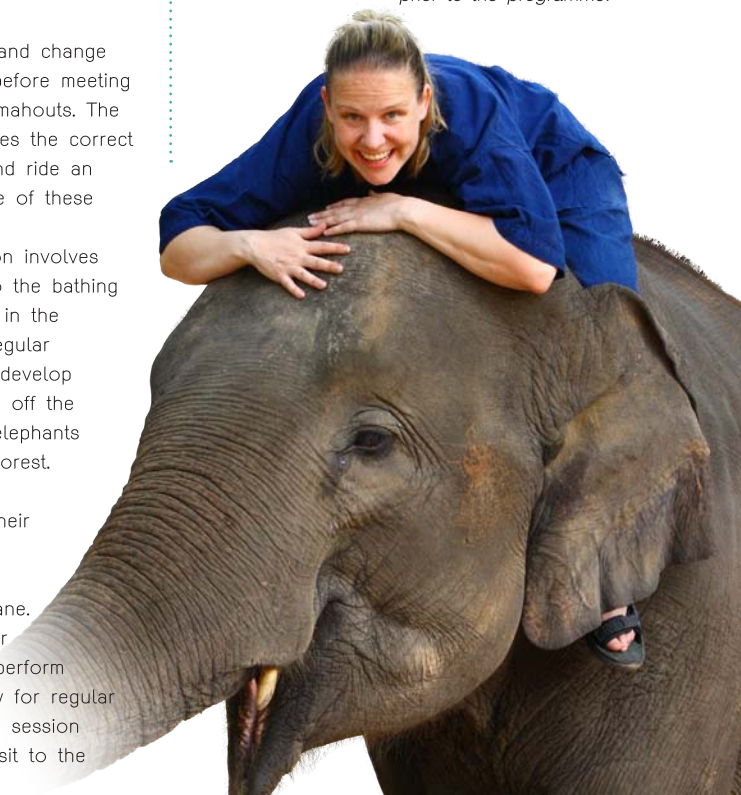


► Live in a home-stay in a mahout village

Visitors have the opportunity to experience first-hand the daily lifestyle of a mahout. Activities include collecting the elephants from the forest in the morning, learning to ride and give basic commands, and returning them to rest in the forest in the evening.



The National Elephant Institute established the Pang La Elephant Nursery Centre as a retirement place for sick, old, and/or crippled elephants, complete with a professional team of mahouts and veterinarians to take care of them.



► Visit the elephant hospital

The elephant hospital at the National Elephant Institute provides free medical care to sick, injured, old, and dangerous elephants. A visit to the hospital is a way in which people can show their support for the conservation of Thai elephants for future generations.



► Visit the dung paper factory

Visitors can observe the transformation of elephant waste into elephant dung paper in the production of notebooks, lanterns, and paper umbrellas.



► Watch the elephant show

The elephant show displays the animals' wide array of talents, from delicate skills of drawing and playing musical instruments to heavy labour activities such as hauling logs.

Remarks: For your convenience, please call in advance to check the information and time of the show.



► Help the elephants

Lampang Elephant Art Academy and the Thai Elephant Orchestra :

These two projects were launched to sell paintings and CDs produced by the elephants to support the funding of food, medication, welfare, and conservation of Thai elephants.

Elephant Adoption Project :

The National Elephant Institute currently takes care of over 90 elephants, 43 of whom need sponsoring. Those who wish to adopt an elephant can contact the centre for more information.

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

- Initially, spending time with the mahout might be awkward, but learning their way of life and culture promotes the development of a beautiful friendship.

- The most suitable shoes to wear when riding an elephant are hiking sandals as they can be worn comfortably in water and in the forest.

- Kantok Chang or Satok Chang Event is organised at the National Elephant Institute on the first Friday and Saturday of February in every year, where the elephants get to enjoy a big meal together and visitors are invited to watch the elephant show while having a Kantok meal.



► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Home-stay and resort accommodation
- Camping area around Suan Pa Thung Kwian

► Contact Information

Address : Km. 28-29 Lampang-Chiang Mai Highway No.11,
Tambon Wiang Tan,
Amphoe Hang Chat,
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Tel. : +66 (54) 247 871-6

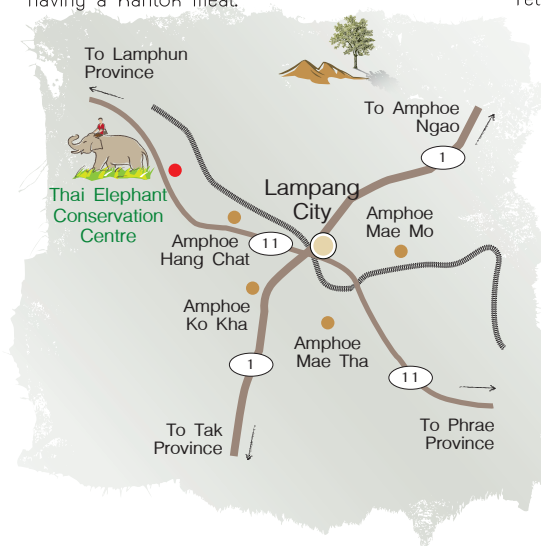
Fax : +66 (54) 247 875

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E-mail : info@thailande elephant.org

► TAT, Chiang Mai Office

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Did you know?

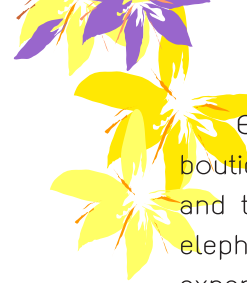
- Elephants yawn and snore, just like humans.
- Elephants constantly flap their ears for hearing purposes but if their ears are spread out, it means they are considering something. When elephants drop their ears to their neck, it indicates that they are ready to attack.





Elephant Life Experience

Chiang Mai Province



Elephant Life Experience is the only boutique-style elephant camp in Thailand and takes visitors on a journey with amazing elephants in untouched nature. This unique experience allows visitors to build a powerful bond with the elephants.

Elephant Life Experience (ELE) structures its activities to meet each visitor's individual requirements, whether it is riding an elephant, painting with an elephant, or learning to be a mahout. ELE offers to accommodate visitors who want to have a special time with the elephants in a luxurious setting. The knowledge and understanding of the elephants acquired by visitors is something that remains with them for the rest of their days.

"ELE isn't just a home for the elephants where people come to have fun but it is a place where people can learn the art of living harmoniously with nature."



► Mahout Training Programme

Daily Programme

Visitors are welcomed to Elephant Life Experience by staff who introduce the activities of the programme. Initially, visitors change into mahouts' outfits and meet the elephants and mahouts. There are a series of familiarization activities involving the visitors and the elephants, followed by bathing, communicating, and riding lessons. The visitors then ride their elephants into the jungle and experience the lifestyle of the mahouts. On returning to the camp, visitors join their elephants in painting activities. The programme concludes with visitors enjoying a relaxing bamboo raft ride in the peaceful surroundings of the Mae Taeng River.



► Ride an elephant in a serene natural setting

The trails at ELE allow visitors to experience an exotic encounter with nature while riding an elephant. Visitors are fascinated by the breathtaking scenery of the Mae Taman Valley and Mae Taeng River at the same time as learning about the marvelous elephants.

Elephants at ELE are skillful artists who paint in different styles such as realism, abstract, and pointillism.



► Watch the elephants bathe

Visitors can witness the elephants enjoying different ways of relaxing in the water, swimming, splashing, or simply just sitting. In the dry season, visitors can join the elephants in the water activities.

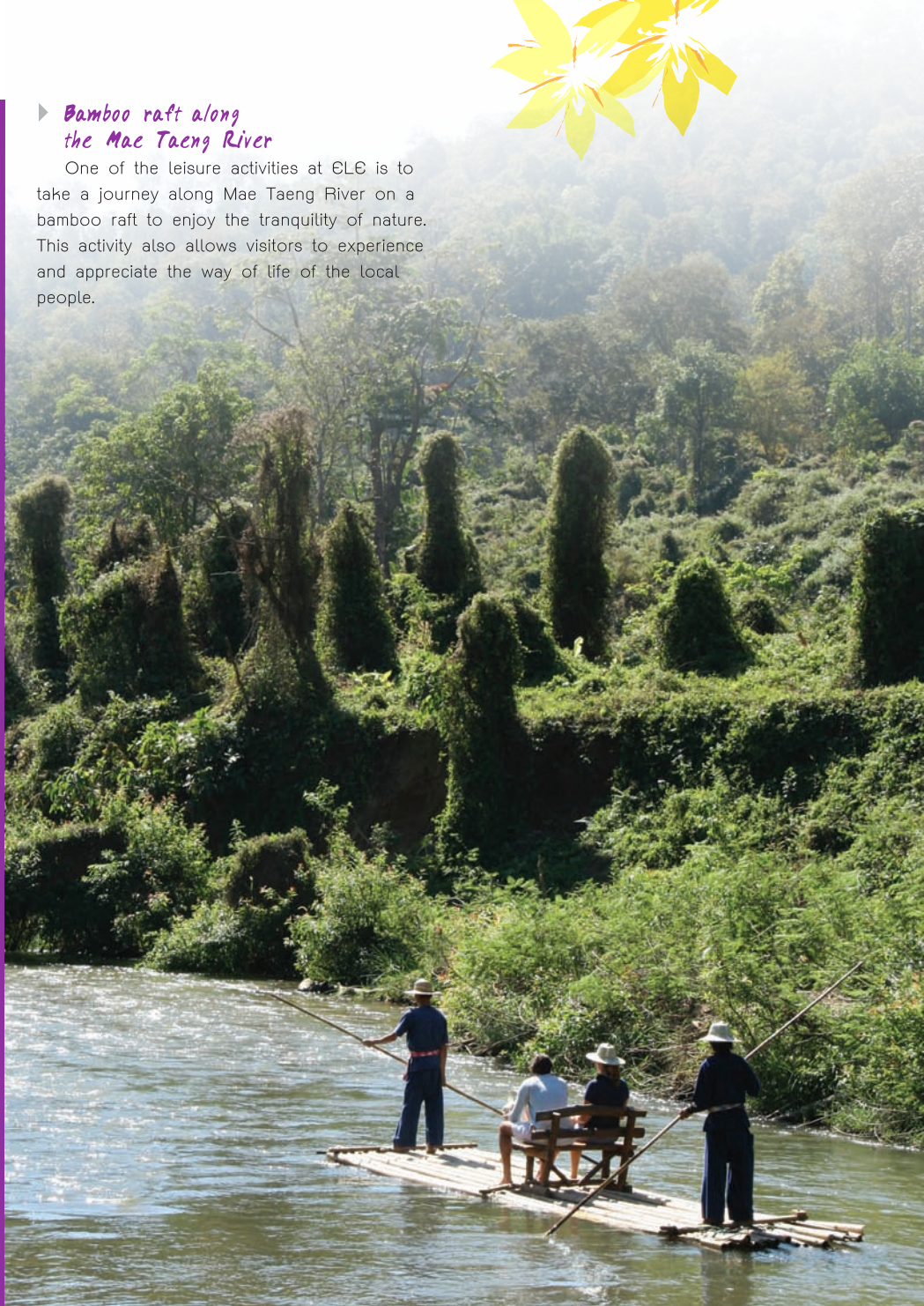
► Learn to be a mahout

The mahout training programme enables visitors to learn about the elephants. Not only do visitors get a deeper understanding of the elephants but they also acquire an understanding of the incredible bond between the animals and humans.



► Bamboo raft along the Mae Taeng River

One of the leisure activities at ELC is to take a journey along Mae Taeng River on a bamboo raft to enjoy the tranquility of nature. This activity also allows visitors to experience and appreciate the way of life of the local people.



Did you know?

- Every step of an elephant is the same distance and its back feet always step on the exact same footprints of its front feet.
- The elephant's trunk can pick up items as small as a coin and as big as a log.

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

For more excitement when riding an elephant bare-back, try sitting on its head with your legs resting on its trunk and your hands grasping its ears. Once relaxed in this position, you find that this is one of the most comfortable ways to ride an elephant.



► Create a masterpiece with an elephant

Several elephants at ELC are internationally-recognized artists and visitors are invited to create a masterpiece by painting with the elephants and taking home their work as a souvenir.



► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms
- Lodge

► Contact Information

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Patara Elephant Farm

Chiang Mai Province

Patara Elephant Farm works hard to make the world a more beautiful place by raising elephants in a safe and supportive environment. This conservation of these friendly, trusting animals preserves them for future generations.

Patara Elephant Farm's slogan is "extinction is forever" and therefore concentrates on a breeding programme that produces healthy, happy elephants so that future generations of humans can experience the beauty of these magnificent creatures. Patara Elephant Farm encourages visitors to share the love and affection it has for the elephants through the "owner for a day" programme. This programme allows visitors to capture wonderful memories of one day spent 'owning' and completing the daily tasks of caring for an elephant.

"We would like a trip to Patara Elephant Farm to be a meaningful, responsible tourism experience involving the interaction of happy people and elephants."





► *Learn the history of the elephants*

Visitors to Patara Elephant Farm are given an outline of the elephants as the national symbol through a brief history of their roles in ancient wars and the importance of their work skills to the development of the forestry industry.

► *Learn about the biology and healthcare of the elephants*

The elephant is the largest living land mammal – intelligent, emotional, and with a good memory, just like humans.

Visitors learn how the mahouts perform daily health checkups of the elephants, observing their moods, checking their skin, and inspecting their dung.



► *Learn about the breeding of the elephants*

The mission of Patara Elephant Farm is to increase the number of healthy elephants in Thailand. Part of this is achieved by providing information about the farm's breeding programme to visitors. There are only about 3,000 elephants remaining in Thailand, a number that is decreasing at an alarming rate. Patara Elephant Farm believes it has an important role in educating visitors about the conservation of these animals.

► *Relax with an elephant*

Patara Elephant Farm provides visitors with opportunities for visitors and elephants to relax with each other. Visitors wear the mahout uniform and learn to approach the elephant by feeding them grass, bananas, and sugarcane. Touching and stroking the elephants correctly is a technique visitors learn, leading to the development of trust, understanding, and friendship between human and animal.



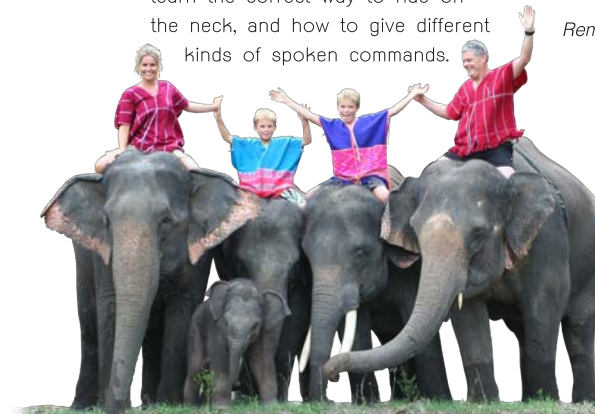
► *"Elephant Owner for a Day" programme*

Morning The session starts with an outline of the basics of the elephants; such as, their origin, nature, way of life, and care. Visitors are introduced to the farm, its objectives, the mahouts, and the elephants themselves. Then they learn how to approach the elephants, chain and unchain them, learn the correct way to ride on the neck, and how to give different kinds of spoken commands.

Late morning Bathe the elephants, ride through the jungle to the waterfall, and have a water fight before having lunch together.

Afternoon Take the elephants home for a rest, feed them, and take photos as souvenirs of unforgettable experiences.

Remarks: Please make reservations 7 days prior to the programme.




The superstar at this farm is "Dodo," one of the most handsome elephants in Thailand. Dodo casts a magical spell on everyone who gets a chance to meet him.

► Ride an elephant to the waterfall

An excursion through the jungle to the waterfall on an elephant's back is more difficult than the normal route but it is more exciting as both the elephant and the rider negotiate the uneven terrain through water and mud. This thrilling journey allows visitors to appreciate the elephant's skills from first-hand experience.

► Enjoy the natural setting and the locals' way of life

Visitors are encouraged to ride an elephant bare-back and experience a silent journey through the forest. The head of the elephant is wide and provides a comfortable perch from which the rider can observe the natural surroundings and the unique way of life of the local people.

Remarks: This activity can be customized to suit senior travellers and travellers with disabilities.



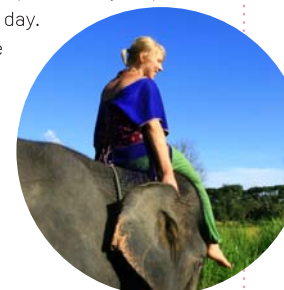
► Help the elephants

Patara Elephant Farm is concerned about the decreasing number of elephants in Thailand. Thus the farm has established a breeding farm to increase the birthrate of the elephants as well as to ensure that they are well taken care of, to produce healthy and happy breeders.

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

- Don't worry about taking pictures or videos of your day at the farm – Patara Elephant Farm provides a team of professional photographers and camerapersons who complimentary capture every moment of your day.

- When bathing the elephants, stand about 1-2 metres away from the animals and splash a basketful of water on them. They love it!



► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop, selling hand-woven textiles made by the hill-tribe people
- Accommodation near the elephant farm is available
- Senior travellers and travellers with disabilities are welcome

► Contact Information

Address : Ban Mae Ha, Tambon Ban Pong, Amphoe Hang Dong, Chiang Mai Province 50230

Tel. : +66 (81) 992 2551,
+66 (81) 671 0958

Fax : +66 (53) 286 321

Website : www.pataraelephantfarm.com

E-mail : pataraelephantfarm@hotmail.com

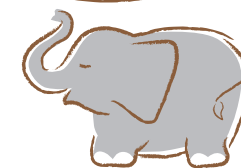
► TAT, Chiang Mai Office

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Did you know?

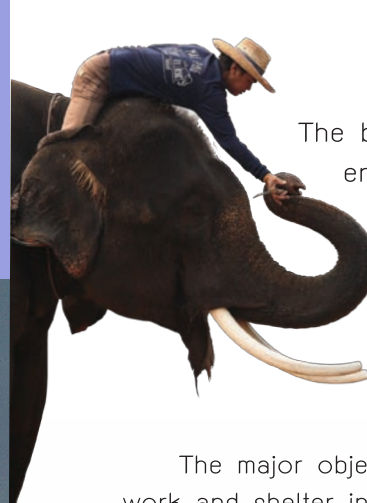
- Elephants consume about 250-350 kilogrammes of food and drink approximately 60 gallons of water a day.
- The gestation period of elephants lasts around 18-23 months, with most female babies being born at 18-20 months and male babies at 21-23 months.



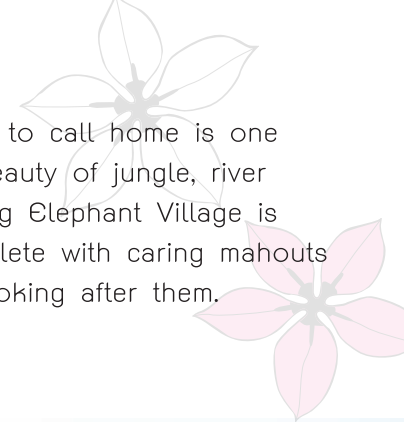


Mae Ping Elephant Village

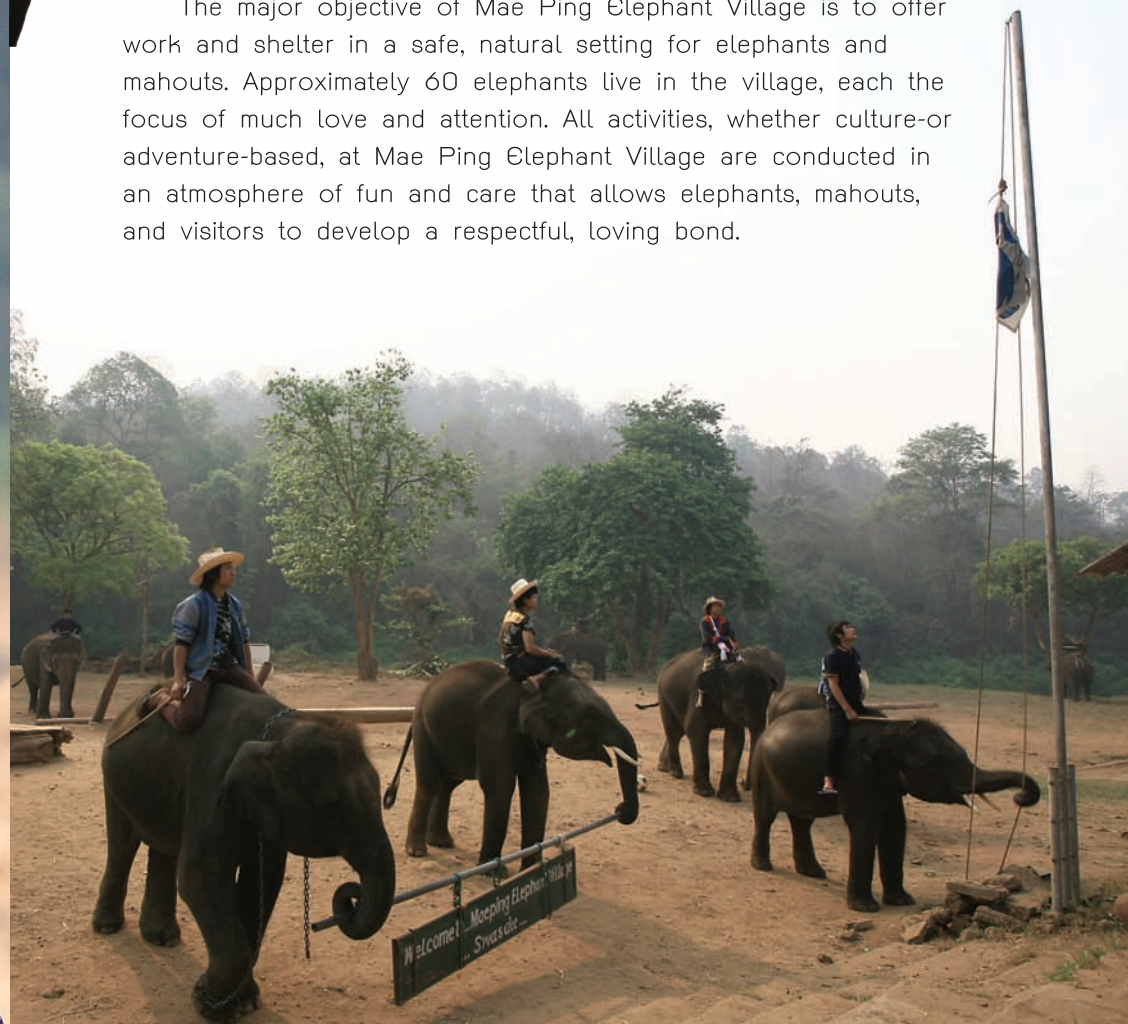
Chiang Mai Province



The best place for an elephant to call home is one endowed with the natural beauty of jungle, river and clean air – Mae Ping Elephant Village is just such a place, complete with caring mahouts who genuinely enjoy looking after them.



The major objective of Mae Ping Elephant Village is to offer work and shelter in a safe, natural setting for elephants and mahouts. Approximately 60 elephants live in the village, each the focus of much love and attention. All activities, whether culture-or adventure-based, at Mae Ping Elephant Village are conducted in an atmosphere of fun and care that allows elephants, mahouts, and visitors to develop a respectful, loving bond.





► *Ride an elephant and enjoy the tranquility of nature*

Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the peaceful, natural environment on the back of an elephant. They not only get to enjoy the beautiful scenery but also to explore the way of life of the Lisu hill-tribe people.

► *Learn to be a mahout*

Mae Ping Elephant Village provides several types of mahout training programme ranging from a one day to a 3 days/2 nights' programme. Each one has the same objective of providing the chance for visitors to have first-hand experience of living as a mahout and caring for and understanding the daily lives of the elephants.



► *Mahout Training Programme*

Day One

Morning Stop at Kat Mae Malai on the way to Mae Ping Elephant Village to buy fresh ingredients for the cooking course included in this programme.

Afternoon The mahout training programme begins with an introduction to the biology, nature, and healthcare of the elephants. Visitors then learn how to communicate with, control, and feed the elephants.

Evening Enjoy dinner and rest overnight at the village.

Day Two

Morning Enjoy breakfast and familiarization with the elephants.

Afternoon Feed the elephants and ride an elephant to the jungle.*

**Riding an elephant to the jungle allows the elephants to get some effective rest and relaxation, eating natural grass and leaves and enjoying the shade of the big trees.*

Evening Enjoy a barbeque dinner and rest overnight at the village.

Day Three

Morning Visitors watch demonstrations of the capture of wild elephants using different techniques and equipment. The programme finishes with a ceremony at which Mae Ping Elephant Village presents mahout certificates to the participants.

Remarks: Please make reservations 7 days prior to the programme.

An elephant normally sleeps on its side so every morning the mahouts check for any leaves and/or soil sticking to the elephant's body as part of the daily healthcare programme.



► *Ride in an ox-cart*

Ox-carts were an important means of transport in the past but they are seldom used now. Mae Ping Elephant Village provides visitors with the opportunity to get a taste of a traditional feature of past Thailand by riding in the back of an ox-cart to enjoy the natural scenery and observe village life.



► *Bamboo raft along the Mae Ping River*

The bamboo raft drifts along the peaceful Mae Ping River, showcasing the magnificence of the mountains and the simple, river-based way of life of the hill-tribe people.

► Watch the elephant show

Discover the elephants' talents by watching their performances of dancing, drawing, and playing mouth-organs, soccer, and volleyball. These startling skills performed by such large animals surprise visitors.

► Bathe an elephant

Visitors learn how to correctly bathe elephants by brushing and pouring water over them. This activity often finishes with a water fight session between the visitors and the elephants.



► Learn how to grow rice

Visitors who visit Mae Ping Elephant Village during the rice season (May-July) can participate in activities in rice cultivation and harvesting.

► Learn to cook Thai food

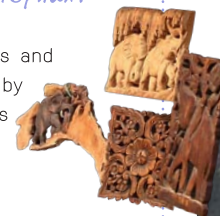
Cooking lessons at Mae Ping Elephant Village are conducted by an experienced chef who introduces visitors to the basic skills of cooking Thai food that they can repeat at home.

► Help the elephants

Mae Ping Elephant Village was established to provide work and shelter in natural surroundings for over 60 elephants and mahouts.

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Elephants protect their riders and remove obstacles in their path by using their trunks to clear vines and branches.



► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation
- Restrooms and accommodation for visitors with disabilities



► Contact Information

Address : 16/2 Mu 9, Tambon Inthakhin,
Amphoe Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai
Province 50150

Tel. : +66 (81) 960 2126,
+66 (81) 681 5899

Fax : +66 (53) 262 787

Website : www.elephantvillage.com

E-mail : info@elephantvillage.com

► TAT, Chiang Mai Office

Tel. : +66 (53) 248 604, +66 (53) 248 607



Did you know?

An elephant's trunk is not only used for smelling purposes. It is also used as a means to pick up food and suck up water, to assist them in walking safely, and to communicate with friends.





The unconditional love and strong bond every mahout at Muang Sing Elephant Village has for the elephants are reflected in the way they take care of their animals. Visitors to Muang Sing Elephant Village are encouraged by the mahouts to respect the importance of these valuable animals for future generations.

"We believe that if the elephants are living happily in pleasant surroundings, visitors would enjoy spending time with them and that would make the elephants happy."



All the mahouts at Muang Sing Elephant Village regard the elephants as family and their reason for being in the village is to feed and shelter their family members in a safe, relaxing place. The mahouts love to share the incredible bond that they have with the animals and allow the visitors to experience the world of the elephants through stories that will bring a smile to their faces every time they think about these amazing creatures.

Muang Sing Elephant Village
Kanchanaburi Province





► Learn the history, origin, and nature of elephants

To prepare the visitors for a thrilling experience with the elephants, Muang Sing Elephant Village provides a brief introduction about the origin and physiology of elephants. Muang Sing Elephant Village believes that a basic understanding of the animals is an essential part of having a great time with them.

► Learn to be a mahout

The mahout training programme at Muang Sing Elephant Village concentrates on providing visitors with activities that enable them to get a real insight into being a mahout. Visitors start this programme by learning about the history and nature of Thai elephants, followed by training in the giving of basic commands and controlling the elephants. The programme finishes with instructions related to feeding and bathing the animals.



► Mahout Training Programme

- Morning**
- Meet the mahouts and staff of Muang Sing Elephant Village.
 - Brief introductions are given to participants about the history, biology and nature of the elephants as well as guidelines on how to live in harmony with the animals.
 - Get changed into the mahout outfit.
 - Familiarization with the elephants.
 - Enjoy lunch.
- Afternoon**
- Learn the correct way of riding on the elephant's back and how to effectively use spoken commands.
 - Learn how to bathe and brush the elephants, feed them, and take them to rest in the forest.

Remarks: Please make reservations 7 days prior to the programme.

► Ride an elephant

A ride on these gigantic yet gentle creatures provides visitors with an unforgettable experience of viewing the mahouts' village, the forest, and Khwae Noi River from a great height. Once familiar with the animals, visitors can try riding the elephants bare-back and enjoy the experience of moving silently through the undergrowth.



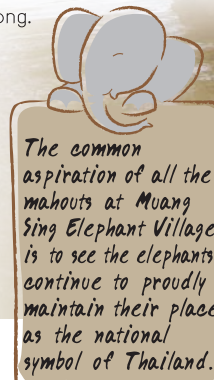
► Bathe an elephant

Muang Sing Elephant Village provides visitors with the opportunity to spend time with the elephants in the water. The staff guides the visitors on the correct bathing and brushing techniques required to properly clean the thick skin of the animals.



► Bamboo raft along Khwae Noi River

Explore by bamboo raft the unique river-based way of life of the beautiful forests, waterfalls, and resorts along the Khwae Noi River. More adventurous visitors can even enjoy swimming in the river when the current is not too strong.



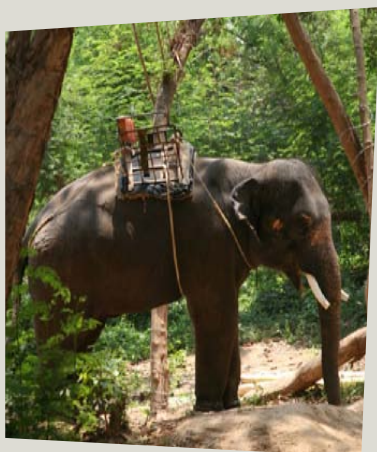
► Boat trip to the Death Railway and Krasae Cave

The boat journey starts at Muban Chang and visitors can explore the natural attractions along the Khwae River and take photos at the famous Death Railway. On the way back, there is the chance to visit Krasae Cave which houses an intriguing Buddha image and was a residential site for allied prisoners of war during World War 2.



► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Trust between rider and elephant is an important factor in an enjoyable and safe ride. The ability to command and communicate while riding the elephant without the help of the mahouts is a rewarding experience.



► Help the elephants

Muang Sing Elephant Village provides the opportunity for people to take care of these magnificent animals through the "elephant as a family member" sponsoring project. An integral part of this project is the regular updates on health and wellness of the animals sent to the sponsors.

► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop

► Contact Information

Address : 203 Mu 3, Ban Yang Thon,
Tambon Si Mongkhon,
Amphoe Sai Yok,
Kanchanaburi Province 71150

Tel. : +66 (85) 035 4306,
+66 (89) 115 7571,
+66 (89) 236 3977

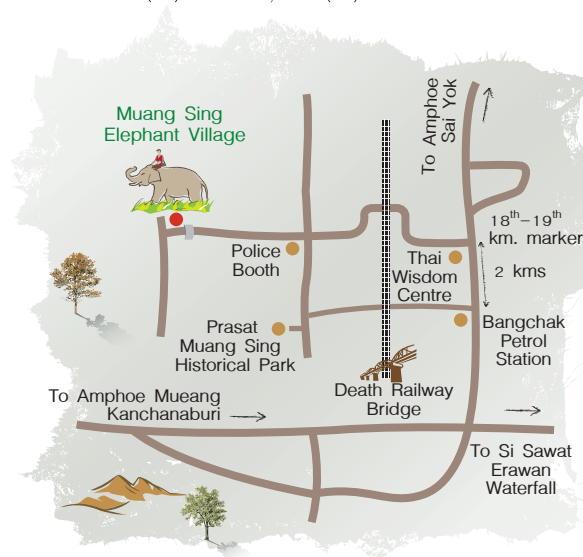
Fax : +66 (32) 253 093

Website : www.thaielephant-village.com

E-mail : info@thaielephant-village.com

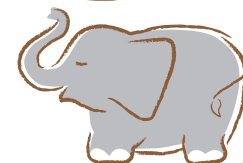
► TAT, Kanchanaburi Office

Tel. : +66 (34) 511 200, +66 (34) 512 500



Did you know?

- There are only approximately 3,000 elephants left in Thailand and about 10% of these are homeless.
- Elephants and mahouts have to learn mutual understanding as the skills of each party only improve with the help of the other.





A Unique Bond



The relationship between elephants and people is an extraordinary one, especially when the animals are treated with love and respect as family members. Living together harmoniously and sharing a love of nature creates an exclusive link that illustrates that genuine friendship and compatibility can truly exist between humans and animals.



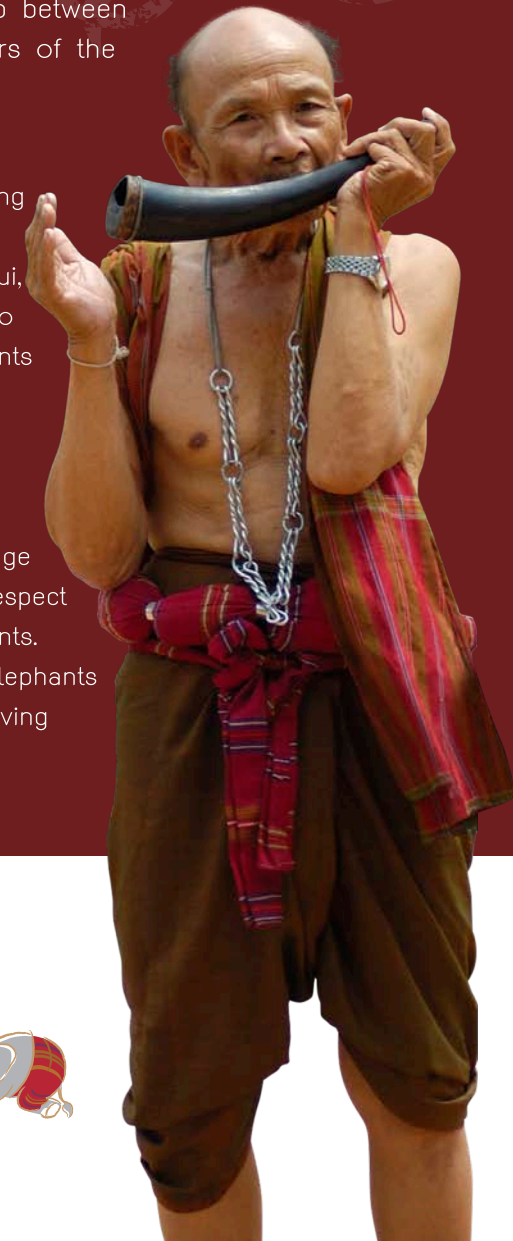


Elephant Study Centre Ta Klang Village Surin Province

There are few places in which one can experience the powerful bond between elephants and humans – the Elephant Study Centre Ta Klang Village in Surin Province is one of them. This Centre, the biggest home of elephants in Thailand, lets visitors capture the harmony of the fascinating relationship between elephants and members of the unique Kui culture.

The Elephant Study Centre Ta Klang Village was established to pass on to future generations the culture of the Kui, their knowledge about elephants, and to show the love that the Kui and elephants have for each other. Elephants are an integral part of Kui culture and almost every household has one as a family member.

Everyone who visits Ta Klang Village is touched by the understanding and respect that exists between the Kui and elephants. The differences between humans and elephants have no impact on one of the most loving relationships in the world.



"For Kui people, the happiness of the elephant is as important as the happiness of a family member."



Get to know the Kui people, their way of life, traditions and culture

Originally from Kampongthom in Cambodia, the Kui migrated to Thailand towards the end of the Ayutthaya period. Before moving to Ta Klang Village, Tambon Krapho, Amphoe Tha Tum, the Kui lived in Ban Mueang Ling, Amphoe Chom Phra. Leading a simple way of life based on food from the forests, the Kui have a long tradition of capturing and training elephants.

Prior to the capture of the elephants, the Kui perform blessing rituals and delegate tasks to each person in order of their importance and seniority. The group is led by Khruba Yai who is the leader in the Pakam Spirit House worshipping ceremony. The second most important person is Khruba who leads the people into the forest to capture the wild elephants accompanied by Mo Sadam, the second-in-command mahout, who acquired this position from the experience of capturing at least 11 elephants.

The Kui capture the wild elephants from the forest using a lasso made from buffalo leather. Considered a sacred object, the lasso is believed to embody the spirits of the Kui's ancestors. Once the wild elephants are captured, the handlers use the lasso to tie the elephants to trees before training them for work.

In the past, this capture of elephants, known as a roundup, happened once a year and the elephants were trained and became workers in the family. As a result, they are treated as real family members and when they die, the corpse is buried properly before the making of merit and dedication to the spirits of the elephants.





► *Learn the Kui people's way of life and the stories of the elephants*

The history of the Kui and the elephants is displayed for visitors to learn basic information and to gain an insight into the love between the people and the animals. This exhibition is an excellent way to start the activities at Ta Klang Village, as it explains the capture of the elephants, the equipment used, and the traditional rituals of the Kui.

► *Explore the extraordinary talents of the elephants*

Elephants are big animals but at the same time possess many astonishing skills; such as, playing soccer and basketball, drawing, and carefully stepping over people lying on the ground. Visitors also get the sense that the elephants are sensitive and full of emotions, just like humans beings.

► *Witness the Pakam Spirit House worshipping ceremony*

The Kui believe that the Pakam Spirit House is a place where the spirits of their ancestors and the Pakam spirits reside. It is also the storage place for Pakam leather (buffalo leather) and equipment used in elephant activities. It is a highly revered ceremony and visitors are required to make a prior reservation to witness this ritual.



► *Ride an elephant*

Visitors enjoy the scenery of the Ta Klang village as well as observe the simple but interesting way of life of the Kui and their inseparable bond with the elephants while riding on an elephant through the village.



► *Splash water with the elephants*

The elephants take a bath everyday at Wang Thalu where the Mun River meets the Chi River. Visitors are invited to help the mahouts bathe the elephants (and maybe even get into a water fight with them).



► *Learn to become a mahout in the Kui way*

The Kui live a different lifestyle and have a different approach in taking care of the elephants from people in other parts of Thailand. Visitors are able to get a deeper understanding of the culture through a home-stay programme at Ta Klang Village.



- *The 13th to 15th days of the 6th lunar month*

mark the Buddhist Ordination Procession on elephant's back, a ritual for over 200 years. The monks-to-be gather at Wat Chaeng Sawang and parade on elephants to Wang Thalu where the Mun and Chi Rivers meet. The monks-to-be ride the elephants across the river to pay homage and ask for forgiveness from Chaopho Wang Thalu, the highly revered Spirit of the Kui, before starting the ordination.



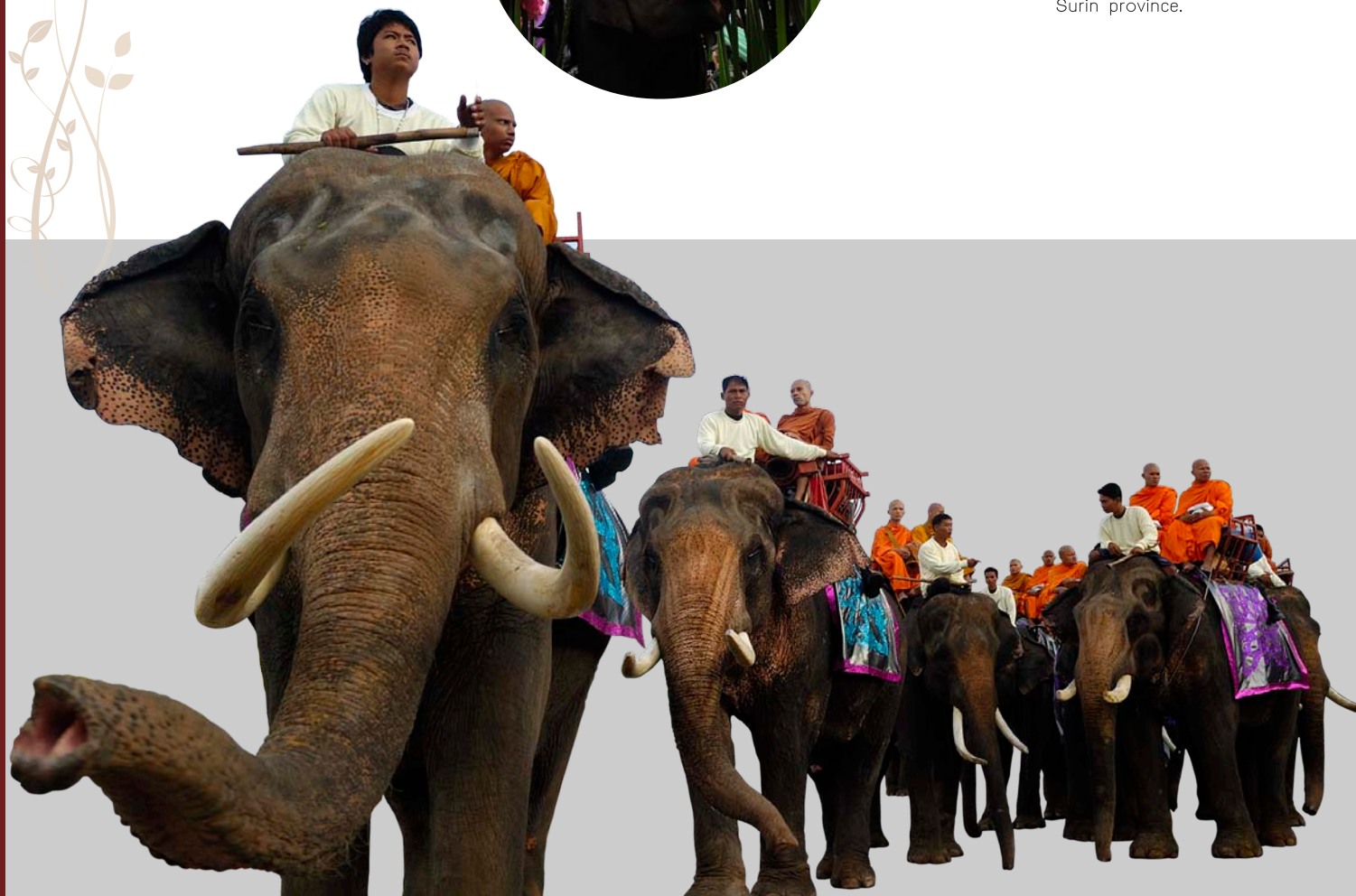
- *Visitors are invited to offer alms to the monks who are on the backs of elephants.*

This unique ceremony is held every year during Buddhist Lent in Surin province.



- *Discover the magnificent show of elephants at Surin Elephant Roundup in November of every year.*

No matter where in the country they live, every elephant "comes home" to Surin, known worldwide as the home of elephants, to participate in this important ceremony.





► *Special Events at the Elephant Study Centre*

• February

Valentine's Day: Witness or participate in the traditional Kui's wedding ceremony and the wedding registration on elephant back ceremony.

• March

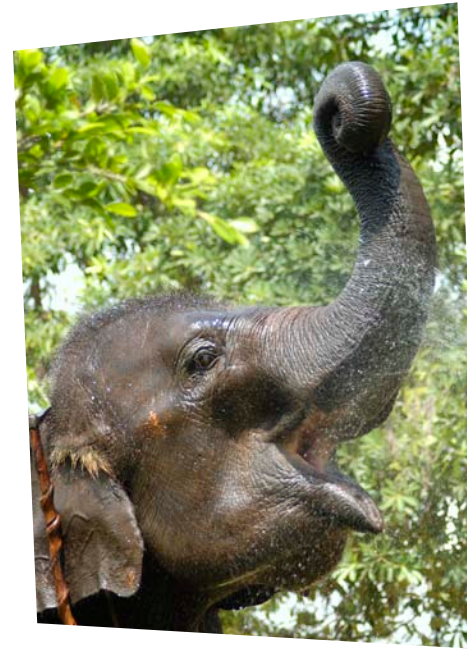
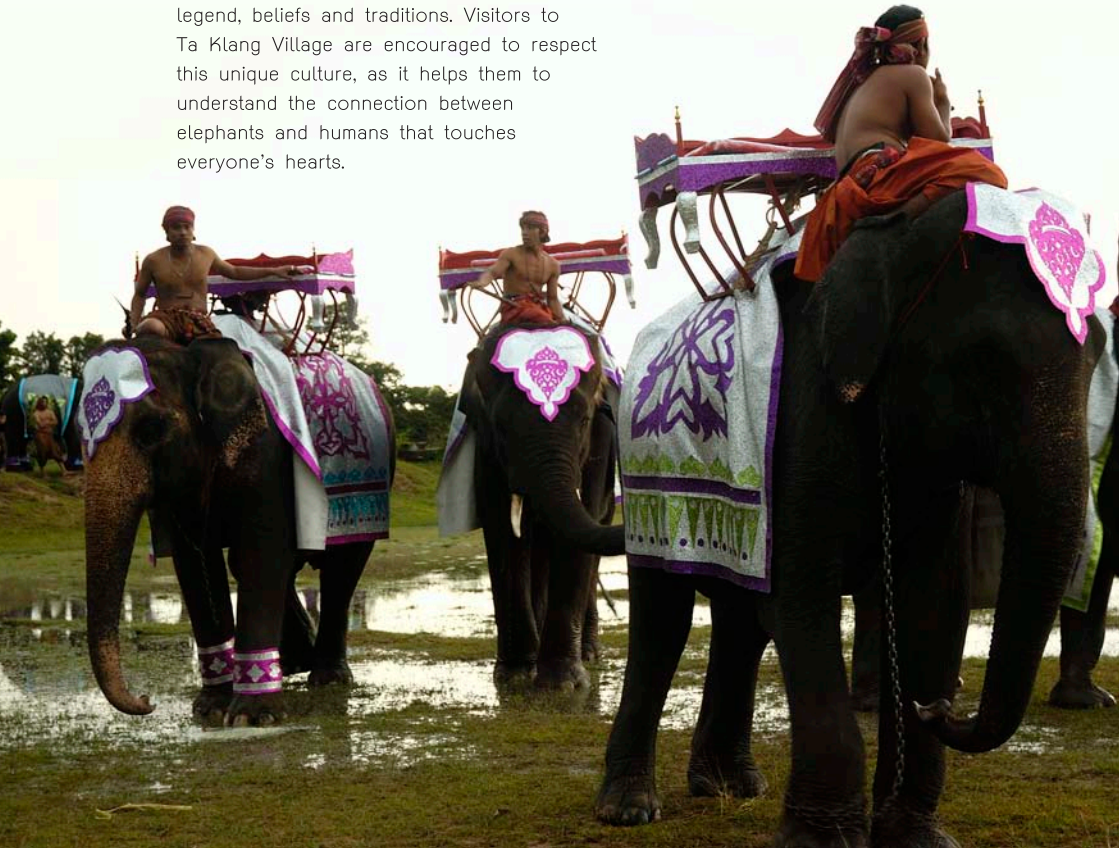
Thai Elephant Day: Merit making for the deceased elephants and mahouts.

• April

Songkran Festival: Play water splashing with the elephants to celebrate the Thai New Year.

► *A tip to enjoy your elephant time*

The Kui culture is full of interesting stories, legend, beliefs and traditions. Visitors to Ta Klang Village are encouraged to respect this unique culture, as it helps them to understand the connection between elephants and humans that touches everyone's hearts.



► *Facilities*

- Souvenir Shop
- Home-stay accommodation is available in the area nearby the Elephant Study Centre

► *Help the elephants*

The Elephant Study Centre Ta Klang Village joined with the Surin Provincial Administration to form the "Bring Back the Elephant for the Development of the Hometown" project. The purpose of this project is to develop Ta Klang Village as the biggest elephant village in the world and to help mahouts and elephants scattered around the country to return to their hometown.

► *Contact Information*

Address : Ban Ta Klang,
Tambon Krapho,
Amphoe Tha Tum,
Surin Province 32120

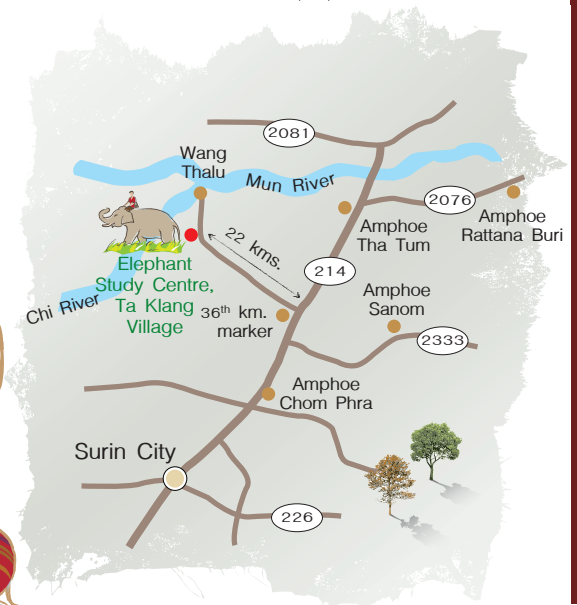
Tel. : +66 (44) 145 050

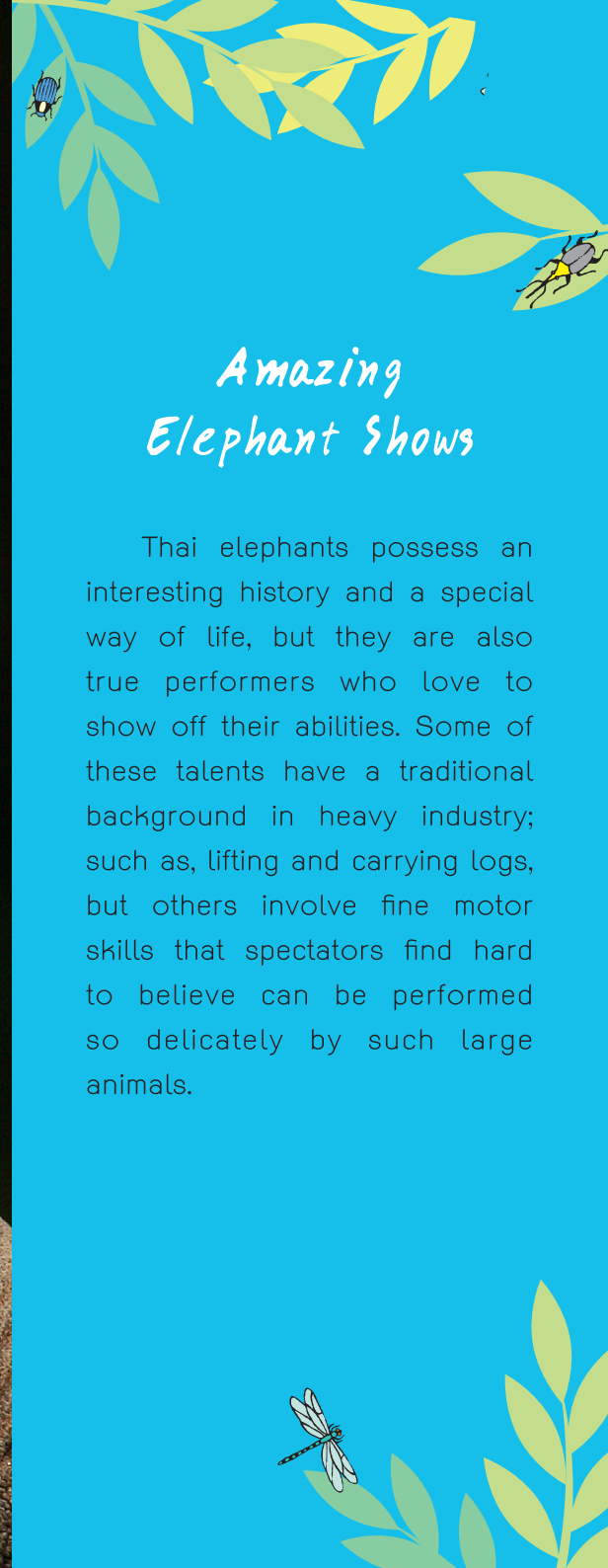
► *TAT, Surin Office*

Tel. : +66 (44) 514 447-8

Did you know?

- The Kui treat the elephants as family members. The elder elephants are respected by the Kui like elderly people whereas baby elephants are nurtured just like human babies.
- Pakam Spirit House is located within every house of the Kui, as it is a place where the spirits of the ancestors live. Elephants are regarded as Kui's ancestors, so the Kui believe paying homage to the spirit house is the same as paying homage to the elephants.





Amazing Elephant Shows

Thai elephants possess an interesting history and a special way of life, but they are also true performers who love to show off their abilities. Some of these talents have a traditional background in heavy industry; such as, lifting and carrying logs, but others involve fine motor skills that spectators find hard to believe can be performed so delicately by such large animals.

Maesa Elephant Camp

Chiang Mai Province

Maesa Elephant Camp is set in lush forests on the banks of the crystal clear Mae Sa River. Preservation of the elephants is the ultimate goal of Maesa Elephant Camp and the camp workers are determined to show the benefits of this preservation to visitors in a setting in which visitors can appreciate nature and the beauty of the animals.



Did you know?
A painting by elephants at Maesa Elephant Camp has earned the Guinness Book of World Record certification as the 'most expensive painting by a group of elephants in the world'.



- Ride an elephant in a natural setting and experience the authentic way of life of the hill-tribe people at the Ban Tong Luang
- Watch the elephant show - playing mouth-organs, dancing, playing football, drawing, giving massages, throwing darts, and hauling logs
- Bathe the elephants
- Learn to be a mahout
- Ride a bamboo raft
- See the fascinating painting ability of the elephants at the Maesa Elephant Art and Exhibition Hall and Gallery

Facilities

- Restroom
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Gallery Maesa, selling paintings by the elephants
- Accommodation
- Wheelchair-accessible restroom and ramp for visitors with disabilities



Help the elephants

The Elephant Procreation Programme is designed to encourage births of strong, healthy baby elephants in an attempt to avoid the threat of extinction. Only healthy elephants are selected for this programme.

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

13 March of each year is "National Thai Elephant Day" and Maesa Elephant Camp arranges several activities to celebrate this special day; such as, the blessing ceremony, "Satok" or elephant buffet, and binding the tusk ceremony for good luck.

Contact Information

Address: 101 Mu 9, Mae Rim-Samoeng Rd.,
Tambon Mae Raem,
Amphoe Mae Rim,
Chiang Mai Province 50180
Tel. : +66 (53) 206 247-8
Fax : +66 (53) 206 247
Website: www.maesaeelephantcamp.com
E-mail : maesaeele@loxinfo.co.th

TAT, Chiang Mai Office

Tel. : +66 (53) 248 604, +66 (53) 248 607



Did you know?
Mud and dust are natural insect repellents to protect the skin of the elephants, especially during the rainy season.



- Ride an elephant and discover the way of life of the Lisu hill-tribe
- Ride a bamboo raft
- Watch the elephants hauling and lifting logs
- Bathe the elephants
- Learn to be a mahout
- Paint with the elephants

► Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage and Snack Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation
- Ramp for visitors with disabilities

► A tip to enjoy your elephant time

On 16 April each year, Chiang-Dao Chiang Mai Elephant Training Centre has a ceremony at which the mahouts apologise to their elephants for any offence caused in the past year and to show their gratitude and love.



► Contact Information

Address : 108/1 Mu 9, Tambon Inthakhin,

Amphoe Mae Taeng,

Chiang Mai Province 50150

Tel. : +66 (53) 298 553, +66 (53) 862 037

Fax : +66 (53) 862 037

Website : www.chiangdaoelphancamp.com

► TAT, Chiang Mai Office

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Maetaman Elephant Camp Chiang Mai Province

Maetaman Elephant Camp, immersed in natural beauty and the unique way of life of the hill-tribes, has been introducing visitors to the world of elephants for over 10 years. Activities such as bathing the elephants and learning mahout skills are conducted in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



- Ride an elephant and enjoy the river, jungle, and waterfall
- Ride on a bamboo raft along the Mae Taeng River
- Ride in an ox-cart
- Watch the elephant show - playing soccer, drawing, dancing, playing musical instruments, and hauling logs
- Bathe the elephants
- Learn to be a mahout
- Visit the Lisu hill-tribe group to experience their authentic lifestyle

Remarks: For your convenience, please call in advance to check the information and the time of the show.



Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation
- Ramp for visitors with disabilities

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Visitors are advised to wear trousers when riding bare-back as the elephants' hair although harmless is coarse and may irritate the skin.



Contact Information

Address: 131 Mu 2,
Tambon Kuet Chang,
Amphoe Mae Taeng,
Chiang Mai Province 50180

Tel. : +66 (53) 297 060

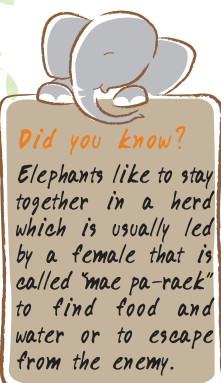
Fax : +66 (53) 297 283

Website: www.maetamanelephantcamp.com

E-mail : maetamann@hotmail.com

TAT, Chiang Mai Office

Tel. : +66 (53) 248 604, +66 (53) 248 607



Did you know?

Elephants like to stay together in a herd which is usually led by a female that is called "mae pa-raek" to find food and water or to escape from the enemy.



Did you know?
Elephant can swim at a speed of 1.6 kilometres per hour and can swim for 6 hours continuously.



- Ride an elephant and enjoy the tranquil nature and exotic lifestyle of the Lisu hill-tribe group
- Shop for Lisu handicrafts-hats, rings, bracelets, and scarves
- Ride on a bamboo raft
- Try whitewater rafting along the Mae Taeng River
- Ride in an ox-cart
- Watch the elephant show - playing soccer and basketball, drawing, dancing, and hauling logs
- Bathe the elephants
- Learn to be a mahout

Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage Corner
- Restaurant
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation
- Ramp for visitors with disabilities
- Muslim prayer room

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Don't forget to bring a change of clothes as you're sure to get wet from head to toe in the elephant bathing activities.



Contact Information

Address: 99/1 Mu 2, Tambon Kuet Chang, Amphoe Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai Province 50150

Tel. : +66 (53) 206 047

Fax : +66 (53) 206 454

E-mail : cnxtouristpot@hotmail.com

TAT, Chiang Mai Office

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Nong Nooch Garden and Resort Chon Buri Province

Nong Nooch Garden and Resort is not only a tropical wonderland full of scenic flowers and trees, it is also a place where visitors are amazed by the magnificent elephants. All the elephants are well taken care of, proven by Nong Nooch Garden and Resort receiving the Certificate of Quality Standards for Elephant Camps from the Department of Livestock Development.



Did you know?
Before and after performing the shows, the elephants need to be fed, bathed, and rested for at least 15 minutes for their comfort and wellbeing.



- Learn the history and origin of the elephants
- Watch the elephants perform
 - The grand demonstration of the Elephant Duel inside the cultural hall
 - The demonstration of skills; such as, throwing darts, riding bikes, drawing pictures with their trunks, dancing, as well as playing soccer, basketball, and bowling
- Play with the elephants
 - Visitors can lie down on the ground and receive a massage from the elephants, sit on the elephants' tusks, or be lifted off the ground in the elephants' trunks
- Reward the elephants by feeding them during and after the show
- Ride an elephant and enjoy the wide variety of flowers and plants in the numerous gardens

Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage and Snack Corner
- Restaurant
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation
- Wheelchair-accessible restroom and ramp for visitors with disabilities
- Foot Massage and Traditional Thai Massage



A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Elephants use their trunks as hands for lifting heavy objects such as logs, so visitors do not need to worry about the ability of elephants to lift them up with their trunks.



Contact Information

Address: 34/1 Mu 7, Tambon Na Chomthian, Amphoe Sattahip, Chon Buri Province 20250

Tel. : +66 (38) 709 358-60

Fax : +66 (38) 238 160

Website: www.nongnoochtropicalgarden.com

E-mail : info@nongnoochtropicalgarden.com

TAT, Chon Buri Office

Tel. : +66 (38) 427 667, +66 (38) 428 750



Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo Nakhon Pathom Province

From just a training place for unemployed elephants, Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo has developed into one of the most impressive elephant sites in the country. Visitors learn the animals' history and their way of life and that of their handlers from a splendid performance by the elephants and their Suai mahouts.



*Did you know?
Elephants understand the meaning of applause from the visitors, just like humans do. So, after each performance, please clap your hands to show your appreciation for the elephants and the mahouts.*



- Watch the Elephant Duel and the work and way of life of the mahouts
- Learn the origin, nature, and history of Thai elephants
- Watch the elephants perform various activities; such as, playing soccer, dancing, and hauling logs
- Feed the elephants
- Watch other performances; such as, the crocodile wrestling show and the magic show

Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage and Snack Corner
- Souvenir Shop



A tip to enjoy your elephant time

On 1 May of every year, visitors are invited to join Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo to thank these lovely animals for their hard work with the buffet of about 6,000 kilogrammes of fruits and vegetables.



Contact Information

Address: 117 Mu 6, Phetchakasem Road,
Amphoe Samphran,
Nakhon Pathom Province 73110

Tel. : +66 (2) 429 0361-2

Fax : +66 (2) 429 0455

Website : www.elephantshow.com

E-mail : samphran@ksc.th.com

TAT, Nakhon Pathom Office

Tel. : +66 (34) 752 847-8



Saiyok Elephant Park

Kanchanaburi Province

Saiyok Elephant Park is pleased to introduce visitors to an unforgettable experience of fun and challenging activities with the elephants. Provided with the opportunity to interact closely with the elephants in beautiful, natural surroundings, visitors can enjoy water fights with the elephants and riding and wading through water on an elephant's back.



*Did you know?
Elephants' eyes are very small and their eyesight is not good, being able to see only a distance of 10-25 metres. However, their hearing and smell are excellent and they can detect noises 3-4 kilometres away.*



- Ride in a seat strapped on the back of the elephants or ride them bare-back through the jungle and along the Khwae Noi River
- Wade through water on an elephant's back
- Enjoy the quiet serenity of a peaceful, natural environment on the bamboo raft along the Khwae Noi River
- Watch a performance by adorable baby elephants such as playing mouth-organs or massaging people



Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage and Snack Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Accommodation

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Being able to give spoken commands, such as "hao" (stop walking) or "tak pao" (spray water), makes your time with the elephant more memorable.

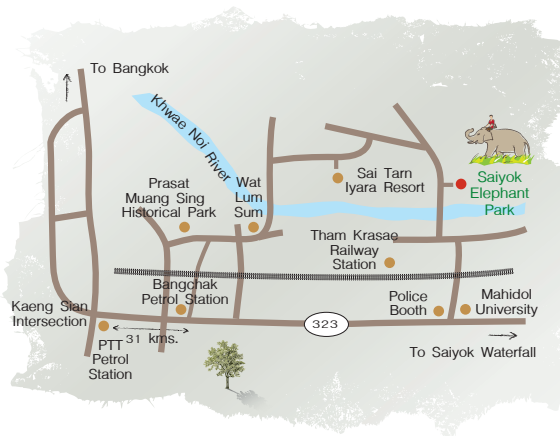


Contact Information

Address : 30/2 Mu 3, Tambon Lumsum, Amphoe Sai Yok, Kanchanaburi Province 71150
Tel. : +66 (34) 591 255, +66 (34) 591 102, +66 (81) 878 9979, +66 (86) 805 4616
Fax : +66 (34) 591 255, +66 (34) 591 102
Website : www.elephantpark.com

TAT, Kanchanaburi Office

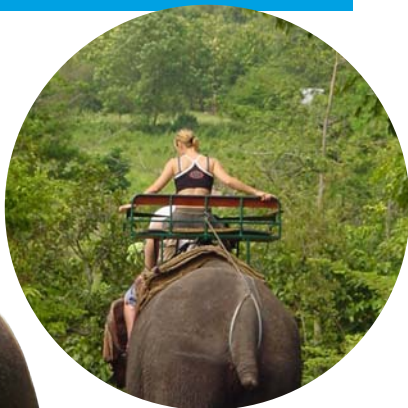
Tel. : +66 (34) 511 200, +66 (34) 512 500



Taweechai Elephant Camp

Kanchanaburi Province

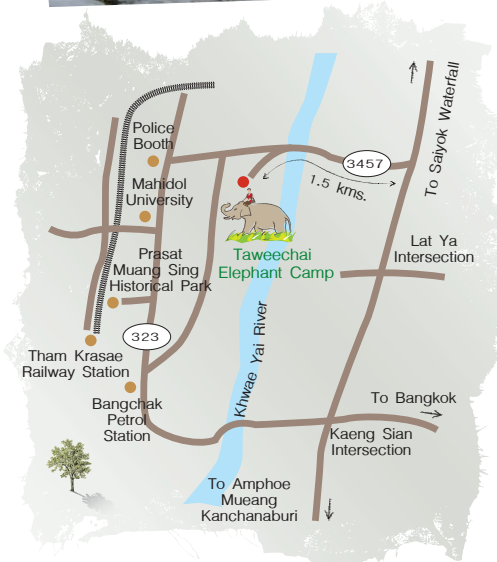
Taweechai Elephant Camp offers an unforgettable experience of thrilling activities with magnificent elephants on a peaceful stretch of the Khwae Yai River. Spacious and comfortable, Taweechai Elephant Camp is equipped with exciting activities for visitors such as bathing an elephant or taking an evening elephant ride, reflecting the intention of the camp founder who wishes to see people love and appreciate these prestigious animals.



*Did you know?
Elephants need to be trained before being put to work. This training is best started when they are babies, as they are more prepared to obey commands at this stage than when older.*



- Wade through the Khwae Yai River on the elephant's back and explore the intriguing culture of the Karen hill-tribe
- Become submerged in the serenity of nature along the Khwae River on a bamboo raft
- Bathe the elephants in the river and in the evening enjoy a barbeque by the river and be dazzled by the millions of stars while riding on the back of the elephant
- Marvel at the skills of the elephants as they throw darts, dance, and play basketball



Facilities

- Restrooms
- Beverage Corner
- Souvenir Shop
- Tent accommodation
- Banquet by the river is available

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Before bathing the elephants, brush their head, body, back and legs with a bunch of leaves to get rid of the dust and make the washing easier.



Contact Information

Address : 14/1 Mu 6 Tambon Chong Sadao,
Amphoe Mueang,
Kanchanaburi Province 71190
Tel. : +66 (34) 697 495,
+66 (81) 774 8301,
+66 (81) 941 4658,
+66 (81) 373 8170
Fax : +66 (34) 697 496
Website : www.twcelephantcamp.com
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TAT, Kanchanaburi Office

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Wangpo Elephant Camp

Kanchanaburi Province

Established with the aim of providing a shelter for elephants and a source of income for the hill-tribe and local people, Wangpo Elephant Camp offers activities that give visitors a chance to appreciate the unique qualities of these animals such as riding, playing and feeding them. Elephants at Wangpo Elephant Camp are trained to be friendly with humans but at the same time cautious to guarantee the visitors safety.



Did you know?
Only the males of the Asian elephants have tusks. There are 5 types - "yuak," "khruea," "wai," "niam," and "khanai" or "tuskes" depending on the size, shape and length.

Activities

- Journey through the jungle on an elephant's back and observe the lifestyle of the ethnic hill-tribe group
- Ride on an elephant through the water and enjoy playing water splash with them
- Ride on a bamboo raft along the Khwae Noi River to enjoy a panoramic view of the verdant forests and peaceful river-based way of life

Facilities

- Restrooms
- Shower Rooms

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

Try controlling the elephant by using body contact; such as, wrapping your legs around its neck and exerting pressure via your heels to its thighs to signal to the elephant to stop.



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Ayothaya Elephant Village

Phra Nakhon
Si Ayutthaya Province

Indulge in the glory of the former capital of Thailand on the back of an elephant, the country's giant, historical warrior. Ayothaya Elephant Village showcases the amazing phenomena of the grand historical sites and the majestic, magnificent animals. The activities at the village are a marvelous combination of having fun with the elephants and travelling back into the past.



- Explore the historical sites of Ayutthaya, by walking around the many important landmarks such as Wat Mahaeyong and Wat Kudidao
- Enjoy watching the clever elephants perform various shows involving drawing and playing hula hoop
- Get the exclusive experience of understanding the life of the elephants through a mahout training programme
- Get a taste of the ancient Thai way of life at the Ayothaya Floating Market

Facilities

- Restrooms
- Restaurant
- Souvenir Shop

A tip to enjoy your elephant time

The best way to be friendly with an elephant is to touch its forehead. Once you leave the print of your palm on its forehead, you feel the tenderness of this gigantic yet gentle creature.



Did you know?
Domesticated and wild elephants are referred to differently in Thai. The domesticated ones are called "Chueak" and the wild elephants are called "Tua".



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7 Greens Concept

has been initiated with the determination

and eagerness of the **Tourism Authority of Thailand**, as the main agency overseeing the tourism industry of the country, to take responsibility and to persuade all parties concerned to join hands in creating a “**environmentally friendly**” new tourism chapter in the future.

It is aimed at showing the “duty of everyone to take care of this planet earth”.



7 Greens Concept

is the idea aiming at all parties concerned with the tourism industry to bear in mind concrete environment protection and greenhouse gas emission reduction while undertaking their activities.

Green Heart:

It relates to people whose heart have great passion, faith, and care for the environment. They do not only think or speak, but they “act”.

Who: Everybody concerned both directly and indirectly in the tourism industry.

How: To be aware and take care of the impact to occur for every tourism activity.

Green Activity:

It aims to promote activities friendly to the environment.

Who: Tourists and operators providing tourism activities.

How: To operate tourism activities with happiness and care, at the same time create an opportunity to learn and experience about the environment and resource conservation.

Green Logistics:

It refers to transport to any preferred destination based on an environmentally friendly concept.

Who: Tourism transportation operators

How: To create options for patterns and modes of travel focused on energy saving and using renewable energy as well as reducing greenhouse gases.

Green Attraction:

It reinforces the combination of the use of tourist attractions for tourism business purposes and maintaining their local environment by means of quality management.

Who: Owners of tourist attractions, organizations that are responsible for tourist attractions.

How: To manage tourist attractions with the main aim to create sustainability of tourism resources.

Bear in mind that everyone has his role in each **Green**.

Each **Green** is differentiated according to the time and occasion. If we join hands to “**Save the World**” no matter who we are and how we are concerned with tourism, **the bright future of the world and the tourism industry will not be an impossible thing.**

Green Plus:

Green Plus: It focuses on giving back to society by assuming greater responsibility for the environment through their choices of activities.

Who: Everyone

How: Do not wait for the opportunity to save the world from the changing situation but create an opportunity to continually take care of the world.

Green Service:

It urges tourism services to select natural-based materials and control their treated waste back to nature.

Who: All tourism business operators

How: To provide quality standard services and taking the environment into account in every process of the tourism services.

Green Community:

It encourages local tourism communities to be aware of keeping the balance between tourism-generated benefit, and uniqueness of their communities.

Who: Organizations, groups, and persons in the community both in urban and rural areas which are tourist destinations.

How: To be aware, understand, and participate in showing the great power of the community in tourism resource protection and management in the way that it is in harmony with the local lifestyle.

Participating organizations

Department of Livestock Development

The Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services has established a set of standards for elephant camps in Thailand to promote the quality of these camps and to check on the safety of elephants and tourists. Initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, these guidelines also cover environmental management, health of the elephants, and improvements in the standards of living of elephants, mahouts, and business owners.

Office of Tourism Development

The Office of Tourism Development has created 4 criteria, 9 measures, and 146 requirements to guarantee the quality of the operation of elephant tourism services in Thailand. To comply, elephant camps must fulfill factors; such as, appropriate location and numbers of elephants and staff, competent management including the environment and safety, tourists' satisfaction with the quality of the camp, and a contribution to and by the local community.