

Friends & Family Thailand Trip

Enjoy the beautiful country & culture of Thailand while learning about immigrant issues
10 days in Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son and Bangkok with an optional 3 day Samui island excursion

Base trip: August 12-21, 2018, \$2485

Samui island add-on: August 21- 24, 2018, \$760



Highlights

Service Work in Mae Hong Son

- 3 days volunteering in Mae Hong Son with the Kareni People in northern Thailand helping to build their mushroom farm
- Work alongside the Kareni people, known in Thailand as The Long Neck tribe people, in a small rural village
- Help improve our our newly built mushroom farm with the villagers
- Play games with students and teach sports activities
- Help teach students English, 9-14 years old

Touring & Adventure

- A day at an Elephant Sanctuary
- Bike tour
- Thai cooking lesson
- Northern Thai traditional dinner
- Night Bazaar
- Spa and natural hot springs
- Tea Tasting
- Bangkok city tour
- Visit the floating market

Ko Samui Island

- Relax on the beautiful island of Ko Samui
- Boat tour Ang Thong National Marine Park



Service Work

Mae Hong Son and the Long Neck Tribe people

Mae Hong Son is a remote, mountainous province in northern Thailand, bordering Myanmar (Burma). Though sparsely populated, it is ethnically diverse and home to hill tribes such as the Shan and Hmong. The capital, also called Mae Hong Son, is a gateway to the region's hills.



The Karen people or Long Neck Tribe people are subsistence farmers and live in small mountain village, and growing rice and vegetables and raising animals. They originally come from Karen State in Burma or Myanmar and fled to Thailand to escape persecution and forced labor by the military. They are refugees in Thailand and not allowed to work in the cities. They must stay in the Mae Hong Son area in the hills. This makes life difficult to earn an income.

We'll learn about their plight, background, religion and culture while helping them build economic opportunities for their community. We'll be working with the Long Neck Tribe villagers in a small village with approximately 20 families. They have a school where the community meets and all most village life takes place. We'll be working alongside the community to build a water storage tank for their mushroom farm, help teach English in the school and do sports activities with the students.

Adventure & Sightseeing

Chiang Mai

Doi Suthep Temple



The wondrous and holy temple of Wat Phra That which is located near the top of Doi Suthep (Mount Suthep). Built as a Buddhist monastery in 1383 it is still a working monastery today. Funds raised by donations and the lift fee go to support the monks living there and for maintenance of the various temple buildings. The architecture, statues, murals and shrines seen here are nothing short of breathtaking. On a clear day you can see the whole city of Chiang Mai.

Elephant Sanctuary

A hands-on experience on learning to take care of an elephant. You'll learn how to interact with elephants, daily care, during which time you are trained to approach your elephant correctly, know the elephant's temperament, feed and check its health, learn about and take care of your own elephant, bathe and brush it in the river. The program is meant to create trust and good relations between you and your elephant.

Tom Yum Thai Cooking School



Learning to cook with Thai spices and herbs. You'll learn step by step on how to cook Thai dishes. You'll first visit the market to learn about the Thai herbs and vegetables and then on to the cooking school to make a delicious dinner!

Night bazaar



©Pattaya Floating Market's



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Open every night, you can find a huge variety of brand name designer goods (real and fake) (clothing, T-shirts, belts, shoes, jewelry, watches, DVD's) and local Thai goods at really low prices. It is a good place to find gifts while practicing your bartering skills.

Bangkok



Grand Palace

The Grand Palace is located at the heart of Bangkok, Thailand. The palace has been the official residence of the Kings of Siam. The present monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), currently resides in another Palace in Hua Hin, but the Grand Palace is still used for official events. Several royal ceremonies and state functions are held within the walls of the palace every year. The palace is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Thailand. It is considered a must-see palace in Thailand.

Floating Market

Correctly known as the “Four Regions Floating Market”, the sub-sections of this 100,000 sqm development represent the four major areas of Thailand - the north, northeast, central and south. This representation comes in the form of shops and stalls selling souvenirs, fruits, food, art, handicrafts, postcards and clothing as well as regular cultural shows and demonstrations. Some of the 114 vendors do indeed float, selling their wares from traditional boats and canoes. The rest are built into a sturdy stilted village, with covered walkways and stout bridges connecting them.

Wat Phra Khao Yai (Big Buddha Hill)

The so-called “Big Buddha” certainly deserves its name, being the biggest in the region at 18 meters in height. Positioned nearly 100 meters above sea level, it watches over Pattaya and Jomtien Beaches from its position on the hill dividing the two. The temple complex around the highly detailed golden seated Buddha creates a reflective mood in its many visitors thanks to its many bells, burning incense, numerous smaller statues and impressive views over the area.



Ko Samui

With its white-sand beaches hemmed in by coconut palms, private beach resorts reachable only by boat, and swathes of lush rainforest; Ko Samui comes as close to paradise as anywhere in Thailand. Marooned off the Gulf of Thailand coast and reachable by ferry from Chumphon and Surat Thani, Samui island is the largest of the Chumphon archipelago, and ranks second only to Phuket for the title of Thailand’s most visited island. On the east coast, is the island’s party hub, while Lamai Beach, Choeng Mon Beach, and Bophut offer more laid-back alternatives. Away from the beach, dramatic viewpoints abound, with highlights including Na Muang Waterfall, the Hin Ta and Hin Yai rocks, and the dazzling gold façade of Big Buddha Temple (Wat Phra Yai). The island also makes a popular basecamp for exploring the surrounding islands and speedboats.

We’ll be doing a boat tour of Ang Thong National Marine Park—a cluster of jungle-clad islands, ringed by jagged rocks, sandy coves, and a rainbow of coral—a truly most enchanting day trip.

| Day | Date | Travel | Accommodation | AM Activities | PM Activity | Evening Activities | Notes |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Chiang Mai | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Sun Aug 12 | Arrive BKK | Imperial Mae Ping Hotel | arrival Bangkok | Fly to Chang Mai | Orientation and Thai language survival skills | 1 hour flight from Bangkok to Chang Mai |
| 2 | Mon Aug 13 | Chiang Mai | Imperial Mae Ping Hotel | City Tour | Elephant sanctuary | Northern Thai dinner | |
| 3 | Tue Aug 14 | Chiang Mai | Imperial Mae Ping Hotel | Bike tour in the countryside | Tom Yum Thai Cooking School | Night market | |
| Mae Hong Song | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Wed Aug 15 | Chiang Mai | Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son | Fly to Mae Hong Son | Meet and greet community | Learn about community issues | 45 minute flight |
| 5 | Thu Aug 16 | Chiang Mai | Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son | Community service | | Optional massage at local baths | |
| 6 | Fri Aug 17 | Mae Hong Son | Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son | Community service | | Orientation for service work | |
| 7 | Sat Aug 18 | Mae Hong Son | Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son | Visit spa with natural mud baths and hot springs | Chinese village and tea tasting, hike in the mountains | | |
| Bangkok | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Sun Aug 19 | Bangkok | Ibis Hotel, Khaosan | Fly to Bangkok | City Tour | Khaosan Road | 45 min flight to Chiang Mai then 75 min flight to Bangkok |
| 9 | Mon Aug 20 | Bangkok | Ibis Hotel, Khaosan | Floating Market by boat | free afternoon to shop at MBK mall | | |



| Ko Samui optional | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10 | Tue Aug 21 | Ko Samui | Ibis Hotel, Samui or similar | Depart Thailand or fly to the island of Samui | afternoon on the beach | 70 minute flight to island |
| 11 | Wed Aug 22 | Ko Samui | Ibis Hotel, Samui or similar | Ang Thong National Marine Park boat tour | | |
| 12 | Thu Aug 23 | Ko Samui | Ibis Hotel, Samui or similar | Free day | | |
| 13 | Fri Aug 24 | | | Early morning flight to Bangkok | Depart | 70 minute flight to Bangkok |

The itinerary is flexible and can be adjusted to meet the group's needs but if there are any major changes to the itinerary then the cost will need to be reviewed.

Inclusions:

- All transport, fuel, tolls and road taxes
- Internal flights
- Accommodations and food
- English speaking local guide
- Return airport transfers
- Breakfast and lunch and Northern Thai dinner

Exclusions:

- Dinners
- Drinks other than bottled water
- Items of a personal nature, personal insurances, visas
- Laundry
- Internet
- Optional extra activities, not specified above
- Travel insurance
- Tips

| Cost per persons | Ko Samui add-on | Total for Both |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|



\$2485

\$760

\$3245

* A portion of the cost goes to The Kareni community project

Accommodations

Chiang Mai

The Imperial Mae Ping Hotel

153 Sridonchai Road, Chang Klan, Chiang Mai 50100, Thailand

T: +66 53 283 900

<http://www.imperialmaeping.com/>

Mae Hong Son

Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son

149 Moo 8, Pang Moo,, Muang, Mae Hong Son 58000, Thailand

Phone: +66 53 684 444

<http://www.imperialhotels.com/hotelResorts-en.html>

Bangkok

IBIS Khaosan

42 Rambuttri Road Banglumpu, Chana Sougkham, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

+66 2 280 5434

<http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-9906-ibis-styles-bangkok-khaosan-vientai/index.shtml#overview>

Ko Samui

IBIS Samui Bophut

Bophut Beach Surat Thani, Ko Samui, Surat Thani, 84140, Thailand

800-491-6126

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6688-ibis-samui-bophut/index.shtml>

