



EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS



## CULTURE AND SERVICE IN THAILAND

*12 or 15 days*

### MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

This trip through Thailand is service meets sightseeing meets seriously beautiful temples. In northern Thailand, work with local communities on projects related to education, the environment, or community development. Then ask yourself: What's cuter than a happy elephant? Answer: A sanctuary of happy elephants! Observe the gentle giants and help maintain the place they call home. Finally, head to bustling Bangkok to explore winding canals, historic sites, and local flavors.

10

Estimated  
service hours

#### YOUR SERVICE PROJECT THEMES

We work with local nonprofits to better understand the needs of each community and then focus projects on those issues. Themes include:

- Education
- Environment
- Infrastructure
- Community building
- Elephant welfare

# CULTURE AND SERVICE IN THAILAND

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## What to expect on this Service Learning Tour

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### MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Working side by side with locals, you'll gain insight into the challenges they face and build lasting solutions to help empower the community.

#### Projects include:

- Working alongside locals to help communities, the environment, or education
- Support conservation efforts at a local elephant sanctuary

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### CULTURAL IMMERSION

Live just outside the communities you serve—celebrating customs and forming lasting connections with locals.

#### Activities include:

- Participate in cultural activities or games with locals in rural communities
- Discussion with a Buddhist monk
- Experience a local market

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### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Your Tour Director takes your global service experience even further, developing and strengthening leadership skills through activities and workshops.

#### Exercises include:

- Investigating global issues, exploring social justice, and building leadership skills
- Contextualizing the day's events through thoughtful discussion and group dialogue
- Reflective journaling to deepen the service experience



Eco-friendly paper from PooPooPaper



Ayutthaya Historical Park



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Fly overnight to Thailand

#### Day 2: Bangkok

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Bangkok, home of gleaming silver skyscrapers, ancient temples, and serene Buddhist monasteries.

#### Day 3: Bangkok | Chiang Mai

- Explore the Museum of Siam, an interactive museum that depicts Thai history and culture.
- Fly to Chiang Mai, an ancient city in the mountains of northern Thailand.

#### Day 4: Chiang Mai

- Tour Chiang Mai with your Tour Director. Visit the intricate Wat Ket Karam temple and wander through a local market.
- Explore Wat Suan Dok temple.
- Participate in a discussion with local monks.

#### Day 5: Chiang Mai | Service project

- Travel north to your service project location.
- Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a hilltop temple famous for its gleaming gold exterior.
- Tour Elephant PooPooPaper Park, a facility that makes eco-friendly paper from elephant dung, and try your hand at the sustainable paper-making process.
- Attend a project orientation to learn more about your service work.

#### Days 6–7: Service project

As communities evolve, so do their needs. That's why we work closely with local nonprofits to better understand each community's issues. Since projects are determined closer to your actual tour date, here's what a typical day might look like:

- Explore a community where you'll work with locals on a service project.
- Immerse yourself in cultural activities, celebrate local customs, and learn about community traditions.
- Reflect, discuss events as a group, and draw connections between the day's work and relevant global issues.

#### Day 8: Chiang Rai

- Travel to Chiang Rai.
- Prepare for things to get big, grey, and cute all over on a visit to an elephant sanctuary. Take a walkthrough of your next service project and get an introduction to the complex history of elephants in Thai culture.

#### Day 9: Chiang Rai

- Focus your service efforts on the upkeep of an elephant sanctuary.

#### Day 10: Chiang Rai | Bangkok

- Fly to Bangkok
- Take an expert-led tour of Bangkok.
- Take a boat tour of the Chao Phraya River and Thonburi *klongs*.
- See Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn.
- Visit Wat Pho, a temple covered entirely in precious gold.

#### Day 11: Bangkok

- Take a day tour around the UNESCO-recognized historic city of Ayutthaya.

#### Day 12: Depart for home

### 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

#### Day 12: Bangkok | Cha-Am

- Travel to Cha-Am.
- Enjoy free time on Cha-Am Beach.

#### Day 13: Cha-Am

- Take an excursion to Kuri Buri National Park.
- Spend the day enjoying Thailand's natural wonders.
- Observe elephants in their natural habitat.

#### Day 14: Cha-Am | Bangkok

- Return to Bangkok.
- Explore Bangkok on your own.

#### Day 15: Depart for home



**Everything you get:** 10 overnight stays in hotels (13 with extension); Round-trip flights on major carriers; Daily breakfast and dinner, lunch on days 3-11 (with extension: daily breakfast, lunch on day 13, dinner on day 14); Local ground transportation; Full-time Tour Director; Sustainable service projects; Service hours that count towards academic credit; Sightseeing tours led by expert guides; Entrance fees



## *Your partner in global education*

### **EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

For over 50 years, EF has worked with educators across the world to help millions of students become citizens of the world through one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. With more than 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries, our staff can respond in person wherever you are, 24 hours a day. We're also an accredited educational institution, offering students the option to earn high school and college credit.

### **ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING TOURS**

On an EF Service Learning Tour, you and your students work side by side with locals on community-driven projects in Africa, Asia or the Americas. EF partners with established nonprofits and NGOs—such as the Mariposa Foundation and WE Charity—to make sure your contributions are both meaningful and sustainable. Through hands-on work and deep exposure to the local culture, students learn vital collaboration and problem-solving skills. They return inspired to make a difference at home, too.

### **START PLANNING**

To enroll on this tour, ask your teacher for the tour number and visit [eftours.com/enroll](https://www.ef-tours.com/enroll) or call 800-665-5364