



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

THAILAND



CARE FOR RESCUED ELEPHANTS IN AN ELEPHANT SANCTUARY IN KANCHANABURI

Work with elephants in the stunning location of Kanchanaburi. The elephants are elderly, sick, previously abused, or illegally-owned and have been relocated to the sanctuary and cared for and given a better quality of life. You'll bond with these gentle giants by swimming with them, bathing them and preparing their food and, most satisfying of all, ensuring they live in a happy, comfortable environment!

If you would like to do this project for one week, you'll start your programme immediately at the Elephant Centre, working with these magnificent animals. If, however, you're lucky enough to be there for 2 weeks, you'll start with a Cultural Activities week that will immerse you into the fascinating culture of Thailand, including Thai language and cooking lessons, visits to temples, and generally exploring and experiencing the region. This week will help to make you feel completely at home during the rest of your stay. Your Elephant Programme will start in week two.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping to improve the quality of life of elephants by working hands-on with them, and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Asia and the Thai culture! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience.**

Prices: £995 for one week without cultural week and £1,295 for 2 weeks, Elephant Project WITH Cultural Activities

Duration: 1 or 2 weeks (if doing the cultural week first)

Start Dates: Projects start every weekend and end on a Saturday, all year round - you choose your start and finish dates. Arrival should be before 4pm.

Requirements: No qualifications or experience required, but you must have lots of enthusiasm and initiative, and a great love of elephants and their well-being. **Minimum age 18.**

What's Included:

- ▶ Arranging your Programme,
- ▶ Payment Protection insurance
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Meeting you at Bangkok Airport
- ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
- ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance,
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Transfer to the project location
- ▶ Local in-country team support and backup
- ▶ Food

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visa, return transfer to the departure airport.

SUMMARY

WORK CONTENT AND DESCRIPTION

If you're doing this project for one week only, you'll start your programme immediately at the Elephant Centre. If you're there for 2 weeks, you'll start with a Cultural Activities Week and your Elephant Programme will start in Week Two.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WEEK:

This week is a full on immersion into the amazing Siam culture, a great way to meet people and the perfect way to prepare for your volunteering project. Activities are arranged Monday to Friday and a typical schedule looks like this:

Monday: After breakfast you'll have a group meeting and then you'll discover the village of Tha Kham to get you familiarized with your new surroundings. Lunch will be at your accommodation and in the afternoon you'll visit Singburi and then to Chai Saeng for essentials supplies for during the week. You'll then visit Wat Phikun Thong where you will get a short introduction to Buddhist rituals. Back at the accommodation, you'll have a Thai language lesson you'll be the special guests of a welcome party with the local children performing a traditional Thai dance; but be warned, they will expect you to join in with the dancing!

Tuesday: Start off the morning with a visit to Wat Muang in Ang Thong, which is home to the tallest Buddha statue in Thailand and the 9th in the world. Next we will drive to Banbang Sadet Court Doll Centre where you can see the famous world-class miniature dolls and even build your own!

After lunch, we will head to the Historic City of Ayutthaya, which was founded in 1350 by King U-Thong. Once there, we will explore Ayutthaya Historical Park, which contains the ruins of the former capital of the Kingdom of Siam and is recognized internationally as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, we will also visit Wat Mahathat (The temple of the Great Relic).

Next up we will Visit Wat SriSanphet & a local market close-by. This trip will be a while but on the way out you can buy souvenirs, drinks and any other refreshments you like.

Our final stop for the today will be a visit to Wat Yai Chai Mongkol. You can you walk up the Chedi for photos of the city or go to the top of the temple and drop a coin in the bucket for blessings and temple preservations. You will also have the chance to see the Reclining Buddha. Once we return back to the accommodation, we will finish off the evening with a dinner!



Wednesday: We will start off the morning very early with a drive to Wat Phra Non Chaksi and meet up with the monks on their morning alms collection and walk through the village with the monks. We will then prepare food for the monks and then have breakfast afterwards.

After breakfast, you will have the chance to learn about authentic meditation from a local monk. You will also have the opportunity to engage in a Q & A with the monk. We will then walk around the Vihan to see the massive sleeping Buddha. After visiting the temple, you can buy coffee, soft drinks, ice-cream outside of the temple.

We will then drive back to the accommodation and if you are up for it, watch an interesting documentary about Buddhism. After lunch at our accommodation, we will drive to Singburi for your free time at a local swimming pool or a nice relaxing massage at Chai Saeng.

In the evening, we will have dinner at a BBQ restaurant (Thai style, of course!)

Thursday: In the morning, we will visit Ban Din Moddaeng in Lopburi where we will also have lunch here. After lunch, we will drive to Wat Phra Prang Sam Yot Park and walk over to the old temple, where you can walk around and see all the monkeys. If you wish, peanuts can be bought for the monkeys to feed them. We will then head back to our accommodation in Singburi, where we will freshen up and rest.

In the afternoon, you will engage in after school activities with the local children, assist with their homework, English and Maths at our accommodation. After dinner at the accommodation, you will visit Top Plaza Mall where everyone will have 1 hour of free time in the mall or evening activities.

Friday: The morning will start off with a visit to Coconut Shell House. This local handicrafts workshop makes jewellery from coconut shells and is part of the Thailand's OTOP programme.

We will then head back to the accommodation for some traditional Thai cooking lessons. Make sure to pay close attention during the lessons because you will be eating your own cooked meal for lunch! After lunch, we will visit the Royal Highness Queens Project in Nong Lad. Walk around the project site and see vegetation & rice fields, mushroom & fish farms and even water Buffaloes. Once we leave the Queens project, we will go to Khai Bang Rachan Memorial Park - one of Thailand's most historical sites showcasing a great battle which took place over 250 years ago between the Burmese and Siamese people in old Siam! We'll then head back to the accommodation in Singburi where we will have dinner.

Weekends are always free after the Siam Culture programme to use as a time of relaxation or to expand your sightseeing within the central province or even a trip to Bangkok city.

WORK CONTENT – ELEPHANT SANCTUARY:

The project is based in Kanchanaburi, which manages a delicate balance between tradition and tourism. Its surrounding limestone hills create an unimaginably beautiful landscape enhanced by its numerous bamboo-style buildings, stunning meandering rivers and unique temple caves. Kanchanaburi is truly one of Thailand's natural gems and the perfect place to indulge in nature and spend time with elephants in our project.

The aim of the sanctuary is to relocate elephants that are injured, ill, previously abused or illegally owned to a place where they are well looked after in an replica of their natural environment. You'll learn about the elephants of Thailand and truly experience Thai culture, while working closely with the mahouts who dedicate their lives to gaining an understanding of the elephants and how best to care for them.

You will help by planting food for them, spending a lot of hands on work with the elephants like joining them for their regular mud baths – what fun! The programme also allows for some exciting local activities and a typical schedule is as follows:

Monday

After breakfast, depart to Kanchanaburi from Singburi and engage in an Introduction and Safety Rules lesson. This is followed by observing and feeding the elephants in the river. You'll prepare sticky rice balls and



feed them to the elephants and after lunch, you'll participate in bathing the elephants with mud inside the river! Then it's time for Nature Trekking - roughly half an hour of trekking around the elephant centre. Then it is elephant bathing where you will get up and close washing an elephant with your hands! After feeding the elephants you'll finish off the night with a nice Dinner!

Tuesday

You'll prepare the elephants food and then walk with them, feed them and then it's their bath time where you can observe the elephants having fun! After lunch you'll watch the elephants have their mud bath and then you'll feed them and walk with them. After dinner you'll visit a local market.

Wednesday

Before breakfast you will make the sticky rice balls and feed the elephants. After breakfast you will visit Krasae Cave and the nearby Death Railway. You'll collect elephant dung and bathe with the elephants before dinner.

Thursday

You'll start off the morning by planting grass/bananas. You'll help the caretakers in cleaning the area where the elephants are fed. You'll also go on a nature trek around the centre. After dinner you'll cook rice in bamboo,

Friday

After breakfast you'll engage in some traditional grass cutting, followed by elephant feeding and bathing. You'll then take a traditional Thai cooking lesson followed by observation of the elephants eating grass. After lunch you'll help clean the area where the elephants sleep and in the evening they'll be a campfire where you will bond with your fellow participants.

Saturday

After breakfast it is time to say goodbye to the sanctuary and depart.

****Please note;** this schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances **



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Singburi will be in an 'Eco House' near Singburi, located by the riverside. The rooms are single sex and have 2 bunk beds. The rooms have a private western style toilet and cold showers (refreshing in the heat of Singburi). The doors and windows are fitted with mosquito screens and there are 2 fans in every room. Bed linen is provided but please bring your own towel.

The houses have a communal area where you can eat, relax, meet fellow participants or use the free Wi-Fi.

The rooms are simple, yet comfortable and appropriate for this setting. You will share with up to one other volunteer of the same sex. Bed linen, towels, a fan and mosquito protection are provided. You'll share a western style bathroom with hot showers.

Kanchanaburi is rapidly increasing as a popular tourist destination. Situated 130 km west of Bangkok, its central location makes it an ideal stop off point for those travelling through Thailand. Our location is based in a beautiful setting where you can see the elephants enjoying their natural habitat.

The closest ATM is about 5 km away. There is also a hospital, multiple convenience stores and a pharmacy close-by for all your essential needs.

Private rooms are available at Singburi only, at a small supplement.

FOOD:

Food is included during your stay. The meals will be a variety of Thai style dishes (vegetarian and fish) will be served. Mostly rice dishes will be provided in addition to fruits and vegetables. On a few occasions meat may be available too. You'll be provided with 3 meals per day Monday to Friday and 2 at the weekends, brunch and dinner.

In Kanchanaburi, mineral water, tea and coffee is available.



WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation and Food
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Transport to the placement site
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile project

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: info@travellersworldwide.com

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure!

Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget.

As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive at Bangkok Airport, you'll be met by our Thailand Organiser and taken to the base at Singburi. If you have booked a one week elephant project you will stay at Singburi until early on Monday morning, and then you will depart for the elephant sanctuary, and whilst on the cultural week this will be your home and on the following Monday you will be transported to the elephant sanctuary. You and the rest of the group will have an English speaking Thai co-

ordinator present with you throughout your stay. You'll be introduced to all the other volunteers and the local project team. Then you get to meet the elephants! Your adventure has begun.

THINGS TO DO IN THAILAND

LOCATION:

The town of **Kanchanaburi** manages the delicate balance of remaining very traditional, whilst accommodating the needs of tourists. Its surrounding limestone hills create an unimaginable beauty, furthered by its numerous bamboo-style buildings, its beautiful meandering rivers and unique temple caves. Kanchanaburi is truly one of the country's natural gems and the perfect place to indulge in nature and participate in the Elephant project.

ABOUT BANGKOK:

Bangkok is not for the faint hearted! This is South East Asia's largest, most frenetic, over polluted, traffic congested capital city. But don't let that put you off! This will all become part of the charm.

By day and night, Bangkok is fast paced - this is a city for indulgence and fun, with action at all hours. One of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of this country is to live and breathe it:

- Visit the traditional floating markets on the outskirts of Bangkok, where traders sell their wares from wooden boats, weighed down by kilos of bananas and other exotic fruits as garlands of jasmine hang off the boats stern.
- Walk through China Town early in the morning and watch stall owners carry boxes of merchandise that tower over them, weighing two or three times their body weight.
- Snack on some fresh pineapple or watermelon carefully sliced by a roadside vendor as you soak in the sights and smells of the city before the midday heat encourages you inside to air conditioned safety.
- Watch tuk tuk's laden with people screech past, weaving in and out of traffic.
- Enjoy some freshly cooked Pad Thai from a street vendor. This is a mixture of noodles and bean sprouts stir fried with an egg and served with a generous portion of chilli sauce, or for the brave, a heaping of additional dried chilli.
- Take in sunset from a river cruise and marvel at Bangkok's diverse skyline, from modern gleaming skyscrapers to the pointed gold roof's of glittering temples.
- Visit the Grand Palace, a decadent spectacle which used to be residence to the King of Thailand and now has a temple for the Emerald Buddha.

The grand palace is one of the most striking pieces of art in Thailand, with gargoyles, dragons and warriors incredibly re-constructed in glittering mosaics.

HOW TO BOOK

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone
01903 502595 (UK)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!

We hope you'll join us!

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

www.travellersworldwide.com