



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



THAILAND: Elephant & Education Initiative™

Experience Thai culture as you split your time between supporting the well-being of elephants at a sanctuary and teaching English to children in local schools.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will journey to enchanting Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, where you'll have a chance to engage with Thai youth as well as Asian elephants. Make unforgettable connections with local students through community service at a rural primary school, and take part in a cultural exchange at a local high school. Then, live alongside elephants at a sanctuary, while you learn about how to care for these animals that are an integral part of Thai culture, conservation and tourism. Cook your own fabulous cuisine, shop at bustling markets and explore the rich history and culture of Thai temples.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

14-DAY PROGRAM

June 12 – June 25, 2024
June 29 – July 12, 2024
July 5 – July 18, 2024
July 16 – July 29, 2024
July 22 – August 4, 2024

Tuition: \$4,499 USD

Service Hours: 30

Max Group Size: 24

Age Range: 14-18

Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1

Airport: Chiang Mai (CNX)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Responsibly care for elephants living at a sanctuary for rescue elephants
- ★ Learn about cultural, social and environmental issues related to elephant tourism
- ★ Meet enthusiastic Thai youth and make a difference in their lives
- ★ Teach English in a primary classroom
- ★ Visit colorful night markets filled with local cuisine and handicrafts

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer at a school providing English instruction for local children through classroom time, tutoring, arts, crafts and sports. Develop meaningful relationships with your students—serve not only as their teacher, but also a role model, mentor and friend. Accelerate refurbishment efforts to shelters and infrastructure for these displaced families who have historically been marginalized.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

WEEK ONE: WORKING WITH ELEPHANTS

DAY 1: WELCOME TO THAILAND

Sawadee ka! (Hello!) You'll fly into the Chiang Mai airport where GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival. We will get together as a group and take a short bus ride to our Home Base where we will have a brief GLA orientation before settling into your rooms. Get to know each other over our first Thai dinner and take the evening to rest. This program's Home Base is beautiful (and air conditioned!)—make yourself at home!

DAY 2: CULTURAL IMMERSION & ADVENTURE

We'll get oriented to our home for the next few weeks by taking a city tour, visiting a local museum and exploring the sights and smells of the walking market nearby. Develop a taste for the local cuisine through a hands-on cooking class! In the evening, we'll reflect with our fellow students and GLA Mentors, share our individual travel experiences and discuss leadership. We'll also prepare for our first day of community service.

DAY 3: TRAVEL TO ELEPHANT JUNGLE SANCTUARY

Spend the day with a local organization learning first-hand about issues facing both wild and captive Thai elephants. You'll have a chance to help take care of the elephants and observe feeding time. This is an ethically-focused sanctuary where human-elephant interaction is limited in order to preserve the elephant's most natural state. Learn about the cultural significance of the elephant in Thailand, and the rise of better ethics toward elephant treatment in the tourism industry.

DAYS 5-6: ELEPHANT SANCTUARY & LOCAL MARKETS

Rise early to help plant and harvest food for the elephants. You'll see what it takes to maintain a safe space for elephants. We'll plant and harvest banana trees, spend time with the caretakers and work on various projects. Also spend time preparing food and feeding the elephants. In the evening, hear from a guest speaker about living the "expat life"—what it's like to travel for work, and to live abroad long-term. We'll also get the chance to travel to the local market where you'll see lots of regional produce and





artisan goods. Do some of your own shopping here, as well as shopping for the elephants: Supplementary food and items for the sanctuary can be found in the street stalls.

DAY 7: THAI TEMPLES & NIGHT BAZAAR

We'll leave the elephant sanctuary today and head off for our next adventure, saying goodbye to the staff who run the sanctuary and the gentle giants we've grown close to. On our way to the next Home Base, we'll stop at several beautiful Thai temples, which are gateways to Thai culture. We'll chat one-on-one with an older monk; open your mind to different philosophies and consider what cultures across the globe can do to empathize with each other. In the evening, we will settle into our new Home Base before visiting the bustling Night Bazaar. Shop for beautiful textiles, souvenirs and street food!

DAY 8: CULTURAL EXPLORATION & MUAY THAI

Today, you'll take a class from a local instructor on the ancient tradition of Muay Thai boxing. Learn about the history of Muay Thai and test your athleticism as you learn basic moves. You're guaranteed to get a good workout today! We'll also visit Thai markets, local parks and attractions, and Doi Suthep, a famous mountain temple, as we further immerse ourselves in the local culture.



WEEK TWO: WORKING IN EDUCATION

DAY 9: PREPARE FOR TEACHING

Learn about social issues that exist in Chiang Mai, especially in relation to education and how it affects the quality of life. We'll start with orientation and do lesson-planning in preparation for our new service project: teaching students in rural Chiang Mai. We're hoping to create some excitement around staying in school and to help fill the gaps for those falling behind for critical exams.



DAYS 10-13: TEACH ENGLISH IN THE CLASSROOMS

Travel to a local government primary school. Today we'll begin teaching. Be prepared to adjust your lesson plans, stay energetic and on your feet for several hours and improvise games to help your students stay engaged and learning! In today's globalized society, English language abilities help with job security everywhere, especially in communities where tourism is a major industry. Take mental notes to share in our evening session about the differences between Thai schools and schools we've experienced.

DAY 13: TEMPLES, MARKETS & REFLECTION

Visit one last temple and the local market for some last-minute buys, then spend time with your GLA family to reflect on your time in Thailand and what it has meant to you. Enjoy a special farewell dinner prepared by local staff, celebrating your Thailand experience and the new connections made.

DAY 14: DEPARTURE

After completing the program, students on the 14-day program travel back to the airport in Chiang Mai. There, the GLA team will help everyone check in for





their flights and see the group off on their return journeys home. *Sawat dee*, Thailand!

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO THAILAND

GLA HOME BASE | GLA operates two Home Bases, both of which are small resorts on the outskirts of Chiang Mai. Accommodations are well-appointed, clean and safe. Students sleep in gender-segregated rooms with roommates, and have access to a pool and bathrooms with hot-water showers.

FOOD | Thai cooking is known for its strong, aromatic components and a spicy edge. Dishes prepared at Home Base will be healthy and balanced, commonly including rice and noodles, and Chiang Mai will be an excellent place to sample classic Northern Thai favorites. Students with nut, soy or shellfish allergies, as well as strict vegetarians or vegans should contact GLA to inform staff and ensure dietary needs can be met.

CLIMATE | Thailand in summer is an extremely hot and humid place. Although you won't be visiting during the height of the rainy season, the chances of rain throughout the day are likely. This is no detriment to travel in Thailand, as the rains can be cooling and refreshing, and showers typically do not last very long.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe
seventeen

Our Expectations

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

We're Here to Help

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.