



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

Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to potential COVID-19 regulations.



THAILAND: Elephant and Marine Conservation Adventure™

Learn about and contribute to sustainable efforts in Thailand supporting wild elephant populations and conserving marine life in the southern islands.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will become an eco-warrior, taking your compassion for wildlife and the environment to the next level. Help an organization in protecting the endangered wild Thai elephant population by providing a safe corridor to water. Learn about the plight of both wild and domestic elephants while discussing the complexities of elephant tourism. Visit temples and discover Thailand's fascinating culture. The other part of this program will be on the southern island of Ko Yao Noi focused on marine conservation and witnessing some of Thailand's most pristine ecosystems.

21-DAY FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

June 28 – July 18, 2023

Arrival Airport: Bangkok (BKK)

Departure Airport: Phuket (HKT)

Tuition: \$5,999 USD

Service Hours: 35

Max Group Size: 20

Age Range: 14-18

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Visit the bustling capital of Thailand, where you'll explore incredible temples and markets
- ★ Float down a river into an elephant reserve situated next to an eco-village where you will learn important practices of sustainability
- ★ Learn about what the life of a mahout is like at an elephant sanctuary
- ★ Contribute towards building watering holes for wild elephants
- ★ Experience some of Thailand's most pristine marine ecosystems snorkeling on a full day of island hopping

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

In the west of Thailand, volunteer at a sustainable eco-village and elephant reserve, learning about and contributing towards projects that directly support the land and the wild elephants. Assist in the construction of sustainable housing, volunteer at an elephant sanctuary, and visit a critically endangered species of wild cattle, putting together saltlicks and seed bombs. Partake in important initiatives on the southern island of Ko Yao Noi by supporting the growth of mangroves. Learn about, and be a part of critical trash mitigation efforts on Ko Yao Noi and throughout Thailand.

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.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO THAILAND!

Touch down in Bangkok (BKK), the bustling capital city of Thailand. GLA staff will greet you at the airport upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to our first Home Base. Dinner the first evening will be an opportunity to get to know your fellow students and try some authentic Thai cuisine!

DAY 2: ORIENTATION & DINNER AT LOCAL MARKET

On our first full day together, we'll have an orientation at the Homebase in Bangkok to help everyone get to know each other. You'll learn more about the exciting experiences that await you in the next three weeks as we travel to various regions. This program truly is an expedition in every sense of the word!

We'll have lunch in Bangkok, visiting the famous temple of Wat Pho and in the evening we'll check out a local authentic market to explore and have dinner.

DAY 3: TRAVEL TO OURLAND ECO-VILLAGE

In the morning, we will break into groups and reflect on the take-aways about elephants through a creative project centered around designing an elephant sanctuary. This will incorporate your newly gained knowledge and apply the "Five Freedoms" for elephants residing in sanctuaries.

In the afternoon, we will float down a river into the eco-village of "Ourland" which will begin the next chapter of our journey through Thailand. Upon arrival, we will go on a guided tour through the jungle, getting familiar with our new surroundings.

DAYS 4-6: ELEPHANT SANCTUARIES

On day 4, we'll depart Bangkok and take the drive a few hours into the countryside to begin our visits to nearby elephant sanctuaries. On the way, we will visit the infamous bridge & stretch of railway on the river Kwae used in





WW2. During World War 2, the Japanese used Allied prisoners of war to build a railway from Thailand to Burma so they could supply their army without the dangers of sending supplies by sea. This bridge was the subject of the famous 1957 film "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

Over the next couple of days, you'll spend time at elephant sanctuaries. These sanctuaries are home to elephants that were previously domesticated, but have been rescued and now have a second chance at a life within surroundings more natural to their species. To enhance the learning, students will engage in an informative Captive Elephant Welfare course.



The goal of your service work is to improve the standard of living for the magnificent elephants who reside in the sanctuaries. Service will include cleaning the elephants' enclosures, preparing their food, and other projects that support their natural environment. Unfortunately, these elephants cannot be released back into the wild, so by assisting with their care we are making a significant impact in their overall quality of life.

DAY 7: RIVER FLOAT AND JUNGLE ECOLOGY TREK

Students will present their findings about elephant sanctuary practices, reflecting about further learning on this topic. We will then get ready for a jungle trek where we will discover unique plants and learn about the importance of ecology and how environmental systems work together. Following an afternoon river float, we will come together for dinner and a big campfire at Ourland.

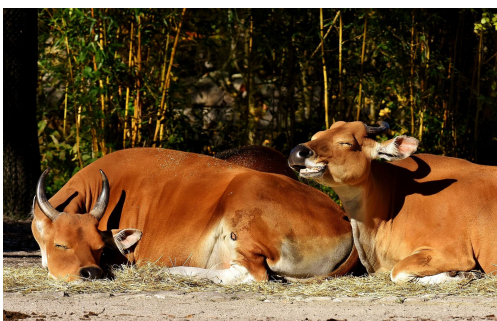


DAY 8: ERAWAN WATERFALL

Ready for a full day of adventure? Today we'll hike to the Erawan Waterfall, a multi-level oasis that is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in the world. We'll have lunch at the waterfall, and then hike to a nearby cave to do some exploring! In the evening, have a taste of what we've missed from home: Western food!

DAY 9: COMMUNITY TREE NURSERY & MUD HOUSE BUILDING

Visit a community tree nursery, help transplant young seedlings into new pots, and add nutrients to transplanted trees. For the second part of our service here, we'll help the community by building new catchment dams and cleaning out old ones. Learn more about how these dams ensure that the elephants have access to water, thus preventing human-elephant conflict within the local villages. Students will also learn how to construct mud bricks that will be used for sustainable housing. Enjoy a traditional bamboo rafting trip in the afternoon!



DAY 10: BANTENG SERVICE AND THAI COOKING CLASS

The banteng are a critically endangered species of wild cattle, and today we'll visit a facility which aims to increase their numbers in the wild. We'll learn how these cattle are reintroduced into the wild, and the careful measures that need to be taken to ensure their survival. We'll assist at the facility by helping to make seed bombs, which are nutrient-rich clay balls used to reforest the area, thus providing a natural food source for the banteng. We'll also help build a salt lick, which provides vital nutrients to the cattle in the wild.

Connect even deeper with Thai culture through an engaging cooking class, learning about what makes Thai food so unique! Enjoy the dinner you just made, sharing a real taste of local cuisine.





DAY 11: SNAKE EDUCATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Ready for a full day of adventure? Today we'll attend a snake education course in the morning, where we'll learn from an expert about the various snakes found in Thailand, how to identify certain species, and basic first aid tips.

Learn about the importance of trash collection, recycling trash, and waste management efforts in Thailand. Partake in supporting sustainability by mitigating the amount of trash that goes to "waste." We will discuss this important topic further in groups, relating it to what practices are taking place in your communities back home.



DAYS 12 - 14: MUD HOUSE BUILDING

For the next few days, we'll spend time building new mud huts at OurLand that will serve as accommodation for local community members, local students and future GLA students for years to come. In the afternoons, we'll get our adrenaline pumping with some fun physical activities! We'll go kayaking and bamboo rafting (on alternative days) on a stretch of the nearby river if weather permits, and take in scenic views of the countryside.

DAY 15: COMMUNITY COMPOSTING INITIATIVES

We have some special opportunities as part of our service at OurLand Eco-village to learn about the importance of composting and how it relates to the health of natural habitats. We will engage in a service project focused on compost initiatives, including a visit to a community trash and recycling plant where we will learn about positive change efforts being made specifically in this region of Thailand.



DAY 16: TRAVEL TO KO YAO NOI

Now that we've experienced some cultural aspects of the north, it's time to head south and explore the island waters. We will fly together from Bangkok to Phuket and settle into our new Home Base, situated just up from the ocean in the jungle. We will learn from new local partners about the way of life in southern Thailand and the unique ecosystems that exist here.



We will immerse ourselves into the importance of marine conservation, learning alongside local experts from the region. Be prepared for water time and connecting with the underwater world!

DAY 17 & 18: MANGROVE CLEANUP AND RESTORATION

Coastal mangroves makeup a critical part of supporting marine and island environments. We will spend time cleaning up mangrove sites and supporting the growth of this plant system. Students will engage with local leaders, further understanding the importance of this service work. We will also be spending time at the beach relaxing and engaging in conversations about marine and island conservation.

DAY 19: ISLAND HOPPING AND TRASH COLLECTION

Today we will be exploring some beautiful corners of the surrounding islands; traveling on a traditional long-tail boat, snorkeling and hiking up to viewpoints! We will collect any trash that we see along the way, continuing our service towards improving the marine and island ecosystems.

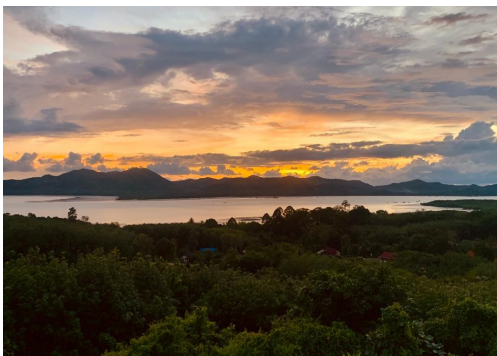


DAY 20: TRAVEL BACK TO PHUKET

As a group, we will say farewell to Ko Yao Noi and the rhythm of island living. We will spend the day in Phuket, which is a good opportunity to purchase final souvenirs. Enjoy a special dinner together as we reflect on the experiences that we had in Thailand, and the learnings we will take back home.

DAY 21: DEPARTURE

Sadly, our three-week expedition must come to an end, but rest assured, you'll be heading to the airport with memories that will last a lifetime! GLA staff will assist all students with checking in and accompany them until they have safely departed for their gates. *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 2023, 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.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate potential COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

TRAVELING TO THAILAND

GLA HOME BASE | This program will feature multiple Home Bases as we travel to each new destination during our three-week expedition. Accommodations are well-appointed, clean and safe. Students will sleep in gender-segregated rooms with roommates, and have access to shared bathrooms. While in Bangkok during our ASQ on arrival, we'll stay in individual rooms in a SHA+ approved hotel as a group on the same floor.

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 or noodles. Students with nut, soy or shellfish allergies, as well as strict vegetarians or vegans, should contact GLA to inform staff and ensure that dietary needs can be met.

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

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

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.