

# WELCOME TO **LIFE**

## LIVING IN THE FOREST WITH ELEPHANTS



LIFE; Living In the Forest with Elephants represents all LIFE that surrounds the elephants we strive to protect, the people, the forest and all the wildlife dependent on this habitat.







At LIFE, guests have the unique opportunity to observe elephants in their natural habitat, deep in pristine cloud forest.

Your visit and support enables the community to continue protecting the vast forest that the elephants call home. We work in partnership with the community, developing a model for sustainable community based tourism while providing financial support to Karen mahouts so that they can continue to care for their elephants with the highest welfare standards in the forest surrounding the village.



### CHOOSE BETWEEN 2 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

**Mountain Adventure**  
3 nights / 4 days

**Volunteering**  
5 nights / 6 days





# VISITING LIFE



During your stay you will be welcomed into the very center of a Karen community. Residing in the heart of the village, you can see for yourself how your host families live and work; sharing stories and creating lifelong memories. Karen people are proud of their ancient and fascinating culture and happily demonstrate their traditional skills such as; weaving brightly coloured cloth and basket making with you. Of course the highlight will be spending time with the elephants in our care.

## Sample Itinerary: Mountain Adventure

- Day 1 Drive up into the cloud forest to the top of a mountain, then settle in with your host family and enjoy a tour of the village followed by traditional Karen dinner.
- Day 2 Venture into stunning cloud forest to observe the elephants living in the freedom of their forest home and enjoy lunch with the mahouts in the forest.
- Day 3 Spend the day immersed in the community, learn how to weave traditional karen fabrics, sit with the men and try your hand at weaving a basket, or simply sit and drink a hot cup of mountain tea and learn about the region and its rich culture.
- Day 4 Wake up and have breakfast with your host family. Say your goodbyes and depart back to Mae Sot.

## Sample Itinerary: Volunteering

- Day 1 Depart Mae Sot after breakfast and drive up into the cloud forest. Spend the afternoon learning about the village and settle in with your host family.
- Day 2 Volunteer day with community members Have breakfast with your host family, then Prepare yourself for a day out with members of the community, assisting with community based projects and learning about the culture.
- Day 3 Join the Mahouts as they venture out to find the elephants living in their beautiful forest habitat. Spend the day observing the elephants in their natural habitat.
- Day 4 Spend a second day volunteering on community projects working side by side with villagers
- Day 5 Enjoy one last day out with the elephants.
- Day 6 Wake up and have breakfast with your host family. Say your goodbyes and depart the village back to Mae Sot.





# ACCOMODATION

RELAX IN OUR BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE GUEST LODGE, OR IMMERSE YOURSELF IN VILLAGE LIFE IN A TRADITIONAL HOMESTAY.



## Option 1 – Our guest lodge (+£50 GBP to base trip cost)

Our guest lodge has been built at the very top of the village, providing guests with the most incredible views over the village and out across the stunning forest and mountains.

The lodge is equip with comfortable beds, mosquito nets, a large communal area allowing you to soak up the surrounding views and a private bathroom with a western toilet and hot shower.

While you will not be staying with a host family, there will be a family allocated to cater for you during your stay, providing you with delicious traditional Karen dishes and hot drinks... and your meals will be at the family home.



## Option 2 – Stay with a homestay (Included in base cost)

Staying with a host family is both welcoming and comfortable. Placing you in the very heart of village life, this option leaves you with a real sense of community living. Each homestay is different, but all host stunning views and friendly smiling faces – all of which will be eager to learn more about you, your family and your country, making you feel right at home in no time.

Your host family will provide you with bedding and a mosquito net. The Karen sleep on the floor and this is what is also provided for you, with the addition of a small mattress for additional comfort.

Bathrooms are clean and accessible with Asian style squat toilets or western toilet and traditional bucket showers – which are either refreshing or bracing depending on the time of year!

Your host family will cook for you throughout the duration of your stay, providing you with delicious traditional Karen dishes and the opportunity to sit together and be a part of their incredibly unique and special way of life.





# TRIP COSTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

3 nights / 4 days

NUMBER OF PEOPLE	TRIP COST PER PERSON
1 PERSON	£ 380.00
2-3 PEOPLE	£ 300.00
4+ PEOPLE	£ 240.00

## VOLUNTEERING

5 nights / 6 days

NUMBER OF PEOPLE	TRIP COST PER PERSON
2+ PEOPLE*	£ 450.00

\*Due to ground costs, solo volunteers are subject to 50% premium. We are always happy to match solo travelers with each other to create a group volunteering trip

### YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES:

All meals during your stay, Your home stay in the village. A professional English-speaking guide. Local guides and mahout team. National Park fees. Donation for the elephant fund.

**The non-refundable deposit of £50.00 must be paid to the Mahouts Elephant Foundation at the time of booking.** The balance must be paid to Mahouts Elephant Foundation (Mahouts Elephants LTD Partnership), at least eight weeks before the start date of the trip. Prices are in GBP sterling, please ask for a quote in a different currency if required. **All prices are per person per trip. Trip Cost does not include Transport.**

### PLANNING YOUR VISIT

There are three seasons in Northern Thailand.

When to Visit	Cold Season	Dry Season	Wet Season
Time of Year	November - February	March - May	May - October
Weather	10-35° Celsius. Little precipitation.	21-37° Celcius. Very little precipitation,	23-36° Celcius. Cloudy with frequent rain.

### TRANSPORTATION FROM MAE SOT CITY TO THE VILLAGE

NUMBER OF PEOPLE	ROUND TRIP COSTS
1 PERSON	£ 115.00
2 PEOPLE	£ 57.00
3 PEOPLE	£ 38.00
4 PEOPLE	£ 57.00
5 PEOPLE	£ 46.00
6 PEOPLE	£ 38.00

Pickup in Chiang Mai can be arranged at an additional fee.

Mahouts Elephant Foundation are pleased to offer ground arrangements through a local company; Mahouts Elephants LTD Partnership. Whilst all arrangements in Thailand are organised by our ground staff team, all other arrangements prior to the commencement of your trip will be organised by Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

Email [sarah@mahouts.org](mailto:sarah@mahouts.org) to complete your booking form and reserve your trip!