



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 COVID-19 regulations.



THAILAND: Elephants & Conservation Expedition™

Embrace Thai culture and support an organization working to provide wild elephants a safe corridor to fresh water.

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. Discuss the complexities of elephant tourism. With a bit of good luck, observe the behavior of these gentle giants in their natural habitat! Visit temples and discover Thailand's fascinating culture.

21-DAY FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

June 19 – July 9, 2022
July 14 – August 3, 2022

Tuition: \$5,299
Service Hours: 42
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 20
Age Range: 14-18
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Airport: BKK

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Visit the bustling capital of Thailand, where you'll explore incredible temples and markets
- ★ Float down a river into an elephant reserve
- ★ Volunteer at a sanctuary for an endangered species of wild cattle, of which approximately only 120 exist in the world
- ★ Learn what the life of a mahout is like at an elephant camp
- ★ Take part in reforestation as you work at a tree nursery

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer at a community tree nursery and help with re-planting and reforestation. Clean out old catchment dams and build new ones that will serve as wild elephant watering holes. When you visit the banteng, a critically endangered species of wild cattle, help build saltlicks and seed bombs. Assist an eco-village by building bricks out of mud to later be used to construct sustainable housing. Volunteer at an elephant sanctuary, where you may get up close and personal with these majestic animals. Walk to a river with the elephants where you will get the opportunity to help bathe them.

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. 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 Thai cuisine.

DAY 2: ORIENTATION & DINNER AT ASIATIQUE

On our first full day together we'll have an orientation 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 and Home Bases. This program truly is an expedition in every sense of the word!



We'll have lunch in Bangkok, and in the evening we'll check out Asiatique, a river front open-air mall in Bangkok. It occupies the former docks of the Denmark-based East Asiatic Company, which was founded in 1897, and faces the Chao Phraya River. The strong cultural aspect is what sets it apart from other shopping malls: embracing history, but avoiding the cultural clichés and traditional symbols.

DAY 3: TEMPLE VISITS

Today we'll explore Bangkok, visiting three famous temples throughout the day: the Golden Temple, Grand Palace, and Wat Pho.

DAYS 4 - 8: ELEPHANT SANCTUARIES

Over the next five days, you'll spend time at two elephant sanctuaries, Elephant World and Elephant Haven. 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.



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, taking them for a walk, and bathing them in the river. 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.

The first three days will be spent at Elephant World, and we will also lodge there during our project. The next two days will be spent at Elephant Haven, during which we will stay at a nearby hotel.

DAYS 9 - 10: OURLAND ECO-VILLAGE & COMMUNITY TREE NURSERY

OurLand Ecovillage is our destination today, which will be our Home Base for two nights. We'll start by driving to the town of Kanchanaburi, where we'll have lunch. In the afternoon, we'll suit up in life jackets and float down the river into the OurLand reserve, which is the only stretch of land where wild elephants have access to the river. We'll take a short trek through the jungle, learning all about the ecovillage along the way. Once we arrive at our lodging, we'll have time to get settled in before dinner at OurLand.

The next day, 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. In the afternoon we'll visit a community tree nursery to 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.

DAY 11: BANTENG FACILITY

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. Later, we'll move to our new lodging at a hotel, followed by a local dinner.

DAY 12: ERAWAN WATERFALL ADVENTURE

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!

DAYS 13 - 14: MUD HOUSE BUILDING

For the next two 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 on a stretch of the nearby river if weather permits, and take in scenic views of the countryside.





DAY 15: JOURNEY BACK IN TIME & WILD ELEPHANTS

This morning we'll get up early to catch the train on a famous stretch of railway. 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."

After our train ride we are off to Kui Buri National Park. At the village just outside the park we will help the local people who make a living by making paper from the leaves of the pineapple plant. This sustainable effort uses the leaves of the pineapple plant that would otherwise have been discarded.

In the late afternoon we'll have the amazing opportunity to see wild elephants as we travel through the national park safari-style!

DAY 16: RUBBER MAKING & WILD ELEPHANTS

Today is full of fun activities! We'll start off with a hands-on activity: rubber making. We will complete the full process from tapping the rubber to the end result. We will also view a small family-run woodworking shop where we will watch the owner transform a piece of wood into a work of art. Then it's off to a cooking lesson and lunch.

After lunch, we go back into Kui Buri National Park where we'll make a mineral salt lick for the wild elephants which provides vital nutrients key to their survival. Later, we'll do another safari trip through the park to view the wild elephants before having dinner out in the open and participating in a discussion with one of the community leaders regarding human-elephant conflict and how it pertains to their village.

DAY 17: MONKEY BEACH & PHRAYA NAKORN CAVE

Today, travel to the seaside town of Hua Hin. Visit Monkey Beach in the morning, and in the afternoon hike to Phraya Nakorn cave, which houses a stunning temple. Learn more about the purpose of the temple, and how such an impressive structure was built in this peculiar location.

DAY 18: WILDLIFE FOUNDATION & BEACH DAY

Today we'll visit Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) for a tour of the rescue and conservation facility. You'll learn more about how they operate and the work that they are doing to help rescue wild animals. After lunch, we'll venture to the beach for an afternoon of fun in the sun! Spend a few hours swimming, playing games, or simply relaxing before we head to the local night market for a delicious dinner.

DAY 19: KHAO DANG HIKE

Hike to Khao Dang viewpoint, where breathtaking views are sure to provide plenty of photo opportunities!





DAY 20: CHATUCHAK MARKET & DINNER CRUISE

Awaken early and travel back to Bangkok where we'll have lunch and settle into our hotel. In the afternoon, visit the famous Chatuchak weekend market, which is the world's largest and most diverse weekend market--it attracts over 200,000 visitors on a daily basis. Shop for artisan handicrafts, souvenirs, and more!

In the evening we'll celebrate our journey together with a delicious farewell dinner cruise on the Chao Phraya river, which is sure to be one of the highlights of the program. As you float down the river, you'll have spectacular views of Bangkok's cityscape and awe-inspiring temples lit up against the night sky.

***Note: The activities outlined on the first few days and Day 20 will be flipped for the second session of the program, as the Chatuchak market is only open on the weekends. Students on session two (July 14 - August 3) will visit the market on Day 2 or 3. The dinner cruise will remain on Day 20.*

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 2022, 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 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.

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.