**Mahouts Elephant Foundation**

Mahouts Elephant Foundation are proud to offer you an opportunity to visit the remote Karen Hill Tribe village to see elephants living deep in the forest.

Following our very successful walk HOME we are sponsoring the three rescued elephants now living in the beautiful conservation forest surrounding the village of Huay Pakoot in northern Thailand. We are also offering guests the opportunity to see and spend time with the elephants and to stay with a Karen Hill Tribe family, where you can experience their ancient and fascinating culture.

Mahouts are thrilled to be offering the unique opportunity to be welcomed into a Karen Hill Tribe home. Residing in a ‘home stay’, you can see for yourself how your hosts live and work; sharing stories, foraging for vegetables and cooking and eating together. Villagers are also happy to demonstrate skills such as weaving brightly coloured cloth and basket making.

Of course the highlight will be spending time with the three elephants our programme currently sponsors who were rescued from a life of work in a trekking camp.

Mahouts Elephant Foundation are providing financial support to the Karen Hill Tribe mahouts to enable them to remain in the village to look after their elephants, who live in the forest around the village. We are keen to keep the elephants as deep in this beautiful forest as possible, this prevents them roaming on farmers crops and risking being shot or poisoned and keeps people safe from running into an elephant. The elephants are left to forage and wander freely through the forest while their mahouts will trek out every day to check on them and ensure they don’t wander too far from their forest home.

The trek to the camp site is very beautiful with lots of wildlife, and different fauna and flora to be seen on the way, whilst the camp itself is idyllically located next to a river. The mahouts are of course very experienced at living and camping in the forest and they take good care of their guests. It is fascinating to watch the mahouts at home in the forest and using its resources to live off the land, like making cups and other useful items from bamboo.

The Karen Hill Tribe are generous, friendly and hospitable, but we will still have English-speaking guides with us throughout the trip.

Camping in the forest for one or two nights allows you to have the best experience possible on the trek. However, if camping is a concern then day trips from the village can be arranged; although this would reduce the time spent with the elephants.

Thank you for your enquiry and supporting our work with these beautiful elephants. For more information or to book a trip please visit our website or contact Mahouts Elephant Foundation: Email: sarah@mahouts.org • Telephone: 01905 841577

**OPTION 1: 4 days / 3 nights**

**Day 1**

• Pick up from your hotel in Chiang Mai at 8.30am.

• Drive for 4 hours to Huay Pakoot village. Lunch will be provided along the way.

• On arrival your host family will greet you and they will introduce you to Karen culture.

• You will receive a briefing about the village and the project.

• Later in the afternoon you can join your hosts to go foraging for vegetables and then join them in cooking traditional Karen dishes over an open fire in their home.

• After dinner there will be an opportunity to take part in a welcome ceremony with your host family and meet and chat with elders from the village.

**Day 2**

• After breakfast you will learn about Karen handicrafts. You will have the opportunity to try cotton weaving to make a bag and bamboo weaving to make a basket.

• Other activities are available depending on the season; such as joining the host family to help harvest rice at the paddy fields.

• After dinner a briefing about camping in the forest.

Camping is the BEST way to see the elephants in the forest however visiting them for one day is possible and would mean those who don’t want to camp out would be able to stay in the village every night. The duration of the full trip would be the same. If this is of interest please contact us for details.

**Day 3**

• We set off on a 2 -3 hour trek through the forest to our camp site. Bags can be left here, you will then head out into the forest with the mahouts to find the elephants. This will enable you to learn; - how to track elephants in the forest. - the behaviour of elephants living in the forest. - the benefits of free foraging for elephants. - the different types of vegetation they eat and why this is critical to their well-being.

• The mahouts may go fishing in the river, this is fascinating to watch and join in with. They will then cook the fish inside bamboo over the fire.

• We then camp overnight in the forest, hammocks and tents are provided (Please bring your own sleeping bag).

**Day 4**

• The wildlife in this area of forest is breath taking, in the morning you will probably be woken with the sound of gibbons. We then wander down to the river and spend some time watching the wildlife.

• After breakfast there is the option to trek again with the mahouts to find the elephants. Spend time watching them and then prepare to trek back to the village.

• We will have lunch on our return to the village.

• At 2pm we leave for the return trip to Chiang Mai

• Arrive back in Chiang Mai at 6pm where you will be taken to your choice of hotel.

**OPTION 2: 5 days / 4 nights**

Find out how to live in the forest in Karen tribe style.

With the same schedule as option 1 but with an extra day spent with the Karen Hill tribe,

learn how to catch fish and find food in the forest, how to use bamboo for many different things and more about the local flora and fauna.

**OPTION 3: 3 days / 2 nights**

If you don’t like camping then this might be the trip for you.

With all the experiences of option 1 but without camping in the forest,

we will set off early in the morning and trek through the forest to spend a day with the elephants.

**What’s included in your trip with Natural Focus?**

Mahouts Elephant Foundation are pleased to offer ground arrangements through a local company; Natural Focus ([www.naturalfocus-cbt.com](http://www.naturalfocus-cbt.com)).

Whilst all arrangements in Thailand are organised by Natural Focus, all other arrangements prior to the commencement of your trip will be organised by Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

• Private transport to and from Chiang Mai.

• All meals included during your stay.

• Home stay fee in the village.

• Professional English-speaking guide.

• Local guide and team fee.

• National Park fee.

• Donation for the elephant fund.

• Tents and hammocks.

[www.naturalfocus-cbt.com](http://www.naturalfocus-cbt.com)

Prices are in GBP sterling, please ask for a quote in a different currency if required. All prices are per person per trip.

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| Option 1 4 days / 3 nights | Cost per person | Deposit per person | Balance per person |
| 1 person | £550.00 | £50.00 | £500.00 |
| 2-3 people | £370.00 | £50.00 | £320.00 |
| 4-5 people | £280.00 | £50.00 | £230.00 |
| 6-8 people | £260.00 | £50.00 | £210.00 |
| Option 2 5 days / 4 nights | Cost per person | Deposit per person | Balance per person |
| 1 person | £650.00 | £70.00 | £580.00 |
| 2-3 people | £420.00 | £70.00 | £350.00 |
| 4-5 people | £330.00 | £70.00 | £260.00 |
| 6-8 people | £310.00 | £70.00 | £240.00 |
| Option 3 3 days / 2 nights | Cost per person | Deposit per person | Balance per person |
| 1 person | £500.00 | £50.00 | £450.00 |
| 2-3 people | £330.00 | £50.00 | £280.00 |
| 4-5 people | £250.00 | £50.00 | £200.00 |
| 6-8 people | £240.00 | £50.00 | £190.00 |

The deposit must be paid to Mahouts Elephant Foundation at the time of booking. The balance must be paid to Mahouts Elephant Foundation (agents for Natural Focus), at least eight weeks before the start date of the trip. Groups are usually limited to a maximum of six people, for the well-being of the elephants, village and the forest.

**Things to remember:**

• The trips include walking through the forest in the heat so a reasonable level of fitness is required.

• Villagers are more than happy to carry backpacks for guests and a charge will be made for this service.

• Natural Focus can tailor packages for larger groups or those that may want to change things around for their own needs.

• A day trip IS possible to visit the elephants and this will need to be discussed with us prior to booking.

• We work with Natural Focus who have local insurance, but it is ESSENTIAL that you travel with your own personal travel insurance at all times.

• The deposit will be taken for each person booking in, this is NON REFUNDABLE and will be paid to Mahouts Elephant Foundation, a UK registered charity. The rest of the payment must be made to Mahouts Elephant Foundation on behalf of Natural Focus with whom your ground arrangement contract is with and who will take care of you on your trip to the village.

• Part of the money for your trip includes a donation to the elephant fund within the village. This is a vital income to help run a sustainable project to ensure ALL of their elephants are returned to the forest in the future.

• Mahouts Elephant Foundation is a UK registered charity and we welcome all donations. We are supporting the elephants you are visiting and their mahouts to live in the forest and we need your help to continue this vital work.