

In support of



Asia

# wild animal encounters in thailand



## trip highlights

Spotting the white-handed and the pileated gibbon in the wild in Pak Chong National Park

Spotting wild elephants and gaur (world's biggest cow) in Kui Buri National Park and Klong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird and butterfly watching in Kaeng Krachen National Park as well as searching for leopards, elephants and many more mammals

Visit a Moken village to learn about their fascinating culture and traditions

Snorkel with sea turtles on Surin Island

World Expeditions will donate a percentage from each trip to World Animal Protection to support their work to save animals



Trip Duration

11 days

Trip Code: WAH

Grade

Adventure touring

Activities

Wildlife Safari

Summary

11 day trip, 7 nights hotel, 2 nights camping and 1 night floating bungalow

## why travel with World Expeditions?

Our guides and vehicles are the best available and to ensure the smooth operation of all trips our partners in Thailand continually work with us to improve our itineraries to ensure we are taking the 'paths less travelled'. You will be accompanied by a guide whose knowledge and passion for nature and wildlife will add a unique dimension to your trip. We have never sought to be the biggest travel company and we proudly guard our independence, which leaves us in a position to really focus on being creative with our small group itineraries. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore, and our Animal Welfare Code of Conduct ensures the well-being of animals we encounter.

## welcome to World Expeditions

World Animal Protection -

- > ends the needless suffering of animals
- > influences decision makers to put animals on the global agenda
- > helps the world see how important animals are to all of us
- > inspires people to change animals' lives for the better
- > moves the world to protect animals

World Animal Protection and World Expeditions advocate for wild animals to be kept in the wild, safe from unethical tourism. But we realize that navigating the world of animal friendly travel can be puzzling at times. So, we've taken the guess work out of wildlife travel experiences, and joined forces to bring you four carefully crafted itineraries that offer the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Thailand, India, Romania and Kenya. If animal encounters are high on your list for your next adventure, and you want to make sure your experiences aren't harmful, then these adventures that have been reviewed by World Animal Protection, are perfect for you. To top it off, World Expeditions is donating a percentage of each trip to World Animal Protection to support their work to save animals.

Image credit: Elephant © World Animal Protection



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This World Animal Protection adventure has been hand-crafted for true animals lovers and includes many opportunities to spot wildlife like elephant, gaurs, tigers, gibbons and more in their natural habitat



## trip dates

**2017** 25 Nov - 05 Dec

## trip cost

Joining Bangkok: \$3720  
All prices are per person

## options & supplements

Single Supplement: \$350

World Expeditions does not require single travellers to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

For competitive airfares and stopover ideas to join this adventure, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

## the trip

World Animal Protection and World Expeditions advocate for wild animals to be kept in the wild, safe from unethical tourism. But we realize that navigating the world of animal friendly travel can be puzzling at times. So, we've taken the guess work out of wildlife travel experiences, and joined forces to bring you this carefully crafted itinerary that offers the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Thailand. Thailand's national parks of Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai, Kui Buri, Khao Sok and Chiew Larn Lake are home to some of the most diverse and fascinating wildlife on earth, including populations of wild elephants, gaurs, tigers, gibbons, langurs, macaques, barking deer, flying foxes as well as a plethora of birdlife. We journey by 4WD and on foot to spot these animals, and more, in their natural habitat. Our adventure culminates with a two-day stay at the Surin Islands, an archipelago of five islands in the Andaman Sea, known for beautiful beaches, pristine ocean, amazing sunsets, an intriguing culture and incredibly diverse marine life that offers some of the world's best snorkeling.

## at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE IN BANGKOK
DAY 2	KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK
DAY 3	PAK CHONG TO BANGKOK
DAY 4	BANGKOK TO KUI BURI NATIONAL PARK
DAY 5	KAENG KRACHAN NATIONAL PARK
DAY 6	KHAO SOK NATIONAL PARK – CHIEW LARN LAKE
DAY 7	CHIEW LARN LAKE – KURABURI
DAY 8	KURABURI – MOKEN VILLAGE
DAY 9	MOKEN VILLAGE
DAY 10	MOKEN VILLAGE – KURABURI – TRANSFER TO PHUKET
DAY 11	PHUKET – DEPARTURE

## what's included

- 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 6 dinners
- 3 star comfortable hotels/bungalows on a twin share basis and camping
- one group airport transfer on days 1 & 11
- internal flight Bangkok/Phuket valued at USD\$160 (subject to change by the airline)
- private air conditioned vehicles & 4WD trucks in National Parks
- sightseeing and entry fees as listed in itinerary
- expert bilingual guide
- local trekking and specialized National Park guides
- local snorkelling guide on Surin Island
- medical kit

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

## detailed itinerary

**DAY 1** Arrive in Bangkok

Upon arrival at Bangkok's international airport, we are met by a World Expeditions guide and driver who will assist you on your transfer to the hotel in Pak Chong. In the afternoon, a World Animal

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Protection representative will meet your group in a meeting room at the hotel to welcome you to Thailand and present the animal welfare challenges and successes in Thailand. Overnight in Pak Chong. Journey time: Suvarnabhumi Airport to Pak Chong: 3 hours

**meals: D**

## DAY 2 Khao Yai National Park

Khao Yai is known as the first national park in Thailand it covers an area of 2,168 square kilometres. There are about 70 species of mammals including the tiger, elephant and gaur as well as 350 species of birds including the great hornbill and coral-billed ground cuckoo, and more than 2,000 species of trees and plants. Khao Yai National Park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2005. At 08:30am we leave the hotel and head to the park to begin our two hour trek in the jungle, where we aim to spot barking deer, white-handed gibbon, great hornbill, sambar deer and more. We'll also see a variety of plants and trees such as rattan, fig trees and eagle wood. For lunch we head to the famous waterfall seen in the film "The Beach". After lunch in a nearby restaurant it is time to explore the beauty of the waterfall. Late afternoon we head to the Lonely Cliff to visit the highest mountain of the park and the beautiful surroundings. Every night in Khao Yai National Park nocturnal animals such as sambar deer, barking deer, javan porcupine, small Indian civet, elephants, tigers, bears are active, a great time for visitors to spot wildlife on a ranger's truck equipped with a spotlight. We provide a spotting scope to spot animals for the tour. Overnight in Pak Chong Hotel.

Journey time: Transfer Hotel to Khao Yai NP: Approx 1 hour 15 mins

**meals: B,L**

## DAY 3 Pak Chong to Bangkok

This morning following breakfast transfer to Bangkok and check into a city hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore the city at leisure. Overnight in Bangkok

Journey time: Pak Chong to Bangkok Hotel: 3 hours

**meals: B,D**

## DAY 4 Bangkok to Kui Buri National Park

This morning we drive 2.5 hours south of Bangkok to the coastal town of Hua Hin. From here we have an early lunch driving a further 1.15 hours from Hua Hin to Kui Buri National Park. After a mandatory registration, we are assigned an open-air vehicle with driver and an assistant. The tour will begin by driving slowly into the reserve on the main dirt road north heading to the main grassland areas. While driving slowly, we will search for any wildlife including birds and bigger animals. Our first stop will be a viewing area where we leave the vehicle in hope to spot wildlife, mainly elephants. We will later continue to the next viewing area at the end of the road, best known for spotting gaurs, but also elephants and sometimes bantengs. During the tour, your guide will give you information about the habitat, wildlife and history of the park. The type of assigned vehicles is open-air pick-up truck driven by locals. Dinner will be on tour (packed box dinner). Early evening transfer for overnight Hotel in Hua Hin. Journey times: Transfer Bangkok to Hua Hin: 2.5 hours. Transfer Hua Hin to Kui Buri NP: 1.15 hours

**meals: B,L**

## DAY 5 Kaeng Krachan National Park

This morning we set off early to take the 1.5hour drive to Kaeng Krachan National Park for a full day tour of the park. The Kaeng Krachan Reservoir covers an area of 46.5 sq. km. It is the earthen reservoir which blocks the Petchburi River. The largest island in the lake is approximately 75 sq. km. In 4WD vehicles we drive through primary forest that offers spectacular views of mountain ranges that are covered in deep-green forest all year-round as well as 57 known species of mammals, 461 species of birds and around 300 butterfly species. In the afternoon with a trek along the jungle track and back to Kaeng Krachan Reservoir for lunch at local restaurant followed by a sail on the lake.

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## fast facts

**Countries Visited:**

Thailand

**Visas:**

Yes\*

**Vaccinations:**

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

**Singles:**

A single supplement is available for this trip\*

**Leader:**

Expert local leader

\*Ask our staff for more information.

By mid-afternoon we leave Kaeng Krachan National Park for our transfer to Bangkok Airport for the flight to Phuket. With a late arrival into Phuket we transfer to the hotel for check in and a nights rest. Overnight in Hotel in Phuket. Journey time: Hua Hin to Kaeng Krachan National Park: 1.15 hours. Kaeng Krachan NP to Bangkok Airport: 3 hours. Phuket airport to Phuket Hotel: 15 minutes

**meals: B,L****DAY 6 Khao Sok National Park – Chiew Larn Lake**

After breakfast, we transfer to Khao Sok National Park. On our way to the pier, we will stop by at a nearby temple and spend a few minutes learning about rural Thai culture, fruit farming, and take photos from the picturesque suspension bridge over the Phra Saeng River that comes out from the lake. During the hour long journey across the lake to the raft houses, we stop by Gui Lin scenic area where karst mountains rise dramatically from the water. Upon arrival at the raft houses, we check in and are treated to a lunch of traditional Thai food, including a curry and a vegetable stir fry. After the meal, we take some time to relax before embarking on an afternoon hike through the jungle and learn about the flora and fauna of the world's longest standing forest. As the day winds down, we jump on a long tail boat to go wildlife spotting with our guide at Klong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary. Klong Saeng is the Kingdom's top wildlife sanctuary still harboring many endangered but classic Asian animals. The Klong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary was once a magnificent natural watershed that provided water throughout the year to the inhabitants of the lowlands on the east side of the Thai Peninsula. It still harbors some very impressive animals such as elephant, gaur, tapir, serow, sambar, clouded leopard, sun bear, Great Argus (second largest of the pheasant family in Thailand), and the mighty king cobra- and the list goes on. Royal Decree encompassing 1,155 square kilometers of dense forest established Klong Saeng in 1974. The sanctuary is the biggest in the Klong Saeng – Khao Sok Forest Complex totaling more than 5,316 square kilometers and incorporating 12 protected areas, 11 of which are terrestrial and one with offshore islands in the Andaman Sea. Its forests are predominantly moist evergreen and most of the plants and animals are of Sundaic origin with some Indochinese species interspersed. A 1 hour long tail boat ride up the lake will take you to the best wildlife spotting vantage point. When we return we enjoy a traditional Thai dinner of curry and fish before retiring to our floating bungalows. Overnight at basic bamboo floating bungalow. Journey time: transfer Phuket to Khaosok National Park: 3.5 hours

**meals: B,L,D****DAY 7 Chiew Larn Lake – Kuraburi**

Take the chance to get up early for a morning mist safari. As we watch the morning unfold on the lake, our guide will point out wildlife. We return to the raft house for breakfast, which is usually rice porridge or eggs and toast. After check out we have the rest of the morning to do whatever suits our fancy - relax, swim or kayak. After another delicious Thai lunch, we board the long tail boat and make the scenic trip back to the pier where we are transferred to Kuraburi. After arriving at Kuraburi, we meet for pre-trip briefing, explore the evening market and enjoy a delicious meal at a local restaurant. Overnight in Hotel in Kuraburi. Journey time: transfer Khao Sok National Park to Kuraburi: 1.5 hours

**meals: B,L,D****DAY 8 Kuraburi – Moken Village**

After having breakfast at the local market, we transfer to Surin Island by speedboat. We explore the village and learn the intricate relationship between the Moken and their surrounding environment. On a guided walk we also learn about the brightly colored "Spirit Poles" and Moken homes, built on wooden stilts directly on the beach, as well as the medicinal herbs and edible species. We have a picnic lunch under the shade of a tree on a beach near the village. We go snorkeling at a wonderland of colorful tropical fish and witness the impressive Moken swimming techniques, how they have adapted to living in the water, and why they love it. Overnight camping on the beach in tents.

**meals: B,L,D**

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## responsible travel

The natural environments that you'll travel through are fragile; the cultures and traditions precious and often the communities we pass through are reliant on tourism. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimize the impact of our presence, protect what is precious and where we can leave a positive impact. Learn how you can do this by downloading the Responsible Travel Guidebook from our website.

World Expeditions adheres to a comprehensive Animal Welfare Code of Conduct that was developed in conjunction with World Animal Protection. To download the code of conduct visit the World Expeditions website and locate it under Responsible Travel / Animal Welfare.

Elephant tourism experiences can be found throughout Asia and it can be difficult for travellers to resist the temptation to ride these beautiful and incredibly intelligent creatures. In recent years there has been much research into the impact of tourism activities on elephants' well-being. From the brutal taming of baby elephants called 'the crush' to ongoing confinement and the mere fact that the elephants spine is not meant to carry heavy weights there are many instances where incorrect management results in a negative impact for the elephants. Because of this World Expeditions discourages travellers from riding on the back of elephants and we do not include elephant rides in our itineraries throughout our global program and across all World Expeditions brands.

## trip grading Adventure touring

These adventure tours will often involve long journeys and rough roads. To enjoy these adventures we suggest reasonable fitness and health, a moderately active lifestyle and have a positive attitude.

### DAY 9 Moken Village

It's a snorkeling day! We spend the day snorkelling with our Moken guide, enjoying the clear water and spotting sea turtles swimming. Return to the park headquarters for dinner. Overnight camping on the beach in tents.

**meals:** B,L,D

### DAY 10 Moken Village – Kuraburi – Transfer to Phuket

In the Moken village, we try our hand at rowing a Moken "row-boat" and re-enacting their method of spear fishing. We spend more time in village or head out for one more snorkel exploration. After lunch, we transfer to the mainland for debriefing and transfer back to Phuket. Overnight Phuket Hotel. Journey time: Kuraburi to Phuket: 3 hours.

**meals:** B,L

### DAY 11 Phuket – Departure

Transfer to Phuket Airport for our departure flight. One group transfer will be provided from the hotel to Phuket Airport. Journey time: transfer Phuket hotel to Phuket Airport: 1 hour

**meals:** B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

## trip extensions

Highlights of Cambodia and Laos

## suggested extensions

- Angkor Wat extension
- Luang Prabang extension

## country information

Thailand has welcomed tourism to its lands for a significantly longer period than any other Asian country. The appeal of its good-natured people, traditions, architecture, fine arts and variety of environments has drawn many tourists to the country. Formally known as Siam, Thailand is governed by a constitutional monarchy. It is the only South East Asian country to have resisted a European power and therefore is not laced with the same 'settler' influences of other countries in the region. However, it does have ethnic diversity in the number of minority groups it has attracted from China and other regions. The people of Thailand are primarily Buddhist and are gentle in manner. The country has a diverse geography, primarily mountainous in the north and beach filled in the south. The food of Thailand is spicy and uses fresh ingredients with plenty of variety. Dishes are almost always accompanied by rice or noodles. Fresh fruit and vegetables are plentiful.

## climate

Although Thailand can be visited year round the most popular time to visit is from November to February when the weather is dry and the temperatures are not too hot. During these winter months, the temperatures in the far north can drop down to freezing during the evenings, so make sure you are prepared with warm clothing. From March to June, the heat returns with temperatures soaring to over 40 degrees Celsius during the day time. However there is rarely any rain during this time and the humidity is low. Thailand's rainy season begins toward the end of June and continues until October. During this time the humidity can be stifling as it rains on a daily basis, usually in the afternoon, but it is also the quietest time for travellers meaning it can be blissfully uncrowded.

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Suggested preparation: Two or three times a week, we recommend you walk on undulating terrain for an hour or more, for at least 3 months prior to departure.

## adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

## important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

Image credit: Elephant ©  
World Animal Protection

The Southern Thai beaches are faced with two weather systems which bring the tropical rains at different times of the year, so it's possible to enjoy Thailand's beaches year-round. From January to September you can choose a beach on the east coast such as Koh Samui or Koh Phangan where you will have the best chance of sunny and dry weather while from October to April the west coast, including Phuket, Krabi, Khao Lak, Koh Phi Phi and Koh Lanta offers the best chance of getting an all over tan. Some beaches can be visited all year round such as Hua Hin, Koh Samed, and Koh Chang.

## dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

## accommodation on the trip

In cities or large towns you will be accommodated in 3 to 4 star, twin share properties that are centrally located, atmospheric and reliable. You will also enjoy 2 nights of fully supported camping and 1 night in a floating bungalow.

## pre and post tour accommodation

World Expeditions can assist you with booking your pre and post tour accommodation. On occasions, your pre or post trip accommodation may be different to the trip accommodation and you may be required to change rooms for these extra nights.

## what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip balm, etc.

## equipment required

A comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking.

## vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted. While game viewing within a national park could be one example, public bus transfers or specialised transport such as 'tuk-tuk's' could be another. Where seat belts are not provided we strongly recommend that you hold tight to a fixed part of the vehicle at all times.

## what's not included

- international airfares and departure taxes
- visa costs
- travel Insurance (compulsory)

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- food, beverages and other sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- expenditure of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry and souvenirs
- tips and gratuities

## info nights

World Expeditions invites you to attend our inspiring adventure travel information nights. These special evenings are designed to inform and entertain and are hosted by our most experienced and passionate adventure travellers and mountaineers. Ask our staff for a info night schedule or register on our website - [www.worldexpeditions.com](http://www.worldexpeditions.com). Shows can fill early so it is important to register your attendance so we know to save a seat, or two!

## subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website, [www.worldexpeditions.com](http://www.worldexpeditions.com) or contact our office.

## social networking

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorldExpeditions>

## how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form and pay a non refundable deposit which you can do by using our online booking function for most trips, or if you prefer, download a booking form from the website and return to us by fax, or mail your booking form and deposit to your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent. We can also help you with any additional arrangements that you require, such as competitive airfares to get you to your destination, stopovers, pre or post trip accommodation or any additional tours that you wish to take in conjunction with the main World Expeditions trip.