

Week Without Walls Northern Thailand (6 days)



Departs anytime (2018-19)



Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school's particular aims, learning objectives and budget.

Please contact us detailing any changes you'd like to make.

'Same same, but different' - A phrase you will often hear in this country, and indeed a philosophy that sums up this endearing nation, where the familiar and the exotic collide. This 6-day trip has been specifically designed for students from regional Asian international schools. The trip entails a journey through one of Southeast Asia's most culturally diverse nations and the only nation in the region never to have been colonised.

Highlights of this short, yet activity rich trip will include working in a remote village to assist a Burmese refugee community, a thorough exploration of the country's delightful Northern provinces, a hands-on cooking class, a vigorous (and highly enjoyable) kickboxing session and white-water rafting.

Most importantly, this trip is designed to feature several educational activities. We aim to provide students with a very memorable and fulfilling introduction to one of the friendliest countries in Asia.




Billy Penfold
Director

Day 1

Arrive Thailand (Chiang Mai)



Arriving in Chiang Mai, we will be greeted at the airport by our tour leader and transported to our hotel. Following this, there will have a brief group meeting to talk about the activities over the coming days. Our first acquaintance with the city begins with a *tuk-tuk* orientation tour around the backstreets passing the old citadel wall.

This afternoon we will venture out to an eco-village nestled in a picturesque valley. It is home to various ethnic minority groups, including the Long Neck Karen hill tribe who are originally from neighbouring Myanmar. The Karen tribe is best known for the practice of wearing long golden coils around their necks.

In the early 1990s, many fled Myanmar in the wake of conflict with its government, settling in various pockets of land. Since this time the Kayan people have set up a vibrant community in this region and welcome curious visitors to their communities who come to learn of their unusual custom. (dinner) **Flight details to be advised**

Day 2

Chiang Mai Mae Ngat Lake (cycling activity)



This morning we journey out for a cycling activity beginning at Mae Malai township. From here we cycle on sturdy bikes (with helmets) for about 16 kilometres to Mae Ngat Lake. Afterwards, we will take a longtail boat across a dam to a floating raft house and spend the late morning kayaking and relaxing around the area.

Mid-afternoon we will venture out to the mountainous hinterland surrounding Chiang Mai to take an adventurous tour of the forest by way of a zip line. We will harness up, listen to safety instructions and then journey across a series of zip lines and numerous walkways. It is here that we get to enjoy an exhilarating

bird's-eye view of some of Thailand's rainforest canopy. Whilst in the vicinity we will learn of this fragile ecosystem of the animal species and other wildlife that inhabit this region of Thailand. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 3

Chiang Dao (service learning program)



This morning we will travel into the hill tribe region of Thailand. A mosaic of ethnic minorities inhabits this sublime region of Thailand, many of who still dress in incredible hand-woven costumes – some so elaborate that it's easy to believe the girls learn to embroider before they can walk.

It is here that we will today work alongside villagers of the Karen ethnic minority in a renovation and agricultural effort. This may include digging, hammering and the transportation of materials, mixing cement and cutting bamboo among other tasks.

In this lush jungle setting in the shadow of mighty limestone mountains, Chiang

Dao was once infamous as the region being at the centre of the world opium trade, the crop being widely harvested around its fertile hinterland crossing into Burma and Laos.

Our time in the village will also give us an excellent opportunity to learn about ethnic minority as well as Thai cultural beliefs and traditions. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4

Chiang Dao 🚗 Chiang Mai



Today we will finish working on our community project and have a short handover ceremony. We will have time to visit a local school and interact with students, possibly enjoying a friendly game of football or volleyball. This interaction is not only intended so we learn of the lives of our contemporaries in Thailand. It will also give us the chance to learn about the education system in Thailand and student's aspirations for the future.

Departing our village then depart our village we bus back to Chiang Mai. There will be ample time for a refreshing swim in the hotel pool before dinner this evening. Following this, we will visit the city's vibrant night market where all

manner of textiles, watches and handicrafts can be bought for a bargain. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 5

Chiang Mai (boxing, white water rafting, cooking class)



A very early start this morning will allow us to take part in an authentic Thai boxing class (Muay Thai) before the heat of the day. The art of Muay Thai has been Thailand's most popular sport for hundreds of years. It is unique among other kinds of fighting disciplines in its approach to close quarters fighting. For a safe and fun adrenaline rush, there is nothing quite like white water rafting. After breakfast, we will transfer to our starting rafting point where we will undergo a comprehensive safety briefing before embarking on our trip down the grade 1 & 2 rapids of the Mae Taeng River, accompanied by our expert river guides. (All students are required to wear life jackets/helmets).

After about 90 minutes on the river, we will arrive at the picnic area where lunch will be served and where we can clean up and get changed. We return to our hotel late afternoon. Tonight, we learn the secrets of the traditional Thai cuisine through a hands-on spicy cooking lesson, taught by one of Chiang Mai's talented local chefs.

(breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6

Chiang Dao (Depart Chiang Mai) ✈️



We set out to visit Doi Suthep mountain (elevation 1676m) and the famous Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple located on one of the two main peaks. Here we will enjoy a cooler climate and panoramic views overlooking the city and as far as our eyes can see. We will try 'ringing of the bells' and explore the temple itself, before descending the dragon staircase to try tasty snacks at the bottom of the hill.

Late afternoon we will transfer to Chiang Mai international airport for our flight back home. Our tour leader will escort us to the airport and wave us farewell.

(breakfast, lunch) **Flight details to be advised**

Summary

Grading

Challenging; Students will be required to be in good health to get the most out of this trip whilst any one of reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties however students will be expected to ride a bicycle, walk every day. You will also be expected to work diligently during the days of the community service project. It will be necessary for you to carry your own luggage throughout the trip but only for short distances.

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple share basis. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. Hotels hold a 3-star equivalent rating.

Transport

Modern air-conditioned bus & vans.

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling *free of charge*.

▲ [Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application](#)

Your Tour Leader

Your tour leader is probably the person who most influences the success of your trip. Thus, Student Educational Adventures employs our own team of meticulously trained student dedicated, local tour leaders - not foreigners, imported at your students' expense with no language skills or insight into your host culture.

These nationals are not only the best folk to show you their country. They are your teachers, translators and an enthusiastic purveyor of authentic experiences. They are there to facilitate your immersion into new cultures and are the bridge between you and the world of education and new experiences.

Your tour leader is always with your students throughout your trip and is thoroughly versed in safety protocols and duty of care responsibilities. This ranges from assisting in the most basic of health and safety measures to ensuring that teachers & students are always safe during our trips. All have been chosen because of their ability to deal with the needs and unique issues associated with escorting young people through this wonderful and at times, most foreign of regions.

Service Learning Program

All service-learning programs initiated by Student Educational Adventures are conducted after careful consultation with the local community and with the local People's Committees.

These projects are initiated based on a model of mutual learning and designed as an immersion experience. An understanding of the importance of an integrated approach to community development is useful to frame what students and teachers might see, learn or experience during a student immersion.

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Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, sightseeing and entrance fees for museums, attractions and sights as described in the itinerary
- throughout Thailand as described in the itinerary
- Student Educational Adventures Group Leader throughout the tour
- Additional local guides where required
- Meals (+ drinking water) as listed in the daily itinerary
- Pre-departure support, briefings & planning meetings for students and parents
- 24/7 in-country support
- **Community project costs**

Exclusions

- International flights to/from Thailand
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Thai Visa (Not required by many nationalities)