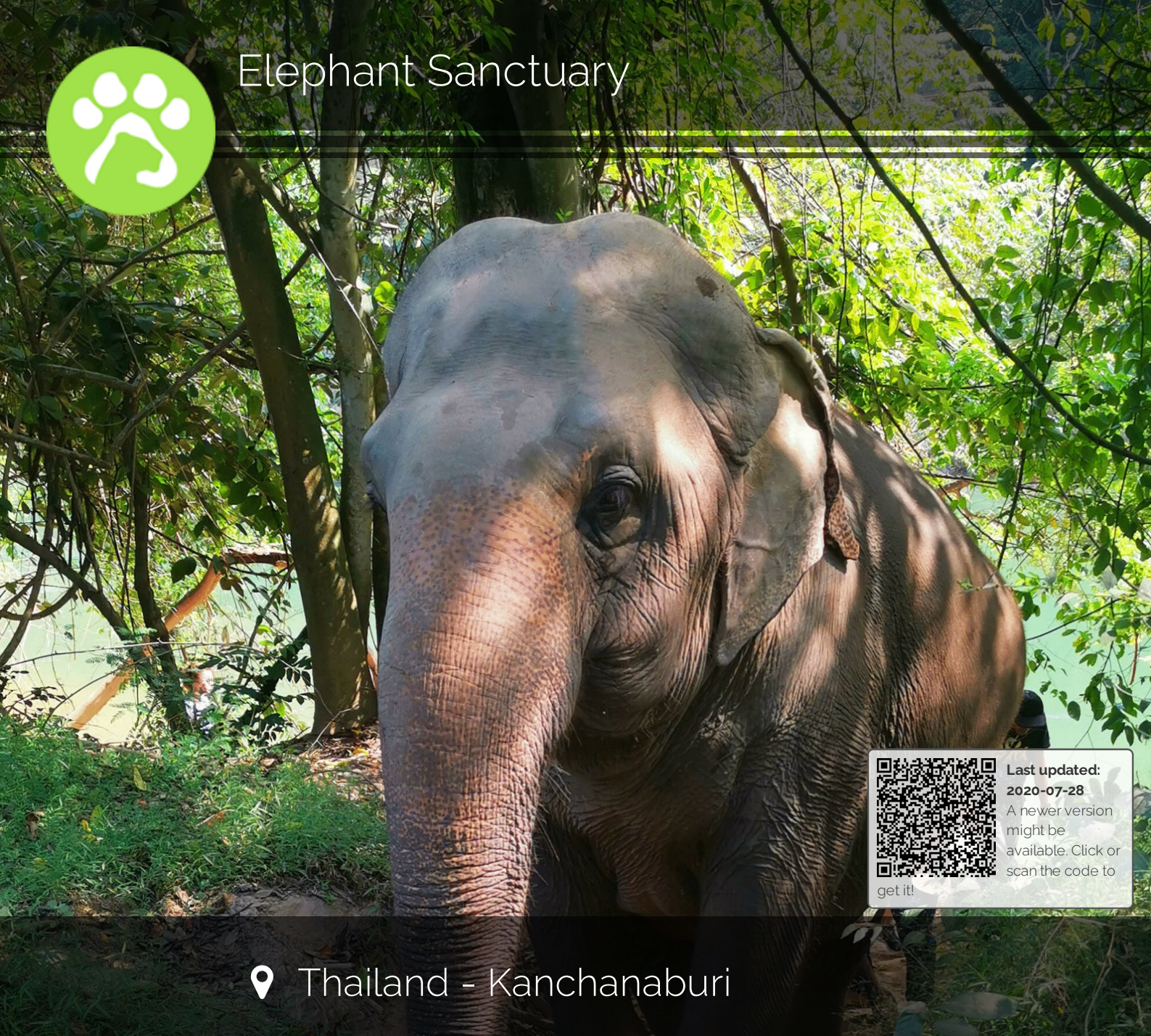




Elephant Sanctuary



Last updated:
2020-07-28
A newer version
might be
available. Click or
scan the code to
get it!

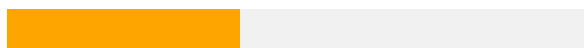
📍 Thailand - Kanchanaburi

Get up close to elephants in a sanctuary where they freely roam.

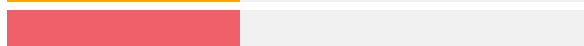
Wash them, prepare their food, bathe and swim with them!

This project takes care of rescued and sick elephants. You will enjoy washing and swimming with the elephants, whilst also preparing food and making sure that the elephants are living in a comfortable environment. Moreover, we will take you out to discover Kanchanaburi's gorgeous nature.

Culture



Learning



Leisure



Community Engagement



Physical Demand



Program Description

The project is based in Kanchanaburi, which manages a delicate balance between tradition and tourism. Its surrounding limestone hills create an unimaginably beautiful landscape enhanced by its numerous bamboo-style buildings, stunning meandering rivers and unique temple caves. Kanchanaburi is truly one of Thailand's natural gems and the perfect place to indulge in nature and spend time with elephants in our project.

The project takes place in a sanctuary where old, sick, disabled, previously abused or illegally-owned elephants now call a home. Here, we work for the elephants, not the other way around. This means there will be no elephant riding in the program. However, you will get the chance to experience and bond with these gentle giants by swimming with them, bathing them and preparing their food, which typically comes in the form of Bana grass, sugarcane and banana plants.

The elephants freely roam around the sanctuary by day, and then are taken to the forest in the early evening.

You will be spending time alongside experienced mahouts, who invest their entire lives gaining an understanding of the elephants and how best to care for them. The sanctuary does receive one day and short stay visitors for respectful "Saddle Off" interactions with the elephants. Without this level of support the sanctuary would not be able to maintain these majestic animals who, whether young or old, were previously used in the captivity of hard labor (logging and farming) or entertainment labor (riding and shows). This could mean that you may see 40-50 persons on site working for the animals, preparing food, assisting with bathing and lovingly observing their actions.

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks):	1
Max duration (weeks):	1

Aims & Objectives

- Take care of relocated, injured, ill, previously abused or illegally owned elephants at the sanctuary
- Give you a unique, unforgettable experience in caring for elephants
- Assist the local sanctuary staff by providing an extra hand

Schedule

Monday

- After breakfast, depart to Kanchanaburi from Singburi and engage in an Introduction and Safety Rules lesson. This is followed by observing and feeding the elephants in the river
- Prepare sticky rice balls and feed them to the elephants
- Then after lunch, participate in bathing the elephants with mud inside the river!
- Nature Trekking - roughly half an hour of trekking around the elephant center
- Elephant bathing where you will get up and close washing an elephant with your hands!
- Elephant feeding
- Finish off the night with a nice Dinner!

Tuesday

- Breakfast in the morning followed by preparing food to feed the elephants such as grass and pineapple stalks
- Walk with the elephants, feed them and bathe them.
- Then after lunch, participate bathing the elephants with mud
- Elephant feeding
- Walk with the elephants
- Dinner
- Visit local market

Wednesday

- Sticky rice ball making and feeding the elephants
- Breakfast
- Go to Krasae Cave / The Death Railway and Collect Elephant dung
- Elephant bathing
- Dinner

Thursday

- Start off the morning with planting grass / bananas
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Help caretakers in cleaning the area where the elephants are fed
- Nature Trekking - roughly half an hour of trekking around the center
- Dinner
- Cook rice in bamboo

Friday

- Breakfast
- Engage in some traditional grass cutting
- Elephant feeding and bathing
- Followed by traditional Thai cooking lessons
- Observation of elephants (grass eating)
- Lunch
- Elephant bed cleaning
- Campfire - bond with each other through engaging in a well-lit campfire

Saturday

- Breakfast
- Depart from the elephant sanctuary, taken to Kanchanaburi bus station if it's the end of your program or back to Singburi for further programs out with the sanctuary

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Starting Dates

During 2019

This program starts every week.

During 2020

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:	18
Maximum age:	-
Minimum English level:	Basic
CRB required:	On Signup
Passport copy required:	No
Resume copy required:	No
Required qualification:	None

Additional Requirements

There are no further requirements for this program.

Additional Equipment

- Good walking shoes
- Clothes that you don't mind getting dirty