

# Wild Kingdom Tours Co., Ltd.

10 Phisit Karani Road, Patong Beach – Phuket 83150 – Thailand

Office Tel.: +66 (0) 76 296 231  
Mobile PB: +66 (0) 899 705 265  
Fax: +66 (0) 76 296 454



E-Mail: [info@wildkingdomtours.com](mailto:info@wildkingdomtours.com)  
Web: [www.wildkingdomtours.com](http://www.wildkingdomtours.com)

Office of Tourism Development in Thailand



## Day by day program:

**Day by day: King Trekking – Between Pai & Mae Hong Song**  
**Only as private tour 4 days / 3 nights - beginning every day of the week**

B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner

Version 1: MAR13

## Day 1 - Mountain landscapes and curved roads towards Pai / L, D



08:30 Pick up at your Chiang Mai hotel by guide in roofed pickup truck with benches. Driving through beautiful mountain landscapes towards Pai, where we take lunch. In the afternoon the trek starts and we hike about 2½ - 3 hours until we arrive to the mountain village of the tribe, called Red Lahu, referring to the color of their clothing. The locals will welcome you and may offer massage of sore feet in return of a few THB.

Dinner is served with usual care. Normal standard is the availability of cold beer, soda or bottle water, which is chilled in a bucket of ice.

In the glow from the fire, you are reminded of a different lifestyle than you yourself originate from. The huts we sleep in are built on stilts. The livestock are sleeping under the house at ground level. The sounds of the night are manifold. - It's not always the animals under the floor that snores the most. Night under primitive conditions - far from civilization.

**OPTIONAL STARTER:** Get familiar with rhythm of Chiang Mai and Northern Thailand by taking part on a tour to Doi Suthep Temple and the Handy Crafts Village. English speaking guide & lunch incl. THB 1.900 per person.



## Day 2 - Forest, village visits and a strange burial cave. (B, L, D)



Breakfast and coffee is needed. Around 08:30 we start the trek again 2½ - 3 hour's time. We walk through hilly terrain in the forest. Amongst we discover clearings and will see the hill tribe people work on the difficult accessible fields. Many places Slash and Burn are used, although it is prohibited by law. Trees in the forest are cut down the year before - especially the shadiest ones. When the wood is dry, its set on fire and the ashes fertilizes the soil before crops are planted. Nourishment from the burning is washed away by rain the following year and a new part of the forest, must then be burned.

In the Karen Hill Tribe village we look around and follow the daily life. Our Pick-up vehicle has arrived and we continue by wheels on bumpy local roads to the Shan People's village where lunch is taken.

A 3 hour hike will now lead us to an interesting burial cave of the past. The scene is like taken from an "Indiana Jones movie." The cave has been used by a community who lived here more than 2.000 years ago. Several coffins are well preserved, but science has not yet found out why they are 3-4 meters long. Local people in the area, have no doubt that these persons where giants who had that height.

On we continue fore another 30 minutes until we arrived at the Black Lahu tribal village.

Dinner will be prepared and the guide informs about this tribe and the next day's program before we go to bed.

Night under simple conditions (probably in the chief's house)





### Day 3 – Mud Spa, Bamboo Rafting & Mae Hong Son (B, L)



08:30 After breakfast we leave the Black Lahu village by our Pick-up transport. 20 minutes later we make a photo-stop at a nice view point. Shortly after we arrived too the famous Phu Klom Mud Spa. A wellness treatment is a “Must Do” and we included a healing Phu Clome facial mud mask experience. Additional wellness treatment can be added at own expenses.

Phu Klom's hot springs and mineral waters is flowing to the surface from deep down in the underground. The mud and clay carried up, is rich on minerals. These substances have a positive effect on human health, skin and the cardiovascular system. The natural clay is black and completely clean and uncontaminated by sulfur. Phu Klom was discovered by a group of French and Thai researchers who sent samples of the clay and mineral water to Thermalium Luxeuil laboratory in France for further analysis. Four years of extensive research has determined that the clay from Phu Clome meet international standards off requirements for microbiological characteristics. Reportedly there are only three other places in the world that can provide the same conditions for a natural mud spa.

Twenty years younger we carry on to the starting point fore bamboo rafting. Life jackets are handled out and we begin a 2 hours float down the river. Unspoiled landscapes are passed with the sound of the rippling river. The pace is consistent calm, but speed increases when small currents are in sight up front. Period of year and quantity of water in the river is crucial to how fast the ride will be.

The last bite of routing will bring us to Mae Hong Son where we check in at Rome Thai Guesthouse (or equivalent). Rooms booked will be with air-conditioning.

After a quick shower or 30 minutes rest flat on the bed, we head to the temple on top of King Mu Mountain. Wat Phra That Doi Kong Mu has stunning views across the valley where Mae Hong Son is located and in the glow of the sunset the impression increases. The holy temple is built in typical Shan style architecture and dates back from 1874.

While darkness is about to boost we continue to a good restaurant in town. Dinner of your choice and expense. During dinner the guide informs on the next day visit to Long Neck People village.

Way back to the guesthouse we pass the night market and a favorable purchase could take place. Night guesthouse Mae Hong Son.



## Day 4 – Elephant safari, Longneck people and Chiang Mai (M, F)



08:30 After breakfast we check out and drive to the Karen Tribe elephant camp by the river in the jungle. This tribe has for centuries had elephant training as a specialty. Sitting in the chair on the elephant's back we start an hour's exciting elephant trekking through hilly terrain until arriving at the starting point for longtail-boats.

30 minutes up the river will bring us to Huay Phu Keang – The village of Kayan. The women with brass rings around the neck, is often referred to as Long Neck Karen or Giraffe Women and is a 'reason why travelers come to Mae Hong Son. This minority group is refugees from Karenni State on the other side of the Thai / Burma border from Mae Hong Son. The tribe counts about 20,000 individuals in all and in Burmese they are called Padaung and in their own language Kayan. The decision whether to - or not to visit the village can be a difficult question.



No one can fail to feel that they are on a tour in a human zoo. Do this feeling bother you; buy some of their handicrafts to show that you support the village.

In fact, it is not the neck which has been extended by the rings, but the shoulders that has been pressed downwards. The origin of this tradition is unknown and leads to many explanations. According to a Kayan legend, the tribe's progenitor was a dragon lady with a long beautiful neck and the strange tradition is an imitation of her. Others say to know the tradition has arisen as a result to protect women from tiger attacks.

At the return to Mae Hong Son lunch will be taken in a local restaurant before we return back to Chiang Mai with the goods of civilizations within reach.

With unforgettable memories we expect arrival at the chosen hotel 18:00 -19:00.

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*Wild Kingdom Tours will be pleased to help doing your hotel booking in Chiang Mai, before and after the trekking tour. We know hotels that can store remaining luggage, even if you are checked out during going around. Laundry can be taken care of subsequently to receive clean and ironed when you are back from trekking. Furthermore we can arrange transfer service to/from the airport or railway station.*

