

# Wild Kingdom Tours Co., Ltd.

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Office of Tourism Development in Thailand



## Day by Day itinerary

### WKT 017B - Golden Triangle, Elephants, Waterways & Long Neck - 2 days / 1 night

Start Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai.

B= Breakfast / L= Lunch / D= Dinner.

Wild Kingdom Tours can arrange connecting hotel stay in Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai.



### DAY 1 - / L / Long Neck Tribe - Kok River - Elephant - The White Temple - Chiang Rai

07:00 Pick up at your hotel by English speaking guide and private transport. We drive through scenic mountain landscapes towards the idyllic town of **Thaton** by the **Kok River**. The area has many ethnic minority groups who wear colorful costumes. Most hill tribes, have immigrated from Burma and China more than hundred years ago. In 1960's the authorities began to integrate them into Thai society and today education, is compulsory to all. Each tribe continue to speak its own language. After another 15 minutes, where coffee plantations is passed, we arrive at NanaPho - The village inhabited by the "**Long Neck People**".



The name arose because the women adorn themselves with brass rings around the neck , pushing the shoulders downwards. The origin of this neck ring tradition is unknown and have lead to many explanations. According to a **Kayan legend**, the stem mother of the tribe was a dragon with a long beautiful neck and the tradition is an imitation of her. Others believe the tradition is a result of protecting women from tiger attacks.

Note: To some people this visit, can be experienced as a visit to a human zoo. **Kayan tribe** originates from the mountains of **Myanmar**. Unlike their place of origin, there stay in **Thailand** gives them the opportunity to earn money by displaying themselves to foreigners. Lunch before we continue to the **Kok River banks**. On the **Nam Mae Kok River**, we board a longtailboat. Scenic views of **teakwood plantations** on the hillsides and fishermen

with nets making a living from the river. We go ashore at the **Karen village, Baan Ruammit** - and learn that this tribe for centuries have had elephant training as their trademark.



We place ourselves in **elephant** chair on its back and ride off into the surrounding countryside under the **Mahut's (elephant driver)** control. Previously the village was functioning as a logging station for timber to be floated on to **Chiang Rai**. These times drew to an end, when the **Thai government** in the 1980s banned all logging in state forests. **Baan Ruammit** acts as a central hub that connects the various minority hill tribes such as the **Akha, Karen, Lahu and Lisu**.

After this "Elephantine" experience our driver will continue towards **Chiang Rai**, where we visit the beautiful **Wat Rong Khun** - also known as **The White Temple**. **Wat Rong Khun** is different from other temples in Thailand, as its "Ubosot" (consecrated assembly hall) is designed in white with a partial use of white glass. The white color stands for Buddha's purity, the white glass stands for Buddha's wisdom. Visitors will find it quite bizarre that there are modern pictures of Hollywood symbols in the temple such as Spiderman, Batman & the Canadian actor Keanu Reeves - best known from the role of the Matrix.



The tour continues onto **Chiang Rai Old Town**. We will check in at the central **Wang Come Hotel**. The hotel is only a few minutes' walk from the night market and it is recommended to go there for dinner. Besides being one of the **best night markets** in **Thailand**, you will also find numerous food stalls with goodies that will evoke a mouth-watering situation. Night [Wangcome Hotel](#) / Deluxe room.

## DAY 2 - / B, L / Golden Triangle - Mekong Cruise - Mae Sai border.

07:30 After breakfast we proceed to the northernmost point in **The Kingdom** - the town of **Mae Sai**. The counterpart border town in **Myanmar** is called **Tachilek**.

Vigorous trade in **precious stones**, cheap Chinese electronics and tobacco are among the most common **merchandise**.

From here we follow the border line until **Sop Ruak**, where overlooking **Laos** and **Burma** from the banks of the **Mekong River** is possible. We eat lunch and visit the museum, which tells the story of the **opium trade** before this area came under the authorities' control. We board a riverboat and enjoy the breeze and the scenery along the **Mekong river banks** of the respective countries. **Mekong River** is also a busy passenger boats waterway bringing in passengers from **China** further up north. Activities has come to the end and via Chiang Rai we return to Chaing Mai about 21:00.

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Drop off at the following locations / please inform where:

A / **Chiang Rai airport** / Flights direct to **Bangkok** / departing after 19:45 ok.

B / Your hotel in **Chiang Mai**.

C / **Chiang Mai Airport** / direct flights **Bangkok** or **Phuket** departing after 22:15 ok.

Connecting hotel stay in Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai and flights bookings - Contact us.