

## Baan Mae Kampong

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### **Highlights:**

- *Share the rhythm of daily life with a local Thai family;*
- *Mum, dad and the kids learn how to make a local handicraft;*
- *Experience and join in traditional arts and performance*
- *Learn about the relationship between local people and the forest*

### **Overview of Trip:**

Open your childrens' eyes and minds to life away from home, and outside the classroom!

The Family Journey to Mae Kampong shares local life, culture and nature, with guests. Activities have been crafted for active families hoping for a fun, learning experience of life in a different culture. Thai people love to meet families, so you will enjoy an especially warm welcome.

This trip is an amazing opportunity for your family to spend time together in a local village, meet local people, join your host family picking tea, cooking or working together to make a local craft. Guests experience a mixture of culture, nature, interaction and time to relax.

The people of Mae Kampong work in a group to manage tourism, building local skills and confidence. Income from the CBT program is distributed broadly throughout the community and provides tangible benefits to local community members and to the environment.

### **Background to community:**

Cultivating tea is a traditional occupation for Northern Thai, highland people. Mae Kampong village is surrounded by tea plantations which successive generations have woven into the verdant natural landscape. Tea trees grow alongside Arabica coffee, herbal medicines and the stunning natural forest.

Today, tea and coffee cultivation are the main occupations for Mae Kampong. Much of the tea is used to produce '*miang*', a snack which local people chew after dinner, or if they feel tired. To produce *miang*, community members rely on traditional methods of planting, harvesting and fermenting. Only the tips of the tea leaves are picked. This allows sunlight to reach the old leaves, and enables the community to harvest all year round. Guests can learn about the subtle differences in the properties of tea from month to month!

Lush forest, including a well preserved watershed, has guaranteed an abundance of streams, which enable Mae Kampong to produce hydro electricity. This clean energy project is managed by a village cooperative, which is even able to sell electricity to the national power grid, making Mae Kampong a model community for 'sustainable energy.'

More than 30 households are actively involved in CBT in Mae Kampong. Villagers contribute towards the local cooperative, which generates income for all community members as well as funding a range of social and environmental activities. These include tree planting; building a buffer line to deter forest fires; and assisting surveillance to prevent illegal logging and the smuggling of wild orchids from the forest.

The CBT group are aware of the pressures which tourism can put on a small community. Group members meet regularly to discuss tourism management and community preparation in terms of staff, natural resources and fair distribution of profits. Local guides explain Mae Kampong's cultural and environmental guidelines to guests. Community members also help manage their own garbage at the household level.

### **Programme**

#### **Day 1: CNX – Mae Kampong**

- Transfer from your accommodation in Chiang Mai
- Make a short stop at **San Kampang** Hot Spring Park

- Arrive at Baan Mae Kampong, welcome and briefing by the village leader, and members of Mae Kampong Community based Tourism Group (presented by a local community guide).
- After lunch, explore the village on foot & experience local occupations e.g. bamboo hat weaving, 'Meang' tea products, etc.
- At leisure or join your host cooking dinner

**Day 2      Mae Kampong**

- After breakfast, leave the village to explore natural walking trail through the tropical rain forest and learn the local Thai herbal secrets with the village guide.
- Picnic lunch at the water fall before enjoy swimming.
- Hands on experience of life in Mae Kampong community – try Thai cooking with your local hosts or learn “Bai Sri” making,
- Traditional “Bai Sri Ceremony” and enjoy a welcome dinner with traditional Northern Thai food and dance performance.

**Day 3      Mae Kampong – CNX**

- Make Merit at the local Buddhist temple
- At leisure at the village or make the adventurous choice to try the “Flight of the Gibbon”, experience a flying rainforest adventure (optional)
- Heading back to Chiang Mai, en route making a brief visit to the Mae Kampong Clean Energy Hydropower project
- Arrive Chiang Mai safe and sound

**Transport:** As describe in the itinerary by minivan

**Meals:** 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

**Accommodation Style:** 2 nights – basic homestay with the local family

**Please Note:**

- *An additional accommodation in Chiang Mai can be arranged upon request.*
- *Transfers from/to the airport are excluded. Please advise your flight details at time of booking if you would like us to arrange.*
- *Life in the village will be great fun, however it will be different from home. A smile and patience with these differences will help to ensure an amazing family experience.*

**The Price includes:**

- accommodation : : Baan Mae Kam Pong Homestay (2 nights)
- food : 7 meals (2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners)
- transportation : minibus and all travel described in the itinerary
- all activities mentioned in the programme and all admission fees
- allowance for an English speaking guide
- a travel accident insurance : 200,000 baht / person

**The Price excludes:**

- airfare or train ticket: BKK-Chiang Mai-BKK
- Your personal expenses, tipping kitty and drinks