

# Thailand Gibbon Sanctuary

*An unmissable chance to study the behaviour of these extraordinary primates, each with their own unique character, as you rehabilitate and care for these rare and threatened animals.*

Thailand – a magnificent country of idyllic beaches, tumbling forest landscapes, hospitable people and fantastic food. Experience this incredible destination whilst volunteering in a gibbon sanctuary where volunteers care for rescued gibbons. Whilst spending time here, explore Thailand's complex cultural heritage which is steeped in mystical Buddhist history and philosophy. Enjoy the breathtaking local temples, bustling village markets and sumptuous cuisine. Visit untouched rainforests alive with spectacular wildlife and head down to the coast to snorkel over pristine coral reefs watching rays, turtles and dazzling reef fish. After this special adventure take a well deserved rest and chill on Thailand's spectacular white sand beaches. You really will have a gap year or year out that you will never forget when you take up a place on this amazing project.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in true Thai culture
- Work closely with this extraordinary creature
- Make lifelong friends

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Book early to avoid disappointment.

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Thailand
<b>Activities</b>	Cleaning & repairing living quarters Caring for the babies Transferring them between enclosures Visiting the older gibbons Research into behaviours
<b>Transport</b>	Bus/flight to project site
<b>Accommodation</b>	Shared volunteer house

## **WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?**

One of the sad consequences of population growth and industrial development in Thailand is that animals have increasingly been under threat by habitat destruction and hunting. As a result, many orphaned or injured animals can no longer live in the wild and need care and support. Habitat destruction and unsustainable over utilization of the wildlife resources in this part of the world has caused a decline in indigenous wildlife. Primates in particular are hunted for their meat, as pets and for medicine, and their habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Wildlife refuges are a crucial means of providing this support and giving injured or abused gibbons a safe place to live. They're also a vitally important as a means to educate the public about human wildlife conflicts.

You will be helping with all activities of the centre – maintaining the animal's living quarters, helping with routine maintenance, caring for the orphaned animals and helping maintain the centre in general. The work will be hard but extremely rewarding and being so close to some of the world's most fascinating primates is sure to be an experience that you'll never forget!

## **WHAT WILL I BE DOING?**

Working at this amazing, well established and outstandingly worthwhile sanctuary gives you an unmissable chance to study the behaviour of these extraordinary primates, each with their own unique character. You will work to build up a relationship with the gibbons, and as they learn to trust and accept you, you will help make their life at the sanctuary pleasant, safe and enjoyable. The daily routine will involve care of the gibbons including cleaning out their living quarters, caring for the babies (for example bottle feeding and even changing nappies), transferring them between enclosures, visiting older individuals (who have behavioural problems on account of abuse by humans) in their living quarters, and aiding them in their socialisation and recovery.

### **A typical day may be something like this:**

**7:30-8:00** Prepare breakfast for the animals feed them and clean feeding bowls

**9:00-9:30** Volunteer breakfast

**9:30-11:30** Sanctuary maintenance: clean enclosures, refresh enclosure water bottles, repair enclosures, paint signs

**11:30-12:00** Gibbon snack preparation and feeding

**12:00-13:00** Volunteer lunch

**13:00-15:30** Research/study project time/private time/general maintenance around gibbon enclosures, refresh water and cleaning if required

**15:30-17:30** Evening gibbon meal preparation and feeding, cleaning and collecting up food bowls

**17:00-18:00** Rest

**18:00** Volunteer dinner when you will get the chance to chat about the activities of the day

Volunteers participating for more than a month may be offered the opportunity to teach English or other subjects of their choice at a nearby village school.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

Internal travel around Thailand is straight forward, we will provide you with detailed travel instructions on how to reach your project location, which is an easy seven hour bus journey north of Bangkok or if you're more impatient, you can book a reasonably priced internal flight which takes less than an hour. Your project hosts will collect you from the pre-arranged meeting point, the local bus station or local airport. This will be arranged prior to your departure for Thailand. The gibbon sanctuary can also be reached from Chiang Mai, an overland journey of about 5 - 6 hours using the regular and safe local bus service.

## WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Whilst participating on this project you will be staying in a clean and comfortable volunteer house, where you will be provided with clean bed linen and towels and you will have a kitchenette, simple comfortable furniture, flushing toilets and hot showers. You will also have the use of 110v electrical outlets to charge your cameras, iPods and mobile phones.

## WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

You will be provided with three delicious home cooked meals a day based on fresh produce that is purchased from the local area. Enjoy fragrant Thai specialities, such as mild coconut curries, fragrant steamed rice, or dumplings. Enjoy your meals alongside your fellow volunteers in the comfort of your peaceful surroundings.

## COSTS

2 weeks	US\$ 1,195
3 weeks	US\$ 1,545
4 weeks	US\$ 1,895
6 weeks	US\$ 2,845
8 weeks	US\$ 3,445
10 weeks	US\$ 4,195
12 weeks	US\$ 5,795

## DEPARTURE DATES

Weekly, please aim to arrive on a Monday.

This project is available throughout the Christmas period.

## DURATION

From 2 weeks

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### Before you go

- Pre-departure support & documentation
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Advice on visas & equipment
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt

### In-country

- Pick up from local airport or bus station
- Project orientation
- Accommodation
- 3 meals a day
- Project equipment
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

## AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Mae Sot (MAQ), Bangkok (BKK), Chiang Mai (CNX)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*