challenges abroad

Supporting the futureSense FOUNDATION

THAILAND ELEPHANT & HILL TRIBES CHALLENGE

Your Passport to Global Citizenship!



www.challengesabroad.com.au

Certified B Corporation

CARBON NEUTRAL

About Us

Greater Social Equality.
A More Sustainable Environment.
A More Secure World for Everyone.

Challenges Abroad is a social enterprise that provides impactful, customised overseas learning programs for students. Our mission is to develop the next generation of Global Citizens, who as future leaders will help shape a better future for everyone.

Through our programs, we ensure that students not only develop a global mindset but gain vital life and employability skills, enabling them to have a positive impact on the world through their future endeavours.

We are proud to be a Certified B Corporation!
It reinforces that together, we're delivering programs that are not only transformative for students, but also beneficial for communities and respectful of the planet.

The Challenges Abroad Difference

Student Impact
Developing the next generation of Global Citizens.

Community Impact
Delivering long-term development projects that support local communities.

Enviornmental Impact
We are working on becoming a carbon neutral organisation.



Short-Term Programs, Long-Term Impact.

Our Wildlife & Adventure Challenges enable students to step out of their comfort zone whilst developing global perspectives, learning about new cultures and fostering meaningful connections with the local community.



Global Citizenship:

Broaden your perspectives, embrace cultural diversity, and ignite a lifelong drive to make a difference in the world.



Cultural Immersion:

Discover, connect & experience - dive into vibrant local cultures, learning through meaningful cross-cultural exchange.



Community Engagement:

Lead, inspire & create change - deliver hands-on projects, building skills and leaving a lasting impact on local communities.

Every Challenges Abroad program supports the goals and objectives of our international development charity, the FutureSense Foundation.

Participants on a Challenges Abroad program are therefore, not only directly impacting the community through their project, but are part of a sustainable community development initiative that will have a long lasting, positive impact.

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Thailand: Land of Smiles

Our programs are based north of Chiang Mai in **Mae Sariang,** a district in the **Mae Hong Son** province which is referred to as the land of nature - it is a small and quiet town surrounded by green mountains, is home to diverse ethnic minority communities.

Day 1
Arrival

Touch down in Thailand! You're arriving in the north, where mist-covered mountains, ancient temples, and the warm rhythm of local life set the tone from the moment you land.

After being welcomed at Chiang Mai airport by your group mentor, travel four hours through winding mountain roads and lush valleys to Mae Sariang - a charming riverside town that will be your home for the first chapter of the challenge. As evening settles in, explore the town and gather for a welcome dinner. Tomorrow, the real adventure begins.





Week 1

Days 2-3
Program & Cultural Orientation

Wake up in Mae Sariang, a town that moves at its own gentle pace along the banks of the Yuam River, with golden temple spires catching the morning light. Over the next two days, you'll dive straight in with language and cultural sessions, get to know our Hub team who'll be supporting you throughout, and begin shaping your vision for the community project ahead.

Days 4-7
Hill Tribes

Spend four immersive days embedded in the local community, contributing your skills, knowledge and passions to our long-term education and community development initiatives. With dedicated time to plan as a team, we'll help to make sure you're ready to contribute in a meaningful way - learning just as much from the community as you share. This hands-on experience builds confidence, uncovers new strengths, and leaves a lasting, sustainable impact.

Beyond your workshops, switch off and soak up the Hill Tribes' laid-back charm and experience local culture in the most authentic way.

Potential workshop topics:
Conversational English, STEM Education, Creative Arts, Sports Education, Environmental Awareness, Social & Emotional Well-Being and Life Skills







Week 2

Days 8-9
Your Free Weekend to Explore!

This is your time to make the most of everything Chiang Mai has to offer:

👉 Sample local restaurants
👉 Participate in traditional Thai cooking classes
👉 Wander through bustling night markets
👉 Sunrise over Doi Suthep Temple
👉 Explore local temples

There are endless ways to soak up the culture!



Chiang Mai was once the capital of the Lanna Kingdom and is still surrounded by remnants of its original city walls - meaning you're literally walking through over 700 years of history!



Days 10-15
Elephant Nature Park

Spend an unforgettable week at an ethical elephant sanctuary, where you'll observe elephants in their natural environment! Learn about each elephant's unique story and journey to the sanctuary, gaining a deeper understanding of conservation and responsible tourism. You'll also take part in hands-on activities that support their care, such as preparing nutritious "elephant cakes," making this a meaningful and memorable experience you'll never forget.



Departure & Extension Trip

Day 16
Departure

The final day offers time to reflect on the skills you've developed, the experiences you've shared, and the perspectives you've gained. Our team will drop you off at the airport for you journey home or onwards travels. Or you might even want to extend your time in Thailand with us!

Days 16-22
Extention Trip!

Day 1: Chiang Rai. Travel north, stopping for a waterfall hike and local lunch before experiencing Chiang Rai's vibrant evening atmosphere.

Day 2: Temples & the Golden Triangle. Visit the iconic White Temple and Opium Museum before exploring the Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Laos & Myanmar meet. Enjoy a Mekong River boat ride and a quick visit to Laos.

Day 3: Chiang Rai Highlights. Explore Doi Tung gardens, the Mae Sai border markets, the Monkey Temple, and a local tea garden.

Day 4: Chiang Dao Adventure. Discover mountain scenery, visit a local orange farm and Tha Ton Temple, and explore the famous Chiang Dao caves.

Day 5: Relax in Pai. Unwind in the laid-back town of Pai with free time to explore, relax, enjoy local cafés, or experience a traditional massage.

Day 6: Pai's Natural Wonders. Explore Pai's must-see sights, including the bamboo bridge and Pai Canyon, finishing with an unforgettable sunset view.

Day 7: Farewell. Transfer back to Chiang Mai International Airport for your flight home or your next adventure.







The Essentials

Accommodation & Meals

In the hill tribes, accommodation is very basic - sleeping inside on a mat on the floor. In some villages there is a western toilet and running water for showers, in some there may be a drop toilet or bucket shower. Staying in the hill tribes is an incredible opportunity to experience traditional village life! Across the rest of the program, you'll be staying in dorm-style accommodation, sharing your room with up to 3 other participants, with western showers and toilets, as well as communal spaces for relaxing. We provide 3 vegetarian meals per day Monday-Friday (weekends being your free time to explore local restaurants!).

In-Country Transport

Any required transport for project work and airport pick-up and drop-off. Our team can also help you organise transport so you can explore the area in your free time.

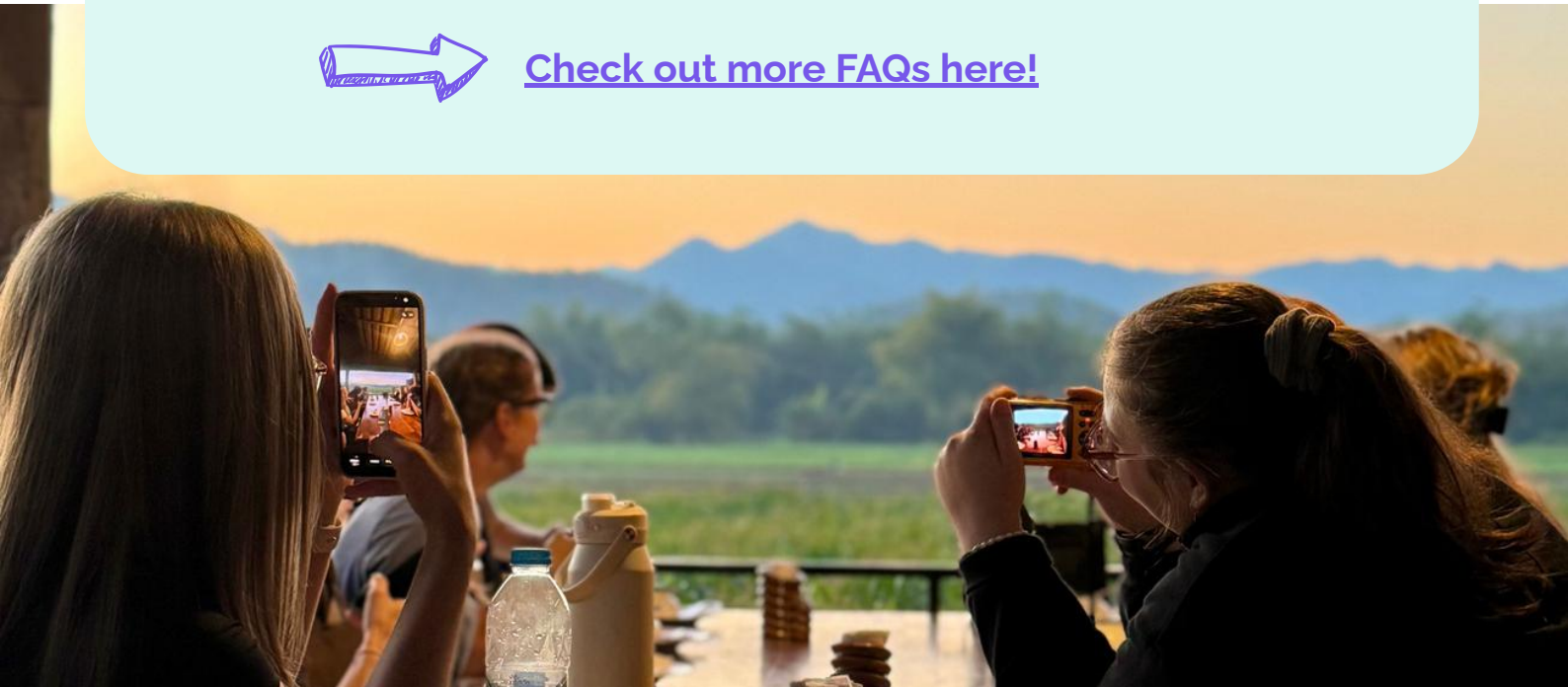
In-Country Support

As well as supporting you in your project work, our team will provide 24/7 support during your time overseas... they'll also have the best recommendations on how to spend your free time!

Pre-Departure Support

We will provide you with a Welcome Pack, Packing List and Program Brief to help you prepare for your travels. Our team are there every step of the way for extra support, and we'll organise a pre-departure meeting 4-weeks before you go to make sure everyone is on the same page and ready for the adventure.

Check out more FAQs here!



What's Next?

Sign up!

All you need to do is apply on our **website** and pay the **$250 booking deposit.** Once accepted, you can pay the remainder of your program fee in fortnightly, monthly or quarterly instalments leading up to your challenge. Your final payment is due eight weeks before departure.

If you have any questions or need any further support, please get in touch with our team:

hello@challengesabroad.com.au

We can also add you to a group chat on WhatsApp so that you can connect with others who are interested in joining the challenge or are even signed up and preparing to travel!

Things to start considering:

- **International flights**
- **Travel insurance**
- **Visas**
- **Vaccinations**

Dates:
Dates TBC through the website

Cost:
$3,150
(possible credit/funding options here)

Extension trip:
1 week tour of Thailand $1370

Elevate your Experience

If you're keen to take on an extra challenge, becoming a **Challenge Leader** will help you develop your leadership and team management skills, as well as a whole heap of other qualities that will set you up for your career or future study. Find out more and apply **here.**

"The pre-departure support is unparalleled. There is a lot of room for challenging yourself and personal growth - definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity that shouldn't be passed up!"

Global Citizen, Natan'El


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