



List of best practice elephant venues in Asia

This list with best practice elephant venues is not exhaustive and will be updated regularly. **Also being listed doesn't mean an endorsement by World Animal Protection** as most venues are not visited by us on a regular basis and situations can change fast. This list is simply there to help you find highest welfare elephant venues. When considering a venue that's not listed, please use World Animal Protection's Elephant-Friendly checklist¹.

World Animal Protection discourages direct interactions between tourists and elephants - including bathing and showering. At some of the listed venues these interactions are still offered and we advise you or your customers not to participate in any of these direct or close interaction with the elephants.

Elephant venues, in particular in Thailand, are often named very similarly, which can lead to confusion. For example, an elephant-friendly venue may be called 'Bangkok Elephant Sanctuary', while a lower welfare venue may call itself 'Bangkok Sanctuary for Elephants'. We therefore strongly recommend verifying the names to be exactly as below.

Activities with an * offer some limited form of direct contact between visitors and elephants without a protected barrier. They are nonetheless featured here because of other outstanding actions taken to provide best welfare to their elephants. However, while these direct contact opportunities at these venues are minimal and well super-vised to ensure voluntary participation by elephants, we do advice venues to move away from such practices and travellers to politely voice their preference to not engage in direct contact without protective barriers or when elephants are not voluntary participating.

Country	Name	Offered visitor activities	Date confirming visitor activities
Cambodia	Elephant Valley Project (EVP)	Observing elephants	2019
Laos	Elephant Conservation Centre	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest, one daily opportunity of direct interaction under mahout supervision (*)	2019
Laos	Mandalao Elephant Conservation	Observing elephants, some short touching and direct interaction permitted (*)	2019

¹ Elephant-friendly venue guidelines can be found here: www.worldanimalprotection.org/elephant-friendly-venue-guideline



Country	Name	Offered visitor activities	Date confirming visitor activities
Nepal	Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest and fields	2019
Sri Lanka	Elephant Transit Home	Observing young orphan elephants prior to release back into the wild	2018
Thailand	Boon Lott Elephant Sanctuary (BLES)	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest and fields	2019
Thailand	Burm and Emily's Elephant Sanctuary (BEES)	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest and fields	2019
Thailand	ChangChill	Observing elephants, preparing food and mahout chat	2019
Thailand	Elephant Nature Park (ENP)	Observing elephants, feeding of elephants from platform	2018
Thailand	Elephant Valley Thailand (EVT)	Observing elephants, protected contact feeding	2019
Thailand	Following Giants	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest	2019
Thailand	Global Vision International (GVI) project in Huay Pakoot	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest, visitors feeding one time per week (*)	2017
Thailand	Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation	Observation of elephants, walking with elephants, some direct interaction (*) ²	2016
Thailand	Kindred Spirit Elephant Sanctuary	Observing elephants in the forest, feeding of elephants and some direct interaction (*)	2016
Thailand	Mahouts Elephant Foundation	Observing elephants, following elephants in forest	2018
Thailand	Phuket Elephant Sanctuary	Observing elephants, protected contact feeding	2018
Thailand	Samui Elephant Sanctuary	Observing elephants, some feeding and direct interaction (*)	2018
Thailand	Tree Tops Elephant Reserve	Observing elephants, some protected contact feeding, following elephants	2019

² This must be distinguished from activities by adjacent Anantara resort, which do offer some riding.



Building an elephant friendly future

The use of captive elephants in most tourist attractions involves unnecessary suffering for the entertainment of visitors. World Animal Protection's 2017 'Taken for a Ride'³ report found that 77% of the 3,000 elephants used at tourist venues across Asia were living in 'severely inadequate conditions', with a clear correlation between those conditions and the activity being offered to tourists. Essentially, almost all the elephants living in severely inadequate conditions were found at venues offering elephant rides.

World Animal Protection acknowledges the need to facilitate the transitioning of existing elephant camps from worst husbandry to best possible captive conditions. To achieve this we work collaboratively with venue owners, mahouts, the travel companies and communities.

Changing demand

Elephant camps taking steps to transition from conventional elephant attractions towards observation-only elephant-friendly venues will be spear-heading a movement that is bound to increase, with more and more tourists and travel companies increasing demand for such places. Through Elephant-Friendly venues, animal welfare for existing captive elephants can be respected in the best possible way, while at the same time reducing demand for conventional elephant entertainment further exploitation of elephants will end.

To learn more about how we are building an elephant friendly future visit worldanimalprotection.org/changchill

³ Read the 'Taken for a Ride: The conditions for elephants used in tourism in Asia' [here](#).