



## **Tour 9 - The surroundings of Chiang Dao, the ethnic minorities, Maemae<sup>1</sup> and the elephants - (5 days)**

26340 bahts - (approximately 878 \$ CAD)  
Single price up to 9 persons

### **Activities**

**NOTE:** Chiang Dao is a two hours drive from Chiang Mai.

#### **Day 1 - Chiang Dao and the ethnic minorities**

##### **Orchid farm and butterfly farm visits (40 bahts / person)**

The orchid is the most beautiful flower of Thailand. You will see hundreds of vivid colour species and then will be delighted by the butterfly farm. It occurs to be a great place to buy elegant jewelry made of orchid petals and butterfly wings. Marvellous!

##### **Visit a factory of handmade paper**

You will be amazed to learn which vegetal fibres are used by the craftsmen to create beautiful handmade paper and objects.

**NOTE:** When the factory is closed on holidays, you visit an other factory at the elephants farm.

##### **Market visit**

On your way to Chiang Dao from Chiang Mai discover in the old fashioned market the richness of Thailand: fruits, vegetables, grocer's shops, butcher's shops, fishmonger's shops, delicacies...See also some food of the ethnic minorities: snakes, frogs, insects...

---

<sup>1</sup> - English transcription of a small village called «River Mae».



### **Karen village visit**

Karen, is the most important ethnic minority in Thailand. Half a million live in 1,912 villages. They specialize in elephants training and forest work. Then we stop in a small village near Chiang Dao situated at the end of the road, in a beautiful site against the cliffs.

### **Visit a Palong village**

The Palong's are a Myanmar (ex-Burma) ethnic minority. They recently came to Thailand running away from the war between the taiyai state and the central government of Burma. There are very few villages of this minority in Thailand. Located near Chiang Dao at a two hour drive from Chiang Mai this village recently opened itself to tourism. You will visit the village at the end of the afternoon, after the tourist's minivan have left, and will be closer to notice their lifestyle.

**Overnight stay** at Chiang Dao

### **Day 2 – Surroundings of Chiang Dao area**

**NOTE:** One hundred fifty kilometers ride in one day.

### **Surroundings of Chiang Dao**

Discover an old fashion general store, hot springs, local market, bathe under a surprising waterfall and see a gigantic temple.

**Overnight stay** at Chiang Dao



### **Day 3 - Visit a Thai village and caves of Chiang Dao**

#### **Visit a Thai village**

Discover a typical village near Chiang Dao: rice fields, temple, child's nursery, school, rice mill, houses, orange grove and fruit trees.

#### **Visit an easily accessible cave**

In a hillside cave a holy friar settled a monastery where the monks meditate. This sacred place is full of beauty and serenity. You reach this perfect place to have a closer look at the tropical forest and enjoy the unique scenery.

#### **Visit a second easily accessible cave (40 bahts / person)**

Enter Chiang Dao Mountain within 500 meter depth, cross magnificent rooms crowned with stalactites.

**Overnight stay** at Chiang Dao

### **Day 4 Maemae**

#### **Reach Maemae and hike in the mountain**

(1000 bahts for taxi pick up round trip) - The slope is very steep, so a special vehicle will take you to Maemae. Upon arrival to the village, travelers can take an hour walk in an hallucinating landscape. The trail follows softly the forest and the valley. Level: easy.

**NOTE:** taxi pick up is payable on spot and is already deducted from the price of the minivan. Pong's minivan will stay at Chiang Dao and Pong will stay with the travelers.



### **Tour in the village of Maemae**

Perched on the mount Chiang Dao the village of Maemae is one of the most beautiful villages of Thailand. Its unique street follows the cliff made by the mountain stream Mae. A village of another world, of another century, where very few travelers go. Level: easy.

### **Sauna (100 bahts per person)**

Have a sauna, in nature, as made traditionally. Enter a heated wooden hut and enjoy the cold water fountain directly pulled from the river. Very relaxing.

### **Massage (200 bahts per person)**

Have a massage in the peaceful atmosphere of the mountain. Enjoy a traditional massage by the ladies of the village. This art has been transmitted from mothers to daughters for generations.

### **Overnight stay** at Maemae

### **Day 5 - The elephants**

### **Elephants farm visit (1500 bahts / person)**

Assist to their bath and enjoy a didactic and festive entertainment whose stars are elephants. Take advantage of elephant riding, ox carting, and bamboo rafting on the river. After the visit, enjoy an excellent meal. All included in the admission charges.

### **Overnight stay** at Chiang Mai

***The price includes the minivan, the driver, the gasoline, the transportation to restaurants for dinner and supper and the driver's meals.***



**The baht value is generally between 29 to 31 bahts** for 1 canadian dollar. For information purposes only we have calculated our prices using the value of 30 bahts for 1 canadian dollar.

**Meals, accommodations, and activities are at the expense of the traveler.**

***The price of the activities are payable on the site.*** Prices are decided by the suppliers and can change without notice. Pong is not responsible for these changes. by the suppliers and can change without notice. Pong is not responsible for these changes.

## **CREATE YOUR OWN MENU**

**Combine Tour 9 with one or more tours from the following**

**1-3-5-7**