

# Laos Elephant Tour with Alex Mossbrucker



## TRAVEL TYPE

Small group of interested people. Ages 12+



## EXPEDITION GRADE

East to moderate, some jungle trekking involved



## DURATION

10 Days  
14th - 23rd July 2023



## ACCOMMODATION

Hotels and Lodges



## Expedition Overview

This amazing tour will start in Bangkok and then take you on an amazing journey from the north Laos town of Luang Prabang, down to see the amazing work being done by the Elephant Conservation Centre in rehabilitating elephants for their release into protected forest areas. Here you will see some of the 33 resident elephants who have been rescued from horrible situations. You will have many great photo opportunities from safe viewing platforms and have the opportunity to walk along side them. We will also take you trekking into these forests where you will join the researchers and learn how they track and monitor the re-released elephants.

Then we visit the Vanvieng and experience its natural beauty with the option of some adventure activities like hot-air ballons, rafting or even ziplines. Finally, we arrive in Laos capital historic city Vientiane for our final night. The tour starts and finishes in Bangkok, which has many international flight options as well as allowing guests easy opportunities to relax before or after the tour.



## MEET ALEX

You will be joined by Dr Alex Mossbrucker. Alex has devoted his life to protecting elephants in Sumatra and is looking forward to exploring the plight of the Asian elephant in Laos. Alex will be travelling with us and can give you great insight into the world of elephant conservation.

## BIO

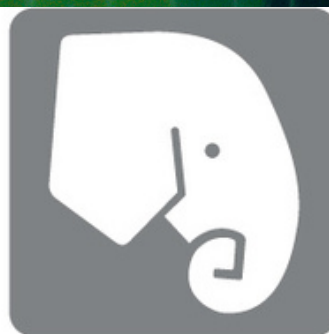
Dr. Alexander Markus Moßbrucker (alternative spelling of last name: Mossbrucker) is a German born nature enthusiast with a strong interest in wildlife conservation and biology. Alex studied Biology in Hamburg (Germany), Santiago de Veraguas (Panama), Konstanz (Germany) and Freiburg (Germany), and Forestry Science in Yogyakarta (Indonesia).



In 2008 he visited Sumatra for the first time to study elephants in the Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape. In the following decade, Alex spent most of his time on the island, working with and for Frankfurt Zoological Society as a researcher and project leader. Much of his professional career over the past years has focused on ranger patrol management, wildlife monitoring, and human-wildlife conflict management. Alex is the founder and president of the Sumatran Elephant Conservation Initiative (SECI) and currently works for International Elephant Project (IEP) as IEP's field manager.

You will be supporting the International Elephant Project (IEP) in their work protecting elephants and their environment as well as other vital environmental research. You will also be helping to support the work being done by ECC in Laos.

**INTERNATIONAL  
ELEPHANT  
PROJECT**





## EXPEDITION GOALS

Our goal is to provide our guests with a unique experience, to observe wild tropical biodiversity in their natural habitat. We will provide you with a safe platform to observe many rare and unique species of wildlife throughout Laos. We will also provide you with comprehensive information about the destination you are in so that you are fully informed of your surrounds prior, during and following your expedition.

Furthermore, Orangutan Odysseys has partnered up with the International Elephant Project which supports conservation programs in Laos - so travelling with us you are directly supporting their conservation efforts and environmental programs. And finally by supporting ethical and eco-tourism you are helping support the locals and the environment.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

You are embarking on an adventure to places and amongst people whose lives are very different from your own. Many aspects of life in Indonesia will seem unusual. Remember that these are often the same aspects that make an area an exotic and attractive destination. While boat expeditions are considered easy, no trek is easy, even those rated "easy or moderate". In addition to the personal physical challenges you may face, travel conditions can present unexpected obstacles, such as rough and bumpy roads and changeable weather. To prepare for this "pack" a flexible and relaxed attitude. Bring a spirit of adventure and inquiry, a healthy sense of humour and a willingness to encounter the unexpected and you will find your trip to Indonesia the adventure of a lifetime!



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with elephant expert Dr Alex Mossbrucker
- Stay at the Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC) in Laos
- Meet some of the 33 resident elephants in care
- Experience culture in Luang Prabang
- Enjoy a sunset cruise on the Mekong River
- Visit the beautiful area of Vanvieng, explore its caves
- Optional sunrise hotair ballon ride
- Visit the capital of Vientiane and see its historic culture
- Start and finish in Bangkok, Thailand

## ACTIVITIES

- Elephant education and viewing
- Experience local culture
- Jungle Trekking
- River Cruises
- Wildlife spotting



## ITINERARY

**10 days (14th- 23rd July 2023)**

\* Subject to change due to local conditions

### **Day 1 -14th Jul: Arrive Bangkok, Thailand**

Today you will arrive in Bangkok, Thailand. You will be met at the airport on arrival transfer to a local hotel for overnight. Tour briefing over dinner.

### **Day 2 - 15th July: Bangkok - Luang Prabang (Laos)**

Today will start with an early morning flight to Luang Prabang. Pick on arrival by a local guide (English speaking) and private AC minibus to start our local cultural tour. Lunch at local restaurant and afternoon check-in at our hotel followed by dinner and a visit to the night markets.

### **Day 3 - 16th July: Luang Prabang**

Today we take a trip to Tat Kuang Si waterfalls and have lunch. This Afternoon we will take a Mekong river cruise at sunset. Return to town and overnight at our hotel. B,L,D.



### **Day 4 - 17th July: Luang Prabang - Sayaboury**

This morning we will depart our hotel at approximately 8:00 am and drive for around 2 and a half hours to ECC. We will arrive at 10:30 am and take a boat to the centre where will have an introduction and lunch. We will spend the afternoon and night at the centre. B,L,D.

### **Day 5 - 18th July: Sayaboury - Thongmixay**

Today we will spend the morning at ECC and watch more activities at the centre. We will have lunch then transfer to Thongmixay to see the release site then drive approximately 4 to 5 hours to our guesthouse. B,L,D.

### **Day 6 - 19th July: Thongmixay**

Today will be spent with the local ranger team learning about their work and trekking through the jungles to look for some of the "rewilded" elephants that are now living in the protected jungles. B,L,D.



### **Day 7 - 20th July: Thongmixay - Vanvieng**

This morning after breakfast we will depart from our time with the elephants and travel through to the beautiful area on Vanvieng. This will take around 8 hours, on arrival we will check into our hotel and head to see the caves (if time allows). Overnight at Boutique Riverside. B.

### **Day 8 - 21st July: Vanvieng tours**

Today, depending on weather conditions we will select from some of the tour options. B,L.

### **Day 9 - 22nd July: Vanvieng. - Vientiane**

This morning we will travel to the cave and lagoon, then depart to Vientiane (the capital city of Laos). The drive will be around 3 hours, on arrival we will check into our hotel then take a short tour of the city. We will have our final nights dinner at a local restaurant. B,L

### **Day 10 - 23rd July: Vientiane - Bangkok**

This morning we will transfer back to the airport for our return flights to Bangkok to meet your return flights home or continue with your travels. Tour ends. B.

Note: All arrangements on arrival in Bangkok by the client. Tour ends

## **INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS**

### **INCLUSIONS**

- All accommodations - Twin Share basis. Single supplement available.
- Domestic flights ex Bangkok and return
- Experienced, local private guide for 7 days
- All land transfers
- River cruises (as per itinerary)
- 1 x night drive & 1 x sunrise drive (As per itinerary)
- Entrance fees and activities as per above
- All meals as stated in the itinerary
- Bottled water as needed

### **EXCLUSIONS**

- International Airfares (to and from Bangkok)
- Travel Insurance (Mandatory)
- Transfers, accommodation and arrangements in Bangkok outside Day 1 arrival.
- Soft drinks/alcoholic beverages,
- Tips (optional)
- Meals and activities not mentioned



## TRAVEL INFORMATION



### WEATHER

Laos is a tropical climate with high humidity and warm temperatures throughout the year.

Temperature ranges from 30/32 °C (86/90 °F)



### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid passport with at least 6 months validity from your return travel date is required by all visitors. Tourist visas can be obtained on entry into Laos. Please consult your embassy for the most up to date requirement for entry to Thailand and Laos.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is mandatory to take part in this trip and Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance is required for all trekkers.

We strongly recommend that you also take out trip cancellation, baggage loss and accident insurance.





## HEALTH AND FIRST AID

Hepatitis A and B along with Typhoid vaccines are recommended for travel to Thailand and Laos. Also recommended is Rabies, Japanese encephalitis and Malaria medication.

\*Always consult your doctor well before travel to get up to date advice and consult travel advice from your country prior to departure.

## COVID

All guests must be fully vaccinated or have a medical exception.

We have COVID procedures in place. See our [website](#) for our procedures list. We will be required to comply with all COVID procedures throughout the tour.

## MONEY

The currency in Thailand is Thai baht.

The currency in Laos is Lao kip.

Money can be changed at the airport and some hotels.

ATM's are also available in some areas while on tour.

Credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted whereas American Express is limited in its acceptance.

## TIPPING

Tipping while not compulsory is encouraged to show your appreciation to our guides, drivers and assistants during your travel.



## COST

From \$4460.00 (AUD) ex Bangkok Thailand  
(twin share accommodation)  
Single Supplement available \$690

## CONTACT

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