

## Tatvani Elephant Sanctuary: A Safe Haven in the Heart of Northern Thailand

[Tatvani.com](http://Tatvani.com)



[Images](#)

**Chiang Rai, Thailand:** Deep in the emerald hills of Northern Thailand, nestled within a lush box canyon just outside Chiang Rai, lies one of the region's most extraordinary elephant havens. This protected wilderness is home to a small family of Asian elephants who live freely, safely, and with dignity- far from the noise and exploitation of traditional tourism.

Created in collaboration with the Karen Hill Tribe, whose generations-long relationship with elephants is rooted in mutual respect, the project offers an ethical, immersive way to witness elephants in their natural rhythm. Here, they are not pets. They are not props. They are Family.

These gentle giants roam unrestrained for over 95% of their day, exploring bamboo thickets, riverbanks, and shaded forest paths. They are never ridden, never chained, and every interaction with Tatvani guests is entirely on their terms. Visitors may have the rare chance to walk alongside them, help with feeding, or simply observe quietly as the elephants socialise, forage, or enjoy a dust bath in the afternoon sun.

Each elephant is part of the endangered Asian elephant species. Once numbering over 100,000 in Thailand at the turn of the 20th century, their population has plummeted to just 3,000 to 4,000 today, with only around half living in the wild. This refuge is a small but meaningful response to that crisis- protecting elephants not only through ethical care but also by empowering the Karen community to continue their stewardship with pride.

Conservation here is both cultural and practical. In one delightful twist of circular sustainability, elephant dung is collected, transformed into organic fertiliser, and sold in Thailand- supporting eco-agriculture and providing additional income to local caretakers.

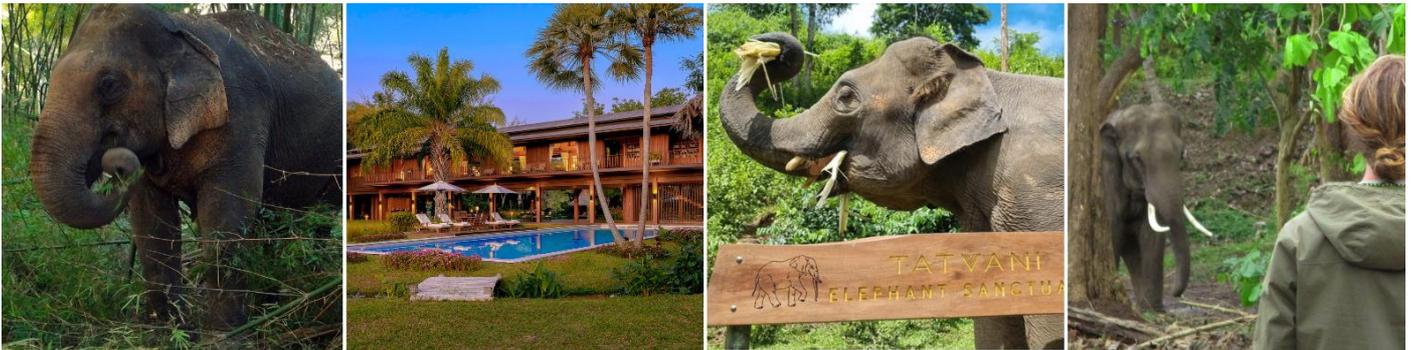
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By visiting, guests directly support these conservation efforts. Every stay contributes to the wellbeing of the elephants, fair wages for their carers, and the continuation of a deeply respectful tradition.

“Watching an elephant choose to come up to you, with curiosity and calm, is humbling beyond words,” shared one recent guest. “It is not about touching them. It is about seeing them for who they are: intelligent, emotional, and completely unforgettable.”

This is not a performance. This is connection, compassion, and wild beauty - unfiltered.



## Fabulous Facts About Asian Elephants in the Wild:

- The Asian elephant is the largest land mammal in Asia.
- They sleep on average just two hours a day.
- They can sometimes go without sleep for several days.
- Their gestation period lasts between 18 and 22 months.
- A newborn calf typically weighs around 90 kilograms (200 pounds).
- A newborn calf stands about one metre (three feet) tall.
- A newborn calf can stand and walk within 20 minutes of birth.
- A fully grown trunk can reach two metres (six feet) in length, lift up to 350 kilograms (735 pounds), and contains around 150,000 muscles.
- They can eat up to 300 kilograms (630 pounds) of food each day.
- They drink around 200 litres of water daily.
- An adult can weigh up to five tonnes (10,500 pounds).
- Their life expectancy is typically between 50 and 60 years.
- They have smaller ears than African elephants.
- They have a single “finger” at the tip of their trunk, whereas African elephants have two.
- In Asian elephants, only males have tusks, while females have small tushes; in African elephants, both males and females have tusks.
- And of course, they are all truly gorgeous!

Discover more at [Tatvani.com](http://Tatvani.com) / [www.tatvani.com/experiences#elephant-experience](http://www.tatvani.com/experiences#elephant-experience)

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## Notes to Editors:

Located just 25-minutes' drive from Chiang Rai International Airport, Tatvani offers 9 bedrooms in 6 villas, catering for 18 adults (plus small children). The 19-acre estate is single key, and all-inclusive. Guests enjoy unlimited treatments in the Tatvani Spa, a 25-metre heated outdoor swimming pool, wild swimming ponds filled with koi, fitness centre, multiple garden pavilions, all food & beverages including house wine, premium spirits, cocktails and soft drinks – 24/7, cooking lessons, excursions including the Tatvani Elephant Sanctuary, golf and all airport transfers.

Tatvani's six villas – named after traditional koi breeds – blend modern architecture with Thai heritage, offering a seamless flow between indoor comfort and outdoor beauty. Guests are looked after by a hotel sized team, including chefs, drivers, massage therapists and a dedicated group of “angels” who ensure that every moment is precious.

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