



CITY EXPLORATION BY DAY

# CHIANG MAI THAILAND

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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## **CHIANG MAI CITY EXPLORATION BY DAY**

CHIANG MAI IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE GATEWAY TO THE NORTH AS IT IS A GREAT BASE TO ACCESS THE SURROUNDING LUSH, HILLY, NATURAL COUNTRYSIDE WHILE THE CITY IS STUFFED WITH GREAT MARKETS, FRIENDLY LOCALS AND TONS OF RESTAURANTS.

WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF CAREFULLY CRAFTED FULL AND HALF DAY EXCURSIONS BASED OUT OF CHIANG MAI. ACTIVE ADVENTURE OR LEISURELY EXPLORATION? A BIT OF BOTH? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



# CHIANG MAI FIRST DATE

As dusk begins to settle, we'll take you on a unique adventure exploring a large swath of Chiang Mai's evening attractions. The fun and quickest way is as a passenger in our private tuk-tuk! Your driver will skillfully pick the best routes while your host fills you in on the many intricacies of this vibrant town.

Begin with a tuk tuk cruise to the heart of the old town, where your host will provide an introduction to Chiang Mai's fascinating history. Travel through the old town before stopping off at a popular local food market and fresh market. Fruits, vegetables, and all sorts of knick knacks make this a real backdoor experience of what goes down after sunset in this vibrant city. Finish off with dinner at a recommended restaurant or one of the city's night markets or walking streets.

Time: Half-day, Evening (17:30 – 21:00)

Explored by: Private tuk-tuk and walking (or scooters driven by personal chauffeurs)

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Dinner at a local restaurant

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**Insider Tip:** For those looking for a bit of an adrenaline rush, you can enjoy the same experience being chauffeured on the back of a scooter! This excursions works best on the first night in Chiang Mai but can be done on any night.



# CHIANG MAI LIFE & LEGENDS

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Start today by ascending Doi Suthep, a 1,676-meter (5,499 ft) mountain overlooking the city of Chiang Mai. It is an important and revered site with an intriguing legend – and a perfect vantage point to plan the day's adventure through the ancient city below. On the way back to town, we'll stop off at Wat Umong, a 700 year-old temple set in tranquil shaded woods, famous for the tunnels below its large chedi.

Next we'll stop off at one of our favorite local restaurants to indulge in some northern culinary specialties before visiting Wiang Kum Kam, a historic settlement along the Ping River which predates the city of Chiang Mai. This is a large archaeological site with many beautiful ruins in various stages of restoration. We'll then explore the vast grounds of Wat Chedi Luang, the first temple of Chiang Mai, before strolling through some of the charming streets of the Old City and returning to your hotel.

Time: Full-day, 09:00 – 16:00 (Flexible)

Explored by: Walking, and private vehicle

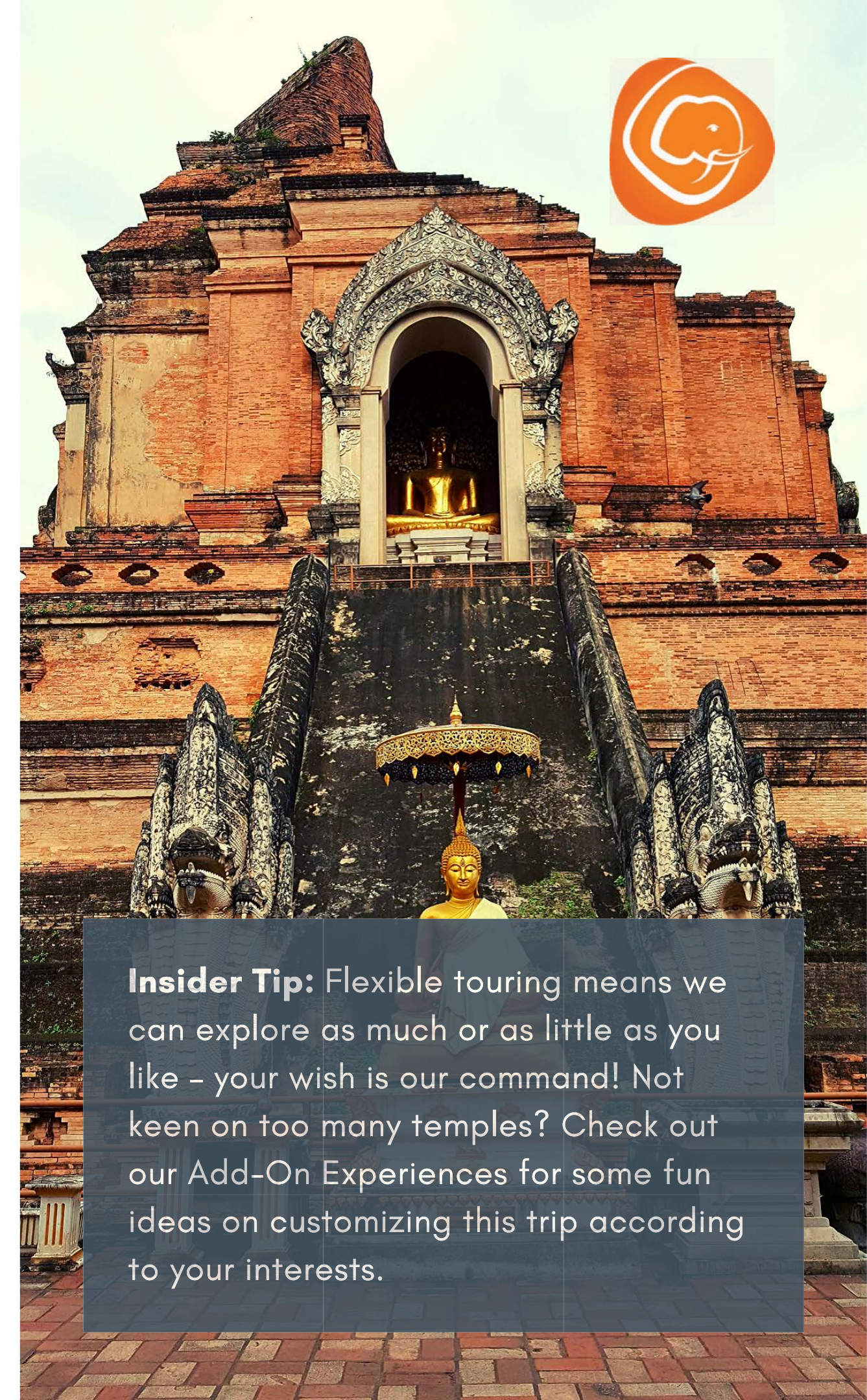
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

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**Insider Tip:** Flexible touring means we can explore as much or as little as you like – your wish is our command! Not keen on too many temples? Check out our Add-On Experiences for some fun ideas on customizing this trip according to your interests.



# CHIANG MAI COUNTRYSIDE WALK & RAFTING

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Explore the Chiang Mai countryside, villages and jungles. Walk along the Mae Ping River through local villages. We can stop and chat with locals at their home and learn about their seasonal agricultural harvests or homemade weaving products. We'll visit Baan Mor Tha to see our friend, Doctor Tha, and learn about his alternative medical treatment. Once we have built up our appetite, we will head to one of our favorite restaurants for a delicious lunch.

Then, we board our private raft, equipped with sun shade and pillows, and observe the shady scenery of rich jungle slipping past on both sides as we drift down the river. This one to two hour flexible rafting experience is the perfect way to wrap up the day's activities.

Time: Full-day, 8:00 – 15:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: Walking, rafting, and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: The walk can be up to six kilometres (two and a half hours including rest breaks) and rafting between six and 12 kilometers (one to two hours).

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**Insider Tip:** When visiting the alternative medicine doctor, we can make arrangements for a unique herbal sauna, if you'd like!



# TREKKING & RAFTING IN MAE WANG NATIONAL PARK

Our excursion starts with an approximately two hour long trek through the forests and villages of Mae Wang National Park. This is a good opportunity for you to get acquainted with the local tropical plants, birds, insects, butterflies, and other flora and fauna. We'll stop and have a peaceful picnic lunch at a small waterfall. The trekking opportunities here are endless, and depending on how much of a work out you want to incorporate into the excursion, we can make it a more active or a lighter trek.

After lunch, we'll continue our adventurous trek 2 - 3 more hours to Mae Wang Base Camp. To round the day off with a bit of bamboo rafting, we'll drive to the starting point on the Mae Wang River. Enjoy the shady scenery of rich forests slipping past on both sides as you raft down the river. This one hour rafting experience will relax you after your day's trek.

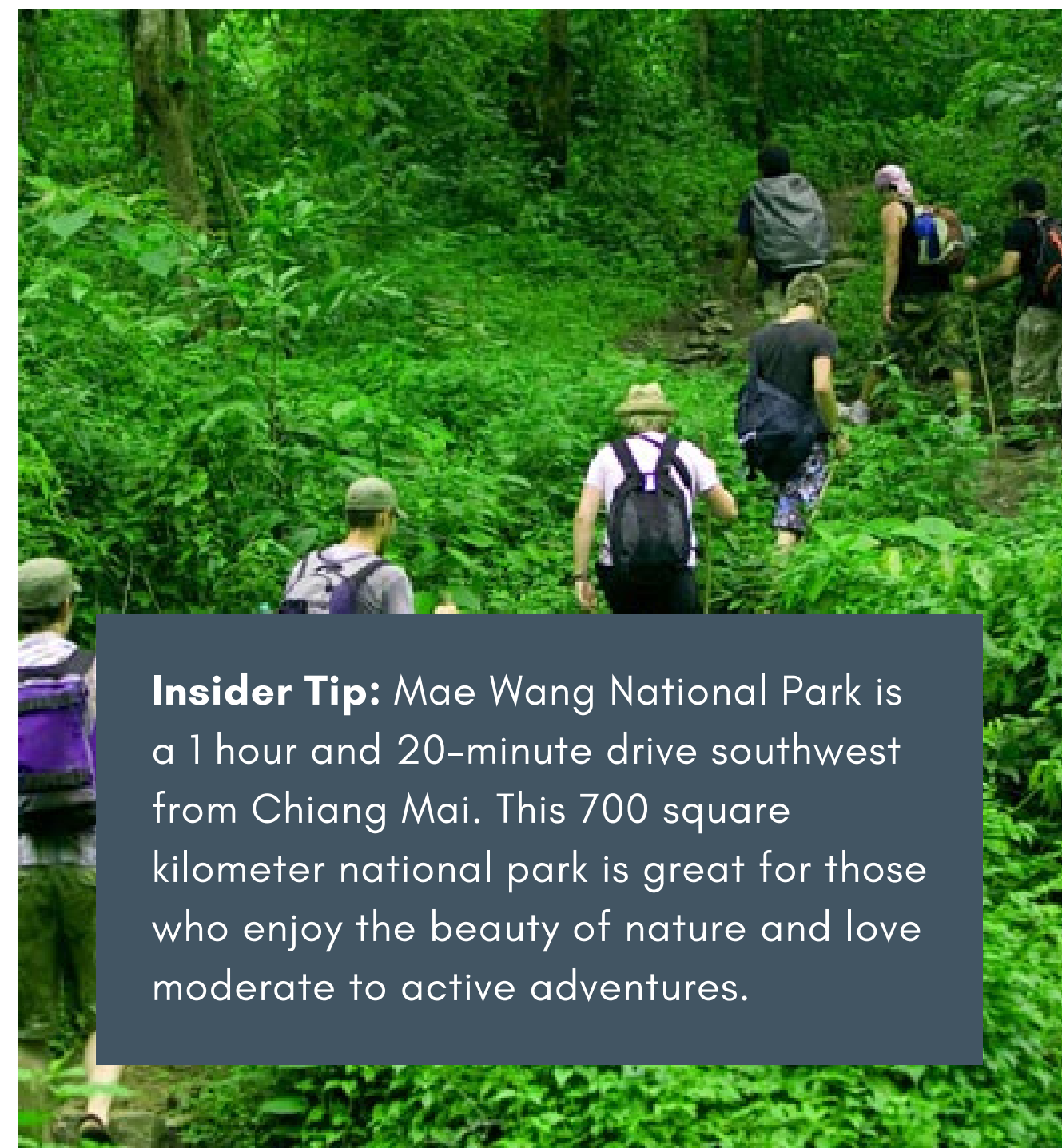
Time: Full-day, 08:30 - 17:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: Walking, rafting and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch (simple picnic)

Note: The drive is approximately one hour and twenty minutes each way. Trekking will take around 4 hours, while rafting will take 1 hour. Changing facilities are available near the waterfall. If necessary, a four-wheel drive vehicle will be included to navigate the terrain to comfortably reach the trailhead. Rafting is dependent on conditions and may not be possible from April through May.



**Insider Tip:** Mae Wang National Park is a 1 hour and 20-minute drive southwest from Chiang Mai. This 700 square kilometer national park is great for those who enjoy the beauty of nature and love moderate to active adventures.



# THAILAND'S HIGHEST PEAK, DOI INTHANON

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Known as the “Roof of Thailand”, Doi Inthanon is home to Thailand’s highest mountain peak standing at 2,575 meters tall. More than that, Doi Inthanon is a national park with an incredibly rich assortment of fauna and flora, perfect for a nature-filled day close to Chiang Mai City.

The day will begin early with a two-hour drive to the highest peak where we can take in the crisp mountain air and take photos of the unparalleled views. We will then dodge the crowds and go hiking along a scenic, three-kilometer trail with a more off-the-beaten-path feel. Upon completion of the trail, we will make a quick visit to the Royal Pagodas and Gardens which were built to commemorate the birthday of the Late King Bhumibol and his Queen. After a local lunch we will spend the early afternoon exploring some stunning waterfalls and, if you’re up for it, a bit more hiking.

Time: Full-day, 07:00 – 16:00 (an early start is necessary due to driving times)

Explored by: Private vehicle and walking

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: It takes around two hours to reach Doi Inthanon from Chiang Mai. Doi Inthanon can get quite chilly, especially in the early mornings and generally in the winter months so make sure to bring a light sweater.

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**Insider Tip:** This experience is completely flexible. The trail trek is comfortable, offering plenty of places to rest. For more advanced hikers, we can tailor a more challenging experience.



NEW EXPERIENCE

# MAE WANG LIGHT TREK & RAFTING

For those who would prefer a light trek, we'll drive 20 minutes farther into a local hilltribe village. After exploring the village, we'll trek between 20 and 30 minutes through hills and forests to a picturesque waterfall for a refreshing swim followed by a picnic lunch.

After lunch, we'll then continue hiking 2 - 3 more hours to Mae Wang Base Camp. To round the day off with a bit of bamboo rafting, we'll drive 15 minutes to the starting point on the Mae Wang River. Enjoy the shady scenery of rich forests slipping past on both sides as you raft down the river. This one hour rafting experience will relax you after your day's trek.

Time: Full-day, 08:30 - 17:00 (an early start is recommended)

Explored by: Walking, rafting and private vehicle

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch (simple picnic)

Note: The drive is approximately one hour and twenty minutes each way. Trekking will take around 4 hours, while rafting will take 1 hour. Changing facilities are available near the waterfall. If necessary, a four-wheel drive vehicle will be included to navigate the terrain to comfortably reach the trailhead. Rafting is dependent on conditions and may not be possible from April through May.

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**Insider Tip:** Mae Wang National Park is a 1 hour and 20-minute drive southwest from Chiang Mai. This 700 square kilometer national park is great for those who enjoy the beauty of nature and love moderate to active adventures.



# HILLTRIBES OF CHIANG MAI

The lives of many hilltribe people (especially those living near Chiang Mai) have modernized dramatically over the last few decades, though they are often still portrayed as “exotic” in the media. As a result, many people come with the expectation of encountering traditional hilltribe villages when, in reality, these villages nowadays only exist in more remote areas of the province. To reach them involves a prolonged drive and usually a hike. If you do not have enough time to do this, but would still like to learn about the fascinating cultural diversity of Northern Thailand, we suggest a visit to Baan Tong Luang.

This is a community-based tourism village with nine minority groups residing side-by-side in the scenic Mae Rim area of Chiang Mai Province. One can easily spend up to three hours in this fascinating place, as our host explains cultural nuances. There are plenty of opportunities for interaction with the hilltribe residents of this community.

Time: half-day, 08:00 – 13:00

Explored by: private vehicle and walking

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

Note: It is about a one hour drive each way to Baan Tong Luang from Chiang Mai City. Depending on the time of year, there is potential for many tourists coming to this village. We try our best to avoid the crowds.



**Insider Tip:** Baan Tong Luang Hilltribe Village is designed to promote the unique cultures of various hill tribe groups, offering travellers a glimpse of ethnic diversity in the region while also giving vocational training and employment opportunities to the residents.



# ETHICAL FASHION AND ECO TEXTILES

Today you will join a natural indigo tie-dye workshop where you will learn about the natural dyes of the region and how to make your own tie-dye textile. You will be guided through the entire process and shown traditional weaving techniques by the experts on site. After completing your piece you will also have a chance to visit two galleries where a large variety of high quality garments, exquisite interior design textiles, and even antiques are on display. After an educational and fun morning, we will take you for lunch at a nearby local eatery.

Today's studio aims to encourage pride in traditional techniques while empowering women within their villages. Studio Naena was founded a renowned textile expert, author, and long-term resident of Chiang Mai. Her and her daughter offer fantastic workshops aimed at building an appreciation for northern Thai textiles in a hands-on and engaging way.

Time: half-day, 9:00 – 13:00

Explore by: private vehicle and walking

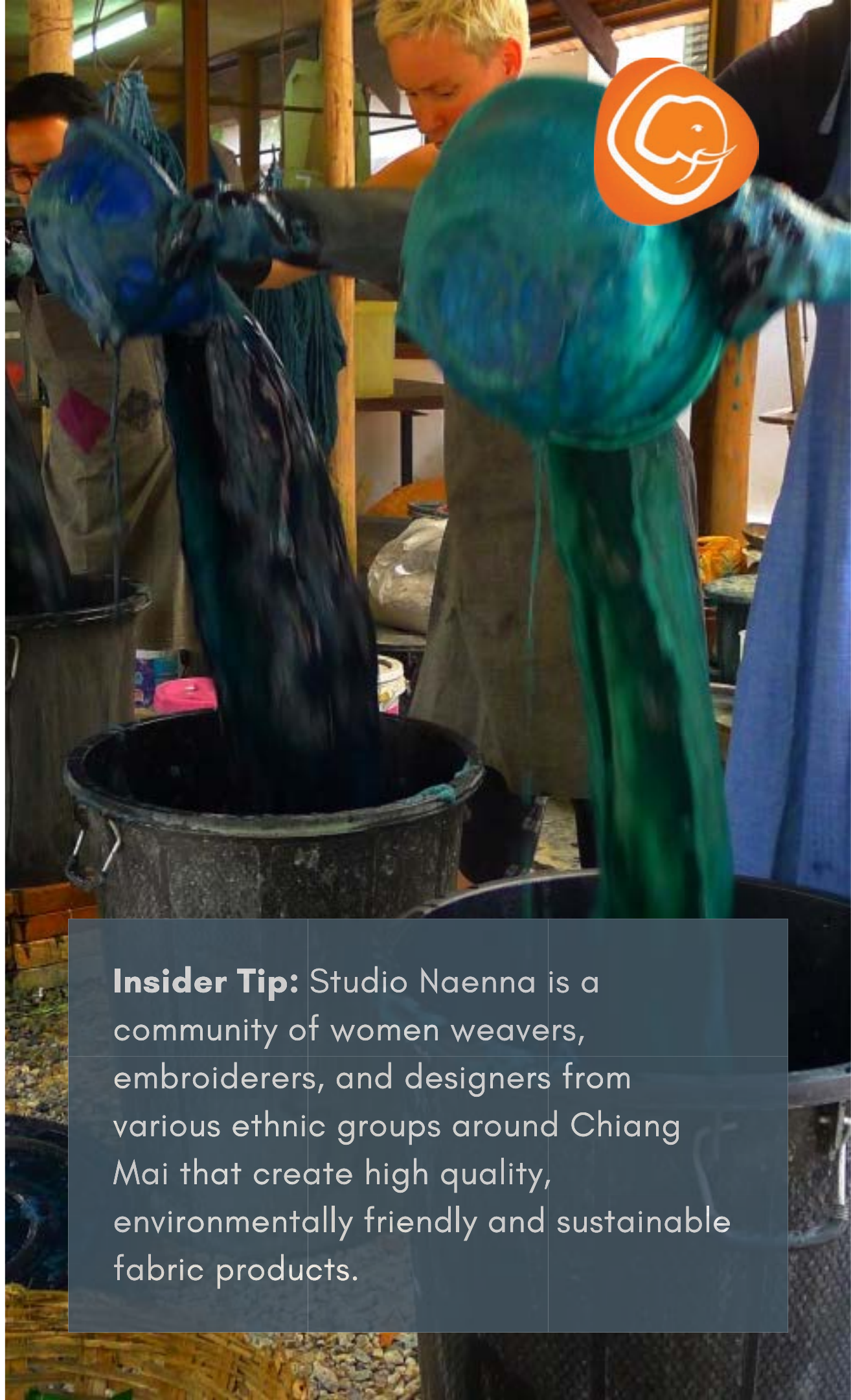
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, Studio Naena workshop led by on-site expert, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

Note: It is about a thirty minute drive each way from Chiang Mai town. Aprons are provided but please wear suitable clothing you don't mind getting a bit of dye on. The workshop takes between two and three hours.

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A photograph showing a person in a workshop setting, pouring a vibrant blue liquid (dye) from a large, dark, rounded container into a large black metal pot. The person is wearing a dark apron. In the background, other people and workshop equipment are visible. An orange circular logo with a white stylized 'C' and a small elephant silhouette is overlaid in the top right corner of the image.

**Insider Tip:** Studio Naenna is a community of women weavers, embroiderers, and designers from various ethnic groups around Chiang Mai that create high quality, environmentally friendly and sustainable fabric products.



# PRIVATE HOST FOR A DAY

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If you would like to visit a museum, do some shopping or just explore Chiang Mai, we can provide a knowledgeable English speaking host to accompany you. They can recommend art galleries, show you how to haggle for the best price while gaining respect from the local vendors, explain the plethora of street food items everywhere while distinguishing the clean and safe food stalls from ones that would be wiser to avoid. They'll entertain you with stories and fill you in on some of the city's great history while providing a means to communicate with any locals you may have enquires of.

Time: Flexible, ranging from 1 – 6 hours

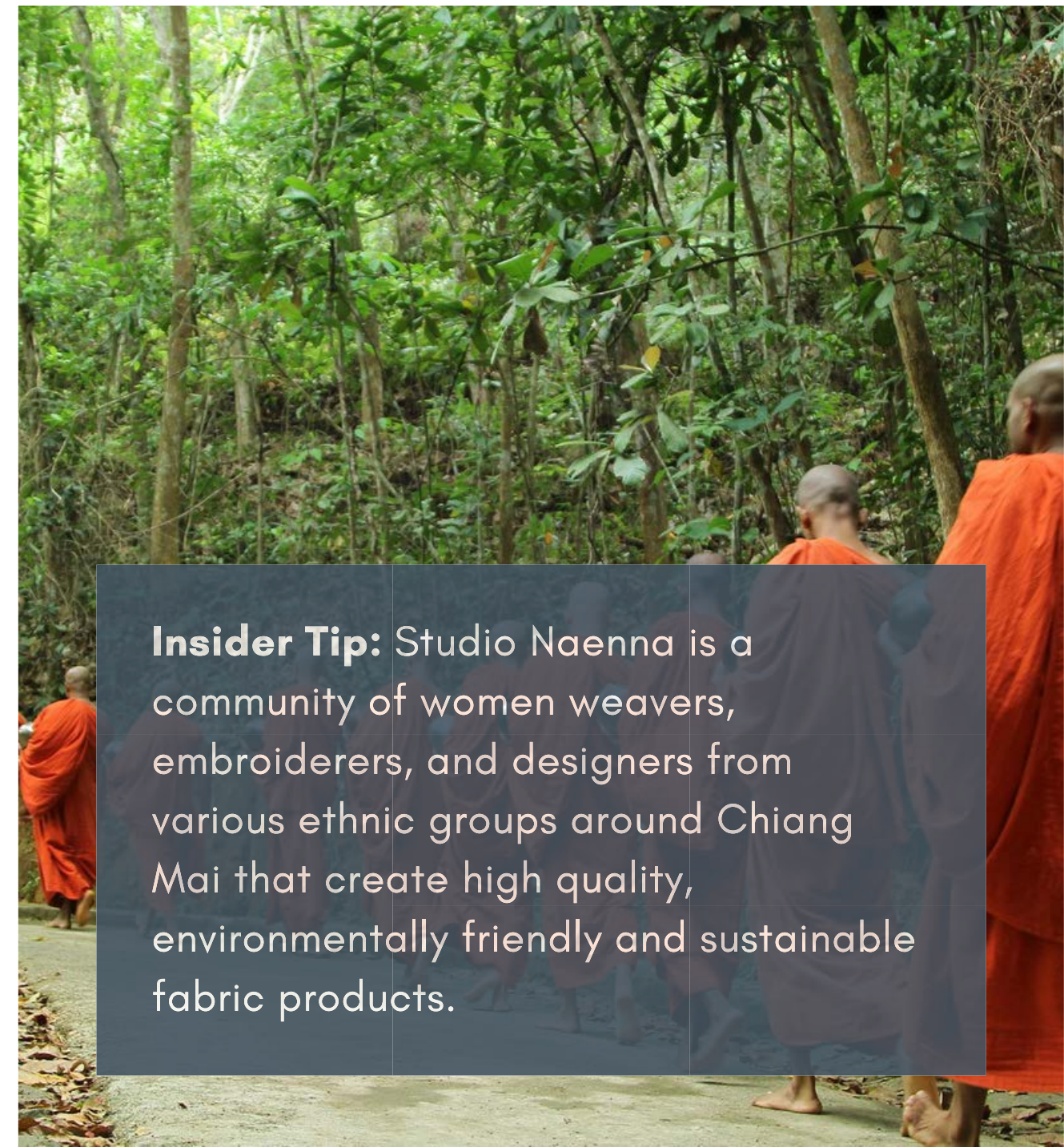
Meals: None

Note: Program includes host only, transportation can be hired separately if necessary. Duration: 1-6 hours

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# TUK TUK COUNTRYSIDE ADVENTURE

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Today you will participate in one of the most unique and thrilling experiences available in rural Chiang Mai: learning to drive a tuk tuk and cruising through the countryside! Combined with visiting an elephant sanctuary and bamboo rafting, this is an action-packed day unlike any other. If the idea of self-driving a tuk tuk is not your kind of thing, not to worry -- the entire adventure can be done as a passenger chauffeured by a professional.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore the scenic Mae Wang area by tuk tuk, cruising through villages and hamlets
- One-hour tuk tuk driver's training course
- Stop at Mae Wang Elephant Home to learn about elephant care
- Travel down the Mae Ping River by bamboo raft

Time: half-day, 9:00 – 13:00

Explore by: private vehicle and walking

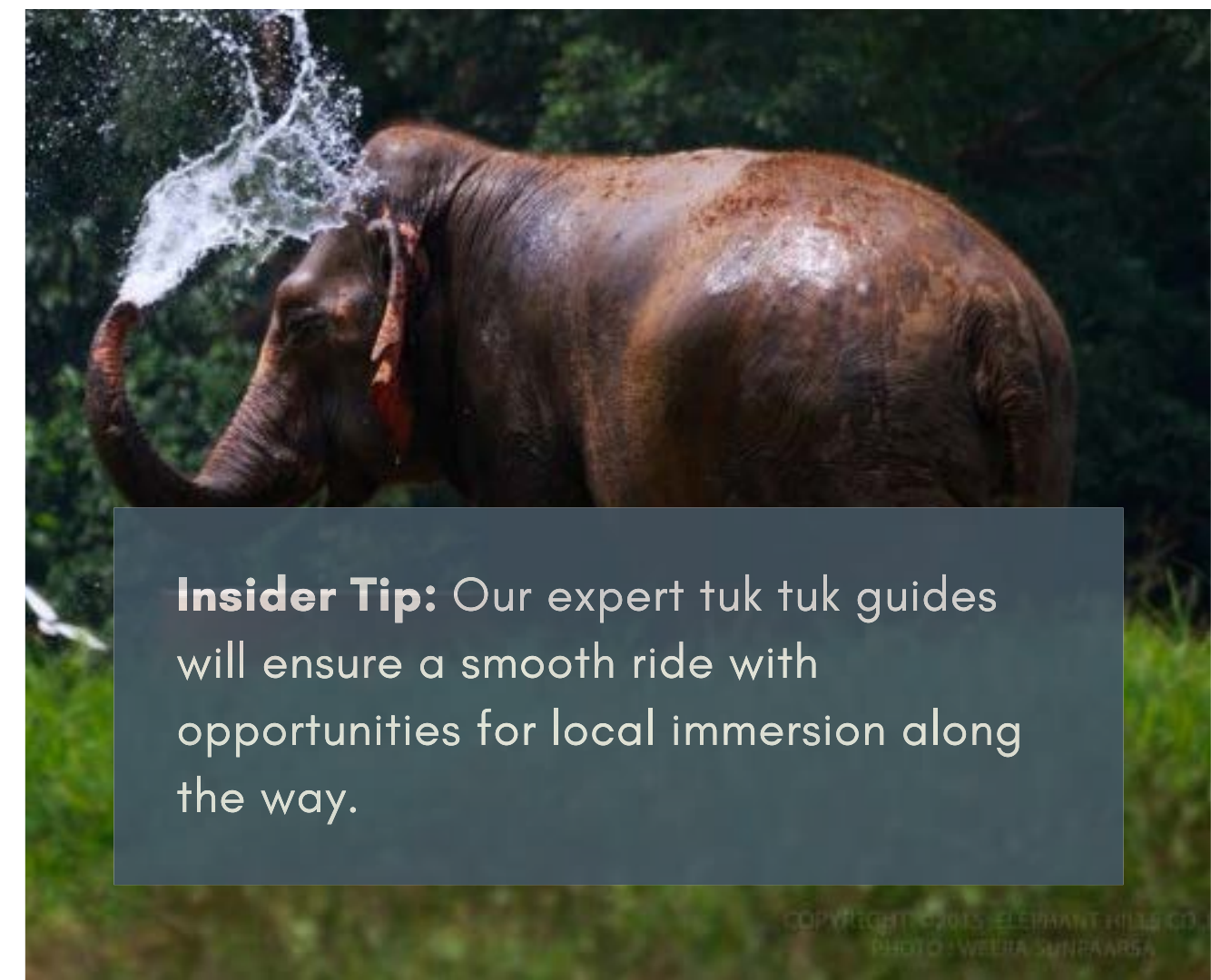
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, Studio Naena workshop led by on-site expert, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: lunch at a local restaurant

Note: It is about a thirty minute drive each way from Chiang Mai town. Aprons are provided but please wear suitable clothing you don't mind getting a bit of dye on. The workshop takes between two and three hours.

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**Insider Tip:** Our expert tuk tuk guides will ensure a smooth ride with opportunities for local immersion along the way.





# START PLANNING

AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT  
THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER  
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.

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