



Me and my parents in Karen dress

About me, Kanlaya, Gale for short in English

I was born in the Karen Hill Tribal Village of Muir Pam a few kilometres upriver from Kanlaya's, high in the mountains. My family are subsistence rice farmers and continue to forage much of their food from the jungle and the river below Kanlaya's Eyrie. We are an ancient people who over centuries migrated down the Himalayan massif from Mongolia and Tibet to settle in this area over 100 years ago. We retain our own language, weave our own cloths and preserve our culture little changed by modern times. At 18 years old I bought the magnificent site where Kanlaya's Eyrie now stands, funded by selling the beautiful weavings from my village to visitors to Tham Lod Cave nearby. I went to Europe for several years, returning with my English partner Philip to build this enchanting property in the very midst of Mae Hong Son's breath-taking scenery. It is my special delight and privilege to introduce my guests to a world of tribal culture and to visit remote and seldom visited places that most visitors never see. I love to greet guests from around the world to this special place, and share it with them.

About our property

Kanlaya's Eyrie is a luxurious base camp, about 3 acres, perfectly located for exploring its magnificent surroundings. The site is stunning, in the very midst of the Mae Hong Son wilderness with views to the Burmese border of mountains, forest. The mighty river Lang skirts our boundary 50 meters below. On the opposite bank the Jungle starts. Cobblestones is the original house, constructed uniquely of river washed cobbles and upgraded to create three large luxurious suites. We built Kanlaya's Villa to architect design with many special features like under-floor heating (the nights can be cold up here), LED lighting, solar water heating and a stunning Jacuzzi pavilion cantilevered out from the principal suite high above the enchanting garden. But the style is that of the ancient Lanna Kingdom of Northern Thailand, polished teakwood floors, hand-made Celadon tiles and pottery from Chiang Mai, Karen weavings from my village, traditional murals and paintings, sumptuous Thai silks, rattan and basket ware and rare Tibetan and Burmese artworks. The bedroom suites and extensive

Sala and wrap around balconies flank a secret entrance courtyard with waterfall, rills, a fire pit, planted with ferns, orchids and Elephant Ears. Think of Kanlaya's much as you would a Scottish Lodge, a Patagonian Estancia or a private yacht, privileged privacy and luxury in a remote and beautiful location with adventure on the doorstep.

About Mae Hong Son

Arguably Thailand's most beautiful, certainly least populated and highest altitude Province, Mae Hong Son is an adventure playground of mountains, dizzy views, raging rivers plunging underground, caves, dolines and karst landscapes. Carpeted by subtropical rain forest, its trees festooned with orchids, ferns and other epiphytes, wrapped by night in enveloping mist. It's an open invitation to the adventurous and the curious, think caving, kayaking, rafting, trekking to distant Hill Tribe villages, or more gently, local markets, jungle foraged foods, immense, golden, quite surreal hilltop Buddhas, meditation, massage or merely soaking up the distant views. See the sun rise from our very own mountain-top rice hut high above the valleys, breakfast sizzling on the charcoal burner, peaks emerging from the mist as the new sun burns through, quite magical. Or just a mile downstream where the Lang breaks out after a mile in Tham Lod caverns, watch the evening phenomenon of 250,000 swifts gathering at dusk to roost within. Far from the land of sun, sea, sand and sophistication of the Southern beaches, by contrast Mae Hong Son greets the intrepid, the discerning and the adventurous traveller to her bosom.