KAREN VILLAGE

Tim's Trip to Thailand

Last year, my friend Tim and I visited Thailand. Our first stop was the capital, Bangkok. The 'City of Angels' was very busy and after a week we felt we needed a change, so we booked tickets to go on a guided tour to a Karen village in the north-west of the country.

The next morning, an old van parked outside our hostel. A man jumped out and shouted our names at us. After around four hours, we arrived at the village.

As soon as we got off the bus, it felt like we stepped back in time. Everywhere we looked there were small bamboo huts and open fires with locals making their daily meal. Our tour guide told us that the Karen tribe live the same way today as they did for generations. They grow their own food, weave their own cloth to make clothes and build their own huts. They are very friendly people.

What surprised me the most, though, were the huge bronze rings the Karen women wore around their necks. Karen girls first start to wear the rings when they are five years old. They begin with one ring, and over the years, they add more and more. By the time they become adults, some Karen women wear up to 15 rings, so their necks look extremely long. Most people say that Karen women do this so that they look like dragons, an important animal in Kayan religion.

On the journey back to Bangkok, I couldn't stop thinking about the lives of the Karen people. The whole day was a great experience.

🌴 **Part 1 – Match the words with their meanings**

Word	Definition
1. **capital**	A. A small home made from bamboo
2. **guided tour**	B. A group of people who share a culture and history
3. **village**	C. The main city of a country
4. **hostel**	D. A person who shows places and historical facts
5. **tribe**	E. A person who lives in a particular place
6. **bamboo hut**	F. A cheap place where travelers can stay
7. **generation**	G. a small community of houses and buildings located in a rural or country area
8. **local**	H. People in a family who are born at different times

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🚌 Part 2 – Complete the sentences

Use the words in the box.

booked • arrived • jumped out • daily meal • weave • rings • adults • experience

1. Tim and his friend _____ tickets for a guided tour.
2. After four hours, they _____ at the village.
3. A man _____ of the old van.
4. The Karen people were making their _____ over an open fire.
5. The Karen people _____ their own cloth.
6. The girls begin wearing the bronze _____ when they are five.
7. When they become _____, some women wear up to 15 rings.
8. Visiting the Karen village was a great _____.

🧠 Part 3 – Choose the correct word

1. Bangkok is the **capital** / **village** of Thailand.
2. Tim stayed in a **hostel** / **hut** in Bangkok.
3. The tourists went on a **guided tour** / **generation**.
4. The Karen people grow their own **food** / **rings**.
5. The Karen women wear bronze **rings** / **fires** around their necks.
6. The village made Tim feel like he had **stepped back in time** / **arrived at a hostel**.
7. The Karen people have lived this way for many **generations** / **capitals**.
8. Tim thought the trip was a great **experience** / **tribe**.

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