



Community Service & Cultural Exploration

BTN-Service Project-Khao Sok with Elephant Care

Trip summary	15 days / 14 nights – 2N Kuraburi, 3N Homestay BTN, 5 Nights Service Project, 3 nights Khao Sok, 1 nights Cheow Larn Lake
Getting there	Tour starts and end at Phuket airport
In-country support	International support staff, local guide, bilingual Thai/English translator, visitor's handbook
What's included	Transfers during the tour, accommodation, activities and meals
Availability	All year round

March 2021, 15-20 Students/2 Chaperones/ AD translators

Day 1 – Arrival- Transfer Phuket Airport-Kuraburi

Arrive to Phuket International Airport and transfer by van to Kuraburi. Check into a resort in the small and quiet town of Kuraburi. Have an introduction about Andaman Discoveries at the office and learn about Community Based Tourism. Have a delicious dinner at local restaurant in Kuraburi.

Overnight: Local resort with AC and Hot Water

Day 2 – Language and Cultural Training with Ban Tale Nok Homestay

Have breakfast at morning market with your translator. Transfer to Ban Tale Nok village, about 45 minutes north of Kuraburi, to meet your host family and be welcomed into their way of life.

Take a walking tour of the community with your local guide to learn about the history and lives of these villagers. See first-hand an area of the village that was destroyed by the 2004 tsunami and learn from survivors how they have recovered. For lunch, enjoy authentic southern Thai food with your homestay family.

Begin your informal language and cultural training with the tourism team in Ban Tale Nok with the help of AD translators.

Enjoy dinner together after your informal lessons.

Overnight: Ban Tale Nok Homestay, comfortable bedding and mosquito net provided.

Day 3 – Homestay

Have breakfast with your homestay families and then continue your language and cultural training.

Wrap up and enjoy lunch together.

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Take part in a handicraft demonstration and learn the art of Batik, a technique of hand-dyeing fabrics by using designs drawn in wax. You can create your own design or have your hosts draw one for you, then color in the beautiful designs, and keep your creation as a souvenir.

Then learn how skill of weaving roof panels out of Nypa Palm, a plant that is found in the Mangrove Forests.

In the later afternoon, go fishing on the beach with local fisherman and help the locals catch their dinner, it's so much fun, you'll understand why fishermen are proud of their lifestyle. Relax on the beach, and bask in the spectacular colors of an Andaman sunset.

For dinner, enjoy a barbeque dinner on the beach and feast on freshly-caught seafood, garden-fresh vegetables, and Thai curries (weather permitting, alternate is dinner with homestay family).

Overnight: Ban Talae Nok Homestay, comfortable bedding and mosquito net provided.

Day 4 – Homestay

Breakfast at homestay house. Then Head into nature, and explore the mangrove forest in a long-tail boat, where you have the chance to spot various birds, monitor lizards and monkeys. Take a fascinating journey through the tidal canals and learn how the villagers are active in protecting this amazing ecosystem

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Continue your journey out to the hidden paradise of the undeveloped Gam Islands, only 10 km from the coast of the village. Arrive to the white sand bays and explore the surrounding nature, then go for a swim and snorkel in the clear blue waters, weather permitting

Have a picnic lunch on the beach with your hosts, weather permitting

Participate in a handicraft workshop with a women's group that was established after the tsunami. You will make beautifully hand-crafted soap, using only the finest natural ingredients and get to keep your finished product as a souvenir.

After a full day of activities, learn to cook local Thai food with your host family, or spend your time before dinner relaxing on the beach.

After Dinner engage in a cultural activity – share stories and experiences with the family and local villagers; and then try on their traditional clothing.

Overnight: Ban Talae Nok Homestay, comfortable bedding and mosquito net provided.

Day 5 – Homestay and Kuraburi Buddhist Temple

Have breakfast with your homestay family.

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Learn how to make a traditional Southern Thai snack. Try your hand at grating the coconut and filling the palm leaf with the batter. Then grill and enjoy the delicious snack hot off the grill.

Enjoy one last delicious lunch meal together and say your goodbye's.

After lunch transfer to Kuraburi and get settled into your local accommodation. Then head to a local Buddhist temple for a Q&A session with head monk. He is anxious to share about Buddhism and its many wonderful elements; you can even practice meditation☺ Then, stroll through the lively evening market with a translator. Enjoy a tasty meal at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Local resort with AC and Hot Water.

Day 6-10 - Service Project in Local Community in Ranong ,Phang Nga or Phuket

Conservation & Ecological Restoration: Southern Thailand boasts two of the world's oldest ecosystems: jungle and coral reefs. The area also has extensive mangroves forests, soaring waterfalls, and lush jungles perfect for exploring and understanding the relationship between natural resources and human activity. Play a role in helping to protect these amazing and beneficial ecosystems by participating in an environmental conservation and restoration service activities like mangrove reforestation or riverbed restoration.

Teaching/Infrastructure/Beatification of local educational facilities: Assist at local schools or learning centers to broaden the children's language skills and engage in fun and interactive activities. You may also assist with improving the infrastructure at these facilities and help with small projects to beatify the schools and centers to allow for a more inspirational atmosphere of learning.

Andaman Discoveries has a broad range of local community partners that often times need assistance with the above projects. We will reach out to them and see if and what their greatest need is and how your group can integrate into the project to maximize the benefits. This ensures that your group is getting a meaningful experience and that the service project is a need and necessity for the local community partners.

Overnights: Local Accommodation, all meals included with the local community at the service project

Day 11- Floating Bungalows, Jungle Hike or Cave Exploration

Have breakfast and then transfer to CheowLarn Lake. This man-made reservoir has outstanding beauty with its towering limestone cliffs and jungle-clad hills. Take a long tail boat ride to your floating bungalow accommodations. Enjoy a Thai style lunch of local vegetables and fresh fish from the lake.

With your local guide, head out into nature for a guided hike or cave exploration.

In the afternoon, relax and swim from the footsteps of your bungalow. Take a kayak out to survey the surrounding jungle and view wildlife. Spend your night in your floating accommodation on the lake, a fairytale experience of unforgettable peace and tranquility.

Overnight: Floating Bungalows

Day 12- Floating Bungalows, Morning Mist Safari

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Awake early to catch the best of wildlife viewing in a longtail boat. Watch the hornbills fly in the mist rising against a backdrop of colorful limestone cliffs and try to catch the gibbons playing in the trees.

Return to the lake house for breakfast, then pack your bags and hop on the longtail boat.

Travelling back across the lake, your boat driver will show you some of the hidden bays and rock formations that make the lake so special.

Transfer to KhaoSok National Park and bask in the beauty of a 20 million year old rainforest and immerse in the natural environment.

In the evening go on a scheduled Night Safari included in your program. Explore the jungle at night to learn about the many nocturnal animals and insects that come to life in the dark!

Overnight: Jungle Resort

Day 13- – Khao Sok National Park Jungle Survivor

Participate in a jungle survivor day course that is led by experienced park rangers. As you walk in the jungle, they will point out local resources, flora and fauna. Learn how to make a fire and cook a forest to table meal by cooking rice and curries in bamboo. Enjoy your meal sitting by a refreshing river. Take time to relax and swim.

Overnight: Jungle Resort

Day 14- Ethical Elephant Care and with Service Project

Transfer to Phang Nga Elephant camp, about 1.5 hours. Learn about the mahout's (elephant handler's) daily routine as you watch a demonstration of an elephant health check. Enjoy exploring the jungle alongside your gentle giant, prepare her food while she rests, and then feed her surrounded by amazing hillside jungle scenery. Learn the ancient tradition of scrubbing your elephant with a piece of vine harvested from a special tree that is used to care for her skin. After you (and your elephant) have fun bathing in the rock pool, you will be offered a delicious, freshly-cooked, traditional Thai lunch. You will then be asked to help plant food for the elephants as part of our conservation program. Transfer back to your resort in Khao Sok

Andaman Discoveries Animal Welfare Pledge: We only partner with ethical elephant parks that have been certified by the elephant management association and Travel Life. We require them to give us their Animal Welfare Policies. All elephant programs have been surveyed by our staff.

Help raise support ethical treatments of elephants by contributing to the Southern Thailand Elephant Foundation

www.southernthailandelephants.com

Overnight: Jungle Resort

Day 15- Canoe with Local Community- Departure

Breakfast at the resort. Head out for a, early morning canoe adventure with the local community group. Drift past the towering limestone cliffs and take in the countryside landscape. Along the way stop for hot coffee or herbal drink,

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served in your handmade bamboo cup. Return to resort to shower, enjoy lunch and then head out to catch your flight back home.

Canoe activity available for night flight (8PM and later), we will request late checkout from resort at about 2PM

Transfer to Phuket airport

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