

Volontariat en Thaïlande



Name of Program: Helping Hands and the Beach

Primary category: Teaching

Secondary category: Community-based tour

Itinerary:

The villagers have opened up their homes and lives to allow you to experience their fascinating culture and community, in an authentic and non-intrusive way*. After some days enjoying your beach stay, learning the local way of life and helping at the various projects in the area, you can then use your skills teaching at a local school.

**This project was voted the Best for Conservation of Cultural Heritage at the Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards*

Day 1: Bangkok - arrival transfer (-/-/-)

Welcome to Bangkok. Our guide will meet and greet you at the airport, giving you useful information while taking you to your hotel. You can discuss together the itinerary and share ideas of the things you would like to see and do on your tour.

Remark: The program can be adjusted for those wishing to start the trip in Phuket.

Day 2: Orientation Tour - overnight night bus to Kuraburi (B/-/-)

Take a tour on foot to experience a different side of bustling Bangkok and combine your walk with a taxi-boat cruise, tuk-tuk and Skytrain, etc.

Then transfer in to the bus station for the air-conditioned night-bus to Kuraburi

Day 3: Kuraburi - Village (-/L/D)

You will arrive in Kuraburi in the morning where you can find many good restaurants for your own breakfast and then transfer to the village with a drive through lush mountainous terrain. After meeting your host family, take a tour around the village to learn about their traditional village life. Your choice of activities include joining the village handicraft workshop, making traditional desserts, and seasonal activities such as fruit harvesting, weaving, roasting cashew nuts, etc.

Home stay is an opportunity to experience genuine hospitality with an authentic warm welcome. It is often the highlight of many people's trip, a chance to really engage with your host family and the local people.

Day 4: Village Activities (B/L/D)

You will have a boat trip to an uninhabited island for snorkeling and sunbathing on a deserted beach. Help to prepare a barbecue lunch. After the boat trip you will visit a wildlife conversation center. Over dinner is a good opportunity for cultural and language exchange with the host family.

Day 5: Village - Kuraburi - Teaching (B/L/D)

Take a morning boat trip through a mangrove forest and then after lunch it is time to say farewell to your kind host. Transfer to Kuraburi to start your teaching project.

Remark:-

◆ School Holidays

As part of this program involves teaching at schools please be aware of the following school holidays and examination periods.

- Mid-March to mid-May
- 12 - 17 April and New Year
- Mid-September to mid-November

If you are on the programme during this time you will be teaching English to the local village children or assigned to another voluntary activities or even to another projects rather than this school/classroom environment.

Day 6-11: Kuraburi - Teaching (B/L/D)

You will assist the teachers in teaching English at the village high school, preparing your lesson plans etc. You will actually conduct the class yourself, but under the guidance of the children's regular Thai teacher. This is necessary both for translation and to avoid potential discipline problems. You can confidently continue working through the lesson plan, calling on your Thai teacher colleague to assist you when necessary. The teachers do not expect you to follow their curriculum exactly but only need your English skills to give confidence to the children who are shy speaking a foreign language.

Here you will be at a home stay in the village or at the school guest house.

You will be free during weekends and public holidays that you may plan your own traveling during this free time.

Day 12: Kuraburi - Bangkok (B/-/-)

After saying farewell to your kind host and the school you will take a night bus to Bangkok.

If you wish go to Phuket, Krabi or any beach destination then please let us know. We can alter the final arrangements to meet your wishes.

Day 13: Bangkok (B/-/-)

You will arrive in Bangkok early in the morning but as the exact arrival time is uncertain you will need to take taxi by yourself to your accommodation in Bangkok. A room is reserved for early check in. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 14: Bangkok - departure transfer (B/-/-)

Spend this last free day shopping or exploring more of Bangkok on your own. Then transfer to the airport for flight home.

Departure:

Daily, year round, with no minimum number. Best during November to May. (June to October is the monsoon season but the project will still run as usual.) Best departure day is daily except Monday and Tuesday which would mean the first teaching day falls on the weekend.

Services included in the price

- Transportation as specified in the program.
- Bangkok accommodation is tourist-class hotel or guesthouse on shared-twin basis with breakfast. All rooms are air-conditioned with private facilities.
- Other accommodation is home stay with a Thai family or at the school guesthouse.
- VIP air-conditioned night bus Bangkok - Kuraburi - Bangkok.
- Full board during the home stay and while teaching.
- Services of English-speaking staff and the village coordinator (their English will be fair but not proficient).
- Contribution to the Community Fund (a percentage of the overall cost is invested back into the community via the Community Fund. This ensures that all members will benefit from inviting visitors into their communities).

Services not included in the price

- Drinks and meals not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Personal expenses.
- Travel arrangements during your free time, weekends and holidays.