

Family Volunteering

PROJECTS INFORMATION



Family Volunteering

Family Volunteering is popular and a great way for a family to share experiences and get a lifelong wonderful and useful memory. We have an increasing number of families contacting and joining us. Some of our projects suit volunteer families better other less because of the volunteer tasks and accommodation offered, some less so. Our rural field projects are less suitable for families since volunteers in villages stay with a host family and they normally do not have the space to accommodate a whole family.

We recommend these places. Email us for more information

- Our Training and Volunteer Center in Nongkhai, Northeast Thailand by the Mekong River, volunteering at the center, schools, health center or home for abused boys

- Our Krabi Volunteer House, South Thailand by the Andaman or a guesthouse, volunteering at a school or health center
- The little Tung Fon town school project, Northeast Thailand, staying with a headmaster family, volunteering at local schools or camps
- Our eco project Kham Pia village/Phu Wua Mountains, Northeast Thailand, staying in a traditional country house, volunteering with the village guides, local school, wildlife sanctuary
- An eco and home stay village outside Ao Nang, near the Andaman sea, volunteering with the village eco tourism and handicraft people or the school
- Some national parks we work with sometimes offer a volunteer family accommodation, volunteering with the staff, officers and rangers.

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- An aid, development and volunteer organization providing free advice and training to the projects we support.





More Information

Information about our Volunteer and Training Center in Nongkhai

volunteer families can stay at our Training Center, in a separate bungalow with one of our Thai hosts, or a guesthouse (at their own expense though) and volunteer at a school, nursery, primary, secondary levels, a temple, Buddhist university, home for abused boys or helping our local staff create, improve teaching and other material, websites and other IT related tasks. Volunteers from the same family can choose to work together or volunteer at different places. Your children can normally come along to school classes.

- For Thai, Lao, Khmer trainees and overseas volunteers coming for the cross culture and volunteer training and/or volunteering in Nongkhai
- Located in NongKhai town by the Mekong River, the border town to Laos.
- Two buildings. Our offices, one for staff and one for trainees and volunteers (also serving as our computer training room, several computers and Internet)) , bedrooms for staff/volunteers and showers/wcs for women and men are in the first house. The other building consists of three bedrooms for volunteers and visitors. The kitchen, eating and relax areas are outdoors where people also can relax, watch

television or play tennis.

Volunteers normally stay in the houses but the adventurous can also stay in a tent.

- The volunteer and trainee office is equipped with PCs, Internet and wireless for those who bring their own laptops. There is also a small library in the volunteer office with travel guides, teach English and volunteer literature as well as fiction in several languages.
- Common Volunteer Tasks: Teach English, computer training with trainees and help to take care of new volunteers. Qualified volunteers help our local staff with IT related work, website design, graphic design (brochures, leaflets) creating training material, or work with eco tourism and wildlife projects. Volunteers also teach at local schools.
- Accommodation: You normally share a bedroom with another volunteer. Air conditioning is available at an extra fee of 150 baht per day and room.
- Meals: Yes, at the center. Volunteers cook, eat and wash up together with our staff or they can organize their own meals outside if they want.



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Information about NongKhai

Popular with backpackers and is an Indochinese rather than Thai town with a mixed population of Thai, Lao/Isan, Vietnamese, Chinese and Hmong.

- Town Center: 10 minutes bike ride from the OTC.
- Restaurants: A very large selection food shops and restaurants in NongKhai including a boat restaurant. Restaurants, include, Thai, Isan/Lao, Vietnamese, Chinese and Western style,
- Attractions: many temples, the famous Sala Keaw Kho Buddhist and Hindu temple and sculpture park, the Mekong River/boa trips, some local nightlife.
- Excursion opportunities: many in Thailand as well as Laos , including some of the eco tourism projects we support.
- Shopping Center: Tesco/Lotus and many local markets including the Indochinese market by the river.
- Internet shops: Many.
- Don't forget to bring. Your own bed sheets and towels, any hygiene articles that you are used too, and feel you need. A sleeping bag is useful during the cool season (November - February).

NongKhai is a town in the heart of Indochina and on the shores of the legendary Mekong River, with the Friendship Bridge linking Laos to Thailand and the rest of the world. Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is just a 30-minute drive from NongKhai! In NongKhai, you find places and people where life really is like the romanticized images of Thailand. Walk along the streets of NongKhai or along the river! Soak up the exotic Indochinese atmosphere.

Eat at one of the many Thai, Isan, Vietnamese, Chinese or even Western, 'farang', restaurants. Food is easy to find, delicious and cheap, from 20 Baht upwards! There are other attractions too, such as the many temples. The royal Wat Poo Chai with its legendary Golden Buddha, from Laos, is a must, as is the Buddhist/Hindu inspired Sculpture Park, Sala Kaeow Khu, unique in Thailand! You can practice many sports, such as tennis, jogging in the nearby water park, golf, swimming, tennis, gym, badminton, soccer, petanque or volleyball. Maybe you want to try the very local nightlife? Listen to Isan and Thai pop and rock performed by local artists!

Excursions

Along the Mekong River! The valley drive east of NongKhai is by many considered to be among the most scenic in Thailand. Go jungle trekking in the Phu Wua Mountains, one of OpenmindProjects Eco projects: swim in the waterfalls, trace wild elephants and stay overnight with charming, local host families.



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Information about Krabi & the Openmind House

Popular with backpackers with a mixed population of Thai, Chinese, Buddhists and Muslims. Town Center: 10 minutes bike ride from the OTC. Restaurants: A very large selection food shops and restaurants. Restaurants, include, Thai, Isan, Muslim, Chinese and Western style, Attractions: many temples, the Andaman Sea and archipelago, boat trips, local nightlife. Excursion opportunities: many to the islands, and beaches, including some of the eco tourism projects we support. Shopping Center: Tesco/Lotus and many local markets including the night market and the food market by the sea. Internet shops: Many. Don't forget to bring. Your own bed sheets and towels, any hygiene articles that you are used too, and feel you need.

Krabi is the one of most attractive destinations in Southern Thailand. To the west, it borders on the Andaman Sea where countless natural attractions abound, including white sandy beaches, fascinating coral reefs, numerous large and small islands, and verdant forests with caves and waterfalls. Apart from Thais, you find a cross section of the Chinese society in Krabi with Chinese rituals and culture. There is also an ethnic group called Sea Gypsies or Chao Ley, whose origins are not well known. In addition, there are also Muslims, mainly on the islands. English is widely understood.

Krabi has two predominant seasons. Weather-wise, the ideal time to visit Krabi is in December, January or February, when you will enjoy nearly perfect conditions: calm, glassy seas; clear blue skies, moderate temperatures. This time is, however, extremely busy here, so you may find popular hotels and beaches full. Some people prefer to visit Krabi in the 'rainy' season, despite the risk of showers, as it is cooler, cheaper and much less crowded.

Attractions in Krabi:

The Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park. It consists of limestone mountains along white sandy beaches, spectacular islands and unspoilt coral reefs. Ao Nang, 6 km from the Nopparat Thara Beach, is a large bay with scenic beaches and 83 small islands. A number of hotels and bungalows, as well as diving shops, are available. Susan Hoi or Fossil Shell Beach is 17 km from town, along the route to the Nopparat Thara Beach. A tremendous number of shells embedded near the seashore were amassed some 40 million years ago. The Phi Phi archipelago of six islands. The superb scenery of the islands includes high hills with jutting cliffs, surrounded by marvelous beaches and emerald sea, hiding a bank of coral reefs and colorful marine life. The natural beauty of this place is unrivaled in the whole area.

Openmind House in Krabi

Volunteer families can stay at our volunteer house or a guesthouse (at their own expense though) and volunteer at a school, nursery, primary, secondary levels, a temple, or a health center. Volunteers from the same family can choose to work together or volunteer at different places. Your children can normally come along to school classes.

A small house with one living room and one bedroom, a bathroom and kitchen. The volunteer living room has a computer with Internet. It is suitable for up to 4 volunteers or a volunteer family. Located in Krabi town by the Andaman Sea. Near by the local radio station. 10 minutes from the town center and sea by bike. Common Volunteer Tasks: Teach English, computer training at local schools and a temple. Volunteer families can cook, eat at the house or organize their meals outside if they want.



Information about the Phu Wua Wildlife Reserve and the Kham Pia Village

An opportunity to get involved in an eco tourism and wildlife protection program and gain knowledge from the local people. The results of your involvement, will allow the local people to better cater to eco tourists, and learn how to manage locally based and responsible ecotourism. The Phu Wua Wildlife Reserve is located in the northeast Thai region of Isan, close to the Mekong River. We have started a special Eco tourism project here, to offer Eco tourists a combination of home stays with cultural experiences and trekking through the mountain ranges, including wild elephant trekking. Volunteers work with villagers, the wildlife reserve rangers, staff, local schools, and the local community. As a volunteer you can teach English, help to improve trekking opportunities, improve home stay services for tourists and create information material in English. The website was developed by OpenmindProjects and volunteers.

www.thailandwildelephanttrekking.com

Kham Pia Village

Location: Nongkhai Isan, Northeast Thailand

Population: 850

Attractions: The Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary. Adventure trekking and camping. Various flora and fauna. Temples and caves. Waterfalls. Wild elephants. The exciting Phu Tok Mountain climb and descent, 40 minutes by car.

Ecotourism services provided: Guided treks. Home stay. Cooking

Volunteer tasks: Teaching English and guiding skills to village guides. Development of the visitor centre and trekking packages. Teach at the local primary school.

Volunteer accommodation in a house beside the village guide head: Basic. Mattress, bed linen, fan and a mosquito net is provided.

Separate bedroom provided.

Volunteer meals: Thai/ Isan style. Plentiful fruits, vegetables and meats with your host.

Telephone: Mobile range available.

Internet: No. However can be accessed in nearby Bung Klah.

Shops: Several small convenience stores in the village with drinks, ice-creams, Thai sweets & snacks, coffee etc. ATM in Bung Klah.

Dress code: Knee length shorts and sleeveless tops are acceptable and worn by villagers. Always dress neatly.

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Information about the Ao Nang Home Stay and Handicraft village of Ban Nateen

A nice and beautiful village, around 400 people (Muslim), a home stay village for many years. The visitor can stay with local people or stay in the hut (6 huts) in the home stay area. They are different activities for the visitor:

- Activity 1 Islam Teaching.
- Activity 2 Sea fishing life.
- Cooking local food and dessert.
- Sightseeing by tuk tuk.
- Visiting the handmade souvenir village (coconut handicraft).
- More activities, depending on the season.

Accommodation: For families a hut in the home stay area and meals with a host family or otherwise agreed. Location: 1 km from the Nopparatthara beach 3 km from Ao-Nang beach and 16 km. from Krabi town. Restaurants, shopping center, Internet cafe: Yes many, in Nopparatthara and Ao-Nang beaches. Transportation to others places:

- By rented motorcycle / bike or local bus
- Attractions: The sea, islands, beaches and national park

Volunteer tasks:

- Teach English to the children and local people.
- Make and design a website.
- Design a leaflet.
- Guide the foreign tourists and train the local people to become guides.
- Promote and market the village for foreign countries.



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Information about Tung Fon

A nice little town about 3,500 people and a Tung Fon town school project, Northeast Thailand, staying with a headmaster family, volunteering at local schools or camps. Tungfon town, 60 km from Udon Thani province. This town is near the famous world culture heritage of Ban Chiang, and is a great place to learn about Thai culture, dancing, music, boxing, cooking, especially when the headmaster arranges the holiday camps. Volunteers can go shopping in Udon Thani or come back to the Openmind Center in NongKhai during weekends.



- Volunteer work: Teach English and computer training
- Home Stay: With a host family or the popular headmaster khun Kiednarong and his family at a separate guesthouse.
- Meals: At the school and host family
- Location: 120 km south of NongKhai
- Center: 15 – 20 minutes walk from the school.
- Restaurants in town/village: Yes
- Shops: Yes, some small and local markets.