

# ***Koh Yao Noi Program***

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## ***Highlights:***

- Sharing the wisdom and daily life of local fishermen and their families;
- Casting a net into the sea with the fishers and learning about traditional fishing;
- A beautiful, charming environment... sea, rice paddy, tropical forest and green hills...
- Learning how to live in harmony with nature, without harming it;
- Listen to inspiring true stories of community members' heroic conservation efforts;
- Learn about the principles of a self-sufficient economy.

## ***Overview of Trip:***

This program invites guests to experience original Thai island life, as it used to be before the arrival of industrial fishing and mass tourism. Guests stay in local homes with friendly families. Fish with your host family, visit the island's rubber plantations, have a go farming rice in the planting or harvesting seasons, visit a local market or school, and enjoy delicious fresh seafood.

The people of Koh Yao Noi are well known in Thailand for their passion for conservation, which earned them the 2002 World Legacy Award from National Geographic Traveler and Conservation International. Guests can also listen to their inspiring and heroic true stories.

Even though some hotels have been built on the Island, Koh Yao Noi is still free from mass-tourism. The island also remains free from criminality. It's a pure environment, which shows us that living in harmony with nature instead of just using it is possible.

## ***Background of the community:***

Koh Yao Noi is a little island located in the superb Phang Nga bay in Southern Thailand. 95% of the people are Muslim fisher families, who rely on the sea and still practice small scale fishing using traditional techniques passed on between generations. The island's landscape is a scenic blend of mountains, jungle, cultivated plain and tropical beaches. Fishermen defend keenly both environment and ecological equilibrium of the whole bay. Thanks to their efforts to protect their environment, they have succeeded to make the Thai Government enforce a law forbidding big boats provided with dragnets to enter the bay. The community lives according to a model of self-sufficient economy, respecting the environment. Community based tourism helps inhabitants to perpetuate this simple way of life. Solidarity among community members and respect for nature prevails over individualism and over consumption.

## ***Program:***

- DAY 1
  - o ARRIVAL IN PHUKET AIRPORT
  - o TRANSFER TO YOUR HOTEL
  - o OVERNIGHT BARAMEE (PATONG BEACH) \*
    - Superior room including ABF
  - o REST OF THE DAY AT LEISURE
  - o OVERNIGHT
  - o \* OTHER HOTEL ON REQUEST

- DAY 2

- AMERICAN BREAKFAST
- PICK-UP AT THE HOTEL AND TRANSFER TO BANGRONG PIER
- COLLECTIVE BOAT JOURNEY TO KOH YAO NOI
- ARRIVAL BY NORMAL BOAT (09H40)
- WELCOME AT THE CBT CLUB
- BREAFING ABOUT THE PROGRAM
- TRANSFER TO HOSTS' HOUSES
- MEET & GREET – GET SETTLED IN
- LUNCH AT HOSTS' HOUSE
- 'DISCOVERING THE ISLAND' TOUR
  - STOP AT BATIK HOUSE
  - COCONUT HANDICRAFT HOUSE
  - RUBBER PLANTATION
  - RICE FIELDS
  - MANGROVE VILLAGE
  - ENJOY SUNSET AT WESTERN PIER
- BACK TO HOST HOUSE FOR DINNER
- YOU WILL SELECT 1 ACTIVITY TO PERFORM ON DAY 4
  - At batik workshop
  - At coconut workshop
  - At the rubber trees plantation
- OVERNIGHT

- DAY 3

- WAKE UP CALL (+/- 06H30)
- BREAKFAST – TOILET
- DEPARTURE FOR FISHING
- MORNING FISHING IN THE BAY (THROWING NETS)
- LUNCH ON ISOLATED ISLAND
- EARLY AFTERNOON SAILING & DISCOVERING THE BAY
- BACK TO THE FISHERING ZONE
- HARVESTING NETS
- BACK TO PIER – STOP AT THE FISHES MARKET – SELLING FISHES
- BACK TO HOST'S HOUSE
- OWN SIMPLE KITCHEN COURSE AT YOUR HOST'S HOME
- DINNER & OVERNIGHT

- DAY 4

- WAKE UP CALL (+/- 06H30)
- BREAKFAST – TOILET
- MORNING ACTIVITY
  - *BATIK WORKSHOP*
  - *COCONUT WORKSHOP*
  - *RUBBER TREES PLANTATION*
- END MORNING, DISCOVERING OF THE BAY – YOU WILL SAIL FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND AND DISCOVER FAUNA & FLORA
- LUNCH ON AN ISOLATED BEACH
- SWIMMING & SNORKELING
- BACK TO PIER WITH STOP ENROUTE AT A LOBSTERS & FISHES FARM
- BACK TO HOST HOUSE (RELAX & TOILET)
- FAREWELL DINNER AT CBT CLUB

- DAY 5
  - o BREAKFAST – TOILET
  - o FAREWELL TO YOUR HOSTS
  - o TRANSFER TO THE PIER
  - o BOAT JOURNEY TO YOUR NEXT DESTINATION (Phuket / Krabi)
  - o PICK-UP AT THE PIER & TRANSFER TO
    - PIER IN KRABI (destination PhiPhi Islands)
    - PIER IN PHUKET (destination PhiPhi Islands)
    - AIRPORT (Phuket / Krabi)
  - o END OF PROGRAM

***Itinerary:***

Local communities live according to the seasons and cycles of nature, not a strictly-timed schedule. Sometimes, guests may be invited to join interesting local events which are not described in the itinerary above. Occasionally, a specific activity may not be possible, due to the weather, local cultural or agricultural calendars. The tour operator will make every effort to ensure that the program runs as described. However, guests are requested to be flexible and to understand that there may be minor changes to the tour program. Often, such changes actually enhance the program, as guests get a more authentic insight into the rhythms of local life. Similarly, weather, road conditions, or other prevailing safety factors may influence a change in the published route & itinerary. However, the content of the tour will remain similar. The final decision of the actual itinerary will be made by the tour operator's staff, after consultation with community members on the day of the tour.

***Transport:***

- Coach from Phuket airport to your hotel (pre-night)
- Minivan or car from your hotel to the pier
- Public boat from the pier to the island
- Local pick-up of similar on the island
- Long tailed boat for activities in the bay
- Public boat from the island to the pier (Phuket or Krabi)
- Private transfer from the pier (Phuket or Krabi) to the beach or airport in Phuket or Krabi

***Meals:***

- Day 1 – B
- Day 2 – B/L/D
- Day 3 – B/L/D
- Day 4 – B/L/D
- Day 5 – B

***Accommodation Style:***

Homestay style – Can vary from private room for 1,2,3 guests with bed or mattress on the floor to mattress on the floor in sitting area. Bathrooms and sanitation can vary as well but most commonly it is a private room with a tank of cold water from which one takes water in a bucket – Normally no shower, no hot water, yet hot water is not necessary for the weather is never over cold. Toilet is sometimes a standing system not a sitting system.

***Please Note:***

Even though Thailand is mainly a Buddhist country, Southern parts count an important Muslim community. 95% of the inhabitants of Koh Yao Noi are Muslims. Islam in Thailand is very tolerant and Muslims on Koh Yao Noi are very welcoming and understand other's culture uses and habits. However, all guests are asked to follow some basic rules in order not to offend hosts' morality rules as well as to prevent relation problems between community and guests.

- Alcohol is not allowed in the community (activities, CBT club or hosts houses)
- Married couples have their own room. Unmarried couples will be required to sleep separately
- Guests are asked to understand some morality principles existing on the island and to respect them
- This program is not made to please budget travelers, looking for a cheap way of spending a vacation, but is done to strengthen links between interested foreigners tourists and the local community
- The main aim is for the tourist to experience activities and to share the daily life of a Thai community, It also helps the community to understand foreigners' way of life and to improve their incomes.