



Scientific, Academic, Volunteer and Educational

www.save-travel.org

Koh Sukorn Island, Thailand

Community Based Tourism

2009



Expressions of interest are invited from suitable candidates to live with the local community and VOLUNTEER contributions on community-based tourism and/or English language training for periods between 4 weeks to 6 months on Koh Sukorn Island, south Andaman coast, Thailand.

Updated April 2009

This is a wonderful opportunity for one or more persons who want the opportunity to:

- ❖ **Gain an entry point into on-the-ground international development projects.**
- ❖ **Get practical experience in community-based tourism in a developing destination in Asia.**
- ❖ **Make a genuine and valuable contribution to a Thailand island community that is continues to both enthusiastically and cautiously explore how community-based tourism can improve their livelihoods.**
- ❖ **Have life shaping experiences working with Muslim island communities in the tropical environment of the south Andaman coast.**
- ❖ **Apply their technical skills and experiences to help the island community achieve its own visions for a sustainable future linked to community based tourism.**
- ❖ **Collect data for a research project and/or post graduate studies.**
- ❖ **Do something good for others.**



Dr Johannes Bauer conceived the concept of the community tourism circuit as part of the South Andaman Coast Sustainable Tourism project supported with the funding of the Government of Queensland, Australia under the project management of GRM International/Stratis. (www.SACSTN.org) In October 2008, he returned to speak with the Koh Sukorn community and was delighted with the energy and progress they had made to prepare for entry into the tourism economy.

What is SAVE travel?

SAVE stands for Scientific, Academic, Volunteer and Educational Travel. This is a travel market segment identified and conceptualized by The George Washington University, Washington DC, USA in 2003¹. A contact/focal point² has been established in the Asia Pacific region to assist in broadening the concept into the fastest growing tourism region of the world.

Scientific:

Profile and Activities: These are scientists from universities or research centers interested in conducting scientific research within fields such as biology, archaeology, anthropology or animal/veterinary etc science with the purpose of contributing to general human knowledge.

Examples: As part of its strategy to promote sustainable and nature-based tourism, operators and government marketing agencies in destinations such as Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea have targeted leading scientists interested in butterfly species to conduct research. Each country has a rich variety of butterfly species and scientific research has helped gather more data and build awareness on this interesting asset, which has begun to draw the interest of all tourists.

Academic:

Profile and Activities: Individuals or groups that travel with the intention of participating in experiential learning activities leading to credit for formal degree programs or courses offered by higher education institutions; for example, field studies in anthropology, archaeology, languages, conservation biology, health sciences (human & animal) and others.

Examples: Many established academic institutions offer study abroad programs, practicums or other academic programs as part of their programs. Some already have relationships established with institutions in Indonesia and many more could be interested.

Volunteer:

Profile and Activities: Individuals or groups that travel with the intention to participate in specific activities that will contribute to the betterment of communities, environments and responsible tourism companies. These could be travelers associated with the growing number of organizations supporting volunteer programs or independent travelers.

Examples: There are many types of volunteer activities that can be directly related to the improvement of protected areas and local communities. Depending on background and skills, volunteers can contribute to the capacity building of local communities, responsible tourism companies and other stakeholders as well as to help with product development, tour management (including logistics, reservations systems and training, sales & customer service training etc), physical improvement of areas and other elements of conservation and developing destinations.

Educational:

Profile and Activities: Individuals or groups that travel to obtain, for personal gratification rather than academic credit. This type of educational experiences could include learning a language or acquiring another skill. Program leading to some credential or certificate of completion involve longer trips and higher expenditures for value added activities (e.g. guided interpretation) directly benefiting local people.

Examples: In the last years the number of people traveling to a destination to learn local language has increased. For example, in many countries in Latin America (especially in less developed areas) there are Spanish language schools for foreign travelers. Other examples such as Thailand include travel programs which engage the tourist in learning how to prepare traditional meals, local crafts and others.

¹ GWU (2003). Assessing Opportunities in Scientific, Academic, Volunteer and Educational (SAVE) Tourism in the North Coast and Bay Islands of Honduras, Final Report Prepared by the GW MBA Consulting Practicum. Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management: The George Washington University.

² Steve Noakes, Director, Pacific Asia Tourism Pty Ltd & Adjunct Professor, Griffith University, Australia

VOLUNTOURISM PROJECT: Koh Sukorn, Thailand, Community Based Tourism

Where is it? www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/th.htm



Koh Sukorn Island is in Trang Province, off the south Andaman coast of Thailand.

It's easy to reach but out of the mainstream tourism flows of popular holiday resort destinations to the north in places such as Phuket. There are daily flights from Bangkok to Trang or you can come down to Trang by road from Phuket or Krabi.

Some 3000 people live on Koh Sukorn Island, mainly fishermen and farmers who live in four villages. Most follow the Muslim religion. There are only a few vehicles on the island and most transport is by boat, by foot or motorbike.

Community leaders have been active in the South Andaman Community based Tourism Circuit which commenced in 2007 as a means to learn more about how they could get the benefits from appropriate forms of tourism and plan to minimize potential negative impacts that could arise if tourism growth occurred too rapidly for them and their environment to absorb.

The Koh Sukorn community is also an active member of the new South Andaman Coast Sustainable Tourism Network www.SACSTN.org

Now, the community is interested to host one or more volunteers to assist them in tasks outlined in the pages to follow.

www.lostinthailand.com/thailand-maps/Koh-Sukorn-maps.html

Community needs:

The Kohn Sukorn community would like to host volunteers for periods of between 4 weeks to 6 months to assist them with one or more of the following:

- ❖ English language programs for the local school and local community members.
- ❖ Providing advise and assistance on the continued development of community-based tourism programs that attract both the domestic and international markets.
- ❖ Assisting the community in the development of products suitable for tourists – e.g. standards for accommodation, food & beverage, interpretive materials, tourist signage, guide training etc
- ❖ Helping the further development of the South Andaman Sustainable Tourism Network and supporting/advising the community on how they can make the Network continue to perform better for all Network members
- ❖ Making contributions to the website www.SACSTN.org
- ❖ Contribute to the research needs for the current application for World Heritage Listing of the Andaman Coast region

Community contributions:

The community is willing to host the Volunteer(s) from pick up in Trang to return to Trang. (i.e. you need to get you own way from home base to Trang, southern Thailand)

The community will provide transport to/from Trang to Koh Sukorn Island, accommodation, meals and local transport while on the Island.



The Koh Sukorn community has already been actively conducting workshops and preparing interpretive materials to plan for tourism and the protection and enhancement of cultural and environmental values

Background reading:

Thailand and the UN Millennium Development Goals

UNDP: www.undp.org/mdg/goodpractices/Thailand-casestudy.pdf

UNICEF: www.unicef.org/thailand/overview_4011.html

UNEP Country Profile, State of the Environment, Land cover country report:

www.rrcap.unep.org/country/index.cfm?cncodesel=TH&submit2=Go

For this SAVE project, the volunteer will:

- ❖ Fund their own travel to Trang in southern Thailand – that is you pay for your own international airfares and travel within Thailand to get yourself to Trang
- ❖ Have their own current travel and medical insurance
- ❖ Maintain a valid passport and be eligible for entry into Thailand
- ❖ Possess own laptop computer with power adaptor that works in Thailand!.
- ❖ Have an open, tolerate, inquisitive mind and friendly personality
- ❖ Not be looking for a holiday in a 5 Star resort
- ❖ Possess appropriate levels of skills to deliver the Specific Tasks noted below
- ❖ Accept the final arrangements will be agreed between themselves and the local community
- ❖ Meet with representatives of Network participants such as Prince of Songkla University and the local National Parks officials on arrival for (a) establishing the contact/link for potential engagement with students during the volunteer period at Koh Sukorn Island (b) receiving a briefing on tourism in the Trang Province



Mr Vaturi his wife, Da will be two of your hosts on Koh Sukorn Island. Da is a local school teacher and both are active helping the community to develop appropriate forms of sustainable tourism for their home island



Aladin PakBara works with the National Parks Department and plays an active role linking community-based tourism and protected area management. He is one the local personalities you will meet and work with.

Steve Noakes is the volunteer who has put this SAVE Volunteer opportunity together and will be a key contact in organising this initiative. He is based in Australia and visits Thailand frequently. He is founding Director of www.pacificasiatourism.org and Director of www.ecolodgesindonesia.com amongst a bunch of other stuff.

Interested?

1. Send your CV and a short letter to explain why you would be interested to Steve Noakes steve@pacificasiatourism.org Include a photo.
2. Advise what dates would suit you best (any time during 2009 or 2010) and how long you could stay on Koh Sukorn Island (minimum of 4 weeks – up to 6 months)

Thailand Fast Facts



Population
65,002,000

http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/maps/map_country_thailand.html

Capital and Population

Bangkok; 6,604,000

Area

513,115 square kilometers
(198,115 square miles)

Language

Thai, English, ethnic and regional dialects

Religion

Buddhist, Muslim

Currency

baht

Life Expectancy

71

GDP Per Capita

U.S. \$7,000

Literacy Percent

96

Websites for further information on Koh Sukorn

www.tourismthailand.org/destination-guide/trang-92-1-1-1.html

www.andaman-island-hopping.com/islands/sukhon.htm

www.learnnc.org/lp/multimedia/4267

www.sukorn-island-trang.com/sk_english/07_hopping.html

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g297938-d648620-Reviews-Koh_Sukorn_Resort-Trang.html



Supporters:



If from Australia, you can purchase international airfares from www.parktours.com.au