

# Mai Khao Beach Eco- and Agrotourism Project

South Thailand

## Project



This Eco and Agrotourism Project lies on the spectacular shores of the Andaman Sea on the north coast of Phuket Island.

With major tourist resorts not far away pressures to develop this area threaten traditional ways of life as well as the stunning and diverse natural environment. Local residents, however, want to promote their own community based eco- and agrotourism and need volunteers who can help them!

A conservation project works to protect and propagate threatened beach plants. Organic farming

brings attention to sustainable agricultural development. Local handicrafts, the production of chili and fish paste, and the special sand spa treatments provide income for local people. And, of course, learning to catch the local 'tschakatschan' on the beach and cook them, eat them!

Volunteers can help to carry out and further develop these initiatives. A major task will be to help the local community to receive and take care of tourists, which means teaching English to the locals, young and old! Teaching English at the school is important too.

This project gives volunteers the opportunity to learn about Thai life and organic farming while supporting community based ecotourism, helping local people rather than major tour operators.

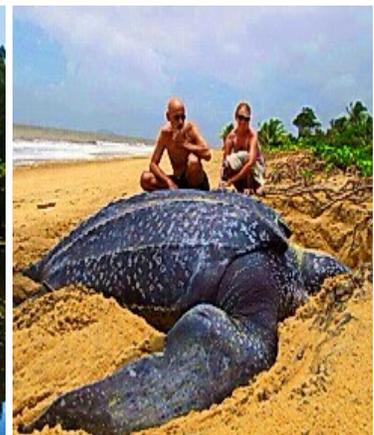
Volunteers also teach at the school, which has kindergarten and primary levels with around 130 students and 12 teachers, including 2 English teachers. Volunteers can teach English and/or computers.

## Accommodation



Volunteers stay with a home stay family who also provides their meals.

## Location



Mai Kao Beach is the longest in Phuket: 11 km of white sand bordered by beach and mangrove forests. Though only a short distance from Phuket International Airport and the overdeveloped tourist beaches around Patong, Mai Kao is in the unseen Thailand, still surrounded by rice fields, forests and freshwater ponds and adjoining the Sirinath National Park.

Hotels and resorts have begun to be developed in the area in recent years and many villagers feel their way of life threatened as mass tour operators take business away from local businesses and local people face competition for resources that have long sustained their daily lives.

Endangered sea turtles still come to nest on this beach between November and February in the area but they are easily scared away by beach activity and their numbers have been steadily declining.

Project type:	Ecotourism
Country:	Thailand
Location:	Mai Khao District, Phuket Province
Accommodation:	Homestay

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*Great project not far from the tourist beaches of Phuket but in its own unseen Thai world!*

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