



## Thailand: Socially Responsible Tourism

**Mission:** To uplift impoverished communities in the developing world through creating and supporting sustainable, incoming-generating projects. This trip will focus on battling human trafficking and prostitution through women's economic empowerment and fair trade and will implement tsunami relief efforts at an orphanage in southern Thailand.

**Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and transfer to your hotel. During the drive enjoy views of this bustling, metropolitan city. Rest and get acclimated to the area as you get to know your fellow passengers and trip leader.

**Day 2:** Tour Bangkok via foot, tuk-tuk, and boat taking in religious and cultural sites. Enjoy lunch in the local market. Enjoy a welcome dinner at Cabbage and Condoms, an income generating restaurant for Population Development Assistance (PDA) learning about their projects throughout the country and their efforts to creatively tackle development issues. PDA's mission is "empowering Thailand's rural communities to eradicate poverty." This is a one-of-a-kind restaurant that is helping to fuel important change in Thailand. Return to hotel.



**Day 3:** Travel to the floating market in the morning for shopping and lunch. After lunch, visit Nightlight Fair Trade and Anti-Human Trafficking Group and spend time learning about their fair trade initiatives. In the evening, discover the secrets of Thai food at a hands-on cooking class. Return to hotel.

**Day 4:** Fly to Phuket in the morning and transfer to Khao Lak. Check into hotel. Spend a leisurely day getting to know your surroundings. Khao Lak is a small fishing village that was devastated by the tsunami of 2004. Explore the beaches, shops, and restaurants in the afternoon.

**Day 5:** Explore Khao Lak - the waterfalls, the beach, the quaint villages - via moped. Visit the Tsunami Memorial and reflect upon the damage left in its wake. In the afternoon visit a community tourism initiative run by local villagers. Stop by the Baan Tharn Namchai Orphanage for an introduction to your upcoming project. Return to hotel in the afternoon.

**Days 6-8:** Volunteer at the Baan Tharn Namchai Orphanage and help with their income-generating projects, daily chores, and tutoring. Learn how to make beautiful fair trade products with the women of Duang Prateep. Their products, including wine totes, makeup bags, silk robes, and clutches, are some of The Village Experience's favorites. Return to hotel in evening.

**Day 9:** Free day in Khao Lak to continue volunteering, relax on the beach, or further explore the area. Water activities can be planned as well.

**Day 10:** Drive to Phuket in the morning. Spend the afternoon and evening with SHE Thailand learning about the underbelly of human-trafficking and prostitution rings in Phuket. SHE Thailand's mission is to use innovative ways to combat human-trafficking including hosting a hospitality school, making chocolate, and designing fair trade products. Explore Phuket's nightlife first hand with your tour leader (prepared to be shocked!) Return to hotel.



**Day 11:** Relax on Patong Beach today and further explore the two sides of tourism in Thailand. Enjoy your last day in Thailand with swimming, shopping, and relaxing in one of the most beautiful areas of Asia. Farewell dinner in the evening. Return to the hotel.

**Day 12:** Depart Phuket and fly back to Bangkok in the afternoon and board international flight to the United States.

December 27-January 7, 2012

\$1799 per person

Contact us for more info about this trip

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