



Homestay Explorer and Royal Agricultural Project -abt04

Trip Summary	2 days / 1 nights - 1 nights homestay in Ban Ko Kerd, cycling in local village
Getting There	Tour starts at trainstation Bangkok and ends at Ayuttaya
In-country support	International support staff, local guide, bilingual Thai/English translator, visitor's handbook.
What's included	Transfers during the tour, accommodation, activities and meals as stated in the program.
Availability	All year round

A unique opportunity to learn about the Thai culture and way of life by cycling through small communities and staying at a homestay. See first-hand the royally sponsored efforts that are being made to improve the lives of framing families and at the same time protect the natural environment.

Day 1 Bangkok – Bang Pa-In Ban Ko Kerd (L/D)

Morning:

07.45 am meet at Hua Lam Phong station in Bangkok and take the 08.00 train to Bang Pa-In. Arrive at 09.00 and take a tuk tuk to tour the Summer Palace complex with its beautiful residential buildings, function halls and pavilions set amidst vast landscaped gardens. Also visit Wat Nivet, located on a small island in the middle of the river, it is the only Buddhist temple in Thailand built in the style of a Christian church. Afterwards take a long-tail boat and cruise along the Chao Phraya River for half an hour to the community of Ban Ko Kerd. Have lunch at your riverside homestay.

Afternoon and Evening:

After lunch, take a cycling tour to visit the Ko Kerd Royal Folk Arts and Crafts Centre which promotes traditional farming methods so that rural communities can learn how to become self-sufficient, an essential element in the King's economic "sufficiency" program. This program focuses strongly on organic farming techniques in order to protect the environment and health of the farmers. The families taking part in this project are all connected with the nearby Bang Sai Royal Folk Arts and Crafts Centre and have formed a model village to which farmers come from all over the country to learn these farming methods and take them back to their own communities. After touring the Study Centre you can visit some of the families in the village and see these farming methods put into practice.

Return to your homestay in the late afternoon with time to relax before having dinner with your host family and other members of the local community. The cycling today will only be about 10 kms.

Overnight at *Ban Ko Kerd Homestay*



Day 2 Ban Ko Kerd –Ayutthaya (B/L)

Morning:

We rise early today at 06.00, to join the local people in offering food to the monks on their morning alms round. After breakfast, set off by bike along back roads and through small villages towards Ayutthaya. Along the way you will have the opportunity to meet more of the local people and learn something of their way of life.

Afternoon:

We will make a stop for lunch at a local restaurant and get to Ayutthaya by about 16.00 where the tour will finish at our office. Enjoy genuine Thai cuisine as we stay overnight with a local family and help them prepare our dinner. It is an experience to remember. The cycling today will be about 25 kms.



Andaman Discoveries is a social enterprise enabling visitors and volunteers to support community education, village-led conservation, and cultural empowerment.