



Andaman Community Tour - r6b

Trip summary	6 days / 5 nights - 2 nights Ban Talae Nok homestay, Kuraburi 1 night, Surin Moken Experience 2N
Getting there	Tour starts and ends at Kuraburi
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	Mid October 2019 – Mid May 2020 see details below

Immerse in the local culture at the Muslim village of Ban Talae Nok on the North Andaman Coast. Participate in handicraft demonstrations, enjoy a local barbeque dinner on the beach, and relax in the quaint atmosphere of this community. Take a unique private tour of Koh Surin with the original Moken inhabitants of this tropical paradise. Bask in the natural beauty of the Surin Islands while you immerse in Moken Life and snorkel the crystal waters of the Andaman Sea.

Day 1 Culture Exchange (L,D)

Morning Start the tour in Kuraburi at the Andaman Discoveries office for a pre-trip briefing and cultural orientation. Transfer to Ban Talae Nok village to meet your host family, and be welcomed into their way of life. Take a walking tour of the community with your local guide to learn about the history and lives of these villagers. See an area of the village that was destroyed by the 2004 tsunami and learn how this event affected the community

Noon For lunch, enjoy authentic southern Thai food with your homestay family. In the afternoon take part in a handicraft workshop and learn the art of Batik, a technique of hand-dyeing fabrics by using designs drawn in wax. You can create your own design or have your hosts draw one for you, then color in the beautiful designs, and keep your creation as a souvenir. Then learn to weave leaves of the nypa palm with the villagers and help make traditional roofing from a local mangrove plant.

Take a short walk to the beach where you can relax and bask in the spectacular colors of an Andaman Sea sunset.

Evening For dinner, enjoy a barbeque dinner on the beach with your hosts and feast on freshly-caught seafood, garden-fresh vegetables, and Thai curries (weather permitting, alternative is dinner in the homestay).

In the evening participate in a cultural activity where you can share stories and experiences with the family and local villagers. Pictures from home are always appreciated.

Overnight: Ban Talae Nok Homestay, comfortable bedding and mosquito net provided

Day 2 Natural Wonders (B,L,D)

Morning Breakfast at the homestay house. Head into nature, and explore the mangrove forest in a long-tail boat, where you have the chance to spot various birds, monitor lizards and monkeys. Take a fascinating journey through the tidal canals and learn how the villagers are active in protecting this amazing ecosystem.

Continue your journey out to the hidden paradise of the undeveloped Gam Islands, only 10 km from the coast of the village. Arrive to the white sand bays and explore the surrounding nature, then go for a swim and snorkel in the clear blue waters**



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



Noon Have a picnic lunch on the beach with your hosts**
Depart the island for the boat ride back to the village. Participate in a local fishing activity with your hosts, if you get a good catch, your homestay host will create a tasty net to table meal
Handicraft workshop - the women's group, established after the tsunami, makes beautifully hand-crafted soap, using only the finest natural ingredients. Watch an informative demonstration and then make soap for yourself with the expert guidance of the soap ladies, and keep a souvenir



Evening Learn to cook local Thai food with your host family, or spend your time before dinner relaxing on the beach
After dinner, enjoy more cultural exchange by trying on traditional Muslim clothing to learn more about your hosts religion and how it is connected to their culture and daily lives

Overnight: Ban Talae Nok Homestay, comfortable bedding and mosquito net provided

**** Gam Islands only available during dry season, November - April. During rainy season, have an extended mangrove tour. Then go fishing with your homestay family and, depending on tides and expertise, fish in the canals with nets or poles, spearing shrimp or catch crabs with traps.**

**** Lunch in rainy season is had at homestay**



Day 3 Village Life (B,L)

Morning Breakfast at the homestay house

Walk up to the school for a panoramic view of the Andaman coast
Return to your homestay to make a local specialty dessert. Try your hand at grating the coconut and filling the palm leaf with the batter. Then grill and enjoy the delicious snack hot of the fire
Enjoy a personalized cooking class and help make your lunch with your host Lunch with the host family. Pack and say goodbye to your friendly hosts, then transfer back to Kuraburi



Evening Explore the evening market and enjoy and independent dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight: Local resort in Kuraburi with a/c and hot water

Day 4 Moken Village (B,L,D)

Morning Have a traditional Thai breakfast at the local market in Kuraburi with your translator and then transfer to the Kuraburi Pier. Transfer to Koh Surin by speedboat. Check into your tent accommodations at the National Park Headquarters. Meet you local guide and take a long tail boat trip to the Moken village. A tour around the village is an insight into the intricate relationship between the Moken and their surrounding environment. Learn about the brightly colored "Spirit Poles" and Moken homes, built on wooden stilts directly on the beach. Participate in a handicraft workshop and learn the traditional art of Moken weaving. Use forest Pandanus leaves to weave a natural bracelet. Keep it as a souvenir and show off to your friends at home





Noon Have a packed lunch under the shade of a tree on a beach near the village
 Forest hike - your Moken guide will highlight useful plants, including medicinal herbs, edible species, and those used in construction of traditional houseboats
 Snorkeling - coral reef exploration with Moken guide. Your guide will take you to a wonderland of colorful tropical fish and allow you to witness the impressive Moken swimming techniques
Evening End your day with your Moken guide and return to the park headquarters to relax and enjoy the sunset from the white sand beach. Dinner at the park headquarters canteen



Overnight: Koh Surin National Park, tents on the beach with bedding provided; electricity generated from 6-10 pm

Day 5 Life of the Sea Gypsies (B,L,D)

Morning Breakfast at the park headquarters canteen. Meet your Moken guide and take a snorkel tour to see the underwater life of the sea gypsies, how they have adapted to living in the water, and why they love it. Watch as your Moken guide spots sea turtles and sharks swimming in the waters. Return to the park headquarters to have a Thai style lunch
 Hop back on the long tail boat to go visit special Moken places around the islands and learn how they have lived here for generations



Noon Back at the park headquarters enjoy free time to walk the beach, relax, and enjoy the sunset

Dinner at the park headquarters canteen

Overnight: Koh Surin National Park, tents on the beach with bedding provided; electricity generated from 6-10 pm



Day 6 Mythology of the Moken (B,D)

Morning Breakfast at the park headquarters canteen
 Try your hand at rowing a Moken "row-boat" and re-enacting their method of spear fishing. Head out to another snorkel site if there is time



Noon Return to the park headquarters to have a Thai style lunch
 Pack your belongings and prepare for departure from the island
 Depart Koh Surin by speedboat to Kuraburi Pier
 Transfer back to Kuraburi town to end your program



Moken Music Activity- Listen to beautiful songs that tell stories and the history of the Moken people. Day of Moken music will be decided by guide.