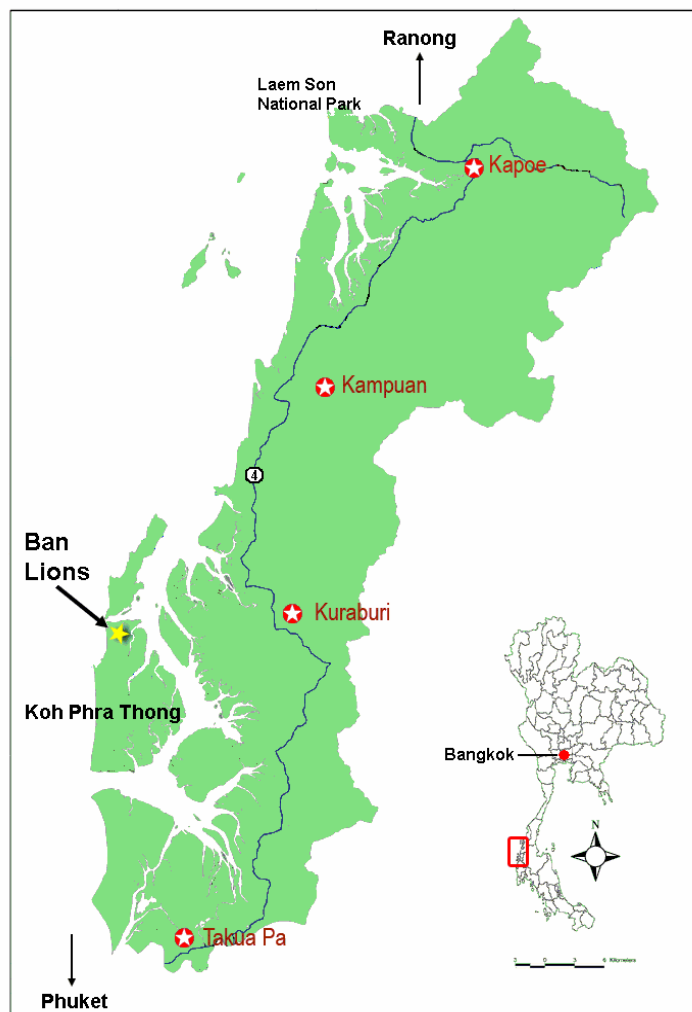


Koh Phra Thong Lions Homestay Program

Information for an enjoyable, safe, and trouble free homestay

The following information will help you prepare for your homestay at Koh Phra Thong. We recommend that you print it and take it along for reference.

Map showing the location of Ban Lions on Phra Thong Island in Phang Nga province.



Community-based tourism (CBT)

The Koh Phra Thong Lions Homestay Program is a dynamic program owned and operated by community members of Lions Village. The program is designed to be a “gateway” through which visitors are able to engage fairly and respectfully with community members, their cultures, and island ecosystems.

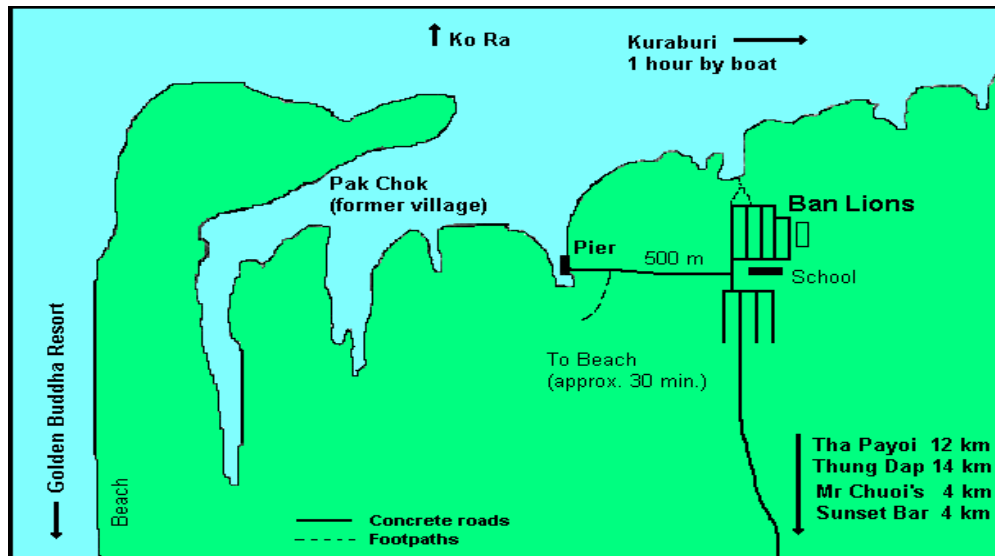
The establishment of the CBT program was initiated at the request of the Ban Lions community in response to a lack of sustainable income sources. In 2009, Koh Phra Thong Lions Homestay Program

was launched with the support of the NGOs, Mangrove Action Project (MAP), Andaman Discoveries (AD) and Naucrates, an Italian NGO working on sea turtle conservation on Koh Phra Thong.

Village Location

Lions Village was established after the 2004 tsunami to support victims that had lost their homes. While it is only a short walk to the beach, for safety reasons, houses are not located directly on the beach.

Ban Lions Detailed Location on Phra Thong Island



Accommodation

We welcome individuals, groups, and families. Accommodation is provided with local families. Visitors have their own private rooms, equipped with bed linen, and mosquito nets. Please bring your own towel. Each room has a lockable door for securing valuables.

Food & Water

- Three meals per day are included in the homestay package or a request can be made in advance regarding the meals you wish to have at the homestay. Please contact us concerning individual requests or dietary restrictions.
- Filtered drinking water is provided free to homestay guests at all times. We ask that guests bring refillable water-bottles for use between mealtimes to avoid plastic water bottle pollution.
- Laundry service (no underwear), but no ironing, is available for a small extra charge

Local Culture:

The Ban Lions community is culturally diverse. Villagers come from Thai, Burmese, Chinese, and Moken backgrounds, revealing many fascinating ways of life. Visitors are welcome and encouraged

to participate in village cultural activities and experience local cultures and customs first-hand. To promote intercultural understanding and respect, we ask that visitors adhere to the following:

- Please remove shoes before entering a house or shop.
- A basic Thai-English language guide can be downloaded from the Andaman Discoveries website and a hard copy should be located in every homestay.
- In Thai culture women dress modestly. Women should keep shoulders covered and wear knee-length shorts. Please avoid low-cut tops, short skirts or shorts, spaghetti straps, tight or clingy clothes, shirts that reveal your mid-section, etc.
- Be aware of keeping covered while changing cloths or after showering as Thai are very modest and nudity is frowned upon. The houses are close together and may not have curtains.
- When on the beach or swimming near the village, please wear shorts and a T-shirt over your swim suit or wear a modest swimming suit.
- Please refrain from public displays of affection between the sexes.
- Illegal drug use and the abuse of alcohol are not acceptable in the village.
- Public displays of anger, shouting, being rude or confrontational is not acceptable in Thai cultures.
- Please ask before taking photographs of local people.
- Please assist the villagers in protecting their local environment and dispose of litter thoughtfully.
- Shells, coral, plants, and animals should be left in their natural environments where they can be appreciated by all.
- Do not feed monkeys or other wild animals.
- Pets or animals should be kept downstairs and away from the dining area. Do not feed the village dogs or they will hang around the homestay houses.
- Villagers are welcoming and extremely courteous towards visitors, however, some may be shy around foreigners. A friendly smile is a very effective ice-breaker.

Weather

Programs are offered throughout the year, although some activities are dependent on tides and weather conditions. Phra Thong Island has a tropical climate with two main seasons: the rainy season (April to November) and the dry season (December to March) with an average temperature of 28.7 C°. For more information on weather, please check the forecast at <http://www.tmd.go.th/en/>

Special Note

- Lions Village has electrical power only in the evenings from a village generator. Electrical current can be unstable when the generator starts so please don't plug in electrical devices for the first 10 min. Using an adaptor or power bar with a fuse will help prevent the impact of a power surge.
- There are no banks or ATM machines, so bring sufficient Thai baht, the only accepted currency.
- There are no 7-11s, although a small shop sells some basic items.
- There are no hospitals or pharmacies on the island, but there is a very basic clinic in Tha Payoi village.
- Both DTAC and AIS mobile telephone service is available at Lions Village
- There is no public internet service in the village, but internet is available at Golden Buddha Resort for 6THB/ min.

- Toilets are usually Asian style and bathing is usually done by pouring water from a large storage container over oneself with a dipper.

Suggested Packing List

- Personal and reusable drinking water bottle
- Towel for bathing & swimming
- Photocopies of all documentation/tickets/passport
- Day pack (waterproof “dry bags” work well during the rainy season)
- A full prescription of any prescription medication you are currently taking.
- Flashlight/headlamp and batteries (please return any used batteries to the mainland for proper disposal)
- Insect repellent for mosquitoes & sand flies
- Sun block or Sunscreen (high SPF!!!, waterproof)
- Light rain jacket or rain poncho & a strong folding umbrella (rainy reason)
- Short- and long-sleeved shirts
- Sun hat/ visor & sun glasses
- Rubber sandals
- Sunglasses
- Motion/sea sickness pills if you suffer from sea sickness
- Small personal first-aid kit

Safety / Disclaimer

- The closest swimming area is 30 minute walk from Ban Lions. Follow the concrete road and take a right turn when you see a sign to beach. After 10 minutes on the track, there should be an old temple on you right hand side. It is advised not to swim alone.
- Do not swimming across the channel between Koh Phra Thong & Koh Ra as there are strong currents, especially during the full and new moon when tides change quickly.
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially when busy with activities. Also take a bottle of water to bed in the evening. Dehydration is the most common form of illness amongst guests.
- Please carry a flashlight with you after the generator is off (10.30 PM)

Facilities & Equipment:

- Masks & snorkels are available for rent
- Motorbikes and/or a side car for rent (gas excluded)

Getting There:

Koh Phra Thong Lions Homestay Program provides transportation to the island from Kuraburi. There are several ways to get to Kuraburi town for your long-tail boat trip to Koh Phra Thong:

From Bangkok (about 760 KM)

An overnight bus to Kuraburi leaves daily from Bangkok Southern Bus Terminal (Tel. +66-2894-6122), arriving in Kuraburi in the early morning.

For those travelling by private vehicle, Kuraburi town is located on Highway No.4 between Suk Samran in Ranong Province and Takua Pa in Phang-nga.

From Phuket (about 220 KM)

From the Phuket Bus Terminal, take one of the frequent Phuket-Ranong air conditioned buses that pass through Kuraburi. Alternatively, travel by bus to Takua Pa Bus Station and then board a local bus which departs for Kuraburi every 30 mins. .

From Phuket International Airport, take a 15 minute taxi ride from the airport to the Phuket Highway Police Station, and catch the Phuket-Ranong bus from there to Kuraburi.

From Kuraburi Bus Station to Pier

To get to the Kuraburi Pier, located 7km from Kuraburi town, take either a motorcycle taxi (60 Baht) or hire a pick-up truck taxi at Boon Piya Resort (300 Baht). To find both motorbike taxis and Boon Piya Resort, walk 300 meters from the bus station to reach the main street, take a right turn and continue along the road for 100 meters.

From Kuraburi Pier to Ban Lions, Koh Phra Thong

Phra Thong Lions will arrange the long-tail boat, so please don't hire your own. Please ask for "Koh Phra Thong Lions Homestay" at the pier.

Please **contact Lory at +66 (0) 81 897 4195** if:

- You want to book a boat to Koh Phra Thong.
- Your boatman does not show up in 30 minutes.
- You wish to cancel or change your boat time. Please notify us at least 2 hours before departure time. Please also note that in the case of delay (more than 30 minutes) or cancellation without advance notice, customers are expected to take full responsibility.
- You wish to check on the opportunity for boat sharing with other parties
- You wish to arrange a translator.

| ภาษาอังกฤษ | Thai |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ban Lions Village | หมู่บ้านไลออนส์ |
| Phra Thong Island | เกาะพระทอง |
| Kuraburi | กระบรี |
| Phang Nga | จังหวัดพังงา |
| Takua Pa | ตะกั่วป่า |
| Ranong | ระนอง |
| Phuket Highway Police Station | สถานีตำรวจทางหลวงภูเก็ต |

Further Information

Website: www.andamancoast.org/ban-lion

E-mail: info@andamancommunitytourism.com

Mobile: 089-7886261 (Ms. Ning)