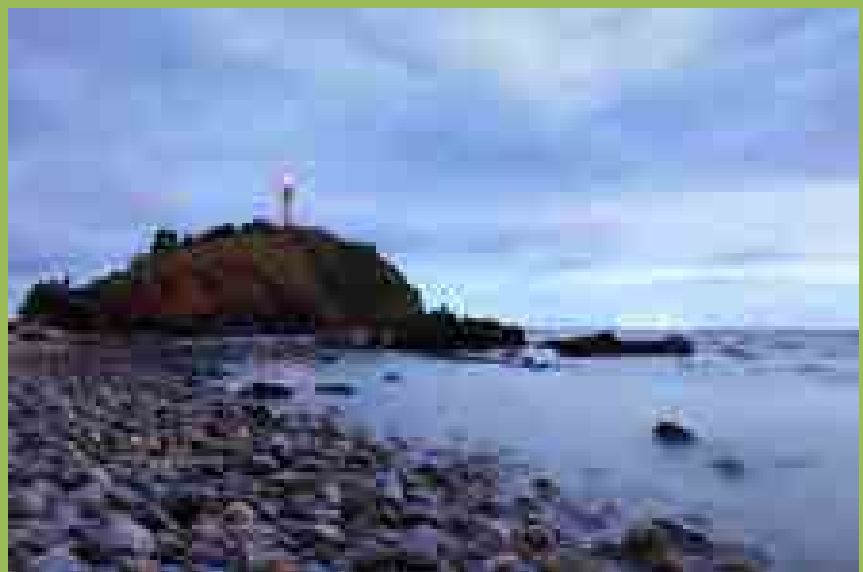




Thailand Research Organizations Network

Multicultural Destination of Lanta Islands, Krabi, Thailand



Tourism and Service Industry Research Project
Industrial Division, the Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

To be the crucial players in promoting **“Green Tourism”** in Krabi, tourism industry in Koh Lanta does not only provide the mainstream tourism – sea, sand, sun, but also contribute the sustainable and low-carbon tourism through the alternative tourism activities – Community-Based Tourism. This green tourism route begins from Baan Ra Mad, a place where ferryboat pier is located. After Baan Ra Mad, the next destinations are Toh Ba Lew Community, Tung Yi Peng Community-Based Tourism, Sriraya Old Town, and Koh Por, respectively. The multicultures of Koh Lanta in this route are blended through the wonderful and beautiful community providing the great experience to tourists.

Baan Ramad

“Old Village, Traditional Coffee, Pandanus Handicraft, Heaven of Tung Talay, Land of Good Guys, Pride of Koh Klang Lord”



The route of Baan Ramad begins with the village motto which community members co-created to demonstrate the identity of Baan Ramad. This village is unique with a variety of local way of life which tourists can co-create the great experience through different tourism activities. Tourists can enjoy with the

local performance dances – Rong Ngang, the Wild Musical Drama (Likae Paa), and Mak Yong which do rarely perform in other communities.

Interestingly, tourists can participate in the traditional coffee production, drink and buy traditional coffee products. Baan Ramad is one of communities in the Southern of Thailand where members still do rice

farming, and employ buffalos to plough the field. With the plenty of buffalos here in Baan Ramad, there is a place, named as “Tha Took Kwai” or “Buffalo Pick up Point”, where farmers will come to take their buffalos for laboring, and bring them back there after finishing. Buffalos will return to the forest, and



come back again in the next farming season by itself. Moreover, if tourists would like to learn doing rice farm, they can do it here.



Toh Ba Lew Community

Toh Ba Lew Community is located near Lanta Ferryboat Pier, Saladan, where is the centre of tourism in Koh Lanta. People who live here are called “Sea Gypsy” where their ancestors had survived from the shipwreck during the immigration from Indonesia. Their ancestors were the first group of discoverers who had found Koh Lanta and settled here in 500 years ago.



However, these Sea Gypsies would like to be called as **“Uraklavoy”**, rather than “Sea Gypsy” or “Chao-Lay”.

As a small village with the population of 420 villagers in 117 households, Toh Ba Lew Community provides tourists with the peaceful and idyllic destination where tourists can experience the ancient Sea Gypsy village where are the indigenous settlers. Because they live harmoniously with the nature and sea, “Uraklavoy” rely on the traditional fishery to survive.

One of the rituals in Toh Ba Lew Community is “Loy Rua” or “Floating Boat” ceremony which is their way of life.

Uraklavoys float the boat twice a year- at the beginning of Monsoon season and the end of Monsoon season. During the floating boat ceremony,



Uraklavoys will celebrate and dance from the sunset to the sunrise of the next day, before floating boat in the morning.



Tung Yi Peng Tourism Community

After admiring with the Sea Gypsy culture and way of life in Toh Ba Lew community, the next destination is **Tung Yi Peng Tourism Community** – a Muslim community surrounding with 3,200,000 km² of mangrove community forest. With the fruitful of natural tourism resources,

tourists can paddle the kayaking at Tung Yi Peng Tourism Community to discover wonderful and beautiful scenery in the mangrove forest. In some circumstances, tourists can participate with the seagrass planting – food sources of Dugong or Sea Cow, with the community members.





Additionally with the fishery way of life, Tung Yi Peng community members also employ the traditional wisdom to preserve the plenty of fish, and other marine animals by settling fish cabin which is a place where fish and other marine animals can survive and grow. This wisdom does not only preserve marine animals, but also provides them

food sources.

Like Baan Ramad, tourists can enjoy the local community way of life by seeing the production of Shrimp Paste at the Tung Yi Peng Shrimp Paste Community Enterprise. Moreover, tourists are also attracted with the production of fresh fermented Rice Flour noodle, and cashew nut that they can't miss to taste.



Sriraya Old Town

Tourists can escape from the mainstream tourism to discover the nostalgia of **Lanta Old Town**, aged 200 years old, where merchants from China, Penung, Indonesia, and Singapore, had visited for exchanging goods, and purchasing food and goods to sell. Therefore, Sriraya has gradually become the crucial cultural reproduction platform where integrate multicultural into Lanta culture as seen from the Chino-Portuguese architecture.



Sriraya used to be the town center where several generations of Lanta have settled in Lanta Old Town through the cultural diversity – Thai Buddhists, Thai Muslims, and Sea Gypsies can harmoniously live together. **S**riraya community

members still preserve the ancient wooden Chino-Portuguese houses, even some houses have been renovated into souvenir shops, restaurants, or BB hotel. The unique of Sriraya architecture is ‘Baan Yao’ or long house- house is built deeply into the sea for water transportation purpose.

Tourists can enjoy with the memory of Sriraya Old Town, and also Koh Lanta at the Lanta Measeum, renovating the old district office. Tourists can learn Sriraya way of life, history, and local way through the old stuffs e.g. tables, sheriff office, pictures, furnitures, tools, and so on, in order to co-create nostalgia experience to visitors. Some Tsunami disaster evidences are still left in the measeum. Moreover, tourists can



taste different sea food menus at Sriraya Old Town, and also accommodate in the classic homestays.



To comply with Sriraya culture, tourists can gain spirituality and superstition by doing warship at the Shrine of Sam Tong Aong, the Chinese God who was in China, but still protects Thai-Chinese people, and also at the Prince Chmphon Veterans memorial Shrine – the Father of Thai Navy.





Koh Por Community

Only 15 minutes by passage boat or 5 minutes by Speed boat, tourists can access to the small island of Koh Lanta – Koh Por, a community with 120 households and an abundance of natural resources. Most of community members are Muslim and do fishery for their living. From the legend of Koh Por – 7 generations of Koh Por community members, Khoon Samut (Khoon – a titled official) was the first family to settle at Koh Por. This legend is written into the composition of Likae Hulu – a local musical performance.



With the plenty of natural resources, tourists can see Flying Foxes, and Hornbills. Tourists can also enjoy riding bicycle through the nature scene, and visit the fisherman village. Tourists can learn the local ways of life by catching ‘Wing Shells’ and Octopus, and resting in homestay with natural atmosphere.

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