

Voices from Promloke Community-Based Tourism Group

Promloke community have been welcoming guests from Sawadee Reizen for 3 years... and today, we would like to say a big **Thank You** to Sawadee and your guests for supporting our community based tourism project! **Kop Khun Krup** (Thank-you in Thai!)

Promloke Community-Based Tourism (CBT) group is located in the south of Thailand. Our people mainly work in local fruit orchards and rubber plantations. Tourism in Promloke is managed by a community group. 10 families offer homestay to guests, and there are 10 local guides to show guests around the community and up the mountain into the beautiful rainforest.

The Promloke CBT group opens the community to guests who are interested to learn and experience our daily life... Sawadee Reizen has brought guests to our community for 3 years.

Guests have the chance to participate in typical activities and to learn about our local life, our local wisdom in herbal medicine, traditional dance, visit waterfalls and explore the mountains.

Dutch families stay with local Thai families in our homes. As well as exploring and relaxing, there are special activities for Sawadee families such as cooking together with your hosts, painting your own batik cloth as a souvenir, and exploring the community by bicycle.

Why does our community open our homes to tourists?

1. To open the community to a bigger learning world outside the village. Guests from overseas are like big books bringing lots of new experiences to our community!
2. To promote and develop the community. This is the heart of why we do CBT. Promoting helps the public know about our community. Once we're known and visited by the tourists, the development and improvement will be introduced in our homes, roads, attractions and skills and knowledge of our people;
3. To generate a supplementary income from food, accommodation and activities including a community fund which is spread widely and fairly in the community

Why is Promloke special for guests?

1. As the community opens its door to the tourists, they have a chance to learn to be a part of a local family, understand local Thai life and how we earn a living, visit natural attractions such as forest, mountain and waterfall, and experience local art and dance
2. Guests can participate in activities with us... batik making, local traditional ceremonies (if the time fits with the community's calendar) such as ordination ceremony, wedding ceremony, tenth-month fair, orchardmen day and so on

How do we benefit from welcoming guests?

Welcoming guests helps our community in many ways: of course, it helps generating additional income to the community. However, just as important, social aspects of uniting local people and opening and sharing our world, cultural and local wisdom with our guests!

We have also given new life to local wisdoms and performances such as our traditional Manohra dancing or knowledge of herbal medicines. Guests come who are interested in traditional knowledges, it helps to keep and transfer the knowledge to the next generation.

Most importantly, forest conservation and keeping the community clean. Our guests come to visit the forest, so the community eagerly conserves the forest and also finds the ways to prevent rubbish, for example, asking guests not to bring food into certain areas of the forest.

It's amazing to think that there are just a few visitors to our communities each year, but they are already many benefits for our community... so thank-you very much and see you again!