Thailand Volunteer to Thailand - Aid Project
Welcome to Volunt2Thai!

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Our Mission

V2T, Volunt2Thai - Volunteer to Thailand is an aid project in Thailand’s northeastern region, the Isan. Head of the project is Volunt2Thai Austria, (Volunt2Thai Österreich Verein zur Förderung von Freiwilligenarbeit) an association to promote volunteer work. In the long term, our main goal is to help farmers, families and particularly their children to build a better future. To achieve this, we teach them foreign languages and general knowledge.

The presence of volunteers will drastically change the lives of the people in the villages over the next 10 years, and beyond. The education in foreign languages combined with a general understanding of the world and insight into foreign cultures taught to the generation of current 6-year-olds, including their parents, will positively influence and accompany them in their growth.

We also hope our project will attract attention for long-term economic growth in the village. The fundamental objective is to ensure that the children of the villagers have the same opportunities of career choice and international, trans-national activities as their counterparts in the western world. We want to promote the exchange of cultures and give the farmers and their families the opportunity to share their valuable knowledge.

Not only will a fair, additional income eventually be procured by farmers, but also negative developments such as the exodus of the younger generation to major cities be stopped in this economically very poor region.

The Realization

Our goal is to better the life in the villages and the region. The area is being developed with our help so that it may generate sufficient income for the local families, without which, individual family members are often forced to leave their children and their elderly for longer periods of time, in order to travel to urban centres or abroad to work. Many of the people who leave fall into a life of crime and prostitution. Our work here is supported and realized through the help of volunteers.

With the presence of volunteers and through ongoing projects with the villagers, new structures are created which will allow further development of the area. Volunteers get the opportunity to take part in interesting new experiences and new knowledge is acquired through cooperation and collaboration with the villagers. Volunteers get a practical introduction to everyday farm life and help in the ongoing projects. They will learn and practice traditional crafts, gain knowledge about nature, culture, and will get an introduction to the Thai language.
Volunteer Work

As a volunteer you get the possibility to work with, and learn, a great variety of things. You will work with the local population and gain knowledge through practical work. Your skills and experience will be used as an important component of the cultural exchange program.

Volunt2Thai builds bridges of knowledge, skills, culture and friendship between people of all ages from different cultures. Our location in a Thai village far from the tourist routes, is dominated by family values and the village’s daily life is still very much the way it has been for centuries. Together with the village council and the village community we have developed a concept for our “Generation to Generation” project.

Our “Generation to Generation” project works like this: The villagers will teach you their culture, traditions and their specialist knowledge in certain fields and with the help of the locals you will get insight to skills and activities passed down through generations, all while helping the community. You work with the community, establish new friendships and have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. There is no upper age restriction. The work input is up to each volunteer’s personal strength and ability.

Non-mandatory assets are: First Aid certification, TEFL/CELTA certification, Thai language classes, previous teaching experience, previous farming experience, previous NGO/volunteer work, etc.

The Villagers

The people of the village have known each other for generations. They grew up together, live together and will also be buried together. Everyone knows each other's life stories of joy and sorrow. The Buddhist life of the community characterizes everyday life.

We devote our volunteer work as a thank you to the village community which, open-hearted and warmly, welcomed us and allowed us to integrate into the village life. We have a respectful partnership with the village and the villagers will show you special attention.

The number of voluntary helpers is being kept deliberately low so not to interfere with daily routines and the intimacy of the village.
Agriculture and Construction Projects

As a volunteer you can join grandfather in the mornings on his agricultural vehicle to carry out the rice from our own Ricemill. This is a great way to get to know the villagers and earn their trust. You can cut the bamboo in the woods to build hats, fences or furniture for our V2T Village, or even work with concrete. You can help with the rice harvest, threshing, mowing or cultivate our herb garden. You may drive our tuktuk or go by bike to take care of your errands. Further, you can work with the animals, for example with the water buffalos or learn about pig farming in our pigsty. Depending on the season you could even go fishing in the pond.

Find further information on http://www.volunt2thai.com

Examples of What You May Learn

- Construction of buildings
- Carpentry, interior
- Preparation of charcoal
- Seasonal emptying of fishponds
- Working at the rice mill
- Cooking
- Create tools
- Agriculture and land care

Social Projects

There are many opportunities available to volunteers to work within the social system of the village such as kindergarten and preschool teaching in the village school, work in the local temples, and even nursing, physical therapy and hospital work. In the past we even helped with construction work in the temples, like building a temple, a Buddha statue and a shed for the nuns.

You can help out in a local restaurant and learn about the Thai kitchen. You can also do administrative NGO work, help with the documentation, translations or marketing and see what it takes to set up and run an aid organization. We are open for any new suggestions for projects according to your skills.

Examples of What You May Learn

- Working with children whose first language is not English
- Communicate and corporate despite a language barrier
- Thailand’s culture, traditions and cooking
- Basic Thai language skills
- How to run an NGO
- What work in a rural hospital is like
- Working with disadvantaged people
Living Detail

Volunteers live in their own V2T Village. The V2T Campus consists of several bungalows, a stage, V2T language Cafe & Book Club, shared outdoor kitchen, bathroom facilities and the elevated natural resort, a place to hang out together. The dorms are convenient for 4 people, equipped with bunk beds and good mattresses.

Blankets, linen and mosquito nets can be provided. But you are more than welcome to bring your own bedclothes or sleeping bag if you want to guarantee to have your own clean bed linen for the time of your stay. You can also buy it for a little price in any city.

The living conditions are simple at V2T Village. The Camp is well equipped but the Village and the villagers still do not live in modern conditions yet. It is a poor and traditional area, so as a volunteer you adapt to that way of living, for example you can experience taking a bucket shower. But since we are in a hot region, taking a cold shower in the mornings feels actually good. Your life here takes place outdoors and you can enjoy Thailand’s wonderful climate.

Food

Volunteers cook for themselves in their shared outdoor kitchen. Basic food groceries are provided twice a week in the fridge in the V2T Village. These are included in your contribution of 114 Euro per week. Further food, for example fruit, dairy products or soft drinks, can be bought easily on the markets and little shops nearby. Normally, volunteers who teach at the schools receive a free lunch there and will eat together with the students and teachers.
Program Overview

The program is based in Ban Nong Phong in the Ban Lao tambon near Amphoe Phen and Udon Thani, in the northeastern province of Thailand, which is renowned for its beautiful lakes, forests, rivers and historic sites. This is where orientation and general administration is carried out by our organization. Volunteer projects are located in the surrounding area. A vibrant exchange between foreigners and villagers will take place.

In morning the volunteers can walk to the temple and can join almsgiving to the monks. Depending on the project, groups will be formed to go to the schools to teach, to help grandfather with the rice, or with the families to the rice paddies, forests, waters, construction places and farmer’s homes, according to the season and your priorities.

Program Start Date and Duration

Our program starts when the volunteer arrives and lasts for the length of time determined by the volunteer. You can choose to stay for two weeks all the way up to one year. On the day after arrival all volunteers receive a program orientation and are given the opportunity to rest after meeting the other volunteers and team members. Orientation covers everything you need to know for your volunteer program including an introduction to Thailand, the village, Thai customs, rules and expectations, safety, points of interests in Isan and the surrounding area and introduction to the running projects. The orientation will also give you a chance to meet other volunteers and swap contact details for weekend travel and socializing.

Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers must be over 18 years of age at the beginning of the program and serious about working. While it is possible to have lots of fun here, this is not a “vacation.” Thai authorities require a clean criminal record, but exceptions can be made after the interview process. As an organization we are obliged to forward a copy of your criminal record to the Thai authorities in Udon Thani. The volunteers therefore need to acquire this information by the relevant authorities in their homeland. We do not accept sex-offenders under any circumstances.

Volunteers must have adequate travel insurance and a valid Thai Visa. Since Visa rules sometimes change we will gladly offer you our support if needed.
Example of Possible Daily Life

06:30 breakfast and morning meeting, dividing into teams for the day
07:00 team 1: supporting grandfather with the rice drive around the villages
08:00 team 2: Thai lessons
10:00 departure to the assigned project place
12:00 lunch
13:00 work continues at the project place
16:00 work at the placement ends and the evening is free for you: relaxing, cooking cleaning, and discussions with other volunteers

Weekends

As the working week runs from Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sunday is considered the weekend for volunteers. During the weekends, volunteers have spare time and usually just relax in the village or take the opportunity to explore other parts of northeastern Thailand. Volunteers can book weekend trips for themselves. You can easily reach Amphoe Phen or Udon Thani by bus to spend a day in the city.

Being that you are in a rural village, you never know what will pop-up. There is no set schedule here and the villagers do not have the same concept of a weekend here as in the West. There may be nothing to do Saturday morning, but by the afternoon your day may fill up.

Confirmation

At the end of the stay volunteers get an official confirmation certificate from our organization as proof of your active participation. This certificate can be presented to potential future employers, and thus have a positive impact on one’s future career.
Volunt-2Thai Expenses

V2T “Expenses” and Infrastructure

Volunt-2Thai is a Non Profit Organization, it is not selling a service. V2T Campus & Cultural Centre is a commune, monthly expenses, e.g. regular maintenance, gas, electricity, communication and food need to be covered. Therefore, we do ask volunteers to contribute 114 Euro per week. Basic groceries will be provided weekly in the fridge in the V2T Village. Further costs covered by this 114 Euro are teaching material & tools, transportation fleet, administrative overhead costs, communication, marketing and PR. These funds are necessary to keep the development and expansion of the organization and projects ongoing as well as for legal processes.

Where Does Your Donation/Sponsorship Go?

Donations and Sponsoring are used for any ongoing projects and further extension of the V2T Village. We want to help to support the children with a solid education and fair chances to develop, so that they can finally breakaway from the huge poverty in this rural area. Any help is warmly welcomed to provide the children a positive future.

Our V2T Village is a centre for encounter, including the the “V2T “Language Cafe and Bookclub”. Aim is to teach the children and adults English and general knowledge in a fun way, even next to their English classes in school. V2T is a learning- and recreational centre where the children of the villages are always welcomed.

Other Costs

Other costs include a valid Visa for Thailand, airline tickets, travel insurance (required) certificate of good conduct, vaccinations, public transportation and pocket money for your free time. Further food, for example fruit, dairy products or soft drinks, can be bought easily on the markets and little shops nearby. We offer to pick you up from the airport in Udon Thani at your arrival, but we kindly ask for 1000 baht transport costs. Most volunteers simply take the green bus from Rangsina Market, Udon Thani that brings you directly to us.
Why Volunt2Thai?

Volunt2Thai is a very young organization but well grown and we are constantly developing this fascinating venture. The involvement, ideas and feedback of volunteers play a major role in our development and will shape the organization in the long run.

This leads to a unique opportunity for you! On the one hand you actively contribute to society through your social work as a volunteer as well as play an important role in the building and further development of this social enterprise and its projects.

This creates an outstanding win-win situation for everyone involved. The people in the communities and especially the children benefit from education and contact with “Westerners” and the money spent here creates direct additional income for the families that live here. You as a volunteer make a valuable contribution and the experiences here have a great effect on your personal development.

Furthermore, you have the opportunity to co-develop a social relief project and to become a lasting team member of the emerging organization. Through the input of volunteers, Volunt2Thai prospers and grows continuously in an organic way, and it develops into a sustainable organization “by volunteers for volunteers”.

WHY Volunt2Thai?
V2T FAQ’s

**Visa:** Visa requirements vary depending on the following factors: your purpose of travel, length of stay, nationality and place of residence. All volunteers need to ensure they have a passport that is valid for 6 months from entry.

**Purpose of Travel:** Your trip will fall under the category of volunteering and requires an invitation letter which our organization will provide. With this letter of invitation you can apply at any Thai embassy for a non immigrant O Visa, which allows you to stay for three months with a one month extension, three times, adding up to one year.

**Currency:** Thai Bhat (THB). We recommend checking out the most current exchange rate before your departure.

**Managing Your Money:** We recommend bringing no less than 200 United States Dollars or Euros to keep in case of emergencies, and a VISA or Mastercard credit/debit card to withdraw cash in the local currency. ATMs are accessible when needed. However, cards are not accepted in the village.

**Phone and Internet:** You can bring your own mobile phone but make sure your phone is “unlocked” and can accept a Thai SIM card. You can buy a calling and data package from one of the big three Mobile network operators which all have booths in the airport.

Usually, after the card is put in the phone, you wait a very short time and you’ll get a welcome SMS telling you the service is activated. The staff will help you. You can also get them at places like convenience stores, shopping centers, supermarkets, and any phone sales booth.

A Thai mobile number is very affordable and is great for keeping in touch with other volunteers as well as home. Both international and local/long distance calls can be made. Please note, the country code of Thailand is +66.

Find all important FAQ’s online: http://www.volunt2thai.com/faq-s
V2T Safety

Thailand is a developing country where there can often be unrest and like all countries around the world there are areas where criminal activity is more prevalent than others. Safety and security is a high priority for Volunt2Thai and you will not be in an area where we feel your safety is at risk.

You will be accommodated and placed with other volunteers so it is unlikely that you will ever be alone during your time in the program and we do everything in our power to ensure your stay with us is as safe and secure as possible.

Volunt2Thai is based in Ban Nong Phong, the town you live in, and we work closely with the village families. If you have any concerns we encourage you to discuss these with us. During orientation, we will provide guidance in the area of safety and security and in the unlikely event that something was to happen, you will be able to call the project manager for support 24/7.

Vaccinations: At least 4 to 6 weeks prior to your start date we recommend visiting a travel doctor to discuss vaccinations because some shots are given twice, a month apart. Your doctor will advise you of the benefits and implications of these vaccinations so you can make an informed decision. We REQUIRE the following vaccinations:

- Polio
- Hepatitis A
- Diphtheria/Tetanus
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis B
- Tuberculosis (when epidemic)
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Yellow Fever (This vaccination is only legally required if coming from the Amazon or Africa)

Malaria medication is up to the discretion of the individual.
What’s Next

Browse our website and apply online. Within 48 hours, you will receive an email from us, informing you of whether there is space in our program. After the interview process and your stay has been confirmed, we ask for upfront payment of 50% of the total weeks you stay with us. The remaining amount, the balance is payable on arrival.

This is to show that you are serious about being a member of Volunt2Thai, to ensure that your spot is reserved and that someone else doesn’t miss an opportunity. This is an aid project and it survives off of donations and volunteer efforts. If someone reserves a spot and does not show or leaves early, not only will the school and/or farmers be without help, but that position could have gone to someone else.