



help...
learn...
explore!



MARINE CONSERVATION

IN THAILAND

Teaching & Projects Abroad are working on a variety of important conservation initiatives on the tropical, west coast of Thailand. A proportion of the work involves scuba diving and all volunteers will be trained up to Advanced Level, so they can fully participate in the underwater projects.



Recording fish species

■ Mangrove Project:

Mangrove forests are one of the most productive and bio diverse wetlands on earth. These unique coastal tropical forests are among the most threatened habitats in the world. Healthy mangrove forests are key to a healthy marine ecology. Volunteers are helping to monitor the mangrove forests in Krabi province to prevent further destruction and assist with reforestation projects in this beautiful yet fragile area of Thailand.

■ Beach Clean-up work:

The effect of the tsunami combined with waste left by tourists and locals means that many of the beaches on the west coast and on the islands are in need of clearing. Volunteers have recently visited several nearby islands to spend a couple of days clearing the beaches of litter, moving rocks from shallow water and removing dead foliage and fallen trees.

The Dive Centre, where volunteers learn to dive, is located in the small coastal town of Ao Nang, about 20km from Krabi, on the Andaman Coast of Thailand. Volunteers live in a shared house just a few minutes drive outside of Ao Nang with the other conservation volunteers and a Teaching & Projects Abroad member of staff.

■ Conservation projects in which we are currently involved include:

■ Reef checks:

The mapping of local dive sites and recording of coral and marine life is important in conserving these areas of outstanding natural beauty, and crucial to the local economy. Volunteers will be taught how to map and record data at the sites, helping to learn more about the marine environment and the best way in which it can be protected. We are also monitoring a new artificial reef system.

■ Salvage Diving:

Removing waste like fishing nets, anchors, non-degradable plastic rubbish and some naturally produced debris is vital in the preservation of the reef system. Recovered salvage is weighed once dry on the surface and records are kept before the safe disposal of the collected items.



Sea Turtle



Volunteers at Mangrove Site



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■ Quotes from volunteers...

"My first dive in the sea where I saw a sea turtle and just watching it swim through the water was my most memorable moment... I really enjoyed my time in Ao Nang and would recommend it to other people. I want to say that the staff at the dive centre were superb and were one of the main reasons I enjoyed myself so much."

■ Alex O'Callaghan



■ Mapping the reef

"The conservation project has offered me more than I could hope to get out of it. I had passed my Open Water Diver Certification before I arrived, and through Teaching & Projects Abroad have passed both my Advanced and Rescue Diver Certifications here, which has given me the competence to make a real difference".

"So far I have done a lot of underwater clean up work, removing fishing nets and debris from the reefs. I have been involved in beach clean-up operations, and I have got actively involved in the global Reef Check project, which involves monitoring local reefs to assess the threats to marine life and make decisions on what can be done to protect the reefs".

"The Teaching & Projects Abroad staff here have been working for years in conjunction with Thailand Marine National Parks, and have a superb understanding of the local ecosystems which means the volunteers quickly learn about the needs of the area and can make an active difference, which, for me, has been very satisfying. In addition, the spectacular marine life here has made diving a bit of an addiction for me!"

■ Liam Farncombe

"The experience was amazing and I'd definitely recommend it to others."

■ Holly Forshaw



■ On the Dive Boat



Teaching & Projects Abroad

Further information...

If you would like more information on this or any other projects, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, our staff are always happy to help!



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