

# Huay Pu Keng Workshops

Contact: Aye Maung: [hpkvillage@gmail.com](mailto:hpkvillage@gmail.com) | +66 093-191-2920

Charlotte Louwman-Vogels: [info@fairtourism.nl](mailto:info@fairtourism.nl)

<https://www.fairtourism.nl>



**Bamboo cut**  
(cup, bottle,  
or bell making)  
400 THB (1.5 hrs)



'We are the village of Kayan, Kayaw, Red Karen, Pakayor and Tai Yai that is open all year round and offers different community-based tourism activities to visitors.'

**Kayan doll carving**  
500 THB  
(full-day:  
9.00-16.00)



**Brass bracelet making**  
500 THB (2 hrs)



**Weaving**  
400 THB (2.5 hrs)



**Homestay**  
400 THB / night  
Stay with a local family and learn more about Karen cultures.

- Brass ring making
- Catapult making
- Cave excursion
- Cooking class
- Medicinal plants hike
- Rice pounding
- Small boat making
- Traditional dancing session
- Tree planting (reforestation)
- Wooden bracelet, ring, or spoon making

Take your self-made product back home!



400 THB

300 THB

300 THB

300 THB

400 THB

300 THB

500 THB

Donation basis

300 THB

400 THB



\*Homestay and workshops are excluding food. We are more than happy to prepare you a meal (100 THB per meal).

\*\*Price for each workshop/homestay is per person.

## About Fair Tourism

Fair Tourism Foundation works enthusiastically on sustainable tourism since 1989. To create awareness, we develop educational materials and organize workshops and study trips about sustainable tourism. Furthermore, we assist communities with the development of community based tourism (CBT).

## About our project with the Kayan people

Indigenous people are often used to act as tourist attractions, like the Maasai in Kenya and the Jarawa tribe on India's Andaman Islands. For nearly seven years, we are involved with the Kayan in Thailand, mostly with Huay Pu Keng village, who made the transition towards CBT. A great part of this tribe (subgroup of the Karenni people) from Myanmar, fled to Thailand in the eighties and nineties, to escape violence and forced labour by the military junta in their home country. Together with other hilltribes from Myanmar, they were settled in refugee camps along the border. If it wasn't for their neckrings & other ornaments worn by the female members, they would still be there. But tourism in Thailand was just starting up and the Thai government brought them over to villages to act as a tourist attraction. They are now a mere photo opportunity, with no further interaction with tourists. An increasing amount of tour operators and tourists boycott show villages because of their exploitative nature. The Kayan and other ethnic minorities have a very interesting culture and valuable skills they can share with tourists, like weaving, woodcarving and making things from bamboo. Fair Tourism is dedicated to assist these communities to make the transition from being show villages towards CBT, that fosters meaningful encounters leading to mutual understanding and respect.

Since 2017, Huay Pu Keng offers a range of workshops, meals and homestay to tourists. This village is now the first and only Kayan village in Thailand that has made the transition towards CBT. Tour operators, like Fox, Better Places and Destination Asia, are offering these CBT activities to their clients. Also, Lonely Planet and Floortje Dessing (with her TV-show "Floortje naar het einde van de wereld") featured this project in the media.

We are now in the process of assessing if other Kayan people are also interested to offer CBT activities. Since Thailand pledges zero statelessness in 2024, we hope that show villages in Thailand will be ancient history and that Kayan and other ethnic minorities can decide for themselves if and how they want to work in tourism. So that tourism is not exploiting but empowering them.

**We are looking for partnerships and funding to elevate our projects. Please get in touch if you are interested to collaborate with us!**

Also, have a look at the following sites & videos to learn more about the Kayan:

- "Like we don't exist" & "Kayan: beyond the rings" (both on Vimeo)
- TEDx UCSD: Learning from the Karenni Refugees
- Huay Pu Keng village (on Facebook & Instagram)

