



# Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip

## Udon Thani, Thailand

Dates: Nov. 13– 26, 2010

Code: gv11339

Skills: none required (*but a wicked sense of humor helps*)

Team: 14-16 Volunteers

Fee: \$1,480



**Situated in Southeast Asia**, Thailand is predominantly a Buddhist kingdom almost equidistant from India and China. At a migratory, cultural, and religious crossroads, Thai culture and traditions have been shaped by Indian, Chinese, Lao, Burmese, and Cambodian influences. Thailand’s four distinct geographic regions – Northern, Northeastern, Central, and Southern – blend to create a rich and diverse culture that is reflected in great food!

**Our work in Udon Thani** will be in the Northeast of Thailand (Isan), a bit off the beaten path and a perfect destination for those interested in absorbing Thai culture and tradition. Geographically, the province is located on a plateau covered with rice fields, forests, and hills. The Phu Pan mountain range and the Songkhram River (a tributary of the Mekong River) are the province’s two primary natural attractions, and are home to waterfalls, natural parks, forest temples, Khmer ruins, Mi-khit (silk) cloth making, and evidence of one of the world’s most ancient bronze-age civilizations. Udon Thani’s proximity to Vientiane (the capital of Laos) and the Mekong River, as well as its agricultural bounty make it a market, transportation, and trade center for the region.

**Nationally, some 8.2 million Thai live in substandard housing.** As the poorest region in Thailand, the housing need in the Northeast is great.

HFH Thailand’s houses are typically 36 sq. m. each in size and the design features the use of concrete interlocking blocks or concrete hollow blocks with a tiled roof. **On-site volunteers can expect to move dirt, move blocks, dig septic tanks, bend rebar, mix concrete, pour concrete and lay block under the supervision of a local foreman.**

*No previous construction skill or experience is required.*



**A typical work day** starts with breakfast at our hotel about 7:30am. We then travel to our work site in one of Udon Thani’s surrounding villages in order to begin work at about 8:00am. A traditional Thai lunch will be served on the build site at about noon. Snacks and bottled water are always available at the site and breaks are encouraged throughout the day. Once our work day is over (around 5:00pm), it’s back to the hotel to clean-up, explore or relax in preparation for a group dinner at a local restaurant at about 6:30pm, and take advantage of free time in the evening. *Throughout our stay we’ll pepper the itinerary with short tours/visits to local markets, museums, festivals, orphanages, sporting events, schools, and historic sites.*



### **Tentative Itinerary**

Nov. 13: Depart for Thailand.

Nov. 14: Travel day.

Nov. 15: Arrive in Udon Thani; welcome and orientation with local staff; visit project sites and families; welcome dinner.

Nov. 16–19: Typical work days

Nov. 20–21: Free day; local activities.

Nov. 22–24: Typical work days.

Nov. 25: Work day and Dedication and farewell ceremony with community.

Nov. 26: Depart for home or extended travel.

**The posted fee includes** all meals, transportation, accommodations, cultural activity expenses, insurance, and a contribution to our HFH host affiliate to help build more homes in Thailand. Team members are free to make their own travel arrangements to and from Udon Thani—that cost is not included in the trip fee. A general recommendation is for each participant to bring along \$100 per week for personal expenses (gifts, indulgences, adult beverages...).

**We'll stay in a local hotel** with participants sharing double-occupancy rooms and bath. In the past, teams have used the Karin Hotel in Udon Thani, complete with AC in each room. Another hotel amenity is the onsite 2-hour Thai massage for 300 baht (less than \$10).

**November in the Northeast of Thailand falls in the “cool season,”** after their rainy season which ends in September. Temperatures during the day will likely be in the mid-80s, but can dip into the low 70s. Nights are generally mild, but can get chilly, dipping as low as 50 on occasion. It should be dry and sunny with about 60% humidity (fairly comfortable) for most our time in Udon Thani, but we could experience an uncharacteristic rain shower.

**Udon Thani can be a good jumping-off point for extended travel** to other areas of Thailand like the exotic, bustling city of Bangkok; the northern mountains surrounding Chiang Mai; or the famed beach resorts and activities (diving and rock climbing) on the Gulf side like Pattaya, or Phuket on the Andaman Sea. All areas are reachable from Udon Thani by air, train, or car.



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**To apply for this or any other Global Village experience,** navigate to the web address above and complete an online application. Read through the important *How to Apply* details before continuing on to the application itself by clicking the blue *Apply Online Now* button at the bottom of the page. You can indicate your interest in this trip on the second page of the application by selecting "Thailand" in the country pop-up menu and completing the adjacent availability date fields (11/13/2010 to 11/26/2010). You can also indicate your interest in potential opportunities in other parts of the world while you're there. Once your application is forwarded to me, we'll stay in touch as we prepare for a fantastic and worthwhile adventure in Thailand.

**Dave Kovac** has led somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 Global Village teams throughout the world to familiar and not-so-familiar locations such as Kenai, Alaska; Bungoma, Kenya; Ifakara, Tanzania; Cape Town, South Africa; Braga, Portugal; Puebla, Mexico; Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Barskoon, Kyrgyzstan; Veles, Macedonia; and Denver, Colorado. Patient, creative, positive, and fun (notice no mention of construction skills), Dave is always planning a new adventure, and can be reached via email or phone at the following address/number: [davekovac@innovistas.com](mailto:davekovac@innovistas.com) • (541) 250-0677 (Pacific Time).

