

Visiting the Moken - Guidelines for Visitors

Your visit makes a difference

By visiting the village, joining in their unique way of life, and exploring the local ecosystems, you help the Moken protect their culture and environment.

The following guidelines were developed in cooperation with the Moken Tourism Team. To promote intercultural understanding and respect, they ask that visitors to adhere to the following:

... for your personal health:

- Drink plenty of water, the salty environment speeds the process of dehydration
- Cover up in the sun, wear a hat and protect your skin
- Prepare for ants and mosquitoes in the forest behind the village.
- The sand will be hot, so feel free to bring your shoes.

... for the general good:

- Please cover up when you enter the village by wearing a shirt and shorts – you will find the Moken much more welcoming if you follow this basic dress code
- If you are invited into a house, please take off your shoes before you enter
- When taking photographs, please make sure this happens in agreement with the people in front of your lenses
- If you need a bathroom in the village, please ask your guide
- Please leave coral and shells on the beach
- Please leave only your recyclables in the village
- Support the community by purchasing local crafts – beautiful woven baskets, mats, and more along with intricately carved boats

Responsibility and Behavior

Surrounded by national park, the Moken have observed many tourists moving in and out of their community, yet with little possibility of direct interaction. Imagine for a moment that groups of under-dressed camera-wielding strangers passed in front of your house every day. Consider how you would feel, and bear this in mind when planning your visit to the village.

In being interested in the Moken you empower them to be proud of their culture. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to participate in local activities and explore Moken mythology.

Make sure to promote responsible behavior and only share the best parts of your culture. For example, being part of a kid's game is more fun than showing your new camera and the picture you took of the village elder.

