

Dear The Permaculture Podcast Listeners,

I want to support The Permaculture Podcast and Scott Mann and while I could donate some money, I would say money is the capital form of which I may have the least surplus. In the past I have sent Scott and his family some of our natural products. This was more interesting, but postage cost is high (from Thailand) and I think Scott also needs money.

So my proposition is that I donate to Scott and his family a sort of Permaculture - Self-Reliance Movement tour for 3 days here in Thailand.

While I would really be happy to host Scott and his family, my thought here is that this tour, my gift, could be offered to another listener(s), who could donate money to Scott to the podcast and receive this tour. Thus my gift passes to someone else who may have already been planning a trip to Thailand and might want to get hooked up with the movement here.

My proposed tour is 3 days (2 nights) for 2 adults (and 1 or 2 children if you have children). I would inform how to get to my place from Bangkok. (I am about 2 hours from Bangkok). While there is quite a bit of flexibility as to what you could see, learn, and do, I can lay out a basic schedule.

Day 1

Arrive before lunch. Lunch at my place (with our rice and vegetables and fruit if we have it in season). Meet my family. See our adobe coffee shop, see our backyard garden. See my wife's natural product business. Can discuss about how we have worked our land and water management to be in line with Permaculture / Wanakaset / Self-Reliance principles.

Have a fresh espresso drink or chapuccino from our place.

Head to Wanakaset. (about 20 mins away). Settle into your rooms there.

Walk the grounds and learn about Wanakaset principles and the uses of a Wanakaset forest (food / herb/ etc) And a bit about technique you might apply to convert an open land, cropland, orchard, or other into a Wanakset forest.

Evening- if hot, perhaps we go to the lake for a swim at the lake and have dinner there. Return to settle and relax. If you want to see a video or slides, we can do that, or just take it easy.

Day 2. If you want to get up early and watch birds or take a walk or do yoga or meditation most welcome. Wanakaset team will help prepare you breakfast.

Probably rice soap with a mixture of rice varieties, grains and vegetables. (you can let us know about your diet so we can prepare to be in line)

Today we have a couple choices, if you want to learn how to make natural products, we can focus on this. We cannot do everything, but you can learn a few products. Or I can take you to visit other farms in our network to see how other farmers are applying Wanakaset and Permaculture.

Things you might learn to make include:

Natural Soap, Kaffir Lime Shampoo, Tamarind Face Wash, Virgin Coconut oil, Herbal Oil, Herbal Balm (like a Tiger Balm), Natural lip balm, basic mosquito repellent, sugar from sugar cane juice, basic herbal teas, jackfruit chips .....

As written above we could not do all, but depending on your interest (and some are more complex), you might learn 3 different products in a full day.

If we visit farms, we could visit different friends of mine who also have integrated organic / wanakaset farms and do cool stuff.

If we are focused on learning to make products we should be at Wankaset or my home for most of the day. If we are out visiting we would come back to Wanakaset in the afternoon / evening.

After dinner, happy to discuss more, and guide you in a learning process (if that is desired) about what you have seen during the day.

Day 3. After another (different breakfast menu) I might take you to Khao Hinsorn Agricultural Development Center. This is center developed by the King of Thailand to teach self-sufficiency agriculture. There is a lot to see there, but as the land was developed from being very poor land with little water, to now a very productive and green places, using technologies like: swales, planting on contour, plants for erosion control, water catchment pond, this may be interesting for a Permaculturalist.

We could finish there by lunch and then after lunch (perhaps at my house). We might wrap up the visit. I would offer you some of our natural products as a souvenir and send you on your way.

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Some details. Lodging at Wanakaset is very simple. Small rooms with floor mattresses, cover sheet, blanket, Thai pillow and mosquito net. Fan in room. (no A/C). Bathrooms are separated. Most toilets are Asian style (squat toilets). No hot water for showers. However most of the year it is rather hot and humid with highs over 30 C and lows over 20 C. Otherwise location is like living in a tropical forest, which means lizards, other insects, and most bothersome- mosquitos during evening. Wanakaset does have electricity and wifi- but always a chance that the internet is down. I can provide more details later.

This hosting is like hosting friends, (as I would expect to host Scott and his family)- not a tour company. So even as my guests, you would also need to understand that I have obligations to my family as well and may need to give them some attention as well, even if we are working to host you.

I think this would be ideal for 2 persons and a fair donation to Scott for 2 persons (adults) might be \$200 USD. If a larger group wants to exchange for this gift, then we need to discuss more. But basically I think an additional donation to Scott of 50 USD per additional adult, but then here I would request 50 USD per additional adult. I will start bearing more cost for fuel, food, contribution towards Wanakaset for lodging and so forth, and while I am happy to have The Permaculture Podcast benefit, I would like most of my investment to not be in the form of financial capital, but sharing my knowledge, skills, network, surplus from our farm, etc.