

WORLDWISE EDVENTURES

Outdoor Education · Experiential Learning · Sustainable Tourism

Khao Yai Experiential Eco-Learning Centre

KYEEC — General Information for Schools

Centre Address: Khao Yai Eco-Learning Park, 108 Moo 7, Ban Ngot Ngong, Wang Sai, Amphoe Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130, Thailand

Centre Phone: [TBC]

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1. Background

Khao Yai Experiential Eco-Learning Centre (KYEEC) is the forest, biodiversity and eco-learning campus of Worldwide Edventures. Set on the lower northern flank of the Khao Yai range, the centre was developed to give student groups close, structured access to one of the oldest and most ecologically diverse national parks in mainland South-East Asia.

Programmes at KYEEC are built around field-science learning: forest-ecology transects, mammal and bird surveys, water-quality monitoring, dark-sky observation and night-fauna fieldwork. Service-learning components partner with local schools, agricultural cooperatives and conservation projects in the Pak Chong area. The centre's location on the Eco-Learning Park gives groups a working sustainable-agriculture and reforestation site as a daily classroom, alongside scheduled visits into the national park itself.

Educational focus: *biodiversity, ecology, conservation, sustainability, hiking and night-fauna fieldwork.*

2. Khao Yai & Pak Chong

Khao Yai National Park, established in 1962, was Thailand's first national park and is part of the Dong Phrayayen–Khao Yai Forest Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The park covers more than 2,000 km² of evergreen forest, grassland and waterfalls across four provinces, and supports populations of Asian elephant, gaur, sambar deer, gibbons, hornbills and many other species.

KYEEC sits in Wang Sai sub-district of Pak Chong, on the Khao Yai foothills around 200 km north-east of Bangkok and 50 km from Nakhon Ratchasima city. The centre is on the eastern approach to the park, around 30–40 minutes from the main park entrance. The surrounding landscape is a patchwork of vineyards, dairy farms, mango and corn farms, and small forest reserves.

Distance from Suvarnabhumi International Airport: approximately 200 km / 2.5–3 hours by road. Don Mueang International Airport: approximately 180 km / 2.5 hours. *[TBC: confirm preferred transfer route and any seasonal road considerations on Mittraphap Highway.]*

3. Climate

Khao Yai sits at a higher elevation than the surrounding lowlands, which moderates daytime temperatures and produces noticeably cooler nights — a welcome feature for student groups.

Cool / dry season (November to February): the most popular period for visiting groups. Daytime temperatures of 22–28°C, nighttime temperatures often dropping to 10–15°C, and clear skies. Warm layers are essential for evening activities, particularly night safaris.

Hot season (March to May): daytime temperatures of 30–35°C, with afternoon and evening thunderstorms common. The forest remains shaded and comfortable; activity blocks are scheduled to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Wet season (June to October): warm, humid, and lush. Trails and waterfalls are at their most spectacular, but heavy rain may briefly close trails or roads. Schedules are flexed accordingly.

Note: agricultural burning haze can affect air quality in February–March; the centre monitors AQI daily and adjusts activity in line with our Air Quality policy.

4. Thai Etiquette

Thai value systems regarding dress, social behaviour, religion, authority figures and sexuality are more conservative than those of the average overseas visitor. Thais are extremely tolerant and forgiving when it comes to the behaviour of non-Thais, but a few simple courtesies help avoid embarrassment and misunderstanding.

- Revealing clothing should be avoided. Skimpy tops and shorts are not seen as polite dress. In particular, in temples, shoulders and legs above the knee should be covered. Students working in schools or community settings should dress as a teacher would. Swimwear is restricted to the pool / beach area, and shirts should be worn elsewhere on the centre
- The head is the most sacred part of the body and should not be touched. The feet are the least sacred — when sitting, they should not point at anyone. Putting feet up on a coffee table is considered offensive. When sitting on the floor, sit cross-legged or with your legs tucked behind you
- It is common practice to leave shoes outside homes and temples. Most Thais wear easy slip-on footwear for this reason
- Shaking hands is rare. The common greeting is the wai — palms placed together as in prayer with the head slightly lowered. There is no need to wai someone younger or junior; a simple nod and a smile is sufficient

Our staff appreciate students who are courteous and polite. Acknowledging a small service such as a refilled water jug with a smile and a nod, or — better still — a “khop khun kha” (female speaker) or “khop khun khap” (male speaker), is always warmly received.

5. Accommodation

Students stay in dedicated student lodgings on the Eco-Learning Park (*4 -10 : students per room, number of student rooms, 50 -60 total capacity*). Bathrooms are shared on a per-room basis. Teacher rooms are alongside the student accommodation, in a mix of singles and twins (*5: teacher room counts*). Bedding and towels are provided.

- Daily housekeeping during programme weeks
- Wi-Fi available in common areas
- Drinking-water dispensers throughout the site

- Warm bedding for cool-season nights

Teachers are asked to inspect rooms each morning at 08:15.

6. Dining

Meals are served buffet-style in the centre's dining hall and use produce from the Eco-Learning Park's own gardens and partner farms wherever possible. Breakfast offers Asian and Western options; lunch and dinner are predominantly Thai, with milder versions of dishes available and chilli sauces for those who want more. Vegetarian, halal and most other dietary needs can be accommodated. The no-nut policy for student food applies.

- Drinking water at all meals and from refill stations across the site
- Students are asked to take sensible portions and to return used dishes after eating
- Allergies and special requirements should be confirmed in advance

7. Student Facilities

KYEEC's facilities are designed to support experiential learning in a natural environment, with a focus on sustainability, reflection, and outdoor living rather than large-scale adventure infrastructure.

- Food forest, composting systems, and reforestation plots used as hands-on learning spaces
- Excellent location for stargazing due to low surrounding light pollution
- Common student lounge for reflection sessions, journaling, games, and group activities
- On-site recreational facilities include badminton, football, tennis court, organic swimming pool, and board games

8. Programmes & Daily Schedule

The programme will have been agreed with the visiting school before arrival. Changes during the visit can be made if logistically possible; weather and other external factors may also force adjustments.

Programmes are led by Worldwide instructors, which gives accompanying teachers flexibility in how they engage with the group. Teachers are very welcome to participate fully and to lead any activity they feel comfortable with — including evening sessions.

The general daily pattern is below, with some flexibility:

- 07:00 — Wake up
- 07:30 — Breakfast
- 08:15 — Room inspection
- 08:30 — Meet at briefing area
- 08:45 — Activities begin
- 12:00 — Lunch
- 13:30 — Briefing
- 13:45 — Activities
- 17:00 — Free time
- 18:00 — Dinner
- 19:00 — Evening activities
- 20:00 — Free time

Lights-out times depend on the age group, but we ask that a curfew is set and enforced — tired students under-perform and are at greater risk of accidents.

Suggested latest lights-out:

- Junior students: 21:30
- Middle school: 22:00
- Seniors: 22:30

Our night-duty staff have been instructed to contact the teacher in charge if students are seen out of their rooms or making undue noise after midnight.

Note for KYEEC: field-science programmes routinely include early-morning and after-dark activity blocks (dawn bird transects, dusk and night-fauna walks). Lights-out times are aligned with the next day's schedule rather than rigidly applied.

9. Kit List

A full kit list is provided in the separate Worldwide Edventures Kit List document, which covers requirements common to all centres plus centre-specific additions. Schools should distribute it together with this General Information document.

In summary, students should bring: a good day pack, a 1-litre water bottle, sturdy trainers (plus an old pair for water activities), sandals, long trousers and long-sleeve shirts (×2 of each), shorts (×2), T-shirts (×4), swimwear, a lightweight waterproof jacket, sun protection, insect repellent, a wash kit, personal medication and a torch (head torch preferred).

Please do not bring expensive clothes, jewellery, or unnecessary electronics.

10. A Few Simple Rules

- All school rules regarding smoking and consumption of alcohol apply at the centre
- Students should not enter others' rooms — and in particular not those of the opposite sex
- No chewing gum (the mess is significant)
- Swimming pool: a member of staff must be present at all times. No diving. Students should shower before entering the pool
- At no time should students use centre activity equipment (climbing wall, ropes course, kayaks, snorkelling gear etc.) without an instructor present
- Students should remain in the designated student areas of the centre and respect other guests' need for peace, particularly early in the morning and at night
- Dress appropriately throughout the centre — in line with Thai etiquette above
- No student should leave the site unless accompanied by an adult and only with the permission of the teacher in charge
- Inside Khao Yai National Park, all park rules apply: no feeding wildlife, no removal of plants, no off-trail walking, and no littering
- Students must remain in the group during forest walks; if separated, stay where you are and use the agreed whistle signal
- Night activity is in groups only, with at least one staff member, and only with head-torches working
- No swimming in waterfalls or streams unless specifically supervised by an instructor

11. Some Pointers for Teachers

- Our instructors welcome teacher involvement in any activity, but ask that during team and leadership challenges teachers take a back seat to allow students to make and learn from their own mistakes
- Please set and enforce a curfew. Suggested latest lights-out: 21:30 (juniors), 22:00 (middle school), 22:30 (seniors). Days are long and tiring; problems usually arise when curfews are not enforced
- Please have students in their rooms by 08:15 each morning for room inspection. Our housekeeping staff find rooms strewn with wet towels and dirty clothes very difficult to clean
- On departure, students should be in their rooms 15 minutes before departure time so staff can check rooms before students move to the meeting point
- Wi-Fi access for students is at teachers' discretion. Please request the password if you wish to allow access
- Air-conditioning in student rooms is opened at approximately 21:00 and closed at around 07:00 — students should be outside their rooms and engaged with the programme during the day. Exceptions are made for students who are unwell

12. Student Mobile Phones

We recommend that visiting schools adopt the policy below towards mobile phones. Ideally we would prefer students did not bring phones at all, but understand this can cause friction with parents.

Experience suggests that phone use during a programme should be carefully limited. A few illustrative cases:

Case 1

A student fell on a steep section of road and grazed her face. Before the instructor could reach her she had already called her mother, who became hysterical on hearing her daughter. The instructor then had to manage a far worse situation.

Case 2

A student feigned illness to avoid a hike, called home, and parents then telephoned the teacher in charge to insist the student be excused — undermining the teacher and the programme.

Case 3

A student turned an ankle on loose ground. The hospital confirmed a mild sprain requiring rest. A call home led the parent to insist on a cast and a return home for further investigation, despite the medical advice.

Case 4

A student called home repeatedly to complain about meals, despite extensive accommodation of dietary needs at the centre. Parents booked early flights home before consulting the teacher in charge.

Case 5

A student became the victim of social-media bullying from others on the same trip — turning what should have been a positive experience into a distressing one.

The vast majority of students get through the week without thinking about home, and we feel that a “no contact with home” week is part of the experience.

Recommended approach:

- Students inform parents on or shortly after arrival that they have arrived safely
- Phones are then collected by visiting staff for safe-keeping, returned shortly before departure
- Parents are informed in advance that, in case of emergency only, they may contact the teacher in charge or the centre directly

In-house rule: phones are not to be taken on activities or brought to the dining area. Centre emergency line: **[TBC]**.

13. Code of Conduct & Policies

Worldwise Edventures maintains a written suite of policies — Code of Conduct, Child Protection / Safeguarding, Outdoor Adventure Activities, Lightning Safety, Excessive Heat & Sun Exposure, Air Quality, and Work Health & Safety. The full document is provided separately. The summary below sets out the essentials.

A. Code of Conduct

Every member of the centre community should be well looked after, treated fairly, and feel valued and respected. In Thai culture this is a central aspect of daily life and so is also central to our philosophy.

Aim — to help all young people who visit the centre to:

- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Stay safe and be healthy

All visitors are expected to:

- Treat others fairly and courteously
- Respect other people's property and the environment
- Move around the centre without disturbing other groups
- Co-operate with other users
- Act in a safe and responsible manner

B. Child Protection / Safeguarding

The centre acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities and current best practice. All staff working with young people undergo a Criminal Record Check and a social-media check. Concerns must be reported immediately to the Head of Centre, who will discuss the matter with the lead teacher.

C. Outdoor Adventure Activities

All outdoor adventure activities are conducted with the safety of students paramount. Instructors hold relevant qualifications and first-aid training. A minimum of two adults including at least one teacher must accompany all activities, and supervision ratios specified for each activity must be followed.

Full text of all policies is provided in the centre's separate Policies document.

14. Health, Safety & Medical

The safety of all students is of paramount importance. A number of simple precautions should be taken.

Health

- Inoculations: visitors should be up to date with tetanus / polio boosters. For others (e.g. typhoid, hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis), please take medical advice
- Mosquito-borne illness: low risk in this area, but standard precautions are advised — effective insect repellent and long sleeves / trousers in the evenings
- Water: free bottled water is provided in rooms. Tap water is not potable; bottled water should also be used for brushing teeth

Safety

- Activity equipment (climbing wall, ropes, low beams, kayaks, snorkelling gear) is out of bounds unless supervised by an instructor
- Pool / water use: only when staff are present. Please shower before entering the pool. Where applicable, NO DIVING
- Sun and heat: hats, high-factor sunscreen and consistent hydration are essential. Water is provided at all meals, dispensers are around the centre, and water is supplied for all activities
- Fire: alarms are tested regularly. On hearing the alarm, students should leave their rooms via the nearest safe exit and assemble at the designated muster point, where a roll call will be taken

Medical

The centre maintains a comprehensive first-aid kit; mobile kits accompany all off-site fieldwork. The nearest local hospital is Pak Chong Nana Hospital (about 20–30 minutes by road); larger private hospitals are available in Pak Chong town and Nakhon Ratchasima city. Students requiring more than first-aid attention will be taken to hospital in the centre vehicle accompanied by a Thai-speaking member of staff.

- Pak Chong Nana Hospital, Pak Chong — Tel: 044 311 856 , 044 312 699
- Bangkok Hospital Khao Yai — Tel: 044 088 962 OR 1719
- Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital — Tel: 044 235 000

For serious incidents, the local emergency ambulance service will be called and patients stabilised before transfer. Major regional hospitals are listed below where applicable.

- Bangkok Hospital, Bangkok — Tel: 02 310 3000 (referral / specialist)

15. Dietary & Medical Issues

Schools are asked to share dietary requirements and medical issues before arrival. A request-for-information form will be sent several weeks ahead of the trip. Where information is confidential, it can be shared on arrival with the relevant instructors so that students can take part in activities safely.

We can cater for most dietary requirements (vegetarian, halal, dairy- or gluten-free, etc.) given reasonable notice.

16. Risk Assessments

All activities are risk-assessed; assessments are available on request. Climbing and high-ropes elements use only CE-rated equipment, the worldwide industry standard. All equipment is checked prior to use, logged, and replaced on a regular basis. All water-based activities require students to wear buoyancy aids that exceed the minimum buoyancy requirement. Each trip carries a full rescue kit.

All off-site treks and activities are accompanied by guides and instructors equipped with two-way radios or mobile phones. Most trek routes are within a few kilometres of vehicle-accessible tracks. Specific evacuation procedures are available on request.

17. Transport

Transport between the agreed pick-up location and the centre is by 10-seater minibuses, all of which have seat belts. A guide-instructor will meet the arriving group and organise the transfer; an additional vehicle will normally be on hand for luggage. Larger groups may travel by 44-seat coach (also fitted with seat belts).

All vehicles are instructed not to exceed 80 km/h on highways, and at least one adult is present in each vehicle in addition to the driver.

For local transfers, regional taxis (Songthaews / similar) may be used. These vehicles do not always have seat belts; an adult will travel in each vehicle and drivers are instructed to keep below 50 km/h. Schools may request seat-belted minibuses for local transfers at additional cost — please ask.

18. Insurance

Programme insurance: Allianz Ayudhya — Travel Agent NAC policy, covering the entire period on tour with us, including travel, accommodation, and activities, from pick-up to drop-off. Details available on application.

We strongly recommend that schools also secure their own travel insurance to cover flight cancellations, baggage loss and similar risks not covered by the programme policy.

19. Cancellation & Refund Policy

We are aware that the number of students attending may fluctuate from the original booking. Costings are based on the original number, but in certain circumstances we will refund part or all of the payment for individual students:

- Cancellation more than 30 days before arrival: 100% refund
- Cancellation 14–29 days before arrival: 50% refund
- Cancellation less than 14 days before arrival: no refund

Refunds may also be considered on compassionate grounds — for instance, where a student is unable to travel due to serious illness, family bereavement, or comparable circumstances.

Note: the non-refundable booking deposit is excluded from any refund calculation.