

WATER-BASED TOURISM

Koh Chang Eco-Tourism

BY VICKY WONG

RITUALS & REJUVENATION

NATURE CONNECTION

HOW MIGHT YOU IMAGINE NEW FORMS OF TOURISM AND TOURISM-BASED GROWTH TO OCCUR ON AN ISLAND SUCH AS KOH CHANG? ARE THERE WAYS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES (EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, IMPROVED ECOSYSTEMS, ETC.) WHILST ENABLING CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM (RESORTS, RESTAURANTS, PROGRAMMING, ETC.)?

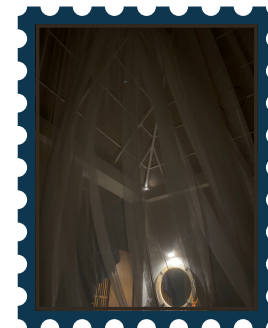
I imagine a new form of tourism and tourism-based growth on an island such as Koh Chang to be centered around water — through bathing and water rituals using outdoor bathtubs, salted pools, and waterfalls. During my stay in the Hill Double room at The Spa Resort for two nights and three days, I experienced such a vision firsthand. The room's outdoor bathtub invited me to reconnect with nature in simplicity and nakedness, grounding myself in my own body and stepping away from the hustle and bustle of city life in Bangkok.

I enjoyed the natural beauty of the mornings and nights, accompanied by the soothing sounds of geckos and birds. This experience brought me a tranquility and calmness I had forgotten in the stress and competition of everyday society.

This kind of water-focused tourism could also inspire improvements to the island's water infrastructure. Currently, tap water on Koh Chang runs slightly brown, due to heavy monsoon rains, runoff, and the limitations of the existing water treatment, piping, and maintenance systems. Honoring water through such rituals could motivate investments in better water storage, filtration, and treatment for the entire island.

Incorporating local flowers into these rituals would further strengthen the ecosystem, creating demand for sustainable cultivation and conservation of native species. Continued development of water-based resorts and programming would enhance the lush, fertile beauty of Koh Chang, while creating deeper connections to the surrounding environment. At the same time, it would promote respectful ecological practices and a philosophy of co-creation and harmonious coexistence.

Such tourism enables rejuvenation and balance, focusing on hygiene, energy efficiency, and allowing both body and mind to breathe and cleanse — all while remaining mindful of climate change and global warming. This approach supports the needs of the local community through employment in eco-friendly resorts, education about sustainability and water stewardship, and improved ecosystems that benefit both residents and visitors.



The Spa Koh Chang Resort

เลขที่ 15/4 หมู่ 4 ถนนสาย Koh Chang Tai

Ko Chang District

Trat 23170