The hidden gems of Thailand - Chanthaburi

Darmstadt, December 14, 2016 *** What is community based tourism? If you travel to Chanthaburi, you get a taste of what tourism could look like in future decades. A group of natives, who have profound experience in the hotel business, aim to create added value to their hometown. These people from the next generation believe that community based travel (CBT) is the most important tool to promote sustainable tourism and thus to create positive impact on the society and vice versa. So the mission of the tour operator Chanthaburi CBT Travel is to create sustainable tourism by expanding an alliance of good neighbors that share the same principle. The alliance means that communities and local residents are the first neighbor, the facilitator and the local guide are the second neighbor, accommodations are the third one and the tourist itself the fourth neighbor. Green Pearls® is going to have a deeper look how this works and what this region has to offer.
New destination - new local experience!

Chanthaburi is a province in the Eastern part of Thailand and capital of the rural district of Mueang Chanthaburi. Located on the coast line, it is 240 kilometers away from Bangkok and 140 kilometers from Pattaya and the gateway to Cambodia. Here, one can find a rich history, an abundance of natural resources and an authentic view into daily Thai life. For example at the picturesque Chao Lao Beach, travellers will mainly meet locals. It is an ideal piece of nature for a holiday with little kids. Nearby the Laem Sadet Beach (which provides excellent swimming options), visitors may explore the Krung Krabaen Bay Nature Nature Centers, a beautiful mangrove forest.

Let's go local with the Chanthaburi Riverside Community

Located in the heart of Chanthaburi, with over 300 years of history, this community inherits cultures from Chinese, Vietnamese and Thais. Along the Sukhapibam Road, you will find beautiful and well-renovated historical houses in colonial style. Baan Luang Rajamaitri is UNESCO's award winning project, another highlight is the 108 year old Chanthaburi Cathedral, the most beautiful Gothic cathedral in Thailand. Here, travellers can taste local street food, visit noodle shops and restaurants and experience the real Thai local life! There are organised tours with a local
Chanthaburi handicraft - cool stuff from cool locals

Chathaboon Mat is not a Thai signature dish, it is the most famous handicraft of Thailand. The collection includes handbags, shoes, bed sheets, wallets etc. A visit of "Samed Ngham Mat Weaving" village of Chanthaburi gives an exclusive impression how precious these items are: there are 40 steps required to make only one peace. From plantation, coloring, weaving and finishing, visitors are invited to test their talent and join in the production: Meet local handicraft man and try to colour the reed. A very different view of consumption and value of things.

Uncle Tom - the oyster man

Chanthaburi is considered to be one of the most important areas for fishery in the East of Thailand. Therefore, an absolute must is the local experience at the Fisherman Village of Baan Thachalap. A short boat trip provides a backstage view into oyster farming and the preserving of ecological systems. Join the CSR activities such as
water forest plantation or making equipment to help fishermen building fish and shellfish nursery area. As a culinary highlight: taste the delicious seafood - fresh from the farm to the table!

Rice, we need more rice!

From July to November, Nong Chim Village of Chanthaburi is the spot where local farmers are practising an originating rice plantation system. During a bike tour, surrounded by a beautiful mountain scenery, the local tour leader will jointly explore the rice village in detail including the small house that makes hats for farmers, the local pastry shops and the small village temple. The Phliew Waterfall and National Park as well as the Tha Chak Yai Temple are also on the spot. Enjoy streetfood with rice and join a cooking class - among Thais, Chanthaburi is known as the city that has the most delicious local cuisine!

Precious little diamonds........

A hundred year's history in Gems mining - this is Chanthaburi too. It is the world's capital of Gems and very innovative in Gems heating and polishing works. Over 80 per cent of the world's Gems colour stones are processed in small factories in Chanthaburi. A visit of a small Gems mine in Bangkaja, the origin of Chanthaburi
Gems, is a real turn back to history. See how each and every piece of precious stones are discovered and experience the life of local Gems hunters. The Gems museum, the factory and the local Gems market in the city finish the tour. Do not miss a cutting workshop and of course buying a Gems souvenir to very competitive prices.

The German Green Pearls GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, a destination and restaurants in a global data source.

Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls, are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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