

Local Knowledge Book Series





Let's wander around Krabi!

Story Rattana Kodchanat

Illustrations Wipawee Juntarawong

Project Title

Local Knowledge Book Series

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Preface

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 3 – 12.

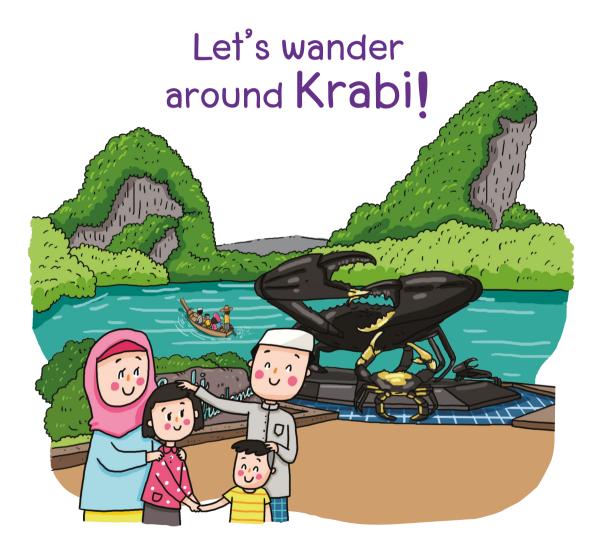
The books in the Phuket and Krabi Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about Phuket and Krabi and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometowns, regions, and country.

Thailand Knowledge Park







Story: Rattana Kodchanat

Illustrations: Wipawee Juntarawong

My Hometown, Krabi

"Lanta" was born in Krabi but she had to move to Bangkok to live with her aunt when she was 9 because her dad and mom wanted her to study there and to accompany her aunt. Her aunt opens a small Muslim restaurant in Bangkok. She lives alone and has no children so she wants Lanta to come stay with her. Lanta always wonders why she is sent there instead of her brother. Dad tells her that it is because her brother is still young.

That makes Lanta really jealous of her brother, "Anda," because he gets to stay home with Dad and Mom.

Krabi the Past

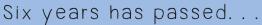
It was believed that Krabi was originally Ban Tai Samor, one of the twelve satellite cities of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. A monkey was used as the seal of the city.



Krabi's Slogan

Coal source, fossil shells, grand mountains, beautiful streams, countless islands, palm plantations, gorgeous beaches, wonderful underwater world, the Emerald Andaman, and heavenly Phi Phi.

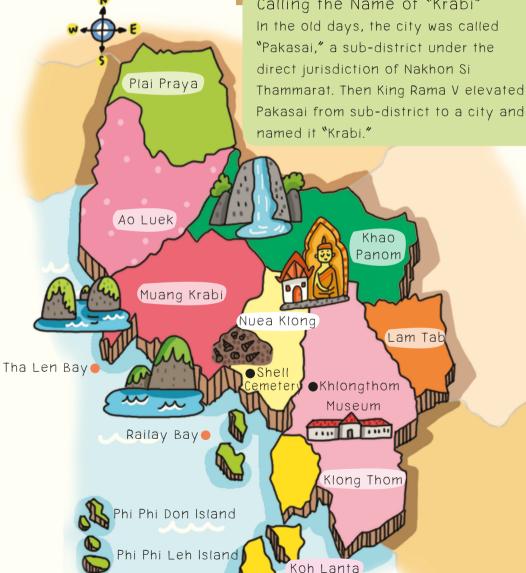




During a midterm break, Lanta's aunt takes her home for a visit.

Lanta recalls her memories of Krabi while doing some research on her hometown.





I Miss Krabi!

Lanta and her aunt travel to Krabi on the Bangkok-Lanta bus. Lanta is so excited that she almost cannot sleep- she wants to see Krabi as soon as the bus reaches the city. They get off the bus at Krabi bus station and take the red minibus downtown. They will walk around town first because her dad has to do some errands. He will pick them up at Chao Fah pier in the afternoon

Chao Fah pier is nearby.



At the zero kilometer stone, the Nok Ok statue with its wings gracefully spreading wide reflects Krabi people's vision: To set their goals high and do everything to attain them.

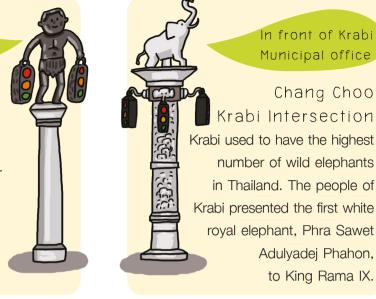




The Mud Crab Statue is a big brass statue situated in front of Khao Khanap Nam. It symbolizes the natural abundance of this area, especially from the mangrove forest. It is also a great view point.

At the intersection in the center of Krabi

Manut Boran
Intersection
Krabi is an ancient
community. A carcass of
a 35 million-year-old higher
primate named
Siamopithecus eocaenus
and human skeletons that
are 43,000 years old were
discovered in Krabi.



Lanta's aunt used to live in Krabi before moving to Bangkok. She tells Lanta that there are many beautiful sculptures in Krabi now and she takes her to go sightseeing around town.

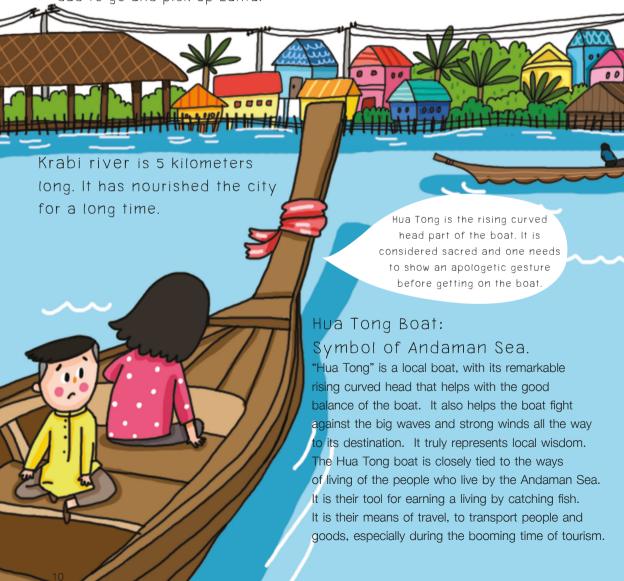


Hua Tong Boat: Tying Our Relationships

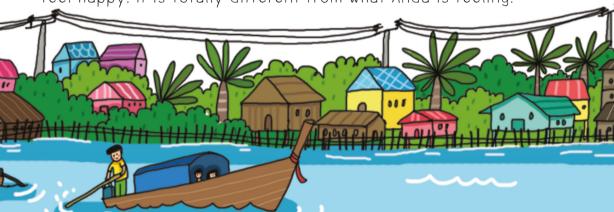
At Koh Klang, Dad and Anda are excitedly getting ready to pick Lanta up. Mom stays home to cook dinner for Lanta and her aunt. Anda is the most excited one. Even though he has so few memories about his sister,

he really looks forward to meeting her. He jumps into the boat with his dad to go and pick up Lanta.





Dad is so happy to meet Lanta and she is also so thrilled to see him that she cries. However, the minute she meets Anda, they are both silent. Lanta feels estranged from her brother. The distance between them makes Lanta feel awkward and makes it look like she is indifferent towards him. This makes Anda remain quiet as well. The Hua Tong boat is heading to her home and it makes Lanta feel happy. It is totally different from what Anda is feeling.



"Green Lungs" The wetland at the mouth of the river is an abundant place with a wide range of biodiversity. It is like a lung for Krabi's people. It is also the central food source for all kinds of animals. Krabi people earn their living with an awareness of conservation of this area.

There's my favorite food, sea grass







Warm Hug Aromatic Rice



There is only one small concrete road in the village so people mostly use bicycle, motorcycle, or tricycle with sidecar.

Welcome!

When they arrive at Koh Klang, Dad gets Lanta off the boat and puts her stuff in the tricycle sidecar. She remembers the vehicle because she used to ride in the front and let the wind blow her face. But the front seat belongs to Anda now. "That's ok," Lanta thinks and she gets on the back seat. She is about to get upset when the neighbors along the way start asking her dad who she is. Anda joyfully tells them he is taking his sister home. So everyone says "welcome" to her all the way home. Somehow, Lanta feels so special.



As soon as they arrive home,
Mom runs toward Lanta and gives
her a warm hug. She keeps asking
Lanta how she is. Lanta also feels
the warmth of Mom's familiar hug.
Mom tells Lanta and her aunt that
she has prepared their favorite
food. Then she asks everyone to
get inside the house.

Krabi people eat the same things as other southern people. They mainly eat rice. The meals are mostly soups, curries and fried food. Krabi's curry dishes are really spicy and thick. And one thing that is a must are different kinds of chili pastes and "Pak Noh", different kinds of fresh vegetables which are eaten with



Scalded dog conch







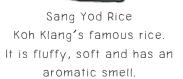












Gaeng Som (sour and spicy fish soup)



Three Layers of Beauty

After dinner, they all sit down and talk. Anda asks Lanta to tell him about Bangkok. Lanta doesn't feel like it but she can't refuse since Mom is looking forward to hearing it too. So, unwillingly she has to tell him. When she finishes, she asks her dad to tell her about Krabi too.

Dad tells Lanta that Krabi is a very beautiful place to live, that people are very kind, and that Krabi has three layers of beauty. Meanwhile, Anda keeps interrupting dad and that makes Lanta feel more annoyed with him. Anda, on the other hand, is so happy to have his big sister here with him.

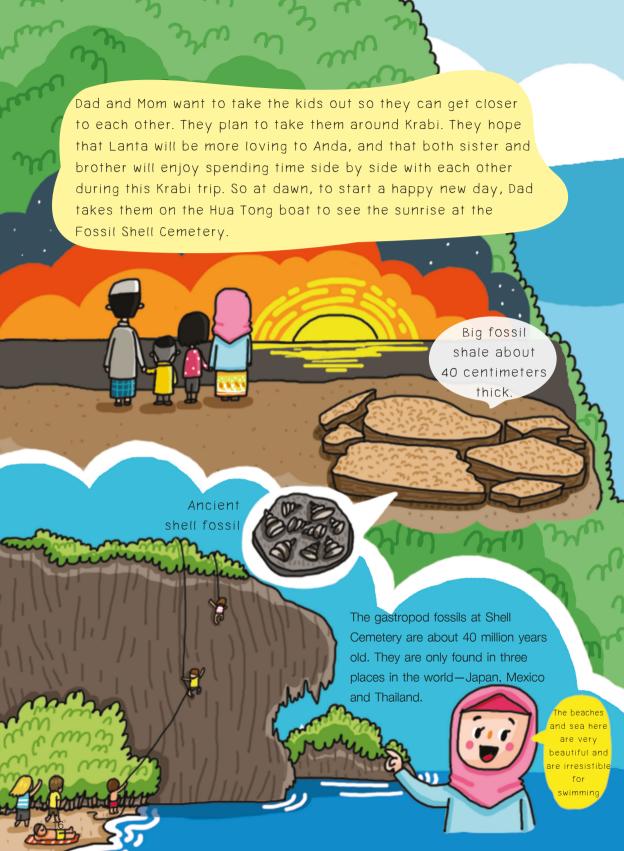
First Layer: Grand mountain ranges, beautiful stalactites and stalagmites, and fun rock climbing places.

Second Layer: Clear sea and beautiful white sand beaches.

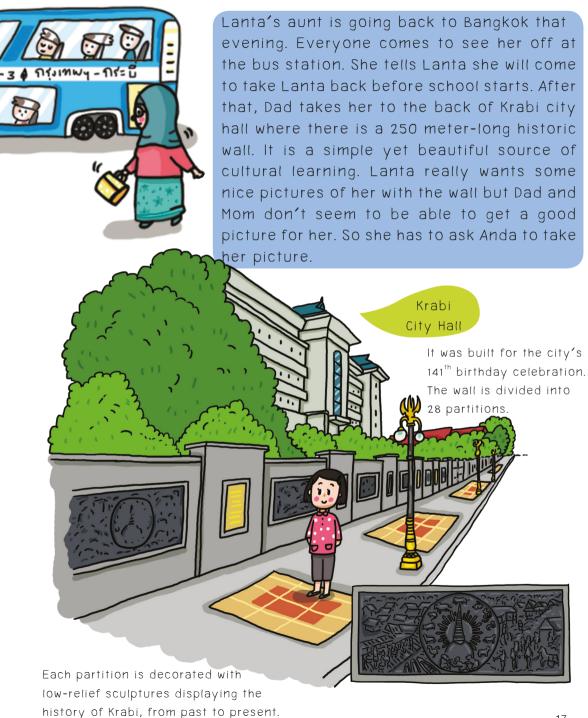
Krabi has a 160 kilometer-long coast along the Andaman Sea.

Third Layer: A marvelous underwater world with coral reefs and colorful fishes, a divers' heaven.

The coral reefs around the islands are still in pretty good shape. Most of them are in the area of Hat Nopparat Thara National Park, the Phi Phi Islands, and Mu Koh Lanta National Park.



Starting a New Day in a Familiar Place.



Open Your Heart at Thale Waek (Separated Sea) is crystal clear. In front of the

Koh Poda. The beach here is white and soft, and the sea island, there is a giant islet very similar to Koh Tapu in Phang Nga.

Anda volunteers to take pictures for Lanta. It is "Take a good picture!" a chance for them to talk more and get closer.

Koh Tab.

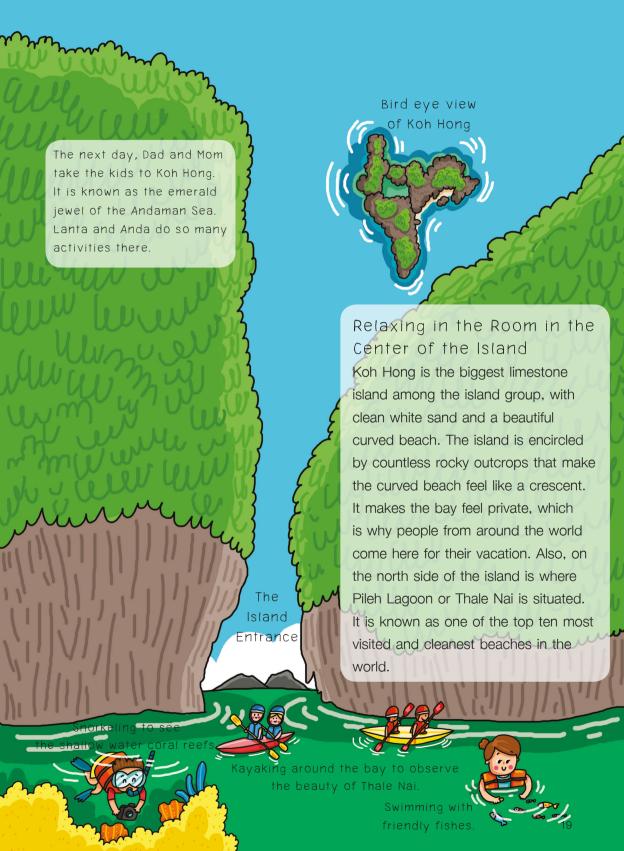
Koh Moh

It is a beautiful day today so Dad takes the kids out to the Andaman Sea. Lanta doesn't want to go because it has the same name as her brother, Anda. She feels like she is intruding nto his space. But Mom has already prepared food for them. So Lanta convinces herself to go so she can get some nice photos to show her friends in Bangkok. However, along the way, the beauty of the Andaman Sea gradually makes her feel better.

Exotic Thale Waek It is a group of three islands - Koh Tab, Koh Moh, and Koh Gai (Koh Poda Nok) connected by a sandy beach. When the tide goes out, the sandbar appears in the middle of the sea, separating it, so the tourists can walk

across from one island to another.







Mangrove forest with its massive root system.

Freshwater swamp forest
on the upland with a fascinating
massive root system.

Tropical rainforest with lots of big trees.

Dad tells Lanta and Anda that the villagers here believe that Klong Tha Pom is a sacred place, named after Dato (teacher) Pom. He and his family were the first group of people to settle down here 150 years ago. They also believe that there is a white crocodile guarding the river source of the canal. Anyone who trespasses will be cursed. That is why no one dares to trespass in this forest.



From Tha Pom, Dad takes them to Ao Luek. Mom wants to go to Had Sai Ron (Hot Sand Beach), which is a sandy beach by a canal. There are spa treatments there. Lanta jokingly asks Anda to put the mud on his face, saying that it will make his skin soft. She doesn't think that he will believe her. So she ends up laughing out loud when she sees his face being covered by black mud.

Had Sai Ron (Hot Sand Beach)

The beach only surfaces during those times when the high tides are very high and the low tides are very low. Hot steam gushes out from underground because the place is situated above the cracks in the earth's crust. It makes the temperature of the beach and the water high. The mud here is delicate and soft. The activities that you shouldn't miss are spa treatments and mud bath.





Than Bok Khorani Waterfall

This waterfall is situated in Than Bok Khorani National Park, a forest in the center of Ao Luek District. A stream flows down to big and small ponds that are situated on different levels below, surrounded by green forest. You can swim here all year round.



Having Fun at Ao Luek

Dad takes the kids to Ao Luek to see the beauty of all the caves there. Lanta is really scared of the dark. Then suddenly she feels a tiny hand grabbing her hand. She can tell that this tiny hand is cold and that its owner must be feeling the same way as her.

Petch Cave

The shape of the cave is like a heart shape and sparkling stone inside casts beautiful reflections like diamonds.

Sra Yuan Tong Cave

There are a lot of stone pillars in the cave. They look as if they are supporting the cave's ceiling. There is also a big natural pond in front of the cave.

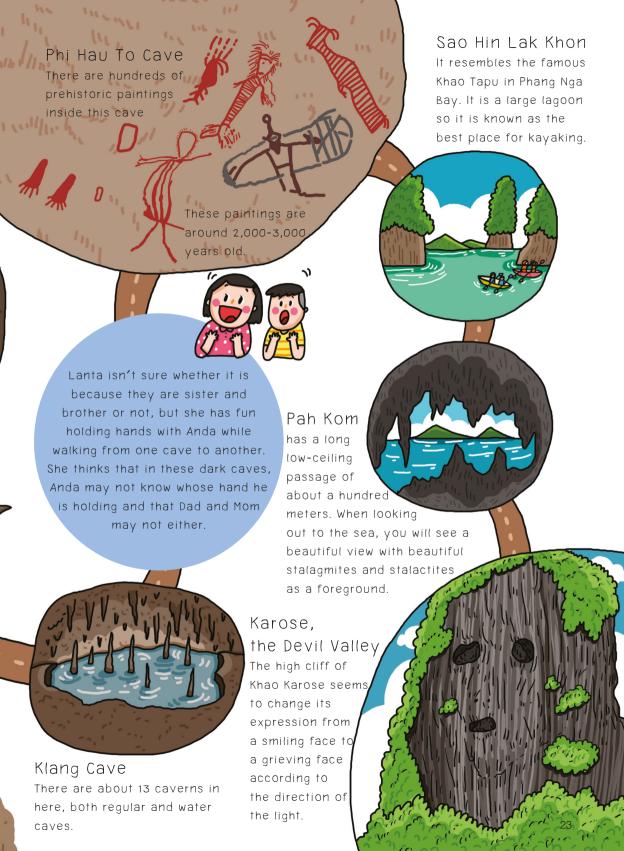


Nong Tung Na Cave
There is a crystal blue
lagoon inside the cave and
Lesser Leaf-nosed bats can

be seen here too.

Lot Cave

Kayaking through the cave and enjoying beautiful



After going around all the islands and beaches, Dad, Mom and the kids stops by a famous Kanom Jeen with fried chicken restaurant in Nuea Klong District. After they are all full, they take the kids to Khlongthom Museum to see the fascinating cultural heritage of Krabi and the natural wonder in the middle of the forest in Klong Thom District.

Can I have one more fried chicken?"



Khlongthom Museum

The museum was founded in 1966. Ancient artifacts and tools like stone-made tools, pottery, and jewelry that were excavated from Kuan Look Pat behind the temple are displayed here. There are also local tools that people have donated to the temple, along with elephant skeletons, whale skeletons, fossils, and ancient buoys made of glass.

Sun God Beads

They are marvelous ancient beads with a diameter of 1 centimeter. The design on the beads looks like the face of the Sun God (thus the name). They are believed to be about 2,000 years old.

Reads and porcelain are displayed on the second floor.

พิพิธภัณฑสถานคลองท่อม จังหวัดกระบี่
KHLONGTHOM MUSEUM

Ancient tools and artifacts, fossils, ancient coins and ancient jewelry are displayed

downstairs



The stream is above the earth crack where heat and minerals underneath flow up and mix with the cool water above and form a lovely cascade of warm water The stream flows down to Klong Thom where the water turns cool.



Breathtaking Emerald Pool

This clear emerald-colored pool is hidden in the middle of Tung Tiaw Forest. The water is replenished by a natural stream from freshwater sources in the middle of the forest that runs and mixes with the water into a big (almost round) pool.

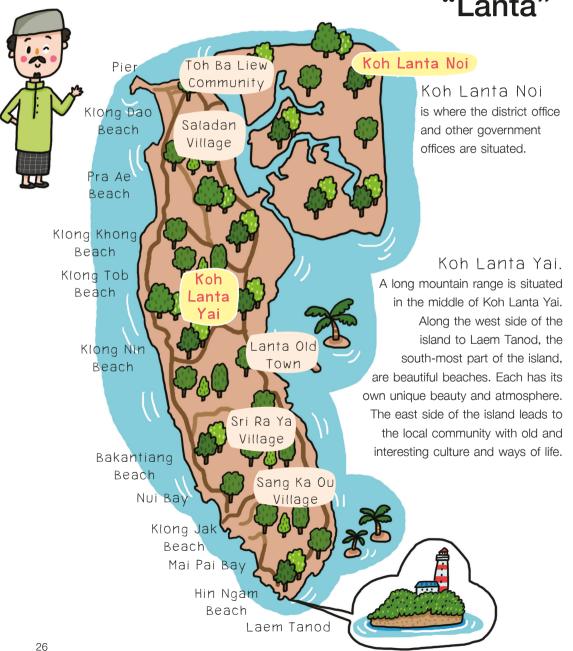
This creates a beautiful emerald pool where we can have fun

swimming in nice warm water.

Tung Tiaw forest is the last abundant lowland evergreen forest in Thailand with plenty of biodiversity. It is also a habitat for a rare species of bird, the Gurney's Pitta.

Dad takes everyone home. He tells them that tomorrow's trip will be more exciting because they are going to Koh Lanta. As soon as Lanta hears the name, she is so excited And when Mom tells Lanta that her name comes from Koh Lanta, Lanta get even more restless that she can't wait for tomorrow to come. Luckily, Dad has a friend who lives there so he asks him to take them around

From Koh Lanta to the Name "Lanta"



Dad's friend says that there are three ethnic groups of people living together here on Koh Lanta: Chao Ley, Thai-Muslim, and Chinese people. So, colorful lifestyles can be seen here. This is one of Koh Lanta's charms that makes visitors fall in love with it.

Urak Lawoi means
"sea people." Koh Lanta is a "capital city"
for the sea people. There are four
Urak Lawoi communities here:
Toh Ba Liew, Nai Rai, Klong Dao,
and Sang Ka Ou.

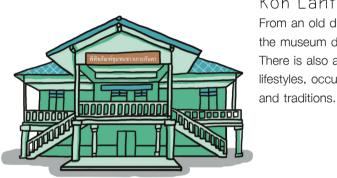


Dad's friend takes Anda and Lanta to Pra Ae beach for a swim. It is a long, white sandy beach. Dad and Mom smile with happiness when they see their kids having fun swimming together. Dad thinks that bringing them to Koh Lanta is really worth it.



Old Lanta Town

Everyone stays overnight at Dad's friend's house because they want to watch the "Pajak" boat floating ceremony. Lanta sleeps with Mom while Anda sleeps with Dad in another mosquito net. Lanta overhears Dad telling Anda that Anda is the Andaman Sea and Lanta is Koh Lanta in the Andaman Sea. The reason Dad and Mom name them like this is because they wants Anda, who is a man, to take care of Lanta, who is a woman, just like the Andaman Sea that embraces Koh Lanta. Lanta hears Anda make a promise to Dad and she falls asleep with a smile on her face.



Koh Lanta Community Museum

From an old district office to a community museum, the museum displays the history of the Lanta people. There is also an exhibition about old Lanta people's

lifestyles, occupations, customs

There are many interesting things inside the museum, e.g., the exhibition of an old charcoal kiln, which was the Lanta people's main occupation in the past, the Urak Lawoi's Pajak boat that is made of Salacca wood, the old movie theater, and many other interesting things.



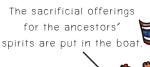
Charcoal Kiln



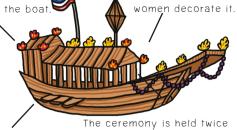
Old Houses on Koh Lanta

"Pajak" Boat Floating Ceremony

This ceremony is done to drive away the villagers' bad luck by asking ghosts or the sacred power to rid the village of the evil and to protect them. The "Pajak" boat is built as a vessel to carry their misfortune out to the sea.



The men build the boat and the yomen decorate it



To Moh performs a 3-day ceremony.

The ceremony is held twice a year, in the middle of the 6th and the 11th months of the lunar calendar.



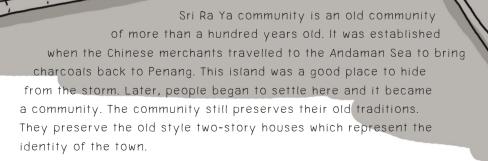
First day: They apologize to the sacred power before cutting down salacca Palm and Suicide tree to build the boat.

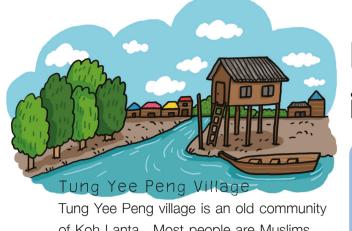


Second day: The men help build the boat until the afternoon. Then they bring the boat to the village center. There are celebrations all night until dawn.



Third day: The villagers take the boat out far into the sea to prevent it from coming back. Then they put a protection talisman up to keep the evil away.





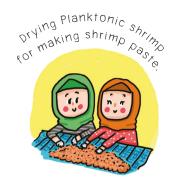
Tung Yee Peng village is an old community of Koh Lanta. Most people are Muslims. They are either fishermen or they grow rubber trees as their main occupations. Their lifestyles are closely related to the forest, the sea, and Lanta Island. They depend on nature for a living.

Harmony in Diversity

Lanta is happy to see that different groups of people—Muslims, Buddhists, Chao Ley, and Chinese people—live harmoniously together. She also feels much better toward her brother. Most importantly, Anda is her personal photographer for this trip. He doesn't complain and he takes good pictures.









Tung Yee Peng villagers work together to conserve and restore natural resources back to abundance. They try to build a stronger community. They encourage activities that make their village attractive as an ecotourism village where people can still continue living their simple lives. They do shallow water fishing just to make a moderate living. They have inherited the old way of making delicious and authentic shrimp paste from krill, which is a famous product of this community.

The paste has a pinkish purple color which is the natural color of krill. Moreover, they have the

Monkey Training School that helps conserve about 20 macaques that are trained to pick coconuts from coconut trees and perform other entertaining shows for visitors.

Basic Rules When Visiting the Village

- 1. Dress properly.
- 2. No alcohol consumption.
- 3. No pork allowed.
- 4. Do not make loud noises during religious ceremonies.
- 5. Respect and honor the local lifestyle and culture.

I'm glad to see you guys getting along really well.



The Wonders of Koh Klang

After travelling around Krabi, Dad and Mom want Lanta to see how wonderful and cozy Koh Klang is because they want Lanta to move back home when she finishes her education. Dad tells Lanta about Koh Klang because he hopes to plant a love of her hometown in her heart. Then, the family will finally be able to reunite and live together again.

Simple but Beautiful Koh Klang's Style

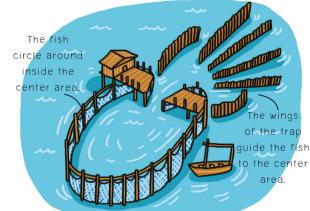
Koh Klang village is an old community more than a hundred years old.

Most people are peace-loving Muslims. They live a simple life and earn their livings in accordance with the resources they have.



Fish in the Stake Trap

The villagers build shallow water stake traps which are built using ancient local wisdom. When the tide is low, they will bring their boat closer to the trap and use the dip-nets to catch the fish and the shrimps



of shells on Laem
Son Beach.

There are lots of different kinds

Shellfishing in the Sand

Shellfishing is basically digging up shells out of the sand. The villagers use pointy long sticks to find the shellfish. They stab the stick into the sand. If there are any shellfish underneath, the shellfish will blow the water out and come up above the sand. The villagers then use their toes to pick the shellfish up and put them in the can.

Grandma Prajim Lekdam is the president of the Batik OTOP group.

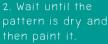
Mom takes Lanta to the Batik OTOP group. Lanta has handkerchief.



Koh Klang villagers have their own unique ways of making batik. They mix the Malaysian way of making Batik with their own to make their unique colorful batik design. You can try this yourself.



4. Boil the cloth to wash out the wax and dip it in the color catcher solution.



5 Wash the cloth





In the afternoon, Dad takes Lanta and Anda to try building a Hua Tong model boat. They help each other until it is done. They show it off to their mom

Uncle Somboon Manka is

the president of Hua Tong

1 Make the keel or

2. Attach them to "Mad" board.

Then attach the frames.



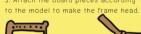
3. Attach all parts of the boat onto the frames.



"Mad," prow, and stern.

5. Attach the board pieces according





6. Attach the prow and the stern



9. Attach the oars

Let's Follow This Process of Hua Tong Model-Making

> 7. Cut the wooden moldings and attach them to the side of the model boat.

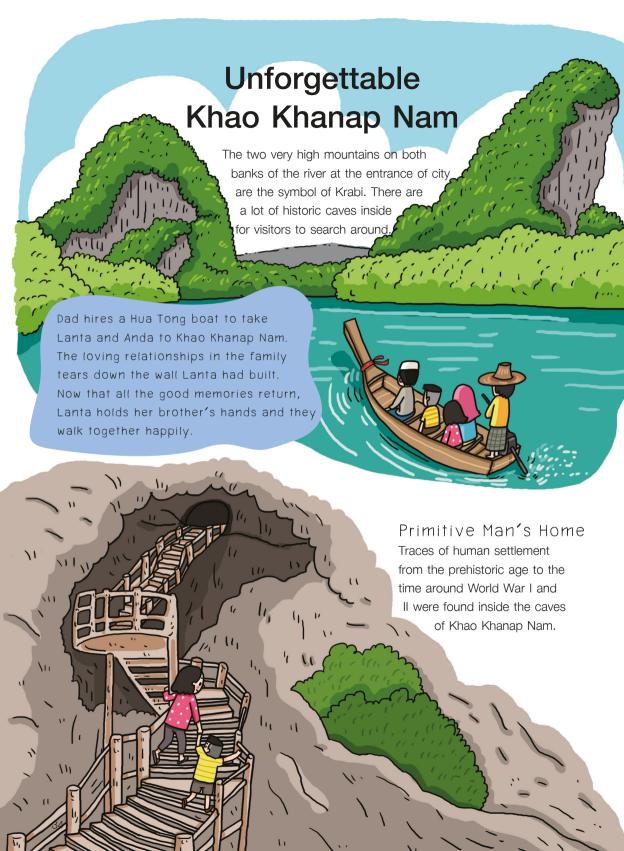






Hua Tong Preservation

The Hua Tong boat is considered an indispensable vessel for Koh Klang people, but the original Hua Tong boats are now hard to find. So, the villagers get together to demonstrate how to make a model boat that uses the exact same method as building the real boat. This helps preserve their precious lifestyle and local wisdom.



Light in the Room

Inside the biggest cave of Khao Khanap Nam, there are a lot of beautiful stalagmites and stalactites, and gigantic limestone pillars. A large hole on the other side of the cave brings in the light all over the cave.

In 1999, many traces of prehistoric human settlement were found here.
Sea shells and animal bones are evidences that they were cooked



Animal teeth and fangs, pieces of charcoal, pieces of tools, three pedestaled pots, and human leg



Model of a Human Skeleton



An exhibition of Prehistoric human lifestyle is displayed inside the cave.



Model of a Japanese campsite.

During World War II around the year 1941-1945, the Japanese troops landed on Krabi. Their ships lined up along the river in front of Krabi city down to Khao Khanap Nam to transport their weapons. They also set up camps in many places including Khao Khanap Nam's cave. It was one of the places the Japanese soldiers set up as a check point on the villagers' boats that were passing by. So there are evidences of the Japanese shelters there.

Promises on the Rice Field

Other villagers already planted their rice seeds in their rice fields except her dad. He has been waiting for Lanta to do this together. Lanta is awkward on the rice field so Anda shows her what to do. He has helped Dad and Mom on the rice field many times. Even though it's exhausting, everyone is very happy.



Select the seeds and sow them.





Transplant the rice seedlings during August – October.



"Do as I do, Sis." Anda said.



Dad tells Lanta that this rice field will wait for Lanta to come back and harvest the rice. He asks Lanta to come back to live at home and he apologizes for sending her to live with her aunt



Anda has nothing to say.
He stretches his hands out
toward his sister.

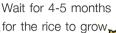




Harvest from

Harvest from December – February.

Husk the rice.





God-given Rice Sang Yod rice is grown organically once a year using only water from the rain. That is why it is called God-given rice. It is uniquely delicious.

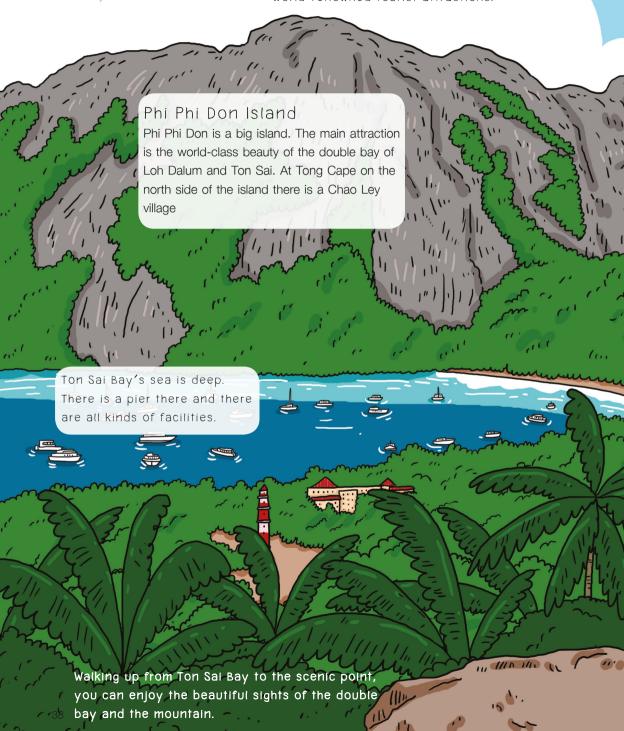


Turn the leftover rice stubbles, rice straws and rice hulls into fertilizer.



Memorable Phi Phi Islands

Finally, it is time for Lanta to say goodbye to Krabi. Before going back to Bangkok with her aunt, Dad and Mom take her to Phi Phi Island, one of the world-renowned tourist attractions.



The islands were originally called "Pulau Api-Api" by the sea people. The word "Pulau" means "island" and the word "Api-Api" refers to the grey mangrove which was later called "Pi Pi." Later the sound was distorted to "Phi Phi." The main islands in the groups are Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh. The rest are Koh Pai, Koh Yung, Koh Bida Nok and Koh Bida Nai. Phi Phi Leh Island Phi Phi Leh is a small island on the south of Phi Phi Don. The beauty of the beaches there, Pileh Bay, Maya Bay, and Loh Samah Bay, are also world-renowned. Inside the "Viking" Cave, historic paintings of elephants and boats can be found. It is believed that the seamen or pirates painted these paintings. l am so happy to be in Krabi during this school break Loh Dalum Bay has shallow water so it is good for sunbathing. 🕮

100

Krabi's Souvenirs

Finally, the day has come for Lanta to go back to Bangkok. Her aunt arrived yesterday. Anda takes a picture of the four of them as a memento. He tells Lanta to think of him some time. Lanta is so touched Tears run down her cheeks. She takes his hands and promises everyone she will come back home after she finishes her 9th grade and she will go to high school here in Krabi. She wonders whether when that time comes, her young brother would still allow her to hold his hand and takes him around Krabi again or not. Anda smiles shyly. Close bonds have now formed in this family.

> Dad and Mom prepared a lot of souvenirs for Lanta and her aunt to take back to Bangkok.







Dried Shrimp Paste



Sang Yod Rice, a famous rice from Koh Klang Village



Shogun Orange from Khao Panom Bencha



Dried Anchovies

Hua Tong Model Boat,



Batik Handkerchief



Smooth Taste Shrimp Paste made from small-sized shrimps





How to Get to Krabi? • By plane from Don Muang Airport or Suvarnabhumi Airport to Krabi Airport. It takes 1 hour 15 mins. • By car, using highway number 4 (Petchkasem) passing Petchburi, Prachuab Khiri Khan, Chumphon, Ranong, Phang Nga, until arriving Krabi. By train from Hua Lampong train station. Get off at Pun Pin train station in Surat Thani. Then take a bus to Krabi. By bus from the New Southern Bus Terminal to Krabi Bus Station. Then take the small red bus to downtown Krabi When you come back, I will take you o Khao Panom, Big Sis. Safe trip. Bye. 41



Author
Rattana Kodchanat

B.A., Faculty of Arts, Silpakorn University.

I started working on children's books when I graduated. It is a good opportunity and great fun to be able to think about and write children's books. I also does some illustration works in children's books. I'm determined to continue creating good children books for the benefits of the young readers.



Illustrator Vipawee Chantarawong

B.Ed. in Art Education, Faculty of Education, KhonKaen University. She is currently a freelance illustrator. Awards:

- Grand prize for book that promotes virtue, Wan Kaew Award 2014, from Jud Jid and Jid Jud.
- Honorable Mention, Illustration in Documentary for Children, Best Books Awards Competition, Office of the Basic Education Commission, from Hed Fang.
- Honorable Mention, Illustration in Children Book, 15th
 Best Books Awards Competition, Children Organization,
 from Kwam Dee See Som.

Local Knowledge Book Series Phuket and Krabi











