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W A S A T A D I E S C O U N T R Y



**TAKE CARE OF
YOUR PLANET!**

**YOU CAN MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE**

KO TAU ISLAND

“Diving and snorkeling are the main reasons why people come here. Loosing the coral reefs is the same as loosing our dive locations. And that means we can close our dive centre”,

according to the manager of one of the dive centers on Ko Tau. This is the reason that brought me to this island. Seeing many initiatives for keeping the island, the reef system and all its beaches

clean, is thrilling. It is also the way it happens; usually with collective thinking and a positive mind. The residents of Ko Tau speak about their initiatives. also you can help as a visitor. Want to know how? Read on!

VOLUNTEERING



HOW CAN YOU HELP KO TAU?

Helping Ko Tau can be in different ways. Diving schools are always looking for new instructors. Become one of them and spread the word of responsible diving & snorkling. At the [Ko Tau website](#) you find all the listed projects on the island. Popular is the annual beach clean up in January.

Ko Tau island has many inhabitants who care about their environment. Thanks to their commitment the island is kept clean and people snorkel and dive responsibly.

The dive school

Mr. Robertson is owner of one of the the dive schools on the eastern side of the island. My question is how the school contributes to environmenatly friendly diving. “First of all we want to make clear to the public and divers that corals are protected. Nothing is allowed to be taken, touched, or damaged during our activities”, he says. The number of people for a dive is restricted to 10 people and two instructors and diving sites alternate to make sure that these are not overvisited. “This diving school also helps with the annual beach clean up”, Mr Robertson adds, making this a good choice for diving.

Locals

Although, not many locals live on the island without earning their money with tourism, they still take care in their way. A woman from a shop tells me that she asks the customers if they want to have a plastic bag. “If they leave the shop without it, they are thanked for helping the environment, she says with a big smile. People who stay long on the island usually start to bring their own shopping

basket or bag. The big sign she points at in the shop tells me this repeatedly: “NO plastic”. The woman always helps to clean up the beach and streets around the shop. “We like to keep it clean, you know”. “What about the people who don’t help then?”, I respond. With a rising voice she shouts: “These man should not come or live here!”

Who pollutes is a lazy cow

On my “lucky” day I found these people enjoying their energy drinks on a desolated beach. I noticed the pile of bottles and ask them if it were theirs. “Yes!” “Okay, but are you putting it in the trash can later?” “No!”, was their answer in a happy way. “The sea will clean it up when the tide is high”. When I tell them that the sea will not clean it up and that it belongs in the trash can, their attention is back to their drinks. “I think, if you don’t put it in the trash can you are just a lazy cow who does not care about the next person who wants to lie down on the beach”, I tell them. When I was taking pictures of the “miss clean” trash bin, they approached me. “Why are you doing that?” “Well, It is for the next news letter about a cleaner world”. They ask me if they can participate in the news letter somehow. When I tell them that they already did, their faces looked quiet shocked when I took a photo of the energy drink bottles. Within 15 seconds the bottles disappear in “miss clean”.



Volunteering is a good way of support