



It is not a party island and the red lighted side of tourism is at a minimum on the island. Spas, massage, diving schools, Muey Thai training, and indulging in seafood are some of the things that one can do when visiting the little dot next to Samui and Koh Phangang in the Gulf of Thailand. The tourists did not really appear on Koh Tao until the mid eighties, and to nostalgics the island retains bits and glimpses of the island atmosphere that is long lost at many of the other famous islands in Thailand.

It is not all bright though. The last three months the island has more or

less been with out power. The cheap government provided electricity has broken down, and it has yet to be reinstalled efficiently. The islands private power supplier has seen this as a way to profit extra on his business. According to the inhabitants on the island he has raised the price on electricity to 40 baht per unit. But if you ask Narong Noorach the fixing of this problem seems to be right around the corner.

- In the future there will also be wind power installations on the island making its inhabitants less vulnerable to black outs, he says.

With the tight restrictions regarding foreign ownership of land on Thai soil, the project has according to Narong Noorach been set up in a way that legally tackles this issue.

- It is an open company with 51 percent Thai ownership, when you buy a piece of land you buy yourself into the company. The company owns the land and you own the house.

At present the hill looks like a construction site, with building materials in piles and empty plots, but once finished a lot of services will be offered to the residents of the village. For a small fee, less than 200 Swedish crowns per month, maid service, security, gardening and maintenance is provided.

The Financial crisis and the downfall of Swedish currency has made Swedes a little hesitant towards investing, but Henrik Waara informs that they still are selling plots and have many interested potential customers, although not as many as before.



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