

amazing  
THAILAND

# Ko Chang

Trat



*Muko Rang*



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# Ko Chang Ko Chang

Trat





amazing  
**THAILAND**



Chanthaburi

Gulf of Thailand

Ko Chang Naval Battle M

Hat Sai Kha

Hat Khlon







*Ko Phrao Nok*

# Ko Chang

Ko Chang, or Elephant Island, is part of the Muko Chang National Park. This national park is comprised of an archipelago of 52 islands, of which Ko Chang is the largest. Some 429 square kilometres in size, Ko Chang is, after Phuket, the second biggest island in the Kingdom. Ko Chang, boasts several amazing natural wonders that blend magnificently with the traditional way of life; such as 70 percent undisturbed island rainforest, steep hills, cliffs, waterfalls, notable wildlife, fine beaches, coral reefs and an abundance of marine life. In addition, numerous fruit orchards dot the island.

Most of the scenic beaches and bays are on the west side spreading from the north to the south; such beaches and bays include, Ao Khlong Son, Hat Sai Khao, Hat Khlong Phrao and Hat Kai Bae. A road cuts through the western shore almost reaching Hat Kai Bae where there is a nature trail passing through Ao Bai Lan and Ao Kruat and meandering through wet forestland to Ban Bang Bao, a fishing community on the foot of the hill in the south.

To the east are Ao Sapparot, where a ferry landing is situated and Ao Salak Khok. In addition, along the eastern shoreline is a road cutting through to Ao Salak Phet, a community with a boat pier to the south of the island. Coral ranges worth visiting are at Ao Khlong Son near Ko Chang Noi and around islands south of Ko Chang.

Ko Chang has attractions including several waterfalls with reasonable access. They are the Namtok Khlong Phlu, which is around 3 kilometres from Ao Khlong Phrao and a further 20 minutes on foot; Namtok Khlong Nonsi that takes a 4-kilometre walk from park headquarters; and Namtok Khiriphet and Namtok Khlong Nung, which are 3 kilometres from Ban Salak Phet.

In addition to sea-based attractions, Ko Chang offers many other numerous inland attractions including rainforest trekking waterfalls, temples, the National Park and Museum or the beautiful scenic lookout points, which are all worth a visit. Divers will find fascinating diving areas off of the shores of Ko Chang and the surrounding islands. Besides the many coral reefs, visitors can explore the reminder of the past through the sunken warships, which can be visited in the Salak Phet Bay. Elephant trekking through the primeval jungle, populated with wild boars, Javan mongoose, barking deer, and more than 60 different species of birds, would fulfill the adventurous experience on this island.

Many of the bungalow operations around Hat Sai Khao and Hat Kai Bae have kayaks, boogie boards and mountain bikes for rent. Booking a day trip, or an overnigher, to nearby islands is another attractive option.

Contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, visit [portal.dnp.go.th](http://portal.dnp.go.th) for more information.

## ATTRactions

### *Ao Khlong Son*

Rich in coral lines, the bay is located on the western coast of Ko Chang where Khlong Son Community is situated.

### *Namtok Khlong Nonsi*

Situated in the northeastern zone of Ko Chang, this waterfall is 4 kilometres from the National Park office, or visitors have to walk for around 3 kilometres pass through Ban Dan Mai, rubber plantations and orchards. It is not recommended to visit this waterfall during the hot season as most of the water dries up.



*Namtok Khlong Phlu*

### ***Wat Khlong Nonsi***

This temple is situated just before the Dan-Mai Pier in Ban Khlong Nonsi. Turn towards the sea at the intersection on the main road. Proper clothing should be worn during temple visits.

### ***Namtok Than Mayom***

Located behind the National Park Office, this 3-tiered medium-sized waterfall is particularly photogenic. There is a trail situated 500 metres from a fruit orchard that leads to the site where King Rama V and VI had visited and signed their royal names on the highest cliff of the cascade.

### ***Namtok Khlong Phlu***

The entrance to this large 3-tiered waterfall is about 3 kilometres or around 20-minute walk from Ao Khlong Phrao. From there it is a 500-metre jaunt through the forest. The most beautiful spot is up at the top, where there is a large pool for visitors to cool down.

### ***Hat Sai Yao***

This scenic spot is situated in the south, not far from Ao Salak Phet. Hat Sai Yao is a long sandy beach ideal for swimming. There is also a great vantage point which overlooks the Ko Chang Naval Battle Area and other islands; such as Ko Laoya and Ko Wai, as well as the fishing hamlet of Ao Salak Phet.

### ***Ao Salak Khok***

Ao Salak Khok is a well-preserved mangrove forest where visitors can enjoy the beauty of the peaceful natural beauty on a long-tailed boat or paddling through your way on a kayak. A concrete bridge has been built for a mangrove walk, where visitors can learn about the mangrove and animals inhabiting here through the sign posted along the bridge.

### ***Ban Salak Phet and Ban Rong Than***

These are the largest fishing villages on the island and are located on the southwest of Ko Chang. Popular for its abundance of fresh seafood and homestay accommodation, visitors can get a real experience of living and fishing like a local. Boats are available to hire to go out exploring the nature and snorkelling.

### ***Namtok Khiri Phet***

Located to the south of Ko Chang, approximately 3 kilometres through a rubber plantation from the Salak Phet community, this single-tier waterfall is the centrepiece of a verdant

tableau embroidered with wild orchids and Thai herbs.

### ***Namtok Khlong Nueng***

This is a small 120-metre high waterfall situated in a remote area from Salak Phet Community near Namtok Salak Phet which is an ideal place for relaxation.

### ***Ko Chang Naval Battle Ground***

This area is located to the south of Ko Chang close to Ao Salak Phet. On 17 January 1941, the Thai and French navies battled over a border dispute. Even today, there are buoys showing the position of the sunken Royal Thai Navy's ships. The Thai Navy holds an annual event to commemorate the combat victory and government agencies make religious merit by floating garlands on the sea in honour of those who perished during the battle on 17 January.

### ***Ko Chang Viewpoint***

Located on the west shore of Ko Chang before reaching Hat Kai Bae, this viewpoint offers a panoramic view of the deep blue sea, as well as Hat Kai Bae. One of the most ideal places to enjoy watching the sunset in Ko Chang, this viewpoint also provides shops, restrooms and postal services for visitors.

### ***Bang Bao Fishing Village***

Another ideal spot to learn more about the lifestyle of fishermen is this atmospheric village built on wooden stilts jutting up out of the sea. All the houses are connected by wooden walkways. The fisher folks' lifestyle and all the succulent seafood are two lures for tourists. In addition, Bang Bao is one of the zones rich in corals. Nowadays, you can really wade in for some cultural immersion by booking

a homestay with the villagers. Another bonus is chartering a vessel to cruise around the archipelago.

### ***Ao Bai Lan***

Situated next to Hat Kai Bae, Ao Bai Lan is a 1-kilometre long sandy beach. The bike trail along the road under the cliffs and mountains offers fantastic scenery in serene ambience. Affordable accommodation is available at this bay.

### ***Hat Kai Bae***

This beach is connected to Hat Khlong Phrao and is similar to Hat Khlong Phrao in that the beach is steep but safe for swimming. Accommodation at this cape ranges from bungalow to more luxurious resorts.

### ***Hat Khlong Phrao***

This long beach connects with Hat Kai Bae and Hat Sai Khao and comes well equipped with many bungalows and resorts, and offers swimming and sunbathing opportunities. The northernmost area of Hat Khlong Phrao is adjacent to Ao Chaiyachet where visitors can take in the beautiful landscape while enjoying the superb relaxation and tranquil retreat.

### ***Hat Sai Khao (White Sand Beach)***

One of the longest beaches on Ko Chang, this 2-kilometre long beach with powdery white sand provides the most magnificent seascape. The beach is dotted with reasonably priced bungalows and resorts. Embracing the beach to the rear are orchards of coconut trees and forests. Hat Sai Khao is also a centre of all the facilities in Ko Chang; such as, hospital, restaurants, supermarkets, and various types of accommodation.



*Ban Salak Phet*



*Ao Salak Khok*

### ***Hat Tha Nam (Lonely Beach)***

Hat Tha Nam or known amongst the foreign tourists as the “Lonely Beach” has become increasingly popular. It is now filled with younger travellers looking to party and stay in some strange accommodation like tree

houses. During the rainy season, however, from May through October, it gets a lot more solitary.



*Ko Rang*

## OTHER ISLANDS OF INTEREST

### ***Ko Chang Noi and Laem Chang Noi***

To the north of Ko Chang is its tiny twin, Ko Chang Noi, which is a splendid spot for snorkeling. The sea between Ko Chang Noi and Laem Chang Noi is abundant with corals.

### ***Ko Klum***

Like Ko Chang, this is an island of historical significance during the Thai-French Naval Battle in 1941. Attractions on the island include the stone yard landscape and fishing activities.

### ***Ko Kham***

It takes two and a half hours to get to this small island. Located near Ko Mak, this island's allure is based on the tropical trinity of greenery, white sand, and crystal clear seas. Ko Kham features a wonderful coral reef, ideal for swim-

ming, diving and fish-spotting. The highlight of Ko Kham is the black lava rocks scattering on the white sandy beach. The trip to Ko Kham from Laem Ngop takes 2.5 hours, and visitors can also rent boats to go to Ko Mak.

### ***Ko Kra and Ko Rang***

Situated to the west of Ko Mak, these islands boast some deep coral reefs, and striking underwater rock formations. Many islanders also make money from concessions for swallows' nests, sea turtle eggs, and bat guano.

### ***Ko Kradat***

Named after the abundance of Kradat trees, Ko Kradat is situated to the northeast of Ko Mak. This island is famous for its white long sandy beach and wonderful coral reefs. The only island that is inhabited by deer, Ko Kradat is notable for the fact that it is the



*Ko Kut*

only island in Thailand to be issued a land title deed during the period of King Rama V as a measure to protect the island from French colonisation.

### ***Ko Kut***

Ko Kut is the farthest island from the coast of Trat. Being the fourth largest island in Thailand or the second largest island next to Ko Chang, it is 25 kilometres long and 12 kilometres wide and covers an area of approximately 105 square kilometres. Its natural feature is much more like Ko Chang, which is humpbacked with hills covered in lush rainforest.

The highlight of this island is the visually appealing Namtok Khlong Chao, the beautiful waterfall which cascades to a pool at the bottom where you can swim in the midst of verdant

jungle to the melodies of birdsong and insect chatter. Also there is a biggest fishing village of Ban Ao Salat in Ao Salat located in the northeastern part of the island where fresh seafood can be bought everyday. In addition, the island also has its fair share of pleasant beaches with crystal clear seas which are popular among visitors; such as Hat Taphao, Hat Khlong Chao, Hat Khlong Hin, and Hat Phrao.

The accommodation on this island is largely devoted to pre-booking package, which includes the accommodation (on Ko Kut, Ko Lao Ya, and Ko Ngam), as well as the return fares. For those who are seeking a more private atmosphere, accommodations at the inner sea of Ko Kut, and the other two islands opposite to Ko Kut, namely; Ko Rat and Ko Mai Si are available. Those wishing to charter a boat



can contact the Laem Ngop landing or make advance inquiries at the Ko Chang Centre Point at Tel. +66 3955 5188-9 or +66 8 1943 5872.

### Getting to Ko Kut

There are boats from Ko Chang to Ko Kut three times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). Please ask for the departure times of the ferries from Laem Ngop Pier to Ko Kut at the pier. Lam Sok Pier, located around 20 kilometres from the Trat town centre, provides speedboat services to Ko Kut. [www.kohkoodtravel.com](http://www.kohkoodtravel.com) or Tel. +66 8 2526 2712

### The best time to go to Ko Kut

The best time for a visit to Ko Kut is from November to April as the island is relatively dry and mostly sunny. Even during monsoon

season, Ko Kut is worth visiting for it does not rain everyday and all day long.

### Activities on Ko Kut

Besides lazing on the beach, snorkelling at the beautiful coral reefs or just watching stars at night; visitors can also visit nearby islands for snorkelling and other activities. Some of the luxurious Resorts on Ko Kut offer Banana-, Donut-boat-trips and water-skiing. In addition visitors can do drop line fishing at the beaches and bays or rent a boat overnight in order to try night time fishing. Those who seek a more physical challenge activity can enjoy several walking trails available on this island, which offers a great opportunity for visitors to immerse in the unspoiled natural beauty of the island.



### **Ko Mak**

Located 16 kilometres to the south of Ko Chang, this large island is blessed with several beautiful bays and beaches filled with coral reefs that are still in perfect condition. In fact, this sand-fringed island makes for a great romantic hideaway. The islanders make their living by growing rubber and coconut trees. The best time to visit is from November until late April. There are a number of accommodations and tourist facilities available, with the majority of the resorts being situated on the island's northwest and southwest bays, where the most breathtaking beaches are located. A passenger boat departs Laem Ngop daily at 3.00 p.m. and returns from Ko Mak at 7.00 a.m., travelling time is 3.5 hours.

### **Ko Man Nok/Ko Man Nai**

The two islands are located opposite Hat Kai Bae on Ko Chang's western coast. During low tide, beaches appear around the islands, the water is quite shallow, and there is plenty of golden seaweed. There is no accommodation available on these two islands, but it is worth a stopover on a day trip.

### **Ko Ngam**

This island is situated on the southeast of Ko Chang and is comprised of twin mountains linked by huge rocks with a huge sand knoll at the middle. The little bay formed by the lines of the mountain stretching into the sea makes the island a splendid and serene site worth visiting. It takes 2 hours on the boat to get to Ko Ngam from Laem Ngop. Accommodations on the island are available.

### **Ko Phrao**

Off the southern flank of Ko Chang sits this

pretty island, located some two hours from Laem Ngop. Ko Phrao is noteworthy for its calm atmosphere and serene seaside, shaded by the lush coconut groves. Accommodations are available on the island.

### **Ko Wai**

This small paradise is situated approximately 6 kilometres south of the southernmost end of Ko Chang. Ko Wai is about 3 kilometres long and 1.5 kilometres wide with some very beautiful sandy beaches. Apart from two sun-splashed beaches and basic hut-like accommodation, the island is also the best source for fishing. Even though most of the beaches are full of stones, snorkelling can be done on the shallow reefs off the beaches. Ko Wai is reached daily by a 2.5-hour boat trip from the Laem Ngop Pier.

### **Ko Laoya**

This wonderful island which is less than 1 kilometre long and 300 metres wide with beautiful beaches, crystal-clear water and colourful corals lies about 3 kilometres west of the southeastern end of Ko Chang. Ko Laoya forms an island group with Ko Laoya Klang and Ko Laoya Nok, connected to Ko Laoya Klang by a wooden bridge. Ko Laoya can only be reached by chartered boat, which takes around 2.5 hours from Laem Ngop Pier. Accommodation is available but must be reserved well in advance.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Ko Chang offers accommodation in all price ranges, from luxury resorts to basic bungalows. Thus visitors purchasing boat/ferry tickets from any of the piers should inform the staff of the desired beach and resort accommodations reserved to prevent misunderstandings on

the destination. Other facilities include rent out bicycles and boats. A list of hotels and resorts can be obtained from TAT, Trat Office at Tel. +66 3959 7259-60

## ACTIVITIES IN KO CHANG

The most popular activity while visiting this island is to just immerse in the sublime beauty and relax. Apart from that, visitors can enjoy fishing, snorkelling, visiting nearby islands or exploring the island on a scooter which can be rented from the resort; however the driver should have some two-wheel experience as the roads have a tendency to fade away to nothing more than tracks. Many resorts rent out kayaks and arrange jungle treks as well as provide all day boat tours to the nearby islands. Furthermore, there are diving schools at all of the 4 largest beaches on the west coast, where tours can be booked or various diving licenses can be obtained and sailing-tours can also be booked in many resorts and travel agencies.

### Best time to visit Ko Chang and Other

**Islands** The best time to visit is from October to May, as most of the resorts are closed from the middle of May to the middle of October. However, some of the resorts are open all year round as some of the owners live there.

### Dining delights in Ko Chang

There are plenty of seafood restaurants dotted around the island and with the recent addition of a number of resorts; visitors can now enjoy a wide range of local and international cuisines. Ao Bang Bao is famous for having countless restaurants offering delicious fresh seafood with reasonable price. As the island only has a single road and most restaurants are located



*Ko Man Nok*

on the road or in resort compounds, they are easy to find. Reservations are not normally required but if you want to dine further up the scale it is best to book in advance.

### Diving Opportunities

At Ko Chang, snorkelling and scuba-diving are the most popular water sport activities. Some of the most popular dive sites in the area are off the island's southern tip. Between here and Ko Kut, the underwater explorer will discover many interesting things; such as seamounts abounding with coral, and a Thai warship sunk by the French during a territorial dispute over these waters back in 1941. The ever-growing



### Ferry Services

number of dive shops of the island can also tutor you in scuba diving, and provide different PADI courses.

Several dive operators located at the island's famous beaches such as Hat Sai Khao, Hat Kai Bae, Hat Khlong Phrao, and Ban Bang Bao offer a variety of courses and day trips, as well as renting and selling equipment.

## MEDICAL SERVICE

### *Ko Chang International Clinic*

The clinic offers hotel calls, medical evacuation, and an ambulance service. It is located on Hat Sai Khao, opposite the Ban Pu Resort, and open 24 hours. Tel. +66 2580 3596, or for

emergencies Tel. +66 3955 2555

## GETTING TO KO CHANG

There are both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses leaving from the Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekkamai) in Bangkok to Trat Bus Terminal, taking around 5 hours. From there continue by a 'song thaeo' (a kind of local mini-bus) transport to Laem Ngop, which is 17 kilometres from town, or the ferry landings at Ao Thammachat and Ko Chang Centre Point where services are operated all day. From Laem Ngop, visitors can take a 45-minute boat trip to Ko Chang and continue to Hat Sai Khao, Hat Khlong Phrao and Hat Kai Bae by local bus.



*Ko Chang Ferry Pier*

The schedules and fares are subject to change without notice due to climate condition. For current information, please contact TAT Trat office, Tel. +66 3959 7259-60.

### **Ferry Services**

Ferries depart either from Ao Thammachat (Ko Chang Ferry Pier) or Ko Chang Centre Point Landings between 7.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. with a travelling time of 30 minutes. Private vehicles can be loaded onto the ferry. Please note that vehicles used on the island should be the 4-wheel drive types as road conditions are bumpy and there are steep slopes to be negotiated. From the landing on Ko Chang are

song thao services to various points. Fares should be settled beforehand.

### **GETTING TO NEARBY ISLANDS**

Laem Ngop Pier and Ko Chang Centre Point Piers, located in Amphoe Laem Ngop, offer daily boat services to nearby islands; such as, Ko Mak, Ko Wai, Ko Kham, as well as tourist spots in Ko Chang and other groups of islands.



Ban Nam Chiao

Trat



City Pillar

Bordering Cambodia and situated some 400 kilometres from Bangkok, this eastern province has drawn numerous visitors through its archipelago of 52 (mostly uninhabited) islands in the Muko Chang National Park.

The quiet provincial capital of Trat, on the other hand, is well known for its gem markets, both in and near the town, as well as boasting several off-the-beaten-path beach resorts nearby. There are also some lively day and night markets, as well as a bevy of great, reasonably priced seafood restaurants.

## CITY ATTRACTIONS

### City Pillar

Located on Lak Mueang Road, the City Pillar is a Chinese-style building which is believed to be where the city's guardian spirit resides. This sacred site, built under the command of King Taksin the Great, is greatly respected by the townspeople as it is the symbol of peace and security of the people of this city.

### Governor's Residence

On Lak Mueang Road, this is an old 3-storey building that was once used as the residence



Laem Ngop Lighthouse





*Wat Yothanimit*

of the French governor when the town was occupied by the French in 1904-1907. Subsequently, from 1928, it became the residence of Trat's governors.

### **Laem Sok**

Laem Sok is the beach that houses the shrine of Krom Luang Chumphon, the father of the

Royal Thai Navy. Nearby are Hat Sai Daeng and the fishing villages of Ban Laem Hin and Ban Ao Cho.

### **Wat Buppharam**

Located on Plai Khlong Road, the temple dates from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and features the oldest wooden image hall in the country, while the surviving murals are of the early

Rattanakosin period. Within the temple is a museum that houses a number of ancient relics, Buddha images in different postures, and Chinese and European porcelain.

### ***Wat Khiriwihan***

Located on Trat-Khlong Yai-Hat Lek Road in Amphoe Mueang, the temple sits on a hilltop and provides a commanding view of both forest and sea. The temple is over 100 years old and has an outstanding mixture of traditional and modern architecture.

### ***Wat Phailom***

Situated on the city's Lak Mueang Road, this temple is renowned for its role in local education and community development. Other highlights are the garden for meditation, the Chedi Sam Than Chaokhun Museum, which is the museum that was built in commemoration of the 3 highly revered monks, and the multitude of monks and novices known for sticking to a strict moral code.

### ***Wat Saphan Hin***

The temple is supposedly around a century old, but there is no evidence saying exactly when it was constructed. An old ordination hall, a kilometre from the temple is situated in the middle of the pond. Some of the most significant parts of this temple are the temple hall, stupa, the royal pavilion of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the monks' cells, and its wealth of Buddhist imagery.

### ***Wat Yothanimit***

Located on Thetsaban 4 Road near the city pillar, Wat Yothanimit or Wat Bot was the temple where King Taksin the Great's followers pledged their loyalty by drinking holy water. The rite

was shifted to Wat Phai Lom by King Rama V. This is also the only royal temple in Trat. The mural paintings inside the old ordination hall are an attractive display of Thai art during the Ayutthaya era.

### ***Community of Two Religions, Tambon Nam Chiao, Amphoe Laem Ngop***

Illustrating the cooperation of the Buddhist and Islamic who reside peacefully together, this community is endowed with a great combination of arts and culture of the two religions. Apart from visiting the important religious sites, visitors can observe the making of Ngop which is a local product which is a hat made of Chak (nipa palm) leaf.

### ***Huai Raeng Eco Tourism Group***

Situated in Amphoe Mueang, this community offers a home-stay accommodation to tourists who look for a combination of natural and cultural experience. Awarded Thailand Tourism Award in the category of the most outstanding Tourism-based Community, this group provides numerous activities for the visitors; such as, observing the making of mangosteen soap, rafting through 18 rapids of the Huai Raeng River, or shrimp fishing at night.

## **OUT-OF-CITY-ATTRACTIONS**

### ***Ao Tan Khu***

Located in Tambon Bang Pit, some 12 kilometres from Amphoe Laem Ngop along Highway 3156, Ao Tan Khu is noted for its fine sandy beach with clear sea. This beautiful beach, which is popular with the local people during holidays, has good food for reasonable prices and some decent accommodations.

### **Ban Hat Lek**

Ban Hat Lek is the farthest border village in Trat. It is on Highway No. 318 within Khlong Yai District about 16 kilometres from the district town, or approximately 89 kilometres from the provincial capital. After the conflict ended in Cambodia, it has become a channel for Thai-Cambodia trading. Hat Lek Village is the ideal place to purchase inexpensive goods from abroad. There is an immigration check point at the border and visitors wishing to enter Cambodia from here have to apply for visa at the Cambodian Embassy in advance.

### **Bo Rai**

The Gem Market in Amphoe Bo Rai is famous for its Siamese rubies, which are world renowned for their clarity and pure red colour. The major markets within this community are Talat Phloi Hua Thung, Talat Phloi Ban Nong Bon, and Talat Phloi Ban Sa Yai. The market opens from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

### **Namtok Khlong Kaeo National Park**

Located in Amphoe Bo Rai, Namtok Khlong Kaeo National Park occupies an area of approximately 105 square kilometres. The Park's officers, who take care of it, can also help you with getting around and bedding down in affordable accommodation. This protected area is rich in plant life and also has a seven-tier waterfall with each segment boasting its own natural attractions. Near the fourth tier of the waterfall is the viewpoint, where visitors can enjoy the panoramic view of Amphoe Bo Rai. For more information, contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 3952 2039 or visit [portal.dnp.go.th](http://portal.dnp.go.th).

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation consists of the hotels in the city with complete facilities and amenities. A list of hotels and resorts can be obtained from the TAT Trat Tel. +66 3959 7259-60

## **LOCAL PRODUCTS**

Trat is most well-known for a variety of fruits; such as, rambutan, durian, pineapple, and sala. Sala or Salacca is a tropical plant belonging to the same species as palms, with distinctive aroma. Slightly sweet with sour undertone, Sala is usually eaten fresh and it is also used in certain Thai dishes instead of lemon and tamarind.

Gaining reputation for producing some of the country's most succulent seafood, Trat is home to many fine restaurants serving the freshest catches in a variety of Thai styles, for very affordable prices.

Trat is also a breeding ground for a canine species known as Thai Ridgeback, which has a distinctive whorl of hair on its back, and is prized for its intelligence and loyalty.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Ko Chang Naval Battle Memorial Day**

#### **Late January**

The event pays tribute to the bravery of the sailors in the Royal Thai Navy, who battled the French on 17 January 1941, during the Indo-China War, when French warships trespassed on Thai territorial waters. Thus on 17 January of every year, the memorial is held to honour the sailors with religious ceremonies, as well as an exhibition by the Royal Thai Navy. The centrepiece of the festival is the monument to these waterborne warriors at Laem Ngop.



## ***Trat Independence Day***

### **23 March**

The event is held on 23 March of every year, at the provincial town hall to mark the day the province was returned to Thai sovereignty after the French occupation.

## ***Trat Fruit and Souvenir Fair***

### **Late May or early June**

Decorative fruit procession, agricultural exhibitions and contests, as well as a beauty pageant, are examples of what visitors will see at the Trat Fruit and Souvenir Fair, along with food stalls and displays of folklore Thai entertainment.

## **GETTING THERE**

### ***By Air***

Bangkok Airways offers a daily flights between Bangkok and Trat. For further details, contact the Bangkok Office Tel. +66 2270 6699, Hotline Tel. 1771 or visit [www.bangkokair.com](http://www.bangkokair.com).

### ***By Bus***

From Bangkok (Ekkamai) Bus Terminal on Sukhumvit Road to Trat Tel. +66 2391 2504 or Bangkok (Chatuchak) Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road Tel. +66 2936 2852-66, contact center 1490 or visit [home.transport.co.th](http://home.transport.co.th) for further information.

### ***By Car***

From Bangkok, take one of these three routes:

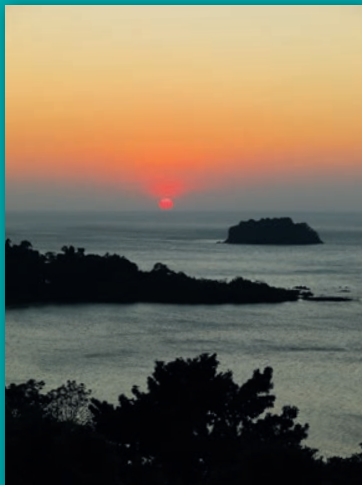
1. Motorway: Start at Km 0 at the Sri Nagarind-Ramkhamhaeng Intersection and drive onto the route Ban Bueng-Klaeng-Chanthaburi-Trat, a total distance of approximately 315 Kilometres.

2. Bang Na-Chon Buri-Klaeng-Chanthaburi-Trat (Highway 344), a distance of approximately 318 Kilometres.

3. Bang Na-Trat (Highway 3) passing Chon Buri-Rayong-Chanthaburi-Trat, a total distance of approximately 385 Kilometres.



*Ko Chang*



*Kai Bae Viewpoint*



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