# KANCHANABURI

Kanchanaburi, Thailand's third largest province located only 129 km. west of Bangkok, has many well-known historical destinations, as well as hidden treasures in its jungles and mountainous terrain. No wonder, Kanchanaburi has become one of the country's premier tourist destinations. Come here to discover magnificent natural wonder as well as majestic historical scenes, and enjoy a variety of activities that will make your trip unforgettable.





## Festivals

### River Kwai Bridge Week

The event is organized every year around late November to early December to pay a tribute to the POWs who constructed the Death Railway and the Bridge. Highlights include spectacular light andsound shows state-of-the-art special effects, historical and archaeological exhibitions and other kinds of entertainment.

## Food Festival, Loi Krathong, Kanchanaburi Ferryman and Rafter Festival

These 5-6 days annual events take place during Loi Krathong period. Canoe and long-tailed boat contests take place in the Kwai Yai River during the day, while a food contest is held at night that includes food stalls from famous restaurants and hotels. They can be found in front of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hall. The highlight on Loi Krathong night is floating banana-leaf floats, decked out with flowers and a candle, on the waterways.

👄 Getting There 쨰 🚛



- 1. Pin Klao-Nakhon Chaisi Route : From Boromrachachonnani Road, passing Nakhon Chaisi, Nakhon Pathom, Ban Pong, Tha Maka, Tha Muang to Kanchanaburi. Total distance is 129 km. Travel time is approximately 1.30 hours.
- 2. Old Route: Drive on Highway No.4 (Phetchakasem) from Bang Khae, via Om Noi, Om Yai, Sam Phran, Nakhon Chaisi to converge the first route at Nakhon Pathom. Total distance is about the same as the first route.

First-class, second-class and standard buses are on daily operation from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal. The trip usually takes 2 hours from Bangkok to downtown Kanchanaburi. First-class buses terminate at the intersection opposite to Kanchananukhro School· Second-class and standard buses terminate at Kanchanaburi's Central Bus Station. For more information, call Transportation Co.,Ltd. (+66 2422 4444) Call Center 1490, Kanchanaburi Transportion (+66 3451 1387) or www.transport.co.th

## By Train

Third-class train leaves from Thonburi Railway Station to Kanchanaburi Railway Station everyday. If you want to retrace the historical Death Railway the journey begins at Thonburi Railway Station and ends at Namtok Railway Station. For more information, please call 1690 (Bangkok Station) or www.railway.co.th. The special train operates from Thonburi Railway Station every weekend and on national holidays. Both overnight and round trips are available

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# Prime Kanchanaburi



. The Bridge over the River Kwai: Spanning across the Kwai Yai River is a bridge globally famed for its beauty and dramatic history. Built by Allied

army supervision during World War II, the bridge was part of the "Death Railway" linking Thailand to Myanmar. Initially, it was temporarily built of wood to transport construction materials. Later on, it was reconstructed with black iron, a material that makes the bridge unique to this day. Walking on the bridge and train-spotting wartime steam and diesel locomotives are recommended for visitors wishing to explore other dimensions of this strategic railway route. Near the bridge you can embark on cruises along the river to captivating attractions nearby.



Namtok Erawan: 65 km. from the The seven-tiered waterfall drawing locals and foreigners alike is repeatedly referred to as the most beautiful cascade in the west of Thailand. Its emerald

Prisoners of War (POW) under Japanese

stream running down from the hills of over 2,000 meters originates from the Mong Lai Creek and flows into the Kwai Yai River. The landmark that lends its name to this waterfall is a giant limestone located over the top that looks similar to the head of Erawan, a mythological elephant in Himavarna Forest. To best admire the beauty of this waterfall, visitors are recommended to spend at least 3 hours exploring the cascade, especially its fifth and sixth levels. The marvels of trees and wild birds are on brilliant display.



Namtok Sai Yok Yai: 04 km. from the city ... Namtok Sai Yok Noi:

60 km. from the city ... A usual hang-out for families traveling

with kids, the Namtok Sai Yok Yai is a large single-level waterfall with high layered rocks. It is also frequently referred to as "Namtok Khaochon", known for its strong cascade that falls into the Kwai Noi River. During the rainy season, the current is usually much stronger. A perfect way to get a panoramic front view of the waterfall is by rafting along the Kwai Noi River. Situated nearby is Sai Yok Noi Waterfall, which is locally dubbed "Namtok Khao Phang". Despite its relatively small size, the waterfall is shady and fresh, with a large basin suitable for swimming. Getting to these cascades is quite easy with a special train arranged by the State Railway of Thailand every weekend and on national holidays. For more information, call. +66 2562 0760.

Activities that draw thousands of tourists to this place include rafting and kayaking. They allow great sightseeing opportunities for those who enjoy appreciating the beauty of the two sides of the river. The kayak route starts from Namtok Sai Yok Yai, continues to Kui Lawa River and ends at the merging point with the Kwai Noi River. Please contact a travel agent for more information.



## 4. Namtok Huai Mae Khamin :

108 km. from the city ...... Discovered in 1979, this waterfall is recognized as the most magnificent waterfall in Srinagarindra National Park. The cascade leaps from the Kala Hill

and falls 2,270 meters over seven slopes of limestone to Srinagarindra reservoir. "Chat Kaeo", the fourth-level tier, is the most beautiful point and it's located only 10 meters from the headquarters. A minimum of 3 hours should be spent wandering around each level of the waterfall or marveling at exotic plants and birds via the pebble pathways. In addition to these routes, two other nature trails are also available. The ideal time to admire the site is from October to February or during the rainy season.



Prasat Mueang Sing Historical

Resting on an area of over 1 million square meters is Prasat Mueang Sing, Thailand's first historical park. With

Khmer-influenced architecture, this cultural heritage site dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D or the late Lop Buri era. Boasting an outstanding design, the palace is encircled by such archaic barriers as laterite walls, canals and sloping earthen dykes. Its shady inner area contains four major ruins, with a museum of ancient relics a must-see attraction. Visitors can choose to either walk or drive to each part of the park.



6. Tham Than Lot: 20 km. from Nong Prue 9.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m......**J8** Formally known as Chaloem Rattanakosin National Park, Tham Than

captivating caves and waterfalls such as Tham Than Lot Noi and Than Lot Yai, Trai Trueng and Namtok Than Thong. Most visitors are drawn to explore the park's natural resources, as seen along the two nature trails. The first trail leads directly to Tham Than Lot Noi and Namtok Trai Trueng and ends at the Tham Than Lot. It serves as a natural stone bridge linking all the sites together. Tham Than Lot Noi shelters such natural treasures as stalactites and stalagmites and a small stream running through "Lam Kra Phloi", another minor cave located 1.5 kilometers from the cave. Evidence discovered inside both caves indicates that they were once inhabited by Stone Age people. The other trail offers an ample opportunity to explore both the Namtok Than Ngoen and Namtok Than



an hour.

Myanmar

Namtok Takhian Thong

Sangkhla Buri

Ban Mon Village

Mon Bridge 45

Siamese lifestyle of the past in the Chao Phraya River Basin. During the reign of King Chulalongkorn the Great (Rama V) (1873-1910 A.D.), the people's way

"City of culture and lifestyle"

of life in 1905 A.D. was changed remarkably. The most pronounced was the abolition of slavery. Tourist visiting this attraction can wear Thai Dress and learn how to live in the past. For more information, call +66 3454 0884-6



9. Death Curve at Tham Krasae: 20 m. from Tham Krasae Railway Not to be left unvisited is "Death Curve", one of the most striking spots on the well-known "Death Railway". Its

20-meter-long track starting from Tham Krasae Railway Station provides a stunning viewpoint that overlooks the 400-meter rail curve-the only construction aligning steep limestone cliffs over the Kwai Noi River. Situated only 50 meters from the station is Tham Krasae, a place where a sacred image of the Buddha called "Luang Pho Tham Krasae" is enshrined.



10. Tham Lawa: from Paksaeng Pier Situated in Sai Yok National Park is one of the province's most frequently visited caves, locally known as Tham Lawa. The discovery of skeletal remains

indicates that this place was once inhabited by pre-historic humans. The cave is naturally divided into many small chambers, each of which was named by different explorers. There is the "Grand Hall," the "Music Room," the "Curtain Room" and the "Stupa" to explore. Each comes complete with dramatic rock formations. Some rooms boast thin, translucent stalactites which are situated along the ceiling as well as sparkling stalagmites that gleam when they come into contact with the light.



411 Secondary Highway

### Fare (Baht) Type Local Bus" Route I (Central Marketorange color) Kanchananukhro Police Station-Chuk Don Market-Phanonphon School Phayuhasena Hospital-Wat Tha Lo) Route II (Central Market-Don Rak Cemetery-Railway Station Intersection Start on -Bus Terminal intersection) 10 till 100 us Terminal and On request [Depends on any destinations On agreement Motorized-Tricycle Near the market On request Near the market On reques On agree Around the city Whole-rent van Bus Terminal For a day

Apart from what is listed above, there are also boats and rafts for sightseeing

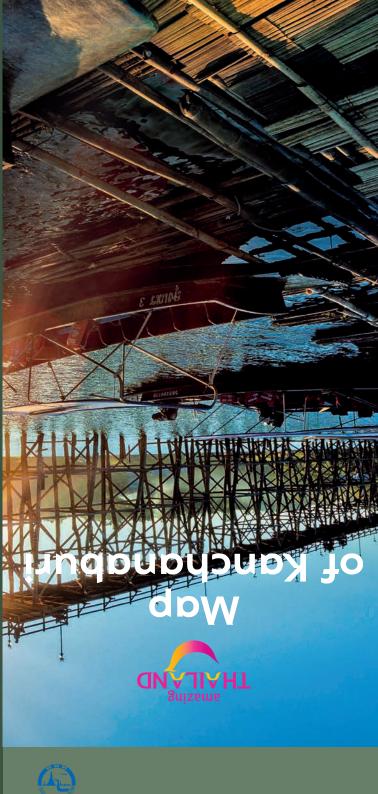
and at the Bridge over the River Kwai.

along the Kwai Yai and the Kwai Noi. Agencies can be found around downtown

Tak

# Getting to Neighboring Districts

From the Bus Terminal, you can also catch a bus to many neighboring districts. Listed here are the daily operating lines. Bus Type Fare (Baht) Travel Time (hr.) Kanchanaburi - Erawan National Park 50 1.30 Standard Kanchanaburi - Suphan Bur Standard 50 (via Ban Nong Khao) Kanchanaburi - Lao Khwan Standard Kanchanaburi - Dan Chang Standard (via Chaloem Rattanakosin National Park) Kanchanaburi - Thong Pha Phum Standard 120 Kanchanaburi - Si Sawat Local Bus 4-5 90-170 Kanchanaburi - Sangkhla Buri Standard air-conditioned van/bus For more information, please contact +66 3451 5907





# Glossary of Thai Terms

District Ban or Mu Ban Khao Khlong Canal Town or City Sub district

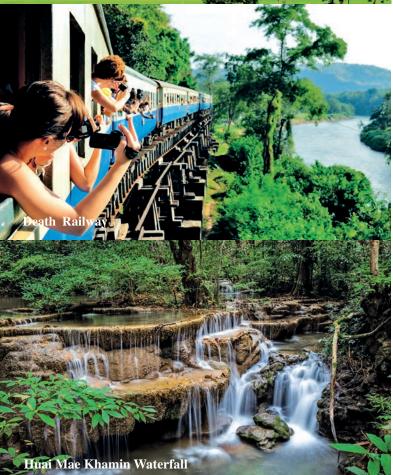
**Note:** English spellings give here try to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently.

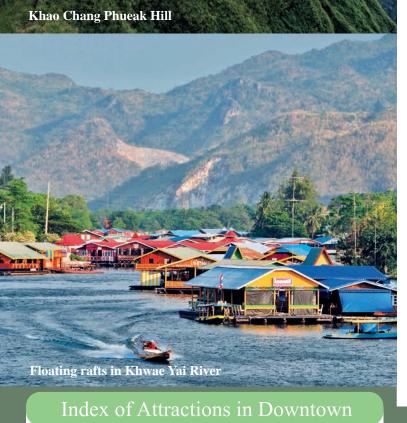
# Important Telephone Numbers

TAT CONTACT CENTER Tel. 1672 (8.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.) TAT Kanchanaburi Tel. +66 3451 1200, +66 3451 2500 City Hall Tel. +66 3451 1782 Kanchanaburi Bus Terminal Tel.#66 3451 5907 Kanchanaburi Railway Station Tel. +66 3451 1285 Thonburi Railway Station Tel. +66 2411 3102 **Tourist Police** Tel. 1155 Phahol Polpayunhasena Hospital +66 345897800

Tel. +66 3451 1233, +66 3462 2999







★ Death Railway

Wat Tha Lo

10. City Pillar Shrine

15. Wat Ban Tham

16. Wat Tham Suea

14. Wat Tham Khao Laem

17. Wat Tham Khao Noi

11. City Gate

Kanchanaburi War Cemetery (Don Rak)

Khao Pun War Cemetery (Chong Kai)

**★★★** O2

\*\*\* O8

\*\*\* O7

**★★** N8

**★★** Q12

O3

P8

P7

P5

P6

**★** O7

**★** N10

**★** O12

**★★** O13

**★** O13

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Art Gallery & War Museum

Thaiyanuson Monument

9. King Rama III Monument

JEATH War Museum (Wat Tai)

12. Wat Thawonwararam (Wat Yuan)

13. Wat Thewasangkharam (Wat Nuea)

Floating along the Kwai Noi

# Prime | Downtown



1. Death Railway

(Bridge over the River Kwai).....N4 This strategic route linking Thailand to Myanmar was built in 1942. The rialway, which is 415 kilometers in length, starts from Nong Pla Duk

Railway Station in Ratchaburi pronivce and ends at Thanbyuzayat, Malamaeng city of Myanmar. Death Railway, as the name implies, is reputed for its history; massive deaths of Prisoners of War (POW) and laborers from disesses, hardship and physical abuse. The saying "each bar for each life" is not an exaggeration. The site can be reached by taking the train from Thon Buri Railway Station. You can get on the train at the Tha Makham Station, a place that once served as the POW's detention huts.



Kanchanaburi War Cemetery (Don Rak): Opposite to the main railway tation on Saengchuto Road 9.00 am.

Covering an area of 27,200 square neters, this United Nations cemetery is

a burial ground for 6,982 Allied POWs who perished during the construction of the Death Railway. The cemetery, which is locally referred to as the "Foreign Graveyard," is well maintained with a wide variety of plants that create peaceful ambience. Each grave is covered with a brass plaque showing the person's name, service, age and nation as well as an epitaph line. A gigantic cross is enshrined at the center of the main garden and a memorial



Art Gallery & War Museum: 00 meters from the bridge over the River Kwai

0.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. .... A must-visit site for historians, this museum showcases the World War II

collection of the Allied POWs' weapons, tools and utensils as well as the Japanese army's uniforms and remnants of the original wooden bridge. Also on display are other non-war-related, prehistoric artifacts discovered in Kanchanaburi such as wooden coffins, stone utensils and pottery.



JEATH War Museum (Wat Tai): ocated in the precincts of Wat Chaichumphon, next to Mae Klong *Piver 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.* ......**08** This museum was built in 1977

following the initiative of Phra Dharma Khunaphon, the abbot of Wat Tai, as another reminder of the devastating effects of wars. The highlight of the museum is a replica of POWs' thatched detention hut with cramped bamboo bunks. Aside from exhibiting weapons, tools and utensils of the Second World War, the museum also showcases paintings, photos and articles that reflect the lives of the POWs during the





Floating along the Kwai Noi: Raft houses along one Kwai Noi River are becoming known for providing tourists with nagnificent river views while enjoying their stay in a wellequipped raft house.

During the day, the raft is scheduled to make several stops at such well-known attractions as Wat Tham Mangkon Thong, Wat Tham Khao Pun and Chong Kai Cemetery. At night, it drop anchor overnight in front of Ko Kaeo Phatthana Isalnd. The rafts bring alively atmosphere to the area with lights and music.



6. Chong Kai War Cemeterv on the bank of the Kwai Noi River, 2km. from the city 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. ..... N8

The former largest POW detention camp in Thailand, the site was rebuilt

after the end of the Second World War. The cemetery, covering an area of 16,000 square meters, is the resting place for 1,750 Allied POWs, most of which are British and is well maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves

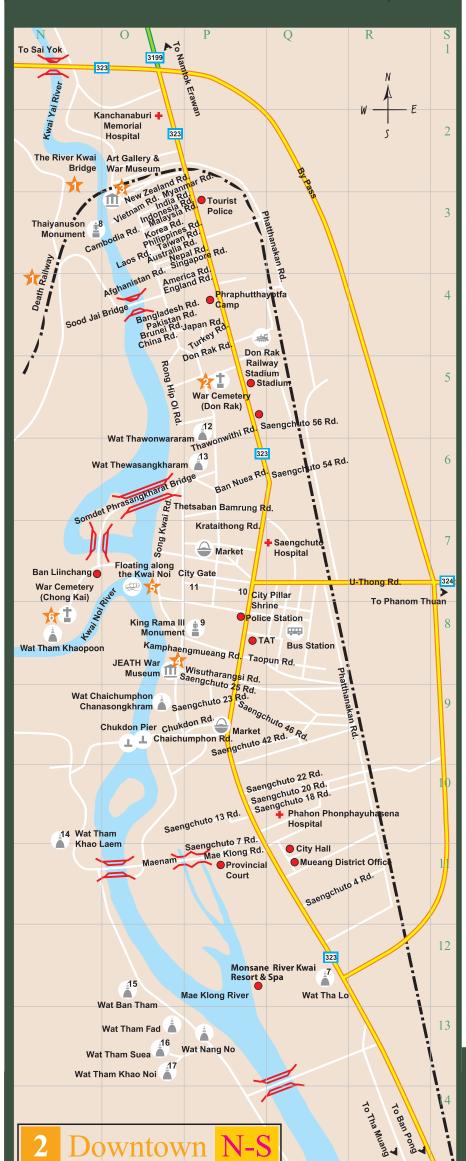


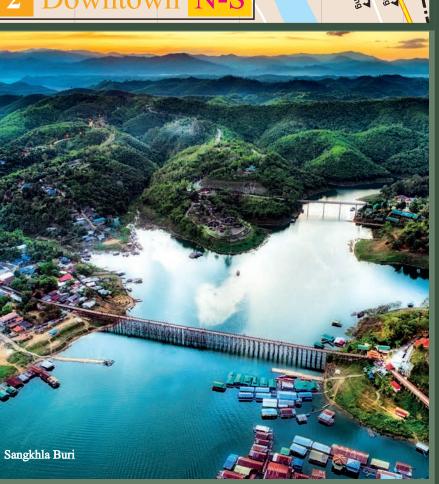
Badan: 150 km. from the city.....X8

Straddling the areas of the Kwai Noi River, Khao Laem, Tha Khanun Subdistrict and Thong Pha Phum District is Vajiralongkorn or Khao Laem Dam, a

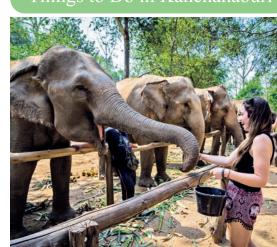
scenic reservoir serving as both a freshwater fishery and a popular tourist attraction. The most preferred activity by visitors is rafting to "Mueang Badan" or Sangkhla Buri's underwater city, the town that was submerged as the result of the dam's construction. The ideal time to catch glimpse of the old temple and houses emerging from the surface is when the tide is lowest, which is usually from March to April. Other worth-exploring routes are also featured by most tour operators. A chartered long-tailed boat for 7-10 persons

costs about 700 baht.				
Tour Operators for Nature Tours-Elephant Riding-Raftin				
Name	Tel			
A.S. Mixed travel	+66 3451 2017, www.applenoikanchanaburi.co			
Erawan 98 Travel	+66 3462 4260			
B.T. Travel Centre	+66 3462 5198			
Elephant Heaven Thailand	+66 6 1287 7205			
Taweechai Elephant Camp	+66 9 5769 6662, <b>+66 9 2649 516</b> 3			
	+66 9 9614 5965			









## 1. Riding on the Train

There are many specially arranged train schedules on the Bangkok-Kanchanaburi route. Available on weekends and national holidays. one-day and overnight, the trip offers the myriad opportunities to retrace the history of the Second World War along the nternationally famous Death Railway, while enjoying the charming surroundings of the River Kwai. Experience the adrenaline rush when the train swerves around the Death Curve near Tham Krasae-the most beautiful spot on the railway line. For more information, contact Bangkok Railway Station at Tel. 1690 or www.railway.co.th

**2. Rafting and Cruising**Reputedly Kanchanaburi's most popular activity, rafing is ended for tourists traveling with big groups. Chartering the raft is the preferred choice, as more passengers means a cheaper cost per person. The best part of it is you can choose your stopover wherever you want. But if time is your constraint, you can go for a cruise along the Kwai Noi and the Kwai Yai, or around Namtok Sai Yok Yai. If tranquility is what you ask for, Vajiralongkorn and Srinagarindra Dams are your ideal destinations. To charter a raft, costs from 3,500 - 8,000 baht.

Kanchanaburi offers many great fishing spots along the Kwai Noi and the Kwai Yai rivers, as well as the whereas a boat goes for Vajiralongkorn and Sri Srinagarindra reservoirs. For a small fishing boat, the rental fee is approximately 1,500-2,500 baht per hour. Fishing rods are also available for rent at 200-300 baht per day. The mystus and giant sake-head fish are among the commonly fish found.

## 4. Elephant Ride and White-Water Rafting

Challenging activities await tourists in Thong Pha Phum and Sangkhla Buri districts. They can enjoy the beauty of the verdant forests while riding on an elephant's back and experience a sense of excitement when the elephant crosses the river. White-water rafting may require some skills, as you have to control the raft through strong or still currents. Bed and board programs costing around 700-1,500 baht are available but must be reserved in advance.

### 5. Natural Trekking

Nature buffs and trekkers are drawn to the province's national parks for their enchanting nature trails, lovely waterfalls, majestic caves with magnificent stalactites and stalagmites. Sai Yok NP., Srinagarindra Dam NP., Erawan NP. and Tham Than Lot have tourist centers fot the maximum convenience of the tourists. They allow visitors to stay overnight in cabins or tents, with toilets located nearby. For more information, contact www.dnp.go.th

Certainly this is one of the must-not-miss activities that has recently gained its popularity among eco-friendly tourists. A trip to two famous seedless grape orchards, Chan Mueang and Phu Amon II Orchards, is well worth the time and gives you ample opportunities to cut the grapes fresh off the tree as well as taste and buy grape products at reasonable prices. The ideal time to visit the orchards is from March to April and during October to November, when the grapes are ripe and ready to be harvested.

The Three Pagodas Pass

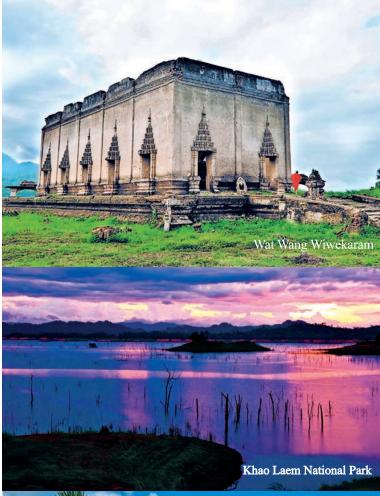
Ban Pa Rai Tung Ph

Ban Morakha

Ban Wia Khadi

Sangkhla Buri

Ha Rok Ni





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Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary

10. Tham Sawan Bandan

Huai Mae Ka Sa

Ban Kong Mong Tha

Ranti Bridge

Kwai No

(The Old Temple

11. Wat Sao Roi Ton

Myanmar

**★** V6

**★★** U6

Tak

Thong Pha Phum

Krateng Cheng

Dai Chong Thong To Namtok

Abbot Uttama) as it was built with donations from villagers who had faith in him. Tourists are drawn to this place by the original Mon-style architecture which is magnificently displayed in the 59-meter-high replica of Chedi Buddhakhaya. In addition to housing "Luang Pho Khao", a large, white marble Buddha image, the chedi is also a place where the Buddha's relics from Sri Lanka are enshrined in the top. Another must-see attraction located by the lake is a majestic Mon-style bell tower that commands panoramic views of the lake. Many shops in the area offer exotic souvenirs from Myanmar.

a tribute to Abbot Uttama, this 850-meter-long bridge commands magnifi-

cent views of the Vajiralongkorn reservoir and the unique architecture of

recommended for travelers looking for the quintessential Sangkhla Buri. In

the early morning, the bridge is a lively market where Thais and mons

Getting Around Kanchanaburi

Although the city of Kanchanaburi is accessible on foot, the town

is quite spread out thus requires strenuous effort. Normally, bicycles,

motorcycles and cars are common means of transportation. Bicycles

and motorcycles can be rented from shops, guesthouse and hotesl

located along Maenam Kwai Road. Visitors can capture the city's

atmosphere along their way to see the Bridge over the River Kwai,

the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, the Song Kwai Road waterfront,

and the JEATH War Museum. For visitors who enjoy driving

themselves cars can be rented on a daily or weekly basis at several

The two major routes used to explore Kanchanaburi's attractions are Highway No. 323 and Highway No. 3199. Highway No. 323 runs parallel to Kwai Noi River to Sangkhla Buri District

(approximately 230 kilometers from the city) via Sai Yok, Thong

Pha Phum, and Vajiralongkorn Dam, while Highway No. 3199

follows the Kwai Yai River to Srinagarindra Dam (69 kilometers

outlets on Road and around the Song Kwai Road area.

Prime | Sangkhla Buri

come to trade. At night it is the best spot to watch sunsets.

away from the city).



3. Mu Ban Mon: By Sangkhla Buri Lake near Wat Wang Wiwekaram .....V8 The Mon village inhabited by more than 1,000 households is situated to the northwest of Song Kalia reservoir. Here, villagers still preserve the time-

1. Mon Bridge or Uttamanusorn

Bridge: 230 km. from the city .......W7

One of Sangkhla Buri's well-known

landmarks is Thailand's longest wooden

bridge stretching over the Song Kalia

River. Built by devoted Mon villagers as

The most important temple of Sangkhla Buri is frequently referred to as "Wat

Luang Pho Uttama" (the temple of

2. Wat Wang Wiwekaram:

5 km. from Sangkhla Buri ....

honoured traditions of simple living. With unique food and costumes, people here are very polite and strongly devoted to Buddhism. They normally carry on their heads. Women usually wear lime yellow powder called Thanakha on their cheeks. In the early morning, Mon market is active and lively with a wide variety of local vegetables, fresh fish and other Mon utensils. The village can only be accessed via a wooden bridge.

4. Three Pagodas Pass: 18 km. from Formerly called "Hin Sam Kong" (Three Heaps of Stone), the site serves

as a border line between Thailand and

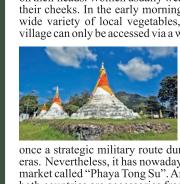
Myanmar. The Three Pagodas Pass was once a strategic military route during the Ayutthaya and early Ratanakosin



As Sangkhla Buri is part of the Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary reputed for its wild jungles and rare

animals, there are a wide array of

interesting must-do things for tourists seeking either adventure or relaxing activities. Cruising around the lake to marvel at magnificent riverbanks and the unique lives of the villagers is ideal for those looking to capture some peaceful moments and pastoral experiences. Other challenging activities that come in one package is riding by elephant back to explore the pristine forest and rafting on a bamboo raft along the unpolluted Ranti rivulet. The unpredictable current can always add a sense of great excitement to your trip. The package should be purchased in advance from tour agencies or accommodations in Sangkhla Buri.



eras. Nevertheless, it has nowadays become the location of an active border market called "Phaya Tong Su". Among the most sought-after products from both countries are accessories from carved woods, woven fabrics, redwood and furniture, as well as forest products. Purchasing wild orchids from the market is prohibited as they are protected by law. Entry to Myanmar is allowed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visitors should apply for an entry visa at the Immigration Office. There is a small charge. Once in Myanmar, tourists can visit "Wat Sao Roi Ton" (The Temple of Hundred Pillars) which is located only a few hundred meters away from the pass. They are, however, required to observe rules and regulations strictly.



5. Trekking in Sangkhla Buri