

amazing
THAILAND

HUA HIN & CHA-AM

Prachuap Khiri Khan | Phetchaburi | Ratchaburi





Hua Hin Beach

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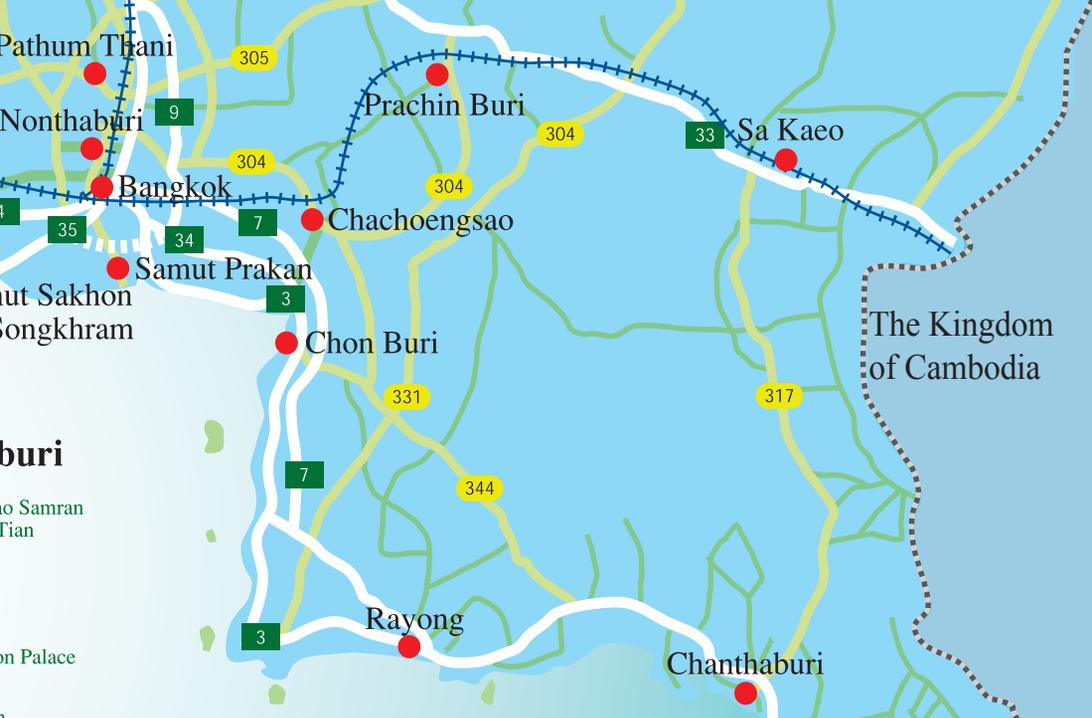


The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

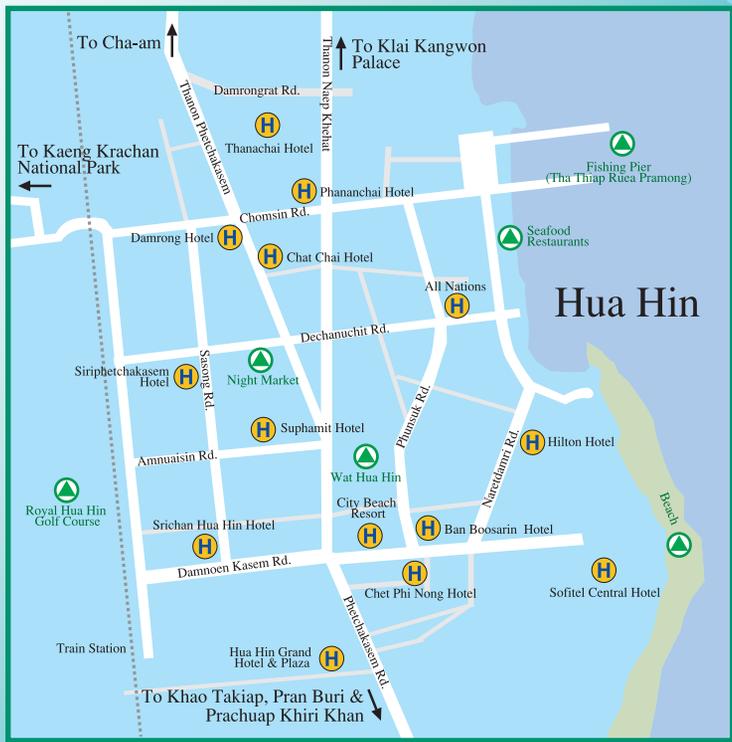


Andaman Sea





Gulf of Thailand





Hat Hua Hin

HUA HIN

Hua Hin is one of Thailand's most popular sea-side resorts among overseas visitors as well as Thais. Hua Hin, is located 281 kilometres south of Bangkok or around three-hour for driving a car to go there. It is renowned as Thailand's most traditional beach resort with many seafood restaurants, and a splendid sandy beach which starts from a rocky headland next to the port and curves gently for some 3 kilometres to its southern point where Buddhist temples surmount hilltops.

It was here, in the 1920's that King Rama VII built a summer palace, thus creating a vogue among high society for Hua Hin as a favourite retreat from Bangkok's summer heat. Today the Royal Family continues to reside at Hua Hin for part of the year. Hua Hin is a well-established beach destination, with full facilities. In contrast to Pattaya, the long-established resort on the opposite shore of the Gulf, Hua Hin provides a quiet, relaxed retreat amid surroundings which preserve a typical Thai ambience. Hua Hin is thus well suited for families or those who wish simply to escape the city bustle.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Panee Butterfly Farm

Located opposite Klai Kangwon Palace, this is the first butterfly and herbal garden in Hua Hin. Surrounded by diverse local plants from all over Thailand, it features varied species of butterflies, birds, orchids, flowers and herbal plants. It opens everyday from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Hat Hua Hin

Hat Hua Hin is a 5-kilometre white sandy beach lined with a wide range of accommodations, from bungalows to five-star hotels and resorts. Located at the sunrise side of the city, the beach

runs from a rocky headland which separates from a tiny fishing pier, and gently curves for some three kilometres to the south where the Giant Standing Buddha Sculpture is located at the foot of Khao Takiap. While offering a tranquil atmosphere, the beach is also the place for fun-filled activities ranging from jogging, walking, sun bathing, horse riding, kite boarding, and other kinds of water sports.

Hat Khao Tao

This small beach at the foot of Khao Tao Hill lies about 10 kilometres south of Hua Hin and 1 kilometre along an access road. It is located on a pine-fringed beach and is more secluded than Hua Hin. The signature of the place is a large Buddha image which faces out to the sea. Bungalow accommodations are available.

Hua Hin Arts and Crafts Centre

Situated in an old-styled house on Naepkhehat Road, the centre features a private collection of contemporary works of many Thai artists; such as, paintings, sculptures and local handicrafts, as well as old furniture and many pictures about Hua Hin in the past.

Baan Silapin Hua Hin (Artist Village)

Found in 1998, Baan Sillapin is situated on Pa La-u road (route 3218), only 4 kilometres west of the town center. It is the residence of Tawee Kesangam, the most renowned artist of Hua Hin, and home to the Hua Hin Artists Group.

The site also houses fine galleries of arts and antiques, artist studios, a gift shop, a cozy coffee corner, classes for popular painting and sculpture lessons, plus special occasional exhibitions. Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10.00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. For more information, call. +66 3282 7155 or +66 8 7047 7125.



Baan Sillapin Hua Hin

Hua Hin Night Market

A must for every visitor. This is the most colourful spot in Hua Hin during the night where the market offers a wide variety of food, drinks, desserts, memorable souvenirs. The famous freshly-prepared dishes are Phat Thai, Hoi Thot, fresh seafood, Indian roti bread, coconut ice cream, just to name a few. This market will delight visitors wishing to savour the real taste of Hua Hin.

Hua Hin PlearnWan

From the starting point of love and yearning for Hua Hin in the past, PlearnWan is originated as a new travel destination for Hua Hin residents and visitors. PlearnWan is “centre of joy and happiness... stop the past in order to tell the various tales of Hua Hin in the past ... toward present”. Located at Soi Mu Ban Bo Fai,

the venue is open for the visitors to enjoy 7 days a week from 9.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. on Sunday to Thursday, 9.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For further information please contact Tel. +66 3252 0311

Hua Hin Railway Station

Built in the reign of King Rama VI in gingerbreadstyle, the station is one of Thailand’s oldest railway stations. In addition, it is one of the country’s most beautiful train stations of which the local people are very proud. With its unique and outstanding characteristic, its most striking feature is the splendid Royal Waiting Room constructed in the Thai architectural style. The room was relocated from Sanam Chan Palace in Nakhon Pathom Province during the reign of King Rama VI.



Hua Hin Railway Station



Hua Hin Night Market

Khao Takiap

Situated at the southern end of Hua Hin, only 4 kilometres from the town, this hill can be easily reached by local minibus. Visitors can go up the hilltop to enjoy a bird's eye view of Hua Hin, which is one of the delightful views either during the day or night. There is a temple or call Wat Khao Takiap situated on the top of the hill with the giant golden Buddha Statue standing against the cliff, which becomes a landmark of Khao Takiap. The nearby Khao Takiap Beach offers mostly bungalow accommodations.

Cicada Market

An art-inspired flea market on an outdoor area with a tropical ambiance, Cicada Market is a place where visitors can find all kind of artists performing their talents; such as, singing, dancing, and performing arts, as well as selling their handmade products, one of a kind accessories and creative crafts. Located near Khao Takiap, the market is open on Friday to Sunday from 4.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m. contact Tel. +66 3253 6606, +66 9 9669 7161 or visit www.cicadamarket.com.

Klai Kangwon Palace

In Thai, the name of the palace literally means 'far from worries'. This summer palace, consisting of 3 Spanish style mansions facing the sea, was constructed to the north of Hua Hin under the royal command of King Rama VII in 1926. Today, it is the permanent residence of the King. Open everyday from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. For more information, please contact Tel. +66 3251 1115.

Namtok Pa La-u

This beautiful 11-tiered rock waterfall is located in the densely verdant forest in the area of

Kaeng Krachan National Park where various kinds of birds and butterflies are found, especially in the morning. Some levels of the waterfall can be reached along a trekking trail parallel to the stream. The best time to watch butterflies is from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. In addition, visitors may be able to spot wild animals and several species of rare birds. The best time to visit the fall is from November to April when the fall is at its most beautiful. The waterfall can be reached by local transportation from Hua Hin for a distance of 63 kilometres.

For more information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th or Kaeng Krachan National Park at Tel. +66 3245 9293, +66 3245 9291.

Suan Son Pradiphat or Sea Pine Garden

This beachside area belongs to the Army Welfare Office and is open to the public. It is Km. 241, around 8 kilometres south of Hua Hin. This is a tranquil and relaxing place to visit with various restaurants and accommodations in the form of guesthouses, hotels and self-catering bungalows. Tel. +66 3265 5985-7

Hua Hin Hills Vineyard

The first and only vineyard in Hua Hin, this vineyard grow a wide range of grapes; such as, shiraz, Chenin Blanc, Colombard, Tempranillo, Sangiovese, and Black Muscat. Visitors can tour around the vineyard on the back of an elephant, or enjoy the wine tasting and wine and food pairing session, as well as the delicious cuisine. Located about 40 kilometres from Hua Hin, this vineyard is best visited during February to March. Open everyday from 9.00 a.m. - 6.30 p.m. Contact Tel. +66 8 1701 0222, +66 8 1701 0444 or visit www.monsoonvalley.com for more information.



Hua Hin Hills Vineyard



Cicada Market



Namtok Pa La-u



Vic Hua Hin





Black Mountain Golf Course

Vic Hua Hin

Founded by Phatravadi Mejudhon, a renowned actress, director, and playwright of Thailand, Vic Hua Hin is an art complex where artists learn and share ideas, skills, arts and cultures from each other. Located in Tambon Nong Kae, it comprises of theatre, gallery, school, accommodation, and restaurant. For more information, contact Tel. +66 3282 7814 or visit www.vichuahin.com. Open everyday on 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Golfing

There are a few golf courses with challenging

layout and designed to be set amidst the forested hill, or offering picturesque sea view. All golf courses feature well-equipped clubhouses, changing facilities, restaurants, bars and rooms for post-tournament functions and some golf courses offer massage and sauna or overnight accommodation. For more information, contact TAT Prachuap Khiri Khan Office at Tel.+66 3251 3885 or visit www.tourismthailand.org.

Kite-surfing and Kite-boarding

Hua Hin is a great place to enjoy kite-surfing and kite-boarding as the wind is good all year round. There is a kite-surfing and kite boarding school which provides lessons for both

beginner kite-boarders and advanced kite-surfers, as well as equipments for hire. For more information, please contact Kiteboarding Asia at Tel. +66 8 1591 4593 or kiteboardingasia.com/hua-hin/.

Go Kart

Those who seek the thrilling experience would enjoy go karting in Hua Hin. The outdoor track provides karters with exciting and challenging activity amidst the beautiful mountain ranges. Learning sessions and race can be arranged. Open everyday from 10.30 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. For more information, please contact Go Kart Hua Hin at Tel. +66 3254 7199, +66 8 1817 3000 or visit www.gokarthuahin.com.

Horse riding on the beach

Horse riding on the beach is another popular activity for tourists who visit Hua Hin. Horse rentals can be found along the Hua Hin beach and even the inexperienced rider can enjoy this activity as the jockey will provide you with tips and tricks on how to ride the horse.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Drive along Highway No.35 (Thon Buri-PakTho) passing Samut Sakhon and Samut Songkhram Provinces and then take Highway No. 4 to Hua Hin. Total distance is 200 kilometres. Alternatively, it is possible to travel via Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi Provinces.

By Bus

There are both air-conditioned and non-air conditioned buses from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal to Hua Hin. The trip takes about 3½ to 4 hours. For more information, contact Tel. +66 2422 4444, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th.

In addition, there are various agencies on Khao San Road and Victory Monument in Bangkok operating minivans to Hua Hin. The bus leaves from Hua Hin for Bangkok from a station next to Siripetchkasem Hotel.

By Train

From Bangkok, trains depart from both of Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Bangkok Noi Railway Station. The trip takes about 3-4 hours from Bangkok. Contact Tel. 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th for more information.

By Boat

High speed ferry from Pattaya to Hua Hin is available 3 times a week on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Travelling time is approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes. For more information, contact Tel. +66 3263 2223, +66 8 4800 7400 (Hua Hin's number), +66 3836 4515 (Pattaya's number), or visit www.huahinmedia.com/huahinferry.php

Getting around Hua Hin

There are many ways to get around in Hua Hin, 'song thaeo' run the same routes all day. There are numerous motorcycle taxis and tuk-tuks, but fewer car taxis. It is recommended to negotiate the price beforehand. You will be able to find samllors (rickshaws) around Hua Hin as well.

SPECIAL EVENT

Hua Hin International Jazz Festival June

Hua Hin Beach

Relax at the Hua Hin Jazz Festival where you will enjoy renowned Thai and international jazz musicians, familiar all-time favorites



Hua Hin International Jazz Festival

and contemporary tunes. This festival is a true celebration of jazz in a beautiful beach atmosphere where you can also enjoy sumptuous cuisine and refreshments available at different stands along the beach.

If you enjoy unique folk handicrafts for souvenirs, this will also be a chance for you to shopping for your loved ones.

Website: www.tourismthailand.org



Ko Thalu

PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Prachuap Khiri Khan, or commonly referred to as simply Prachuap, is a province located in the lower central region, 93 kilometres south of Hua Hin. While much smaller and quieter than Hua Hin, Prachuap is actually the provincial capital of the same-named province. It is a fishing port with a superb location and possesses various interesting tourist attractions such as; beaches, islands, forests and mountains.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Ao Manao

Lying some 5 kilometres south of the town, this beautiful curved bay, was once a battlefield between the Thai and Japanese armies during the Second World War, and is under the care of the Royal Thai Air Force. Part of the beach is lined with souvenir stalls. Accommodation should be reserved in advanced at the 53rd Squadron, Tel. 0 3261 1031 ext. 60464.

Khao Chong Krachok

Rising sharply in the north of the town, beside the sea, this outcrop has a much revered temple on its summit. Reached by climbing 395 steps, it features a small pagoda and a troupe of playful monkeys. The hilltop offers a magnificent panorama of the coastline, seascape and hinterland.

Ko Thalu

Ko Thalu is a great place for ecotour with several natural walking trail, snorkelling or diving opportunities for visitors to observe beautiful coral reefs, and boat trip to enjoy the natural beauty around the island. Koh Talu Island Resort is the only place that provides overnight accommodation at the island, please contact Tel. +66 3244 2636, +66 8 9918 3715 or visit www.taluisland.com.

Out-Of-City Attractions

Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park

Located 63 kilometres south of Hua Hin near Amphoe Kui Buri, this coastal national park covers an area of 98 square kilometres with limestone mountains, mangrove swamps, and beaches. It is also home to various kinds of local and migrating birds, which are plentiful from November to February. With a large number of ridges, Khao Sam Roi Yot (or the mountain of 300 peaks) stands as a landmark for seamen and also provides a good shelter for ships during a storm. Interesting attractions within the park includes:

Hat Laem Sala, is located 16 kilometres north of the park office. It can be reached by boat or walking across a hill from Bang Pu Village. Walking up a beachside mountain for a while, visitors will arrive at a famous cave called "*Tham Phraya Nakhon*". The cave has a big hole in its roof through which shafts of light reach and permit the growth of various plants. Most famously, the light shines on Phra Thi Nang Khuha Kharuehat, a Thai style pavilion, lends the most attractive sight to the cave and has become the symbol of Prachuap Khiri Khan. It is a four-porch building first constructed in Bangkok in 1890 during the reign of King Rama V, then dismantled and moved to the cave where it was reconstructed. Its gable tops were raised by the King himself.

Hat Sam Phraya, located 3.5 kilometres north of the park office, is a beautiful beach lined with pine trees. Accommodation is available.

Tham Kaeo, is situated some 23 kilometres from Pran Buri or 15 kilometres north of the park office. This cave is full of stalactites and stalagmites. Oil lamps can be rented at a nearby village for exploring the cave.



Ao Mae Ramphueng

Tham Sai, is 9 kilometres north of the park office. Exploration inside the cave takes about 30 minutes. Oil lamps can be rented at nearby Khung Tanot Village.

To get to the park, follow the direction signs marking the remaining distances of 38 and 15 kilometres at Km. 256 and Km. 286.5, respectively. For more information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th, or Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park at Tel. +66 3282 1568, +66 3264 6293.

Ao Mae Ramphueng

Situated in the southern extremities of the province, this is a scenic bay in the Amphoe Bang Saphan. Travel about 75 kilometres south of Phrachuap Khiri Khan to Km. 399, turn left and continue for another 17 kilometres via

Bang Saphan Market to Ao Mae Ramphueng. Accommodation and seafood restaurants are available.

Hat Ban Krut

This quiet beach is situated mid-way between Amphoe Thap Sakae and Amphoe Bang Saphan. A good view of the beach can be seen from the top of Thong Chai Mountain where a huge sitting Buddha image is situated. Accommodation is available along the beach.

Hat Wanakon National Park

Located approximately 23 kilometres south of Phrachuap Khiri Khan and another 3.5 kilometres on an access road, the 38-square kilometre park offers a 7-kilometre-long beach lined with sea pines. Snorkelling around offshore islands, swimming, hiking and bird watching are among major attractions. Accommodation facilities are available and camping at the park is permitted.



Hat Wanakon National Park

For more information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel.+66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th, or Hat Wanakon National Park at Tel. +66 3261 9030.

King Mongkut Memorial Park of Science and Technology

This Science Park was established at Wa Ko in 1989 to commemorate King Monkut (King Rama IV), who is regarded as the Father of Thai Science Study. In 1968 the King made a trip to Wa Ko to witness an eclipse of the sun after his astronomical forecast.

Located at Km. 335 of Highway No. 4, about 12 kilometres from Prachuap Khiri Khan and 4 kilometres along a branch road, the Park houses the museum with many sections for youth education, an aquarium and a butterfly

garden. It can be visited everyday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please Contact Tel. +66 3266 1726 for more information or visit website: www.waghor.go.th.

Wa Ko

This locality has had historical importance since the reign of King Rama IV. The king made a trip to Wa Ko to witness the full moon eclipse. A long white sandy beach lined with sea pines offers a pleasant atmosphere. It is located at Km. 335 of Highway 4, about 12 kilometres south of the town.

Namtok Huai Yang National Park

This 16-square kilometre park covers a forested area on the Tanao Si Mountain Range. Follow a sign at Km. 351 of Highway 4 and drive along a 7-kilometre access road to the park office. A 5 tiered Huai Yang Falls near the park office



Waghor Aquarium in King Mongkut Memorial Park of Science and Technology

is its main attraction which is composed of five small cascades situated in recreational surroundings. The highest elevation is the 1,251-metre Khao Luang Mountain. Accommodation is available near the park headquarters. For more information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th, or Namtok Huai Yang National Park at Tel. +66 3264 6291, +66 3261 9743.

Pran Buri

Pran Buri is approximately 30 kilometres south of Hua Hin. Being a relatively new destination, Pran Buri is home to several beach resorts with peaceful atmosphere. Blessed with endless miles of white sandy beaches, Pran Buri is fast becoming one of the preferred holiday getaways for discerning individuals and for those who yearn for their own private retreat. The Pran Buri Forest Park occupies a large area with a 1-kilometre pine-fringed beach and mangrove nature trails. Here visitor can also get on a boat trip along the Pranburi River to enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of the mangrove forest.

Hat Bang Boet

Located at Ban Bang Boet in Amphoe Bang Saphan Noi, this curving bay features beautiful reddish brown sandy beach. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful view of Pha Daeng, which is a red rock cliff, while walking along the beach. Bang Boet is also famous for its sweet and crispy watermelon.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Prachuap Khiri Khan has a variety of dried fish and fruit products; such as, pineapples,

coconuts, bananas and aloe vera. A renowned product is Pha Phim Khommaphat or Khommaphat printed cotton, typical of Hua Hin and sold by the yard. A large variety of other cotton products are obtainable; such as, placemats, tablecloths and pillowcases, especially at Hua Hin Market. Most popular is the Batik cloth which is an interesting souvenir that can easily be found in shops around the town.

Souvenir shops can be found in the town of Hua Hin, mostly on Naret Damri Road, Decha Nuchit Road, Chomsin Road, Damnoen Kasem Road, and the nearby areas.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Bus

Both 1st and 2nd class (air-conditioned), and ordinary buses leave from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal to Prachuap Khiri Khan daily. The trip takes about 4 to 4½ hours. For more information, Contact Tel. +66 2422 4444, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th.

By Car

Drive along Highway No. 35 (Thon Buri-Pak Tho) passing Samut Sakhon and Samut Songkhram Provinces and then take Highway No. 4 via Hua Hin to Prachuap Khiri Khan. Total distance is 281 kilometres. Alternatively, it is possible to travel via Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi Provinces.

By Train

From Bangkok, trains depart from both Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Bangkok Noi Railway Station daily. The trip takes about 5 hours from Bangkok. Contact Tel. 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th for more information.



Hat Cha-am

CHA-AM

ATTRACTIONS

Hat Cha-am

This straight sea pine-lined beach lies approximately 163 kilometres south of Bangkok, 40 kilometres south of Phetchaburi or 20 kilometres north of Hua Hin. Often paired as a traditional seaside destination favoured by the Thai upper class, Cha-am was originally a fishing village. After King Rama VI had Maruekhathaiyawan Palace built, the area was taken up by the Royal Family and the elite for beachside sojourns.

Today, it is very popular among Thais who love superb seafood and comfortable hotel or bungalow accommodation. In addition, there are a variety of water sports that can be enjoyed, while a possible alternative to water sports is bicycle riding along a 6-kilometre sandy white beach. During the weekdays the beach is virtually deserted and there are beach umbrellas and sling chairs available for hire.

Maruekhathaiyawan Palace

Referred to as “the palace of love and hope”, this summer seaside palace is located midway between Cha-am and Hua Hin. It was built in 1923 under the royal command of King Rama VI using golden teakwood from the demolished Hat Chao Samran Palace. An Italian architect designed the palace with a dazzling composition of verandahs and latticework in regal proportions.

The palace is a two-storied wooden pavilion with a series of connecting halls and a long corridor leading to the sea. Residential halls of royal family members are on the right wing while those for royal retainers are on the left wing. In addition, a two-storied, open pavilion located next to the central hall was once used as a royal meeting place and theatre.

The palace is open to the public everyday, Monday to Sunday (except Wednesday) from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. For more information, please contact Tel. +66 3247 1388, 0 3247 1130, +66 3250 8443-5

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Drive along Highway No. 35 (Thon Buri-Pak Tho) passing Samut Sakhon and Samut Songkhram Provinces and then take Highway No. 4 to Phetchaburi Province and Cha-am. The total distance is around 180 kilometres. Alternatively, it is possible to travel via Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi Provinces.

By Bus

Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses depart from Bangkok’s Southern Bus Terminal for Cha-am. The bus takes about 3 hours to reach the destination. Contact Tel. +66 2422 4444, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th for more details.

By Train

From Bangkok, trains depart from both Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Bangkok Noi Railway Station. Contact Tel. 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th for more information.

Getting Around Cha-am

Samlors and taxis (motorcycles) can go anywhere in the centre of town. It is possible to charter one for the whole day.



Maruekhathaiyawan Palace





Phra Nakhon Khiri Historical Park or Khao Wang

PHETCHABURI



Wat Yai Suwannaram

Occupying an area of 6,225 square kilometres, Phetchaburi is characterised by thick jungles and mountain ranges in the west along the border with Myanmar, and a coastal plain with an 80-kilometre coastline on the Gulf of Thailand to the east.

The province offers a splendid historical park and ancient temples in the provincial capital, peaceful beaches, beautiful caves, a superb nature reserve, and a great variety of fresh seafood.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Phra Nakhon Khiri

Located 92 metres above sea level, the summer palace of King Rama IV stands in a beautiful setting upon wooded hills. Built in 1860, this Phetchaburi's well-known landmark was named Phra Nakhon Khiri Palace, but local people usually call it "Khao Wang".

It consists of royal halls, temples and other buildings, constructed mostly in harmonious Thai, Western neoclassical and Chinese architectural styles. The Phra Nakhon Khiri Museum on the western hilltop exhibits royal paraphernalia of King Rama IV and King Rama V, decorative sculptures, and ceramics from China, Japan and Europe.

Getting to Phra Nakhon Khiri Historical Park

The site is located on Phetkasem Road, just one kilometre from the town entrance junction. It is possible to climb the mountain by walking or by cable car. Walking up is a strenuous activity but it is the traditional way to approach the Park. For those choosing the cable car option, service is provided from 8.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Phra Ram Ratchaniwet

Originally called "Wang Ban Puen", this palace of European architectural style is situated to the



Phra Ram Ratchaniwet

south of the town. The construction began in 1909 at the command of King Rama V to be his rainy season palace. A German architect, Dr. Karl Siegfried Dohring designed the palace, while Admiral HRH Prince Boriphat of Nakhonsawan and HRH Prince Damrong supervised the construction. The construction was completed in 1916 in the reign of King Rama VI. The palace was used to welcome and accommodate state visitors during the reign of King Rama VI.

Tham Khao Luang

The cave is located approximately five kilometres from Khao Wang. Regarded as the largest and most important in the province, this impressive cave houses a Buddha image cast under the royal command of King Rama V as a dedication to King Rama III and King Rama IV. At the foot of Khao Luang Hill, a large monastery

locally known as Wat Tham Klaep or Wat Bun-thawi is located. Attractions within the compound are a large multi-purpose hall and a chapel laden with beautifully carved door panels.

Wat Mahathat Worawihan

Situated by Phetchaburi River in the town centre, this large white pagoda of Wat Mahathat Worawihan, which can be seen from a distance, is a mixture of the late Ayutthaya and early Rattanakosin style with an adaptation of the prang of Lop Buri. There is a five-topped pagoda housing the Lord Buddha's relics which was constructed according to concept of Maha-yana Buddhism. The elegantly designed stucco decorated on the wihan (image hall) and the ubosot (assembly hall) is proof to the excellent skill of Phetchaburi's local craftsmanship.



Tham Khao Luang



Wat Mahathat Worawihan

Wat Yai Suwannaram

Another important temple in the town, Wat Yai Suwannaram is situated 1 kilometre east of the city hall. The temple, featuring a windowless main shrine hall, houses magnificent 300-year-old murals of mythical angels. Its Sala Kanprian (multi-purpose hall), which was once located in Ayutthaya's Grand Palace, was entirely built of teakwood and decorated with fine woodwork especially at the door panels. There is also a preaching throne with magnificently elaborated Bangkok style woodcarvings and gold gilt works located in the hall.

Wat Kamphaeng Laeng

Situated on Phra Song Road, around 2 kilometres from the Provincial Hall, this temple was originally a Khmer place of worship built in the Brahmanism style and later turned into Buddhist temple when Buddhism starts to make its presence into the area.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Hat Chao Samran

This beach, which is located approximately 15 kilometres southeast of the town, has a history that can be traced back to the Ayutthaya Era. The name 'Hat Chao Samran', which means 'Royal Leisure Beach', was derived as a result of several visits for extended periods of time made by King Naresuan the Great and his brother, King Ekathotsarot. In addition, the beach was the most popular one among other beaches in Thailand during the reign of King Rama VI when he ordered the construction of Hat Chao Samran Palace in 1918.

Hup Kraphong

This is the place where the Hup Kraphong Royal Development Project is located. H.M.

King Bhumibol initiated the project in 1962 with the support of Israel to help local farmers experiencing agricultural difficulties as a result from infertile soil. Several studies on soil improvement, various cash crops and production efficiency have been conducted. This is one of Thailand's leading Royal Projects where travellers can visit to purchase farm produce, crafts (usually made of hemp) and folk art products which have been exported to many Asian and European countries.

Khuean Kaeng Krachan

Located 53 kilometres southwest of town on Kaeng Krachan Road, Khuean Kaeng Krachan has a height of 58 metres, length of 760 metres and was completed in 1966. This dam was constructed because the Phet Dam cannot store water and when the water level in the Phet River is too high it has to be released uselessly. Therefore, Kaeng Krachan Dam was constructed to store water, to be delivered to the Phet Dam for distribution into the irrigated area. The Dam provides visitors with a stunning scenic viewpoint of the reservoir and its islands while the most popular activity is a cruising trip on the reservoir.

Laem Phak Bia

Located in Amphoe Ban Laem, Laem Phak Bia is a small tambon (sub-district) that has the area along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand that runs to meet with Hat Chao Samran. One of the most famous destinations for birdwatching activity in Thailand, it is also the location of Laem Phak Bia Environmental Research and Development Project which is a Royal Initiated Project.



Kaeng Krachan National Park

Kaeng Krachan National Park

Still largely unexplored, this is Thailand's most extensive national park, covering 2,915 square kilometres. The park was set up in 1981, with its office located 3 kilometres beyond Khuean Kaeng Krachan. It is rich in flora and fauna, including leopards, tigers and elephants. The park features dense evergreen forest and spread over the Tanaosi Mountain Range, and is the source of many rivers. A notable feature is an 18-tiered waterfall, Namtok Tho Thip. About 54 kilometres from the park office on the Sai Wang Won-Namtok Tho Thip road, there is a viewpoint offering magnificent morning views of misty mountains and suitable for bird and butterfly watching. Raft trips along Phetchaburi River start from the park.

Kaeng Krachan National Park provides accommodations overlooking an extensive land-

scaped reservoir. Please make a reservation in advance at the Kaeng Krachan National Park at Tel. +66 3245 9293, +66 3246 7326 or contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Lao Song or Thai Song Dam Tribal Villages

There are many tribal villages in Amphoe Khao Yoi, particularly at Ban Nong Prong and Ban Thap Khang. The ancestors of these people migrated from Lao PDR and their customs and traditions have been preserved and are still practiced. In April, they organise social events with entertainment and folk plays.

Tham Khao Yoi

Located on the hill, this cave is clearly visible from Highway No.4, behind the railway station of Amphoe Khao Yoi, approximately 22 kilometres



Wat Khao Takhrao

north of Phetchaburi town. It was the place where King Rama VI practiced meditation while he was ordained. Today, it houses several Buddha images.

Wat Khao Takhrao

Located in Amphoe Ban Laem, 12 kilometres from Phetchaburi City, this temple houses a highly revered sitting Buddha image called “Luangpho Khao Takhrao”. The image was found at the mouth of Mae Klong River in

Samut Songkhram Province by Ban Laem villagers, who migrated from Ban Laem to Samut Songkhram during the fall of Ayutthaya, in order to move away from the route of the Burmese troops.

Wat Kuti

This temple at Bang Khem, north of Khao Yoi, boasts an Ubosot made entirely of carved teak. The outer walls are carved with scenes depicting the Ten Incarnations of the Lord Buddha and the door panels feature openwork of entwined spray patterns, all of masterly craftsmanship.

INTERESTING ACTIVITIES

There are both sports adventure and rafting along Phetchaburi River for visitor to choose upon your own preference. For further information, contact the Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phetchaburi at Tel. +66 3247 1005-6 or visit www.tourismthailand.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Phra Nakhon Khiri Fair

February

To celebrate Phetchaburi’s cultural heritage, local people hold the fair at Phra Nakhon Khiri or Khao Wang, an important historical site of Phetchaburi Province. The five-day fair’s highlight is a costumed procession of monarchs who ruled Phetchaburi during the Dvaravati and Srivijaya Periods. The fair includes exhibitions on local history and archaeological objects, cooking demonstrations of the province’s famous dishes and sweetmeats, various forms of entertainment and contests.

Thai Song Dam Festival

April

At this merit-making festival at Song Dam

village in Amphoe Khao Yoi, games, entertainment and authentic cuisine of the local tribal people are all on offer. Many villagers wear their traditional costumes, a rare sight to be seen nowadays.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Khao Chae and Khanom Chin Thotman

Khao Chae (rice served with ice and sweetened meat) is a renowned local dish and is popular during the summer season as it cools you down. Khanom Chin Thotman (rice noodles with fish-cakes) is also a popular dish.

Phetchaburi Fruits

There are various varieties of Phetchaburi Fruit from every season found here. The most famous are sweet and aromatic Chom Phu (rose apple), fresh Palm seed, pineapple from Don Khun Huai, cantaloupe and also the well-known golden banana from Amphoe Tha Yang.

Sweets

The most famous souvenir of the province is sweets made of tanot (palm) sugar, flour, eggs and coconut cream. In the city and along Highway No. 4 are numerous sweet shops with names starting with the word Mae that are Thai dessert specialists, with Phetchaburi's specialty known as "Khanom Mo Kaeng". In addition, Thong Yot, Thong Yip, Foi Thong, and Khanom Tan are also popular purchases.

Other souvenirs

Include women's accessories and house wares made of hemp, palm sugar products and a large variety of preserved fruits.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Drive along Highway No. 35 (Thon Buri-PakTho) passing Samut Sakhon and Samut Songkhram Provinces and then take Highway No. 4 to Phetchaburi Province. The total distance is 123 kilometres. Alternatively, it is possible to travel via Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi Provinces.

By Bus

Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses depart from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal for Phetchaburi. The bus takes about 2½ hours to reach the destination. For more information, contact Tel. +66 2422 4444, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th.

By Train

From Bangkok, trains depart from both Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Bangkok Noi Railway Station. Contact Tel. 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th for more information.

Getting Around Phetchaburi

Samlo (tricycle taxi) and motorcycle taxi can go anywhere in the centre of town. It is possible to charter one for the whole day as well. There are also shared "song thaeo" (local taxi) available around town, including to and from the railway station.



Khao Krachom

RATCHABURI

Located 80 kilometres west of Bangkok, and covering just over 5,000 square kilometres, reaching across to the border with Myanmar, “Ratchaburi” has the meaning of “City of Kings”. There are several significant temples in and around town, but the greatest tourist attraction in the province is the floating market at Damnoen Saduak, where visitors mingle with food and fruit vendors on the maze of local canals.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Ratchaburi Museum

Situated on Woradet Road near the river, this museum houses art and ancient items of different periods found in the local area, and exhibits the history of Ratchaburi, as well as its folk art and geology. The building was erected in 1922 as the town hall, and has functioned as a museum since 1988. Opening hours are 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday-Sunday. For more information, please contact +66 3232 1513 or visit finearts.go.th/ratchaburimuseum

Wat Mahathat Worawihan

This ancient temple, locally called Wat Na Phrathat, is located in the northwest of town on the west bank of the Mae Klong River in the town. Its elegant prang or pagoda remains in good condition. Buddha images of Dvaravati, Lop Buri and Ayutthaya periods are placed around the pagoda.

Talat Kao Khoi Ki

Around 1 kilometre of Woradet Road that stretch in parallel with the Mae Klong River is turned into a walking street every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. Khoi Ki is Chinese word for riverside, and this road was a business hub of the province in the past, thus the name of this market is “Talat Kao Khoi Ki”

which literally translates to “Old Riverside Market”. At this market, visitors will find a variety of products ranging from OTOP products, handmade products, to local cuisines, as well as cultural interests; such as, indigenous performance and photo exhibition.

Talat Chet Samian

Located between Chet Samian Train Station and the Mae Klong River, this over-a hundred-year-old market is an ancient community where visitors get to experience a lively atmosphere that span across the rows of wooden houses and shops. Ratchaburi has the soil that is suitable for growing turnips, and Chet Samian is renowned for their pickled turnips. Another interesting tourist attraction of this place is the arts and cultural performance that are performed on weekend by the local children and senior citizens under the big Bodhi tree.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

Although it is some 109 kilometres southwest of Bangkok or approximately two-hour drive, this is by far the most popular floating market for both foreign and domestic visitors. It is a ‘must-see’ destination and probably visited by nine out of every ten tourists who visit Thailand.

Every morning, hundreds of boats crowd the market area. Most of them are paddled by women with picturesque straw hats. Usually crowded with waterborne vendors, visitors can find everything from vegetables and fruits to freshly-cooked noodle and souvenirs at this lively market.

The best way of appreciating the floating market is to join it, to take a boat ride through



Tham Khao Bin

the vendors to savour the smells and sounds as well as the sights. If you prefer a more tranquil experience, the surrounding network of canals offers a relaxing ride and an interesting peek into the rural life of Thailand. The market is at its best around 7.00-9.00 a.m. Remember to take your camera with you, as the boats loaded high with colorful produce are very photogenic.

Getting to Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

Drive from Bangkok along Highway No. 4 (Phetkasem Road), then turn left at Km. 80 and continue for another 25 kilometres along the Bang Phae-Damnoen Saduak Road.

Public buses depart from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal to Damnoen Saduak. Get off at the last stop and then take a local bus to Damnoen Saduak Floating Market. For more information, contact Tel. +66 2422 4444, 1490 or visit www.transport.co.th.

Tham Chomphon

Situated 30 kilometres west of the town in the vicinity of Amphoe Chom Bueng, this cave was originally called Tham Mutchalin. In 1895, King Rama IV and Queen Si Phatcharin made a royal visit and were fond of its beauty, thus giving it a new name according to the shape of the stalactites which look like the epaulette of a field marshal. The cave also houses a medium-sized reclining Buddha.

Tham Khao Bin

Being the most beautiful cave in Ratchaburi, it is located 20 kilometres from the town along the route to Amphoe Chom Bueng and 2 kilometres along an access road. The cave extends 300 metres from the mouth and offers truly amazing scenes of plentiful stalactite and stalagmite formations on its floor and ceiling.



Damnoen Saduak Floating Market



Wat Khongkham



Tham Chomphon



Wat Khanon

Located approximately 10 kilometres from Amphoe Photharam, this temple houses more than 300 well-preserved Nang Yai puppets. Nang Yai is an ancient form of entertainment which gathers many kinds of arts; such as, Thai sculpture and classical performances. The intricate carved puppets are portrayed on the screen by skilled male performers, and it can dance according to the music. The performance is usually demonstrated on Saturday from 10.00-11.00 a.m. Contact Tel. +66 3223 3386 for more information.

Wat Khongkham

This 100 years old ethnic Mon temple is at Tambon Khlong Ta Khot, Amphoe Photharam,

some 22 kilometres from Ratchaburi. The fine mural paintings about Lord Buddha's life in the main shrine hall are full of detail making them seem real. Completed in the early Bangkok period, they are very rare and worth visiting. The temple also houses a Thai-styled building entirely made of teak with intricate carving designs.

Wat Muang

This is a Mon temple situated in Tambon Ban Muang, west of Amphoe Ban Pong along Route No. 3089 and a left turn after crossing the Mae Klong River. Besides a Mon style pagoda, a well-managed folk museum has been established as a research centre of history, way of life, and culture of this Mon community.



Wat Khanon

Amphoe Suan Phueng

Located on the border with Myanmar, Amphoe Suan Phueng has increasingly become a popular travelling destination amongst the locals as well as foreign visitors. Apart from the pineapple that has a more distinct taste than those grown in other places, this small district boasts several natural and cultural attractions as followed:

Bo Khlueng Hot Spring, is located 5 kilometres beyond Amphoe Suan Phueng and another 10 kilometres along an access road. The stream is full of mineral water and is believed that it can be used for skin treatment. The water flows all year round from the Tanaosi Mountain Range. Its temperature ranges between 50-68 degrees Celsius.

Namtok Kao Chan or Namtok Kao Chon, which is a beautiful 9-tiered waterfall that is located about 3 kilometres from Bo Khlueng Hot Spring.

Usawadi Rose Garden, is a garden in the middle of the valley that boasts several kinds of beautiful rose and other flowers. It is located about 21 kilometres from Amphoe Suan Phueng.

Khao Krachom, offers a spectacular view of sea of fog across the Tanaosi Mountain Range that serves as the natural border between Thailand and Myanmar. It is recommended to take a four-wheel-drive vehicle to get to the mountaintop.

Pong Yup, is a natural phenomenon of soil subsidence which is similar to Phae Mueang Phi of Phrae Province. It is located at Ban Tha Khoei, around 5 kilometres from Amphoe Suan Phueng.



Bo Khlueng Hot Spring

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Glazed Jars and Ceramic Wares

Ratchaburi has been known for a long time as the major producers of dragon design water jars. In the old days, it was quite common to see vendors selling their products in boats. Nowadays, there are many ceramic factories in Ratchaburi which still make old designed water jars, as well as other small ceramic souvenirs.

Grape

Grape is famous produce of Amphoe Damnoen Saduak which is sold in Ratchaburi and Bangkok.

Pha Tin Chok (local fabric)

Wat Khae Sai, about 8 kilometres from town is a centre of Tin Chok weaving fabrics. The villagers are descendants of settlers from Chiang Saen of the Lanna Thai kingdom some hundred years ago.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

- a) From Bangkok, take Highway No. 4 (Phetkasem Road) to Ratchaburi via Bang Khae, Om Noi, Om Yai, Nakhon Chai Si, Nakhon Pathom, a total distance of around 100 kilometres.
- b) From Bangkok, take Highway No. 338 to Nakhon Chai Si via Buddhamonthon and turn into Highway No. 4, then proceed to Ratchaburi, a total distance of around 100 kilometres.

By Bus

Both air-conditioned and non air-conditioned buses leave Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal daily. It takes 2 hours for the trip. For more information, Contact Tel. +66 2422 4444 or visit www.transport.co.th.

By Train

Regular trains depart from both Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Bangkok Noi Railway Station daily. Travelling time is 2 hours. Contact Tel. 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th for more information.



Ceramic Wares





*Vana Nava Hua Hin Water Park,
Prachuap Khiri Khan*



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