

Ko Mak

The Heritage of the Sea.
Thriving Ways of Life in Nature's Embrace.



Tourist Guide

Ao Tao Khai

Ko Mak

The Heritage of the Sea.
Thriving Ways of Life in Nature's Embrace.

Ko Kradat

Ko Kham

Ko Phi

Ao Lom

Ao Phra

Ao Suan Yai

Ao Ta Long

Ao Tan

Laem Son

Ao Krathueng

Ko Rayang Nai

Ao Khao

Ao Ban Lang

Ao Phai

Laem Tukkata














Ko Rayang Nok

Ao Mit

Ao Phong

Ao Thonglang

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The Deep Roots of Ko Mak



The history of Ko Mak has a connection to many important events in Thai history. In 1893, during the reign of King Chulalongkorn (King Rama V the Great), France took over Chanthaburi province and other lands on the left bank of the Mekong River. In 1904 this occupation forced Thailand to give Trat province and other islands, including Ko Mak, Ko Kut and Ko Kong, to France in exchange for them withdrawing troops from Chanthaburi.





In 1906, King Rama V the Great made a deal with France. The King agreed that France could claim Battambang, Siem Reap and Sisophon for the return of Trat and the surrounding islands, which included Ko Mak.

The five largest families of Ko Mak who own most of the island are all connected by sharing the same ancestor, Nang Chap, sister of King Rama IV's concubine, Chao Chom Manda Chan. These well known

families are Tavedikul, Wongsiri, Suttitanakul, Chantasut and Suksathit.

The most important figure in the history of Ko Mak was Luang Phromphakdi, the forefather of the Tavedikul family. He was appointed Chinese Affairs Officer, supervising the Chinese residents in the area. Part of his duties at the time was to collect taxes from Chinese living in Prachantakhirikhet (now Ko Kong in Cambodia).

When France occupied Prachantakhirikhet in 1904, Luang Phromphakdi relocated his family and workers from Ko Po to Ko Mak by way of a large junk. Luang Phromphakdi purchased the island from its first resident, Chao Sua Seng, a coconut plantation owner and a fellow Chinese Affairs Officer for Ko Chang.

Luang Phromphakdi and his wife, Mrs. Mulee had 11 children. One of their daughters was Mrs. Te, who was married to Khun Wongsirirak, who would become the progenitor of the Wongsiri Family. Another daughter, Mrs. Sa-nguan, was married to Kong Fang, the origin of the Suttitanakul family.

The Chantasut Family's ancestors were Luang Narapitakjeenjon (Yuad Chantasut) and Mrs. Hong Chantasut. The Suksathit Family has Grandpa Jueng and Grandma Sam-ang as its ancestor.

Throughout their history the five families have gotten along well. Because of this, Ko Mak has carried on happily and peacefully. Everyone on the island agrees to preserve its pure and natural beauty. No one wants their community to be endangered by entertainment establishments, which would flood the island with unwanted light and noise pollution. The families are dedicated to developing Ko Mak into an area of sustainable tourism.





Learning more
Koh Mak Museum



Located close to the Ao Nit Pier, near the entrance of the Koh Mak Seafood restaurant, the Koh Mak Museum is an 80-year-old wooden house of the Suttitanakul Family. Mr. Thanin Suttitanakul, or Phi Ake, explained that the inspiration to establish this museum stemmed from a desire to record and recount the history of the people on the island; who they were, where they came from, as well as document a way of life that spans generations.

The Museum is filled with many interesting items; such as, the family tree that shows the relationship among the five



phones and lanterns. Among them are the sorts of items you would find on a farm, spades and shovels; kitchenware in the form of bowls and tiffin carriers. Even an aging charcoal stove that dates back over a century ago.

Visiting this museum can help us better understand the people of Ko Mak in a short span of time.

 Koh Mak Museum
(Khun Thanin Suttitanakul)
Tel.: +66(0)8 1443 1294



families of Ko Mak. There are old photos depicting the way of life of the coconut and rubber farmers, as well as photos showing the early period of tourism. There are old odds and ends as well as equipment once used by the locals; such as, saddles, radios, antique





Luang Phromphakdi Residence

"King Rama VI Era Historical Architecture"



This large, old wooden house on the beach of Ao Suan Yai was once the private residence of Luang Phromphakdi, the forefather of the Tavedikul family, who relocated from Prachantakhirikhet province to Ko Mak in 1904. It was at this time he started his coconut plantation called "Suan Yai". The house was finished in 1932; therefore,

it is around 80 years old now. The large house has two storeys tall and features a hip roof, as was the architectural style during reign of the King Rama VI.

Nowadays, the descendants of Luang Phromphakdi still reside in the house, which has seen some renovations to undo the wear and tear of the years. Even so, the original style and architecture of the structure has been well preserved. Behind the house, there is another aging building that was constructed in 1953. It has since been turned into a rubber plant and is open to the public for visiting.

The old rubber plant, a two-storeyed concrete building, is supported by wood panel walls and floors.





Back in the old days, after the rubber plant workers collected rubber latex and processed the liquid to make natural rubber sheets, then those sheets would be hung to dry on the racks and were smoked with a wood fire afterwards.

If you are in Ko Mak, do not pass up the chance to see the old residence of Luang Phromphakdi. Not just for its architectural value, but also for its historical significance to the island. It gives us a window into the island's past.



Low Carbon Destination



Ko Mak is dedicated to become a “Low Carbon Destination”, a tourist area that leaves a small carbon footprint. The initiative was put forward by a group of businessmen, mostly of whom are local to the area, to help make their home sustainable and preserve its natural allure. This is the concept behind many of the campaigns and projects to promote the environment and reduce the carbon footprint. For example:

Clean Energy: Many hotels and resorts have installed solar cells to generate electricity for walkways, swimming pools and water heaters throughout their properties.

Local Supplies: Many restaurants buy seafood from local fishermen, reducing the cost and energy that would be needed to transport these items from mainland Trat to the island. On top of this, customers are treated to a fresher seafood experience.

Organic Garden: Some resorts use portions of their compounds for organic gardening to grow fruits and vegetables to be used as ingredients for their customers.

Waste Management: There are campaigns for locals and visitors alike to separate their garbage. The establishment of the Energy Park also helps to facilitate the separation and recycling of household waste. Wet waste, or organic waste, can be fermented for household use as biogas.

These activities and projects demonstrate that the concept of the “Low Carbon Destination” is for more than just show, but is a genuine effort by the locals of Ko Mak to preserve the natural environment of the island. They have rallied together to work towards this goal.



Cruising on the Solar Cell Boat

When travelling to Ko Mak, do not miss the chance to visit the Solar Boat, one of the island's environmentally-friendly activities. This solar-powered boat sets aside the typical combustion engine that pumps out both noise and air pollution. Instead, visitors are treated to a serene trip at a leisurely

speed and a wonderful view that is loved by many.

The local community realised that visiting boats can cause an unwelcome amount of noise pollution and leave behind traces of oil in the sea. Thus, the solar cell boat project was created with the support of researchers in the field. Leading the charge was Prof. Suwan Pitaksintom, a scientist and specialist at the Marine National Park Operation Centre 4, Trat Province, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation. The group hammered

away at the design and fund-raising over the course of 4 years until the boat was completed in December 2016. The boat went into operation in January 2017.

The solar cell boat is a catamaran, a type of multi-hulled boat that features two parallel hulls of equal size. Boats of this design are stabilised through the use of wide beams. Mounted on the roof are six, 600-watt solar panels. The panels work to generate electricity from the light of the sun, that is then stored in batteries that feed into the two 5-horse power motors. These motors drive the boat at a speed of 4.5 knots (8.3 km/hour), which is around 20km/day (2.5 hours).

The boat stretches 7m long and is 3.5m wide, with the capacity to hold 8 people. The passenger cabin is spacious and is wide open in all directions, offering an excellent view



all around. The most remarkable point is the comfort of the voyage. The boat glides along at a suitable pace, but is free of the rattles, noises and smells of a traditional engine.

This makes the solar cell boat ideal for travelling short distances at a relaxing speed to truly appreciate the view. The service offers trips from Ko Mak to Ko Kham, Ko Rayang and Ko Kradat. Visitors can stop to bask on the beach, snorkel the reefs, take a hand at fishing, or simply float at sea waiting for the sun to set.

The solar cell boat is operated by the Ko Mak Tourism Club. To experience and support eco-friendly tourism, please contact Khun Thanin Suttitanakul (Khun Ake) at Tel.: +66(0)9 0130 7655.



Organic Gardening

at Koh Mak Resort



A variety of vegetables and fruits grow in abundance in the organic garden at the Koh Mak Resort. It boasts a green house to protect some plants from insects while others are perfectly fine being outdoors. This garden shows the commitment the locals have to protect the environment.



The Koh Mak Resort began its organic garden to help supply the island with organic, chemical-free produce. They strictly avoid chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The project is overseen by Mr. Phadungsak Samanmueang, or “Khru O” for short. He started by clearing the space and developing the soil using natural fertiliser from chicken droppings to enrich the crops. The pesticides are made of galangal, lemongrass and Siam weed marinated with rice whiskey.



They grow all kinds of vegetables. Some of what you would find are salad greens, string beans, small eggplants, morning glory, kale, Chinese cabbage, and corn. There is no shortage of fruits either, including limes, bananas, papayas, durian and mulberry. The produce is delivered to the Koh Mak Resort and Seavana Beach Resort to be cooked up for customers.

Moreover, there are fish farms that hold a range of fish; such as, catfish, snake-head fish and Nile tilapia. The garden is also home to free range ducks and chickens. These are raised in a large stall, with space devoted to sleeping and egg-laying. When livestock is given the opportunity to



move freely in a large space, they will be less stressed and in a better mood to produce quality eggs.

Excess food from the resorts is used to feed the different animals. This not only saves on cost, but helps recycle the waste.

While the majority of the products are shared between the two resorts, sometimes there is enough to sell to residents of the island and tourists.

Visiting the organic garden of the Koh Mak Resort is not only an opportunity to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, but also to learn organic gardening techniques from always welcoming Khru O.



Organic Gardening at Koh Mak Resort
 Khun Phadungsak Samanmueang (Khru O)
 Tel.: +66(0)9 8959 4634



Energy Park

Transforming Waste
into Energy

The establishment of the Energy Park to solve the waste disposal problems on Ko Mak, and the effort to replace the out-dated burial methods show the local community's determination to preserve the island's vital natural environment and the dream of making Ko Mak a low carbon destination.

Each day, waste will be brought to the Energy Park, which is situated on Chek Kwang Road that leads to Suan Yai Bay. Next, the workers will diligently separate recyclable waste as it moves through other sorting mechanisms.

Recyclable waste; such as, paper, tin, plastic and metal scraps, will be pressed into bundles before being sent for sale on mainland Trat. Wet waste, like food, will be put through

the waste sorting machine and deposited into containers below. Portions of it will be placed in a fermentation tank for biogas production that can be used for home cooking. Other parts will be turned into fertiliser that can be used for organic gardening on the island.

Additionally, officers from the Energy Park provide education and training to many resorts and restaurants to better enable them to recycle food waste into biogas or fertiliser, further helping to decrease the amount of waste on the island.





Taste

of Ko Mak

If you are curious about the local cuisine on Ko Mak, you need to speak to Uncle Wit Sichomphu, who at the age of 50 has lived on the island most of his life. He was born and raised on Ko Mak, and has been working on the coconut plantations. He recalls a time when it was easy to catch your own lunch. When he was younger and went to work on the plantation, he would only take rice with salt and chili seafood dip, and a plan to catch the rest of his meal. During his lunch break, he would head to the beach and cast out his net. After waiting a while, he would pull in many fish; such as, false travally, streak fish, Indian threadfish and mackerel. He would then cook his rice, using the coconut shell as kindling. He would grill the fish by claspig it in a split midrib of coconut leaf. When the fish was fully cooked, he would eat it with the salt and chilli dip.



The local food is usually made with fish. Some common dishes are fish in coconut milk, fish soup with basil leaves, fish soup with ginger and fish in tamarind soup with konjac, which is a plant common to Ko Mak. Uncle Wit says that when boiling konjac, the first round of water needs to be poured out; otherwise, it could leave you with an itchy throat.

During the rainy season, villagers frequently collect shellfish to eat, as this is the time when they taste their best. There are many different kinds to be found; such as, clamshells, turban shells, inaequivalve arks, Nile top

shells, trochus niloticus and more. These can be prepared by boiling or grilling, and then dipped with the salt and chili.

Local ingredients on Ko Mak have become an interesting option with the tourism industry. Some restaurants, like the Koh Mak Seafood Restaurant, now buy from both the local fishermen and order from mainland Trat. This means that the locally caught crabs and fish; such as, longfin travally, streak fish, banded sicklefish, Indian threadfish, Chinese silver pomfret, seabass, and silver sillago, are cooked up for customers to make a variety of

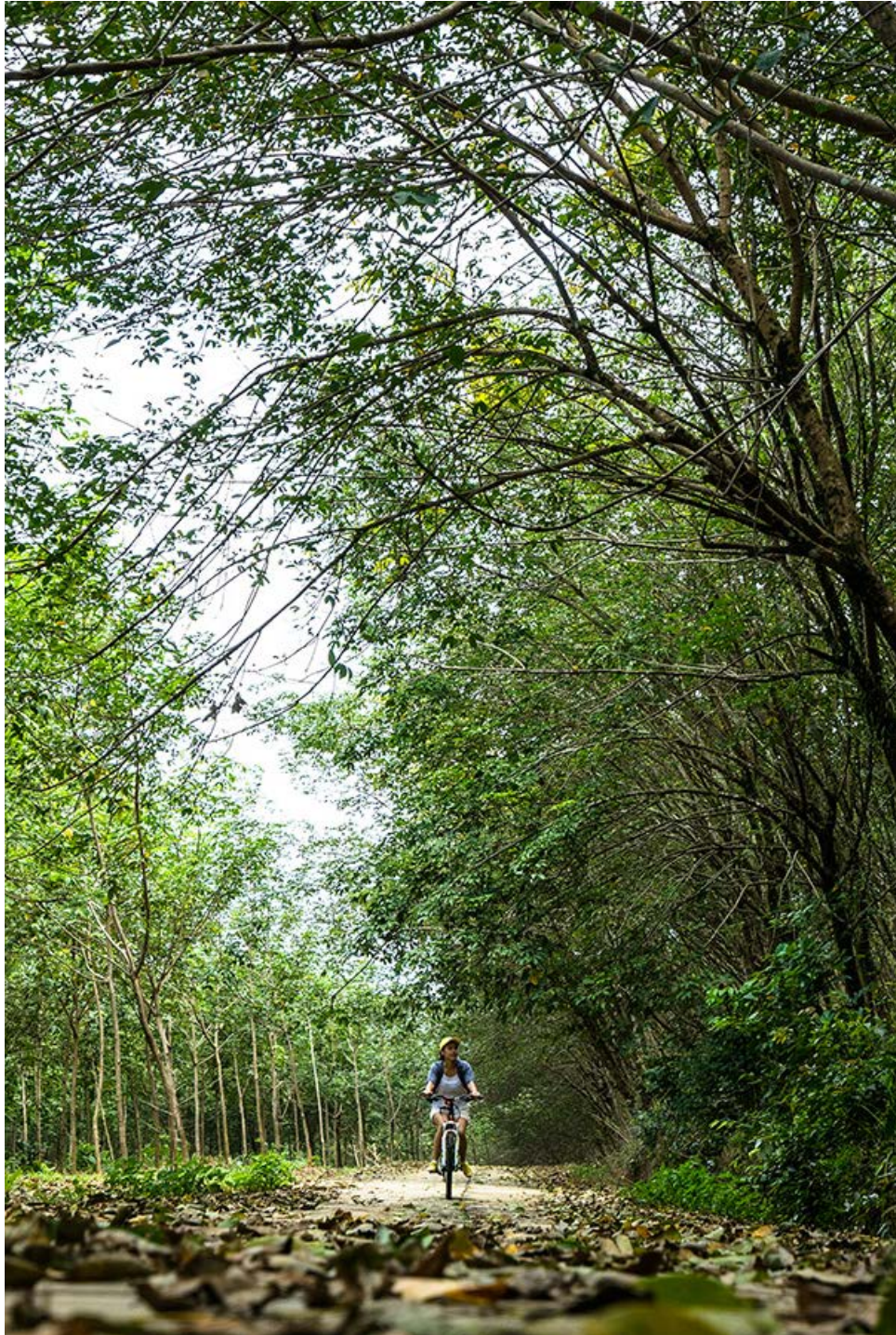


dishes. They could be fried, used in spicy soup, or as part of a herbal or sour soup.

Many resorts in Ko Mak have started an organic garden within their compound, growing their own produce and using them as ingredients for things like herbal fried fish, shrimp Som Tam and an array of salads.

Using local ingredients not only impresses the customers with the freshness of the tasty dishes, but it also helps save costs and reduce the consumption of energy needed to transport them. All of this falls in line with the concept of being a “low carbon destination”.





Exploring Ko Mak by Bike

Getting out and exploring Ko Mak can be done easily on a bicycle. With so few cars to clutter up the roads, the way is usually empty. The routes rise and fall over the small hills, rolling through serene beaches, natural forests, rubber plantations, tall coconut trees and old communities.

There are many bicycle rental shops on Ko Mak that offer a variety of bikes. There is the cruiser bike, a simple single speed bicycle that is great for leisurely biking around or riding down to nearby shops. Rougher terrain calls for a mountain bike, which can handle not only the typical concrete roads, but also the dirt paths through plantations and climbing hills.

The key to picking a bike is finding the proper size to match your body. This will make it easier to control. A suitable bike will not leave you feeling tired after a long ride. Before renting a bike, you should test the ride, and check the braking and gearing systems to make sure they are still functioning well.

The Ko Mak map is not too difficult to figure out, as the island does not have many roads and



they are all connected. However, some rental shops make their own bike routes to follow.

Once you have picked a bike and a map, go for a ride!

If it is a family trip with young children, you can choose the shorter paved roads for greater safety and convenience. These roads typically go from the resorts to nearby beaches and offer a relaxed journey with



a great view. The family can also peddle out to recharge at a cafe or restaurant.

For more routes to explore, start by picking a destination that interests you. It could be a ride up to the viewpoint or down to swim at Ao Suan Yai, a ride out to see the Luang Phromphakdi Residence or to take pictures on the Bridge to the Dream at the Cinnamon Art Resort and Spa.

Here are some recommended paths to explore on Ko Mak:

Luang Uthai Route:

This route starts close to the T-junction near the Ban Ko Mak School and is no more than 5 km long. Ride along the road until reaching the local community. Enjoy coasting past the large coconut plantations and rubber treatment plants, as well as the natural feeling of the fresh forest farther down the route.

Luang Nara Route:

Starting from the same point as the Luang Uthai path, this route stretches nearly 7 km over

mostly concrete roads, with a few rough patches over dirt and stones. Take some time to relish the shade provided by the rubber plantations along the way. In some areas, the tops of the rubber trees on either side arch towards each other, creating a natural canopy over the road. Be ready to put in some work, however, as parts of the path go up steep hills that might test your endurance. At the end of it though lies Laem Son Beach, where you can park your bikes and hop into the ocean, or decide to board a boat heading for Ko Kradat.

These are just some of your choices, and Ko Mak is planning to create even more routes to cater to all different types of cyclists. Additionally, there are plans to add bicycle lanes along the roads.



Biking is a great activity that offers both speed and convenience. Biking is quicker than walking, but still retains the luxury of being able to simply stop along the way to visit an interesting spot. It is an exciting way to get around that can leave you feeling fresh and healthy.

Let's bike around Ko Mak!





Khao Phaenthi

A View from the Top

On the west side of Ko Mak, next to Laem Tukkata, lies Khao Phaenthi, the highest mountain on the island. This amazing vantage makes it the perfect sunset viewpoint. In the past it used to be named Khao Tha Nam, but then in 1967 the navy came to explore and map the area. During that time, they planted a marker on its peak to be used as a reference for seafarers. Since then, it has been

called “Khao Phaenthi” or “Map Mountain”.

Making the climb up Khao Phaenthi can be a difficult walk, and it is highly recommended that visitors get a local guide. Inexperienced travellers could easily find themselves lost. The route is both narrow and steep, with some footing on rough rocks. The area is full of thick woods, ranging from





When the blazing sun finally begins to dip below to touch the blue sea, colours streak through the sky. Swathes of oranges, pinks, purples and reds spread out from behind the clouds. It is an enchanting moment worth the wait.

The return trip can be a little tricky in the dark, so make sure to have a flashlight on hand. Descend slowly and carefully with the aid of the guide, and it will be a short trip to safely arrive at the entrance by the road.

Contact local guides for Khao Phaenthi through Khun Nipon Suttitanakul (Phi On), President of Ko Mak Tourism Club; Tel.: +66{0}8 1443 1294.

perennial plants and bushes to wild orchids. Although the climb sounds daunting, it is not as hard as it seems. It promises a fun and challenging adventure, and it only takes 20 minutes to clear the forest and reach the expansive view at the top.

The trek will be worth it, as any fatigue will melt away upon reaching the peak. The wide open space along the cliff offers a cooling breeze to accompany the breathtaking view. Adjacent to the bay are Ko Rayang Nok and Ko Rayang Nai, laying still amid the lapping waves of the crystal blue sea. It is the perfect place to linger for the sunset. Just make sure to have a camera ready.

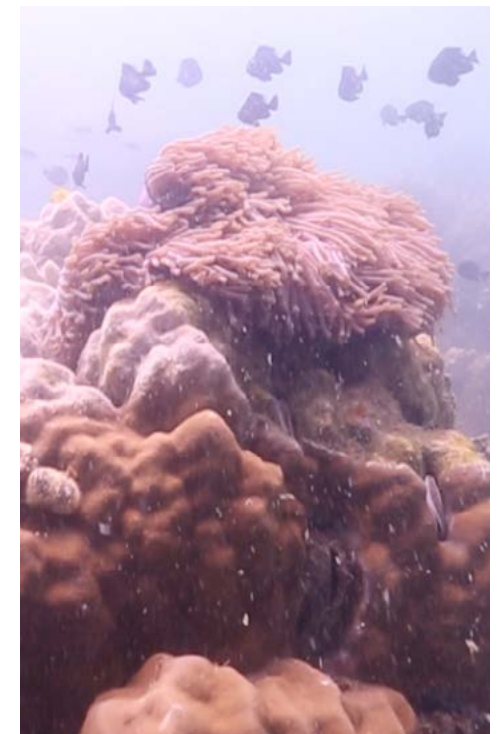




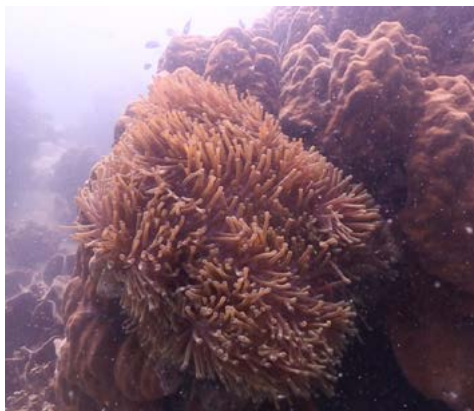
Mu Ko Rang comprises different sized islands; such as, Ko Rang, Ko Kra, Ko Tian, Ko Yak, Ko Sam Phi Nong and Ko Ma Pring; just to name a few. The most popular diving sites focus around Ko Rang and Ko Kra. On most days, with a sunny and open sky, the water will be crystal clear, revealing abundant and gorgeous coral reefs. Onlookers could be treated to schools of a variety of fish, like barracudas, lionfish, blacktip groupers, leopard groupers, yellowtails and more. They turn the ocean waters into a moving canvas of colour.

Beauty beneath the Ocean

The magnificent underwater world of Ko Mak is as great a place to dive as anywhere else. Especially a little west of Ko Mak at the Mu Ko Rang, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Mu Ko Chang National Park. It is considered the best site in Trat for both snorkelling and scuba diving.



There are the twin islands like Ko Rayang Nai and Ko Rayang Nok, located 1km southwest of Ko Mak, which is just a 5-minute boat ride. Ko Rayang Nai is closer to Ko Mak's Laem Tukkata. The island has a mountainous terrain and an abundance of trees, but no beaches. It offers both diving and kayaking.



Ko Rayang Nok, on the other hand, has a long white sandy beach that is great for swimming and snorkelling. Just a few steps from the beach and the water becomes brilliantly clear. Beneath the surface is the coral and another diverse array of fish; such as, Indian mackerels and parrotfish. The island is home to the Rayang Phurin Resort, which always welcomes tourists.

There are also other beautiful diving sites near Ko Mak, like Ko Kham and Ko Phi.

For diving enthusiasts, there are many diving shops on Ko Mak that offer lessons and package tours at the different diving sites around the island.



GETTING ACTIVE

Kayaking

In keeping with the ideals of a Low Carbon Destination, there are no banana boats or jet-skis on Ko Mak. Instead, kayaking and sailing have grown in popularity as favourite activities. Both are environmentally-friendly alternatives and are great for anyone who likes a little exercise. The routes to the nearby islands are short; such as, between Ko Kham and Ko Phi. Ao Suan Yai is a nice spot for these activities as the wind is mild, the waves do not rise too high, and the water is not too deep.





Thai Cooking Class by the Beach

Although Ko Mak is famous for its peaceful and natural beauty, there are many activities from which visitors may choose. For food lovers and aspiring chefs, Smile Koh Mak Thai Cooking School is highly recommended and is known for having a friendly atmosphere. After the class, students will have the opportunity to share their creations with each other. Students will walk away full of confidence in their new skills, and a full belly.

The kind owner of the school is Ms. Warisara Ariyawongpreecha, or Khun Leng for short. She is the daughter of a “Thao Chio”, which



means chef in Chinese language. Cooking was central to her family, which had a catering business in Yaowarat (Bangkok’s Chinatown). With a chef in the home, she absorbed his techniques and grew up to be a cooking lover. After graduating from college, she held many different vocations; such as, a volunteer teacher, an environmental activist and a restaurateur in Bangkok. However, she always dreamt of living in the province and went on to open a cooking





school in Ko Chang, before finally deciding to settle in Ko Mak.

The School is a compact, single storey house by the sea located near the famous Ko Mak Seafood restaurant. Students showing up at the school only need to be prepared to have fun since the school is fully equipped with all the kitchenware, ingredients and raw materials; such as, meat, fish, fruits and vegetables. The class usually starts with a discussion about favourite foods, tolerance to spicy foods, allergies, and so on; so the menu can be adjusted to cater to the tastes of each student. Khun Leng believes that cooking means more than just filling your hunger, it is a sharing of experiences and cultures.

There are two rounds of classes each day, starting in the morning between the hours of 10.00 a.m.- 2.00 p.m. and again in the afternoon

between 3.00-7.00 p.m. The students are limited to 4 people per class, either coming as a group or joining the group. Each person will cook 4 dishes with a detailed consultation for each step. The first dish is a delicious comfort food; such as, Phat Thai. The second dish is something fried, which could be chicken with cashew nuts, fried vegetables or turmeric fried fish. The third round is a soup; such as, coconut soup, massaman, Phanaeng or green curry. Students will learn about the different spices and various ingredients that are used in Thai soups and curries, including chili, galangal, lemongrass, kaffir lime

leaves, pepper and many more. They will also be instructed on how to use a mortar to make their own pastes. The final dish will be a dessert selection like bananas in coconut milk, mangoes with sticky rice, or egg custard in pumpkin.

The inviting aroma of Thai food and soup would cause anyone to get hungry. After the preparation is finished, the dishes will be served on a common table to be shared and enjoyed as a group, set to the sound of the soothing waves.

To join the Smile Koh Mak Thai Cooking School, contact Khun Leng at Tel.: +66(0)8 1901 9972 or visit the school's website at www.smilekohmak.com.





Disc golf players can be found off Somsri Uthit Road in a big field dotted with trees. Players frequently gather everyday around 4-5 p.m., and is usually a mix of Thais and foreigners. The owners of the resorts and tourists know each other well and are very welcoming of newcomers.

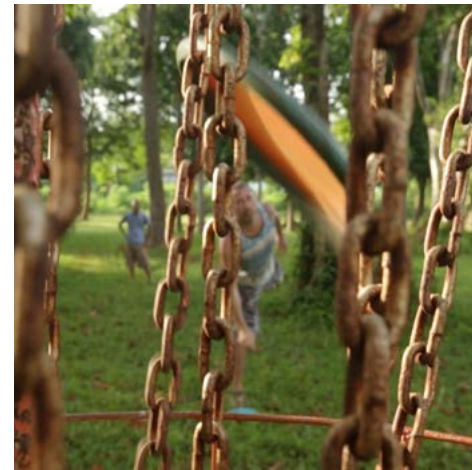
People who play golf will be instantly familiar with the rules for disc golf since there are many similarities. Of course, the big difference is that instead of swinging a golf club you will be throwing a disc into a basket. The course consists of 9 main baskets. Like golf, if the disc falls into a basket with a single throw, that is considered a hole-in-one. A little competition is always good and playing with 2 to 4 people is possible.



Disc Golf:

Fun Frisbees on Ko Mak

Disc golf is a rather well-known sport across both the USA and Europe. In Thailand, however, there are only 2 places dedicated to this sport. They can be found on Ko Samui, Surat Thani province, and on Ko Mak, Trat province. Anyone that is interested in knowing how this sport is played and how much fun it can be is welcome to take a turn or just watch. You might fall in love with it just like many of the locals who frequently gather to play, and have started up the Disc Golf Association of Thailand.



Each player has a variety of discs, similar to how golfers have many golf clubs to be used in different situations. For example, a driver disc is used for farther away targets, while a mid-range disc helps at a medium distance. The putter disc is used when close to the basket and has greater stability.

The real fun comes from the different obstacles between you and each basket; depending on where you are standing. A straight line is not always the best option, sometimes you will need to angle away or to try and curve your throw around an obstructing tree.

If you want to get serious in this sport, then be prepared. There will be a disc golf tournament on Ko Mak in October. Some of the top players in the world will be taking part. However, the tournament is open to everyone who wants to participate.

Disc golf is one of the many fun outdoor sports the island has to offer for non-stop excitement.

 *Disc golf*
Khun Sakol Ngernsri (Pom)
 Tel.: +66(0)8 6751 7668





These days, Ko Kradat is a private island that has opened as a resort for tourists, though there is a 150 Baht fee to be on the island as part of a day trip. Apart from the serene nature and the famous white sandy beaches, it is known for its herds of deer. At some point in the past, people let the deer into the wild and they have since spread across the island.

Deer Spotting

on Ko Kradat

Ko Mak is surrounded by numerous small, yet interesting islands. Ko Kradat, which can be found to the north-east of Ko Mak, is only a 15-minute boat ride from Laem Son Beach.

“Kradat” is Thai for “paper”, and much like the name suggests, Ko Kradat is a flat expanse in the middle of the sea. The island also has an interesting history. During the reign of King

Rama V the Great there was a time when French troops invaded and occupied part of Thailand and Ko Kradat became one of the targets. To protect the island from French colonisation, King Rama V the Great ordered the purchase of the entire island from the villagers and issued land title deeds. It is the first island in Trat province to have official title deeds.





The highlight of the stay is riding around the island in the back of a large open-roof farm truck known as I-taek. The truck rocks along the dirt roads, cutting between the tall trees of the coconut plantations that have been there upwards of 80 years. Along the way visitors will see deer, some picking at leaves, some staying in groups amid the woods, some standing with their mothers and some bolting away from the noise of the truck. It will be great fun, like being on a safari.

The truck ends its journey at Chai Hat Maphrao En Beach. The name, of course, comes from the coconut trees that lean out over the water, angled towards the horizon. This beach is frequented by many people that come to swim, take pictures or just relax.

To experience a new adventure at Ko Kradat, please contact the Ko Kradat Resort at www.kohkradadresorts.com



Photographer's Playground

Visitors to Ko Mak should not miss to admire the island's magnificent scenes at sunrise and sunset.





Early risers can enjoy the crisp, clean morning air while savoring the beauty of the first light of dawn at Laem Son, Laem Kradum, Khao Phaenthi, and on the Bridge to the Dream at the Cinnamon Art Resort and spa.

In the evening, the ideal spots to enjoy the island's magnificent sunset scene are at Ao Ban Yai, Laem Tukkata and the bridge at Koh Mak Cococape Resort.

Visitors can stroll along the bridge that extends far into the clear blue ocean water and enjoy the cool, balmy sea breeze. The bar at the end of the bridge serves a variety of refreshments and cocktails. Chilling out with your favorite drink, listening to the soothing sound of breaking waves while you wait for the sun to set can be one of your most memorable moments on the island.





Sunrise – sunset

Capturing Sunrise to Sunset

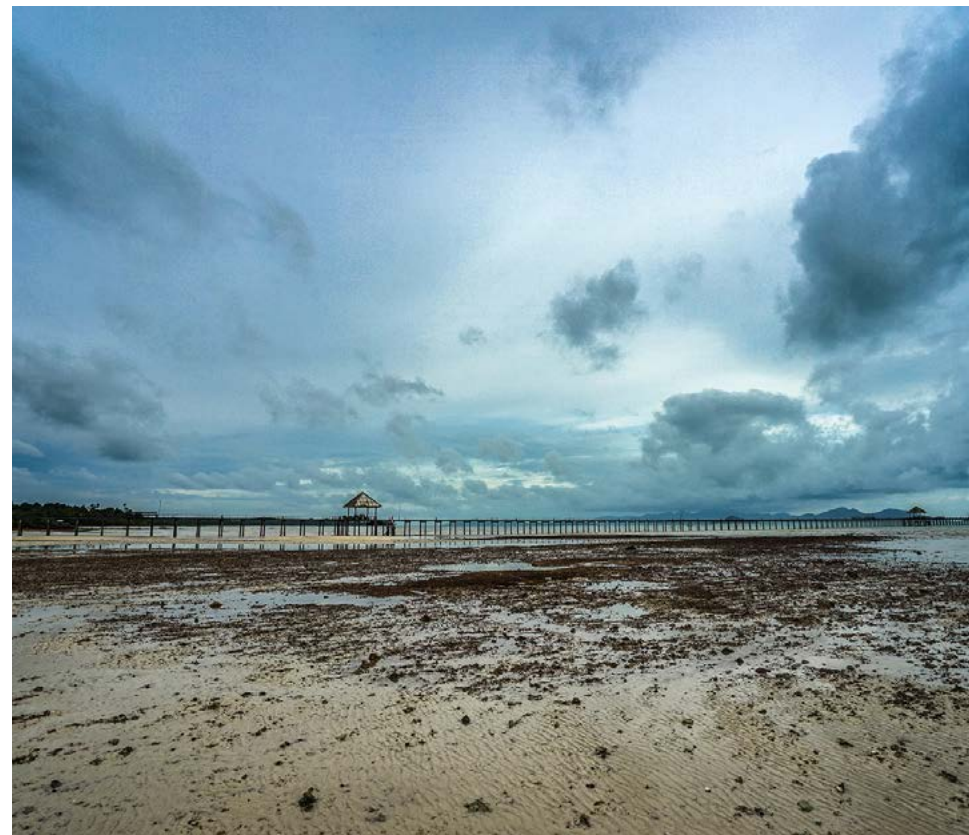
The mesmerising scenes as the first light of dawn rises to fill the sky and the marvellous hues that paint it as dusk descends should not be missed by visitors to Ko Mak. There are many wonderful places to watch the sun rise and set. The best spots for enjoying the sunrise are at Laem Son, Laem Kradum or Laem Dum, Ao Thonglang, Ao Khao; while the vantage points for the sunset are at Ao Ban Yai, Laem Tukkata and the bridge at Cococape Resort.

Laem Son is to the east on the far end of the island with a nice stretch of sandy beach lined with pine trees and a view of Ko Kradat. All year-round, it proves to be an enchanting spot to watch the sunrise.

The bridge at Cococape Resort is always accompanied by people from dawn to dusk. The bridge extends out in a zigzag shape and was designed this way to prevent wind damage. The pattern creates an amazing point

for photography. At the end of the bridge lies a small bar serving cool drinks. Set up your camera and chill with a refreshing breeze and the soothing sound of breaking waves while you wait for the moment to capture the setting sun.

You can also take your viewing experience from the beach to the top of the hill. The peak of Khao Phaenthi puts you closer to the sky for the setting sun.



Strolling over the Bridge to the Dream at the Cinnamon Art Resort

The Bridge to the Dream spans 500 metres, making it the longest bridge on Ko Mak and a popular destination for tourists. Running along the length of the Bridge are wooden benches. On both sides of the Bridge a few sparse trees rise up from the water, lending to a sense of isolation and creating a unique backdrop for pictures.



Relaxing by the beaches and coconut trees at Ao Suan Yai, Ao Khao and Ao Ban Yai. These beaches are great for a swim or unwinding by the sea. The more daring can climb the leaning coconut trees for some pictures with a unique perspective.

Walking through the rows of rubber plantations feels like passing through a leafy tunnel as the tops of the trees spread out overhead. It is an experience that should not be missed, especially during the rainy season when everything becomes a vibrant green. The dry season holds its own beauty in the falling leaves. There are many roads with a great view of the rubber plantations, in particular on Luang Nara Road towards Laem Son.





Ko Mak's Way of Life:

For Fish and Farm

Apart from its natural abundance, Ko Mak is home to a local community with deep roots and a fascinating way of life; such as, its coconut and rubber plantations that have been passed down through generations. This also includes the community of seafarers who sail out everyday through the rolling waves in their small boats to catch seafood, yet without doing any harm to the environment.





There are over a dozen fishing boats on the island. One of these belongs to Liao and Tam, a husband and wife who live on Laem Son Beach.

Liao, the husband, is 36 years old and followed his father fishing since he was young. Naturally, he grew to like the profession. He sails out around 4-5 p.m. to lay down the fishing nets used to catch sea crabs around the island. Experience has taught him which areas will have the most crabs depending on the season. It usually takes around 2 hours for him to finish laying the nets and return home. In the morning, he will sail out again at 7 a.m. to collect the day's catch.

Liao primarily catches blue crabs to sell to the resorts and restaurants on the island. If he finds any stone crabs among the catch, those will be boiled to eat with his family. Sometimes other kinds of fish make their way into the nets; such as, stingrays, false trevally and more. On occasions, Liao even makes outings to catch squid.

The owners of the fishing boats on Ko Mak all know each other well. Typically, they will spread around the island to catch their crabs, but during certain periods, there are areas in which a lot of sea life will gather.

At these times, the fishermen will also gather to the same area to lay out their nets.

Moving inland, the oldest profession on Ko Mak is coconut farming. Agriculture on Ko Mak began during the reign of King Rama V the Great, around 1904. Nowadays, the majority of the area on Ko Mak is coconut and rubber plantations.

Although the majority of these coconuts from the big plantations are now collected by private companies from outside the community, there are still some locals hired to gather and peel coconuts in the traditional style.

Two such people are Uncle Prathip Sichomphu, 56 years old; and his brother, Uncle Wit, 2 years his junior.

The brothers were born and raised on Ko Mak in a family that has worked on coconut plantations since his father's generation. They learned how to harvest coconuts with stalks of "umbrella bamboo". A long stalk of bamboo is cut from the jungle and sun-dried for around half a month, and then smoked until it straightens. Finally, a metal hook is attached to the end of the stalk. An implement like this requires a fair amount of wrist strength to keep it upright and cut the coconuts down.





A coconut peeler is made of a sharpened metal rod placed perpendicular to a wooden base. The coconut is pressed against the pointed metal rod until the outer layer comes off in strips.

Uncle Wit and his family work for a coconut plantation where he collects, peels and stores the coconuts. He will start by picking the coconuts one day and peel them the next. An experienced person would be able to peel upwards of a thousand coconuts per day.

One owner of a large coconut plantation spoke of how his family once upon a time used a wooden boat to ferry coconuts to sell on mainland Trat once a week. Each trip carried around 10,000 coconuts





for making coconut milk, including dry coconuts for producing oil in a factory. These things exemplify the state of the historical coconut industry of Ko Mak.

Rubber plantations first started in 1915 and have enjoyed a lot of growth. Rubber plantations, both old and new, have spread to many parts of the island. However, it is the area of Ao Ta Long on Luang Uthai Road that is home to the original community of rubber farmers.

The locals of Ko Mak are much more than business owners, or employees at resorts and restaurants. They include fishermen, coconut harvesters and rubber farmers. Knowing more about their way of life will let us better understand the beauty of Ko Mak.



Tips

- There is no ATM on the island, so prepare enough cash for your visit.
- There is no 7-Eleven, but there are many local minimarts.
- You cannot bring your own car across to Ko Mak. There are many car park services at Laem Ngop Pier for private vehicles.
- You can hire a Song Thaeo for transportation around the island. Check with your resort for the fee and telephone number to call for a pickup.
- There are also bicycles and motorcycles for rent.
- Beware of biting sea flies, little bugs with white wings, that might be found on beaches. Please study tips to avoid them and bring necessary medicine in case of allergy.

Shop name	On / Off / Call
Pa Dam Restaurant	07.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 9095 2852
Koh Mak Seafood	10.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 9833 4474
Wild Heart	08.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Om Restaurant	07.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m.
Pa Paew Restaurant	06.00 a.m.-7.30 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 6047 2097
Saab Maaks Restaurant	08.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 1158 7871
Koh Mak Sportsbar	1.00 p.m.-12.00 a.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 7940 4031
CoCo Cafe & Bar	10.00 a.m.-12.00 a.m. Tel.: +66(0)9 0082 1050
Koh Mak Brick Oven Pizza	12.00-9.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)6 2651 9605
Koh Mak Food Art Hut	08.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 5447 4028
Krua Khun Mam Seafood	08.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)9 1582 1697
Koh Mak Party Seafood	08.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.
Food Garden Restaurant	07.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.
Table Tales	08.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)9 1010 6455
Sweet Cake Cafe	08.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Tel.: +66(0)8 9491 0224
Pineapple Dessert Bar	10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

Boat Timetable

Speed Boat – High season Schedule

Laem Ngop – Ko Mak	Ko Mak – Laem Ngop
Morning (09.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.) Leelawadee Speedboat 10.30 a.m. Cinnamon 11.00 a.m. Suansuk 11.30 a.m. Seatales 11.30 a.m. Afternoon (12.30 – 4.00 p.m.) Panan 12.30 p.m., 4.00 p.m. Leelawadee Speedboat 2.00 p.m. Seatales 2.30 p.m. Suansuk 3.00 p.m.	Morning (09.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.) Seatales 08.30 a.m. Leelawadee Speedboat 08.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. Panan 09.00 a.m. Cinnamon 10.00 a.m. Suansuk 10.00 a.m. Afternoon (12.30 – 4.00 p.m.) Suansuk 12.30 p.m. Seatales 12.30 p.m. Panan 1.30 p.m.

Speed Boat – Low season Schedule

Laem Ngop – Ko Mak	Ko Mak – Laem Ngop
Morning (09.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.) Leelawadee Speedboat 10.30 a.m. Cinnamon 11.00 a.m. Suansuk 11.30 a.m. Seatales 11.30 a.m. Afternoon (12.30 – 4.00 p.m.) Panan 1.00 p.m., 4.00 p.m. Leelawadee Speedboat 2.00 p.m.	Morning (09.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.) Leelawadee Speedboat 08.30 a.m. (Fri-Sun) 10.30 a.m. (Daily) Seatales 08.30 a.m. Panan 09.00 a.m. Suansuk 10.00 a.m. Afternoon (12.30 – 4.00 p.m.) Panan 1.30 p.m.

Remarks:

Cinnamon Speedboat passengers disembark at Cinnamon Resort Pier, Ao Tan / Leelawadee Speedboat passengers disembark at Maka Thani Resort / Panan Speedboat passengers disembark at Koh Mak Resort. Suansuk & Seatales passengers disembark at Ao Nid Pier. During Low-Season, passengers board & disembark at Ao Nid only

Contact Numbers

The Cinnamon Art Resort and Spa

Tel.: +66(0) 3950 1054, +66(0)9 9286 9714, +66(0)9 7182 5959

Leelawadee Speedboat

Tel.: +66(0)9 0506 0020, +66(0)8 7785 7695

Panan Speedboat

Tel.: +66(0)8 7580 5275, +66(0)8 7614 7641

Suansuk Boat Koh Mak

Tel.: +66(0)6 1428 8048

Seatales Koh Mak Speed Boat

Tel.: +66(0)8 1910 2723, +66(0)9 1010 6455, +66(0)8 7744 1677

Remarks:

Speed boat schedules are subject to change for appropriateness. Advance reservation is recommended. Taxi fare from the airport to Laem Ngop Pier is THB 500.- per person. One-way speed boat fare is THB 450.- per person. It takes approximately an hour from the pier to Ko Mak.



Important Phone Numbers

Rescue	Tel.: +66(0)8 7905 5886, +66(0)8 7136 8085
Police	Tel.: +66(0)8 6153 4943
Song Thaeo	Tel.: +66(0)8 9752 5292, +66(0)8 9833 4474, +66(0)8 0825 8059

Bicycle Rental

Ball Cafe	Tel.: +66(0)8 1925 6591, +66(0)8 6902 7552
CoCo Cafe & Bar	Tel.: +66(0)9 0082 1050

Diving

BB Divers	Tel.: +66(0)9 2602 2260
Koh Mak Divers	Tel.: +66(0)8 3297 7724

Hotels & Accommodations

Ao Suan Yai

Seavana Resort

Tel.: +66(0)9 0864 5646
<http://www.seavanakohmak.com>

Koh Mak Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 9600 9597
<http://www.kohmak.com>

Happy Days Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 9934 6323, +66(0)9 2353 5232
<https://th-th.facebook.com/Happy-Days-Resort-448323408562239>

Prompakdee Resort

<https://th-th.facebook.com/Thai-Sabai-Bar-by-Prompakdee-kohmak-resort-105025289877486>

Ao Phra & Laem Tukkata

Islanda Resort Hotel

Tel.: +66(0)9 4693 6499
<http://www.islandaresorthotel.com/th>

Good Time Resort

Tel.: +66(0)3951 0870, +66(0)8 8887 1607
<http://www.goodtime-resort.com>

Thaidaho Vista Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 5136 4529
<http://www.thaidaho.com/vista>

Kohmak Cococape Resort

Tel.: +66(0) 3950 1003, +66(0)8 9819 4511
+66(0)8 1810 2679
<http://www.kohmakcococape.com>

Ao Tan

The Cinnamon Art Resort & Spa

Tel.: +66(0)9 9286 9714, +66(0)9 7182 5959
<http://www.kohmakcinnamonresort.com>

Koh Mak Green View Resort

<http://www.kohmakgreenview.com>

Rayang Phurin Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 9985 6517, +66(0)9 5879 1996
<https://th-th.facebook.com/Rayang-Phurin-Resort-110811465653728>

Ao Khao

Island Hut Koh Mak

Tel.: +66(0)8 6835 3195, +66(0)8 7139 5537

Palm Beach Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 4659 7437
<http://www.palm-beach-resort.com>

Ao Khao White Sand Beach Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 3152 6564
<http://www.aokaioresort.com>

Lazy Day The Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 1882 4002, +66(0)8 9433 0970
<http://www.kohmaklazyday.com>

Ao Thonglang

Banana Sunset Bar & Bangalows

Tel.: +66(0)8 7416 2026
<http://www.bananasunset.com>

Pano Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 6022 8449
<https://th-th.facebook.com/Pano-Resort-Koh-Mak-192700320746789>

Ao Phong – Ao Nit

Ao Pong Resort

Tel.: +66(0)9 1581 8737
<http://www.aopong.com/>

Sea Breeze @ Koh Mak Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 1782 8242
<http://www.kohmakseabreeze.com>

Ao Ban Lang

Koh Mak Buri Hut Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 0570 5454, +66(0)8 8030 9040
<http://kohmakburihutresort.com/th>

Bamboo Hideaway Resort

Tel.: +66(0) 3950 1085, +66(0)6 2637 3414
<http://www.bamboohideaway.com>

Koh Mak Seaview Resort

<https://www.facebook.com/seaviewresort>

Plubpla Koh Mak Retreat Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 7802 7575
<https://www.kohmakretreat.com>

Laem Son

Little Moon Villa Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 1840 3561, +66(0)8 6903 6634
<http://www.littlemoonvilla.com>

Ao Kra Thueng

Big Easy Resort

Tel.: +66(0)9 8575 7427, +66(0)9 2679 1385
<http://www.bigeasykohmak.com>

Holiday Beach Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 6751 7668, +66(0)8 4591 6969
<http://www.holidaykohmak.com>

Koh Mak Resident (Pool Villa)

Tel.: +66(0)8 5815 5300
<http://www.kohmakresidence.com>

Sky Beach Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 0834 0997, +66(0) 3916 9665
<https://www.facebook.com/Skybeachresort>

Baan Chy Lae / Khrua Ton Hom

Tel.: +66(0)8 0101 4763, +66(0)9 4349 5255

Maka Thanee Resort

Tel.: +66(0)8 5095 1700, +66(0)6 5449 7897
<http://www.makathaneekohmak.com>

Baan Koh Mak Resort

Tel.: +66(0) 3952 4028
<http://www.baan-koh-mak.com>

Koh Mak Riverside

Tel.: +66(0)9 3754 9271
<http://www.kohmak-riverside.com>

Monkey Island Resort

Tel.: +66(0) 3952 4040
<http://www.monkeyislandkohmak.com/monkeyisland>



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1600 New Phetchaburi Road,
Makkasan, Ratchathewi,
Bangkok 10400, THAILAND
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