



Chiang Rai
Mae Hong Son
Lam Lam
phun pang
Pha yao
Nan
Tak Phrae
Sukho
Uttaradit
thai Phitsanulok

Nakhon Pichit
Sawankamphaeng
Uthai Thani Phet
Loei
Bueng Kan
Udon Thani

Amazing 55 Secondary Cities

Phetchabun Nong Khai
Nong Bua Sakon Nakhon
Lam Phu Nakhon Phanom
Chaiyaphum
Maha Roi Et
Sarakhom Kalasin
Yasothon Mukdahan
Amnat Charoen

Buri Ram Si
Surin Sa Ket
Nakhon Sa Ket
Ubon Ratchathani
Nayok Kao

Suphan Buri
Chai Nat
Ang Sing
Thong Buri
Samut
Songkhram
Lop Buri
Prachin Buri
Chanthaburi
Trat



Ratchaburi
Chumphon
Ranong
Phatthalung
Satun
Nakhon Si Thammarat
Trang
Pattani



Yala
Narathiwat





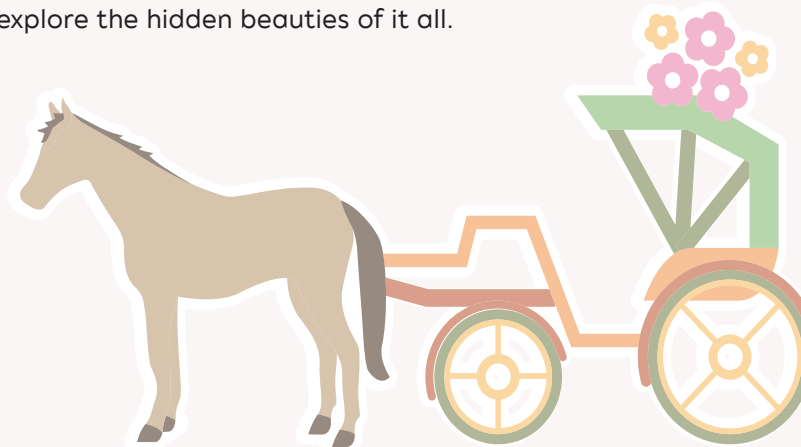
Preface

55 Wonders on the Fringes

For veteran travellers, a good thing about hitting the road is always to find a new hidden gem. This is to go out off the beaten track, pioneer your own routes, and seek and unveil for the first time, a brand new itinerary to claim your own.

For most people, Thailand is well-associated with a good array of key destinations. You have known it all - the names of the popular provinces in the North, South south, and all other regions. But what about the small wonders, most hidden away, still best-kept secrets, treasures on the fringes? This book is hoping to give you a glimpse of what much more our Kingdom has to offer.

From North to South, and from East to West, many marginalised small towns prove to contain big time amazements. A lost village that proved to be even more ancient than Sukhothai. A folkloric community that applies the nearby volcanic soil to dye their cotton. What about a laid-back village where its savvy people spin the glossy silk threads from an alternative moth? There are always things to wonder and appreciate. The more you travel, the more you see. And this is a good time to trek away, delightfully, from the known paths, and explore the hidden beauties of it all.



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NORTH



Tracing the Geological Trails at Noen Maprang, Phitsanulok

Surrounded by a natural limestone fortress, this laid-back sub-district of Noen Maprang in Phitsanulok is an unspoiled land of hidden caves and high peaks.

Ban Mung is the name of this small sub-district with a stunning view of limestone peaks. Forming a natural fortress protecting the village, these peaks hide so many natural wonders. Their Phra Wang Daeng Cave that inside contains a gigantic chamber spanning over 12.5 kilometres is where the rare, blind cavefish are spawned. The nearby Reur Cave boasts the magnificent, 360-million-year-old sea creature fossils. The natural abundance of the area - the Pa Ta Pon Cave Non-hunting Zone - appears in the extraordinary form of Assam macaques. Also, do not miss



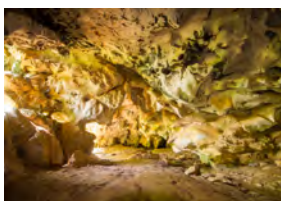
the perpetual patterns created by the swooping bats at sundown. This destination, small as it is, truly opens our eyes and mind.

Nearby Attractions



Chart Takarn Falls National Park

Locally known as 'Pak Rong Falls,' Chart Takarn Falls is a seven-tiered cascade, tumbling down making a big pool perfect for a refreshing dip. The nearby Pa Daeng and Pa Kradan Lek viewpoints also offer some great photo ops.



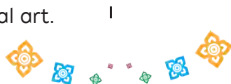
Tham Pa Ta Pon Wildlife Reserve

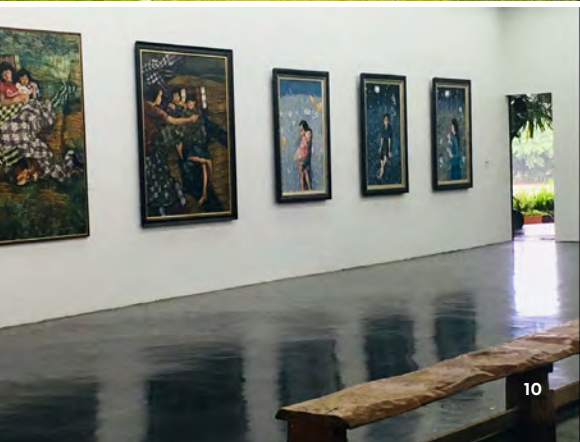
A gigantic limestone mountain with a good array of cavernous wonders: from the red-cliff that named the cave to the 'Lot' Cave thanks to their subterranean creeks and trails of parietal art.



Sunflower Field at Ban Rai Phu Tawan

With a stunning backdrop of limestone peaks, this sunflower field makes a perfect camping ground for a sunrise surprise.





The Artsy Wonderland of Chiang Rai

The birthplace and residence of many renowned Thai artists, Chiang Rai hosts a grand collection of Thai arts that tell the stories harking back to its origins. Ancient cultures, adapted arts and modern forms entitled this Lanna province to be one of the best destinations for art admirers.

Wat Rong Khun

One of the most exquisite temples in Thailand, Wat Rong Khun was created by the celebrated national artist - Chalermchai Kositpipat - whose deep patriotism, religious and royal devotions had rewritten the forms of Thailand's modern religious art.

Wat Hiranyawat

Known for its gigantic woven Buddha, this temple is a testament of the community's united souls. The Buddha, inspired by the ancient 'Thai Khun' religious art of Myanmar, boasts intricate woven patterns over its steel

Thailand's northernmost province of Chiang Rai is a great cradle for Thai art scenes.

structure. Highlights include the Buddha base tunnel that visitors can sneak in for a private merit-making and inspecting of the Buddha's inner core.

Ban Dam Museum

The all-black and very spacious residence of Thawan Duchanee - one of Thailand's greatest artists, Ban Dam (meaning black house) Museum showcases a vast collection of Northern Thai arts, local and adapted. Prepare to spend hours browsing through their comprehensive exhibits.

Khua Silapa (Art Bridge) Project

Built as a space that connects the arts and the people, Khua Silapa features works of various local artists along with a café and a restaurant.

The Hall of Opium

Once Thailand's largest source of opium, the Golden Triangle now houses this multimedia museum where poppy growing, opium-using stories are catalogued alongside the local cultures and histories.



The Golden Triangle

The riverfront intersection of three countries (Thailand, Myanmar and Laos), the ancient Golden Triangle is a must-visit spot while in northernmost Chiang Rai. Take a river cruise tour, visit the Golden Triangle Buddha, and put a dent in your wallet through lines of souvenir shops.



Nearby Attractions



Wat Rong Suea Ten

This temple features adapted religious architecture that eulogises the glories of the Buddha. Designed by a local Chiang Rai artist - Khru Salanok - this temple features the famous form-floating nagas - exquisitely adorned in colourful details.



Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park

Thailand's magnificent karstic cave rich with speleological treasures. Bring your own lighting equipment and heed the weather forecasts. The cave is closed during the rainy season, usually from July - November due to seasonal deluge.





Sweet Pastel Town of Phrae

For Phrae, romance comes in forms of stately housing. Once a teak trading centre of the North, Phrae used to be a residence of much royalty, aristocrats, opulent merchants and land holders; hence, appropriately stately abodes for them all. These houses, through the passing of time have become the province's heritages worth checking out while in town.

Vongburi House

One of the most iconic houses of Phrae, Vongburi House boasts a modern form of colonial architecture.

Kum Chao Luang

The former governor's mansion that boasts exquisite original details, jail included, of the old-day glories. A recipient of an architectural preservation award in 1993.

Nareerat School

An original teak building of the early 1900s, this can easily be the most loved school of the nation.

Once a teak trading centre of Thailand's North, the small town of Phrae is scattered with pastel-toned historic teak wood mansions perfect for a reminiscing stroll.

Ban Wong Phra Tang

Located amidst the town's old merchant area, this house is architecturally akin to Vongburi House with fine retro details. Still a lived-in residence.

Ban Katirawara

A creamy pastel home with hand-perforated wooden eaves as its icons, this house showcases prominent Chinese carpentry of the time.

Ban Luang Sri

This is one of the most elegant all teak mansions owned by well-to-do Chinese merchants of the time.

Ban Chao Nan Chai Wong

This is another handsome mansion - painted in eggshell and red - with beautifully carved wood panels. The en-suite bathroom - the luxury of the time - is original.

Kum Wichairacha

This cream-and-green mansion was instrumental in the escape of Thai civil officers during Phrae's 1902 insurgency.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Chom Sawan

This solemn-looking all wood Pagan-style temple was built during the reign of King Rama V the Great. Now a treasure for religious architectural buffs with highlights including the ivory Buddha and scripture.



Wat Phrathat Cho Hae

Phrae's major religious site that boasts a stunning Chiang Saen-style Phrathat (pagoda), this temple is believed to be the guardian of those born in the Year of the Tiger. The annual pagoda celebration is the province's heritage.



Choeng Thong Waterfall

This beautiful waterfall features unique limestone and mineral deposits layers, through which the water cascades down. Also nearby are the wholesome Choeng Ngoen and Huai Man Waterfalls.





Mae Hong Son's 5 Relaxing Elements

The highlands of Mae Hong Son is a perfect place to recharge your inner energy. Here are 5 local elements will sure to refresh and relax you.

Mae Hong Son is known for being 1,864 curves away from its nearest neighbour of Chiang Mai. But that challenge only makes the province nicely secluded and unspoiled. The following are selected local elements that can boost your inner energy.

Ozone - Pang Oung

Pang Oung used to be an illegal opium plantation before it was transformed into a local economic farming group via a royal initiative project of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Highlights include the dreamy morning mist over its main reservoir, a leisure cruise and lung-filled intake of the pure ozone.

Local Food - Tiger peanut

Tiger peanut - so-called-so thanks to the tiger-patterns on its kernel - is Mae Hong

Son's unique snack. Usually toasted with sea salt, these peanuts are sweet and deliciously crunchy. The tiger patterns on the skin even adds to the taste.

Temple - Wat Chong Klang, Wat Chong Kham

Mae Hong Son's unique twin temples, Wat Chong Klang, Wat Chong Kham are the sacred grounds for the Tai Yai (or Shan) people living in the province. While Wat Chong Kham features Thai architecture, Wat Chong Klang is prominent for the standing 'Phra Upakut' (wealthy deity) in the front.

Blissfulness - Ban Pa Bong Community

'Sapan Khao Kao Puer Suk bridge spanning across the vast rice field here is naturally wrapped by pure mountainous bliss. A great place to observe the uniquely mixed Shan-Paganyaw cultures. In the vicinity are some hot springs and a cooperative market worth checking out.

Health - Sai Ngam Hot Spring

Mineral hot springs at Sai Ngam is good for blood circulation, and the lush surroundings make wonders to the peace of mind.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Phrathat Doi Kong Mu

Perched on top of Doi Kong Mu, this ancient temple (built in 1860) enshrines the ashes of Phra Moggallana - one of the chief disciples of the Buddha; hence, one of Mae Hong Son's most sacred grounds with a plus being their panoramic views.



Mae Surin Waterfall

The stunning waterfalls so magnificent in form and lushness that it best showcases Mae Hong Son's natural abundance. Nearby is Doi Pui Luang National Park or Mae Hong Son's iconic marigold fields.



Doi Mae U Kho Wild Sunflower Field

Painting the entire highlands of Mae U Kho, the endless wild sunflower fields glow bright into full bloom each year from November to December.





Natural Forces - the Waterfalls of Tak

The natural forces of the lush waterfalls can instantly be so refreshing. In Tak, the greenery, the high mountain ranges and the lushness of it all are the origins of some magnificent waterfalls.

Nature has an instant power to heal a soul.

One step into the forest and you are likely to feel recharged. Into the high mountain ranges of Tak province are myriads of waterfalls. From the Thi Lo Su, the Thi Lo Rae, to the Pi Tu Go, the Nilaki, and the Tharakrak. The most stunning of them all, however, is the famous

Thi Lo Su. Also very unique is the Pi Tu Go (or Pre To Lo Su) waterfall for its unique heart-shaped cascading drops. For a great tiered impression, head to the Pa Charoen and observe all of its soaring 97 tiers. The 'Krachiao Som' (Curcuma roscoeana) are in full bloom and brighten up the whole area from August to October, making that particular period much coveted.



Nearby Attractions

Wat Phra Barommatham

Modelled after Myanmar's Shwedagon Pagoda, Wat Phra Barommatham is Tak's primary sacred ground. Their annual celebration every ninth the ninth month of the year is also worth checking out.



Bhumibol Dam

Thailand's greatest arch concrete dam, Bhumibol Dam is a spectacular site for nature lovers. Trek along its lush trails or enjoy a leisure raft cruise in the largest reservoir of Southeast Asia.



Doi Luang Tak

A place to immerse into the pristine lands of tropical forests or even camp out overnight to catch the famous misty vibes.





Coffee Town of Nan

Nan is known for its specialty coffees. From Geisha at Ban Maneepreuk to Bourbon and Cartimor at Ban San Charoen and Arabica-Cartimor at Bo Kleua District.

A good cup of specialty coffee in Nan will surely make your morning ever more awesome. This is because it is likely that you will sip that coffee amidst the province's spanning views and fresh ozone.

Nan, a small Northern Thai province, is the place to enjoy locally grown specialty coffees. Many plantations also offer year-round farm-stay accommodation. Geisha beans, the one deemed to be most coveted, hence exorbitantly priced, can be found at Gem Forest Coffee Plantation (Doi Manipruek) that also features an old-school roaster and unadorned Hmong lifestyles. At Ban San Charoen, Bourbon and Cartimor beans are among the highlights. Perched high at Bo Kleua district is the Arabica-Cartimor coffee plantation that - for most part of the rainy and cooler months - is nicely covered with dreamy mist, making it a also perfect spot for camping.

Nearby Attractions



Doi Samer Dao

Known for its 'sea of mist,' Doi Samer Dao has a spacious area that curves along the ridges of the mountain. This is a part of the Sri Nan National Park with a nearby attraction being Pa Hua Singha that looks like a sleeping lion.



Doi Phu Kha National Park

Another mountaintop attraction with a sea of mist, Doi Phu Kha is Nan's important freshwater source that runs into the Ping and Pua Rivers. Also abundant in the area is the rare Chompoo Phu Kha (*Bretschneidera sinensis*) - one of the world's rarest plants - and Thailand's prominent giant ancient palm forest.



Salt Well at Bo Kleua

Said to be the world's only mountain salt well, Bo Kleua is an ancient fascination that features a century-old local tradition amidst the beautiful nature.





The Big O of Uttaradit

The small district of Laplae in Uttaradit province is the crown of the hidden gem. Charming local life, delicious cuisine and the much-coveted 'Long-Lin' Laplae delicacy durian.

A perfect place to get away from it all, the tiny village of Laplae in the valley of Uttaradit is recognised for its 'natural remedies' and local attractions.

As if things here were preserved in a time capsule, Laplae is an image of a small valley village rich with simplicity and natural surroundings. Intrinsically an eco-friendly, carbon-free destination, Laplae attracts visitors who like it easy: pedalling around on a bike and enjoy the laid-back pace. Do not miss local savoury delicacies: Khao Pan Pak, Khao Kao Kaep and Mi Pan and indulge in their abundance of farms. Laplae's famous produce include their superlative shallot, garlic, and the much-coveted 'Long-Lin' durian, a wholesome charm for this under-the-radar town.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Phra Thaen Sila At

A sacred ground where the much revered 'Sila At' or laterite sermon platform is enshrined, this is one of the oldest and most beautiful temples in Uttaradit with ancient Buddha statues and interesting museum.



Phraya Pichai Dap Hak Monument

This is the province's iconic memorial built as the memorial built in memory of Phraya Pichai - or the governor of Pichai town in Uttaradit, for his bravery, patriotism and self-sacrifice during a battle with the Burmese in 1773.



Wat Phra Brommathat Thung Yang

An ancient Lanna temple that houses the sacred bell-shaped, Ceylonese-style stupa believed to contain relics of the Lord Buddha. Also worth noting is their intricate old murals.





The Mountain Guardian, Lampang

As if floating in the sky, this dreamy chedi is temple is one of the best unseens in the Thai North.

The white pagodas that seem to be floating in the sky at this mountaintop temple are more prominent during the cooler months.

This is Wat Phra Phutthabat Suthawas or Wat Phrabat Phu Pa Dang in Lampang. Perched on the top of the mountain ridges, this temple, taking a whole, if not more, decade to build, is a local measure that guards this mountain from being exploded for highway construction. Also one of the best unseen sights in Thailand.

On the first level up, you will see the main temple with the Lanna-style pagodas that line the Ubosot. The higher level, perched on the peaks of the cliff and requires a truck ride-up, enshrines the sacred Buddha's footprint. The highest peak, only accessible by walking, features the golden pagoda with the scared Buddha's relics and the famous all-white five cliffhanging pagodas. This is one magnificent religious devotion that had somehow saved the environment.



Nearby Attractions



Chae Son National Park

In a lush forest dotted with a natural hot spring, this national park is the destination for the simmering 73 degrees Celsius hot spring food for perfectly poached eggs and picturesque surroundings.



Kiu Lom Dam

Practical and scenic, this dam has become a popular tourist attraction in the area from the get-go. the water and nature side by side.



Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang

This iconic and most revered temple of Lampang is believed to have been built around the 14th century. It is also believed to be the guardian of those born in the Year of the Ox.





The Nation's Central Kitchen, Phetchabun

Phetchabun - a mountainous province in the Lower North - is known for its year-round cool climates that create an optimum environment for agriculture.

The highland's year-round cool weather is just perfect for both flora and fauna. Plus this is the land of kitchen crops. Sustainable agriculture is also another highlight of Phetchabun. The province that is the cradle for cabbages, sweet tamarind and aromatic taro roots has many of its farmers tuned into organic and sustainable farming. A lot of fresh produce, including their famous 'Khao Leum Pua'

The high altitudes of Phetchabun is perfect for kitchen farming. Their famous crops include cold weather favourites; such as, sweet cabbages and tamarind.



- a brown rice so delicious one can easily forget one's hubby - are farmed here. A naturally scenic province, Phetchabun is also popular for its high mountain ranges that create a perfect dreamy state for a vacation.

Nearby Attractions



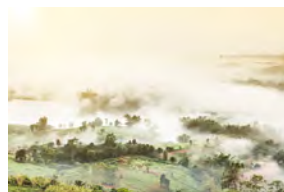
Si Thep Historical Park

Containing the ruins of ancient Phetchabun or Si Thep ancient town, this historical park features the centuries-old empire of the Dvaravati period. Browse through the remains such as moats and mounds all built using laterite of the bygone eras.



Wat Pha Sorn Kaew

With its main attraction being a quintet of layered Buddha statues, this colourful temple is perched high on the mountain top and creates a floating image from afar. A sacred place good for meditation.



Khao Kho

A beautiful destination complete with the widely-photographed sea of mist not too far from Bangkok, Khao Kho is a wonderful camping ground for those wishing to be at one with nature.





The Food Heaven of Nakhon Sawan

'Sawan' means heaven. And at Nakhon Sawan (capital of heaven), one can enjoy arrays of delicious food that make this town a real food heaven.

Dubbed as a gateway to the Thai North, Nakhon Sawan is a convergence of great, delicious food. The river Ping that runs through it also provides food aplenty in forms of various freshwater fish and natural abundance. Among many of its original products is their own adaptation of Japanese mochi. Unlike the original recipes, Nakhon Sawan mochi is made to please the Thai palate. Also popular is their 'Sawan Angel Cake' (Pui Fai Sawan) - an auspicious and delicious snack good for eating and as a well-wishing souvenir.

On the savoury side, the town is famous for 'fish balls' made from kneaded featherback fish. Smaller and much cuter than other fish balls available, these signature bites can be found in the town's many leading noodle dives. For those into great carbohydrate, Nakhon Sawan has the delicious 'Khao Cho Ratri' - the award-winning rice in 2016.

Nearby Attractions



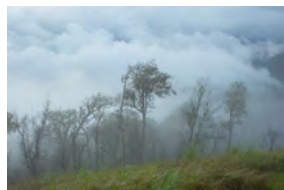
Wat Kiriwong

Perched on top of 'Dao-wa-dung' hill, this temple glows with a golden four-tiered pagoda. Each floor of the pagoda houses sacred items, from much-revered Buddha statues to a Buddha's footprint. The top floor also offers the panoramic view of the whole city.



Khao Nor - Khao Kaew

Located off Nakhon Sawan town, this soaring viewpoint requires quite a strenuous climbing. But the gorgeous panoramic views on top are worth the efforts.



Mae Wong National Park

One of the best preserved and pristine verdant jungles of the West, this national park tops nature lovers list for its Mo Ko Chu summit.





The Submerged Sanctity of Kwan Phayao

The temple of 'Wat Tilok Aram' is a sacred place that has been submerged for decades. Now people convene at the newly built floating ubosot that was built on top of the sunken temple.

Submerged, but not forgotten. Wat Tilok Aram is an ancient temple sunk in Kwan Payao due to the new irrigation system that diverted the watercourse that flooded the entire area of the old town decades ago. Later, the finding on the historic scripture unveiled the treasure being this century-old submerged temple, followed by a construction of now the floating island directly above the original ubosot of the temple. It

is here that locals and devout visitors come to pay tribute to Thailand's one and only floating temple, in the memory of the lost city, the ancient temple and the mystery of time.



Nearby Attractions



Pho Khun Ngam Mueang Monument

The sacred memorial for Phayao's great king under whom, about seven centuries ago, the state prospered and flourished. He is much-revered as being the guardian of the locals.



Phu Lang Ka National Park

If you like climbing and hiking, this gorgeous mountain ridge can be a perfect choice. The scenic views aside, this is a perfect destination for those into botany and even dendrology.



Phu Sang National Park

Lining the Thai-Lao border, this vast national park is rich and dense with verdant forest and wild habitat. Highlights include Phu Sang Waterfall - Thailand's only warm waterfall.





Uthai Thani's Floating Town

This is Uthai Thani's unique town that literally sits on water with every single raft house having an official house registration.

Back in the day when the river was the primary transportation route, people in Uthai Thani settled right on the water along the banks. Now, this settlement - comprising of more than 200 registered houses - has become Uthai Thani's very unique way of life. On the main Sakrae Krang River, these locals perpetuate the riverine lifestyle: fishing and earning their lives through aqua-farming. Freshwater fish is one of Uthai Thani's delicacies, especially Pla Rat or Giant gourami that are plenty in the area.



Visitors can enjoy the river cruise or rafting tour to observe this unique town and make a stop to visit the ancient

Wat Uposatharam - the sacred sight of the river and the spiritual centre of Uthai Thani's people for centuries.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Tha Sung

Wat Tha Sung's elaborate affairs reflect the enormous faith people have in the late Luanpho Ling Dam whose incorruptible body is enshrined in the temple along with a replica of the revered Phra Phutta Chinnarat.



Tham Hup Pa Tat

This is an area of a stretching limestone cave that leads into a lush mountain range covered with mangrove forest - an ancient class of palm trees. Also notable are rare living things; such as, elongated tortoise and the shocking pink dragon millipedes.



Sakrae Krang Old Town

This is Uthai Thani's retro walking street with its narrow alleys lined with old, charming houses. A great treasure trove for those into rare antiques and collectibles. Saturdays only from 15.00- 20.00 Hrs.





A Stronghold of Ancient Siam, Kamphaeng Phet

Kamphaeng Phet - a stronghold of ancient Siam - now features its amazing archive at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Historical Park.

Kamphaeng Phet might be small, but its magnificent history has made this under-the-radar province worth an intentional visit. The tree-lined historical park was listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site making it a wonderful destination of well-preserved history. Its features are the beautiful architectural blends of Sukhothai and Ayutthaya periods uniquely built with laterite first and then bricks, showcasing the city in transition.

Back in 1906, King Rama V the Great visited Kamphaeng Phet's Historical Park and its spectacular sites inspired the King His Majesty in several of his royal proses and poems. The centre stage - Wat Phra Kaeo - flanked by lions was highly praised by the King who helped preserve this portion of Siam's glorious past and put Kamphaeng Phet on the world's map of great destinations.



Nearby Attractions



Khlong Lan National Park

Sprawling over the mountain ranges west of the province, this national park is known for the multi-tiered Khlong Nam Lai Waterfall black-stone yard and beautiful stream-shaped rock formations.



Kamphaeng Phet National Museum

This museum features four main sections of exhibits with highlights being artefacts that portray the unique history and ethnic groups, cultures and natural surroundings of the province. Also a great place for kids.



Nakhon Chum Retro Market

Set-up and costumed retro market that will take you back in time. this market comes alive every first weekend (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) of the month from 15.00 Hrs. onwards.





Ancient Town Unveiled in Bang Khlang, Sukhothai

The small Bang Khlang sub-district is found to have been even more ancient than Sukhothai. Come find its hidden history and the much coveted 'Pim Phra Ruang Bang Khlang' amulets.

In Sukhothai, there is this a small, hidden, and very ancient town of 'Bang Khlang' which has recently been found to be even older than the Sukhothai empire. Nestled in the area of Sawankhalok district, the lost city of Bang Khlang played a significant role during the settlement of Sukhothai which was Siam's primary and most extensive empire that had spawned so many distinctive cultural and historical treasures.

According to an ancient stone inscription at Wat Sri Chum at the Sukhothai Historical Park, Bang Khlang was founded at the same period as the more acquainted Sukhothai empire and Si Satchanalai district. Once properly explored, archaeologists found this small district to be the source of the widely used laterite of the eras. As mysterious as the district is to the modern day, this is a place of the sacred 'Bang Khlang' amulets that are much coveted among amulet collectors.



Nearby Attractions



Wat Sopha Ram

Known and much-revered for an array of holy amulets and sacred items, Wat Sopha Ram is the den of the religious devotees. Highlights include the magnanimous Sukhothai Buddha and smaller Buddha statues inside and under the base.



Si Satchanalai Historical Park

As the second largest city after Sukhothai, Si Satchanalai played a crucial role during the glory of the empire. Now its historical park is home to over 200 artefacts and ruins of what used to be temples, palaces and homes.



Sukhothai Historical Park

UNESCO World Heritage since 1991, Sukhothai Historical Park portrays Siam's 13th - 14th century capital in fine monuments of the great civilisation in this well-preserved walled city.





The Legend of Suriyenthathibodi (Tiger King), Wat Pho Prathap Chang, Pichit

The birthplace of 'Phra Chao Suer' or King Sanphet VIII, this ancient Ayutthaya-period temple is also the home of the much-revered Luang Phor Toh

King Sanphet VIII or Suriyenthathibodi of Ayutthaya is known for his fierce mind, hence the more-common name as the 'Tiger King.' As the 29th King of the Ban Phlu Luang Dynasty, he built a temple near a big Bodhi tree and named the place 'Wat Pho Prathap Chang' after his own birthplace. Now, this ancient temple amazingly retained its ancient, over 300-year-old entity and no new additions were built to conceal the original works. It is a registered archaeological site of the Ayutthaya period.

Apart from being a lived-in monastery, this ancient temple exudes mystical sacredness. The masterpiece Luangpho To is much revered and the place is a sacred ground that welcomes everyone.

Nearby Attractions



Bueng Si Fai

This icon of Pichit is Thailand's third largest freshwater reservoir. It is also a key fish-breeding facility of the Fishery Department. A great spot to watch the sunset.



Pichit Historical Park

Another significant landmark of Pichit, this historical park is actually located in the real ancient Pichit town that was built in the reign of King 'Kotara Bong' around the year 1058. Also featured is the province's legends of Chalawan Cave from the literature 'Krai Thong.'



Wat Khao Rup Chang

A serene and sacred ground of an ancient temple, Wat Khao Rup Chang features a rare sight of old, Ceylon-style white stupa with the much-revered Buddha's footprint. Also fantastic are the murals depicting Traibhumi Katha and the mountaintop panoramic views of Pichit town.





Untold Stories of Li District Lamphun

Small town's charm at its best, 'Ban Phra Bat Huai Tom' community rigorously maintains the Five Precepts and strictly refrains from eating animals.

For the small district of Li, the best form of wonder is their strong faith. Their entire population of over 20,000 have been keeping the faith by strictly maintaining the Five Precepts, by which they absolutely refrain from eating meat their whole life. The reason behind this devotion came from the long-standing faith the Paganyaw people here had maintained with their Buddhism.



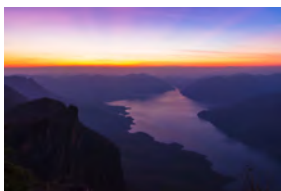
The Ban Phra Bat Huai Tom community is a real hidden gem for those into the unadorned slow life. Their easy and natural lifestyle aside, this community also features 'Phra Mahathat Chedi Sri Wiang Chai' - the glowing gold stupa which is the main sacred ground of the community. Also must-tries are their vegan delicacies that have been holding the hearts of the locals for centuries.

Nearby Attractions



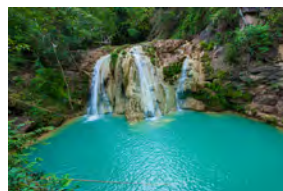
Wat Phrathat Hariphunchai

With the origin dating back to the 9th or 11th Century, this is Lamphun's main temple with an ancient original Lanna-style stupa. Inside are myriads of artefacts and religious treasures.



Mae Ping National Park

Lamphun's most notable backyard that covers the entire verdant mountain, this national park offers various natural attractions. From high ridges and waterfalls to a savanna field, expansive lake and a great spot to watch the sunset.



Kor Luang Waterfall

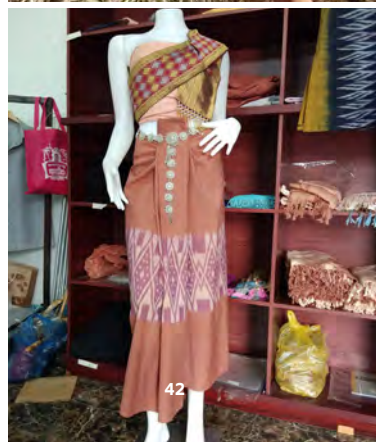
Green as a dream, this is a seven-tiered waterfall surrounded with all the natural lushness and rock formations. Nearby boasts the equally magnificent 'Tat Sor' Waterfall as an alternative.





An aerial photograph of a dense tropical forest. Several large, smooth, reddish-brown boulders are scattered across the landscape, partially covered by green vegetation. A narrow dirt path winds through the forest on the left side. In the background, the forest gives way to a vast, open landscape under a hazy sky.

THE NORTH EAST



Volcanic Cotton at Phu Akkanee, Buri Ram

Thailand's one and only village
that applies the bright volcanic
soil to dye their fabric.

The bright, earthy orange tones of the soils near the ancient and extinct volcano of 'Khao Phra Angkhan' south of Buri Ram has made this small village very unique and special.

The locals here exploit the nature, using the natural brightness of the soil as the primary fabric dye; hence, a one-of-a-kind handmade cotton speciality of their own

Khao Phra Angkhan was said to have had erupted for the last time more than hundreds of centuries ago, but the overflow from that eruption resulted in the area's mountain that still contains the native red hue of the soil. This is believed to be a sacred mountain; hence, this volcanic soil-dyed cotton is a well-cherished product of the village. Cotton dyeing using natural dyes (from tree bark, indigo and so on) has always been a part of Thailand. And this village perpetuates the wisdom with their own speciality.

Nearby Attractions



Phanom Rung Historical Park

This is one of Thailand's most famous Prasat Hin or ancient Khmer architecture legendarily related to the Mount Kailash of Lord Shiva. Assumed to have been built in the 5th-18th centuries - this archeological site is a real gem of Buri Ram.



Chang Arena

The largest club-owned football stadium in Thailand, Chang Arena is dubbed as 'Thunder Castle' conveying a marketing message as the fifth castle of Buri Ram. The arena is open for free visiting during non-event days.



Ban Sanuan Nok

Small village where locals speak Khmer, Ban Sanuan Nok welcomes visitors who want to learn about the real Isan lifestyle and their silk weaving production.





The White Hill of Mo Hin Khao of Chaiyaphum

The spot to soak in Chaiyaphum's natural beauty. Mo Hi Khao is known for its prominent white sandstone and splendid scenery.

A perfect place for stargazing, Mo Hin Khao in the Phu Laen Kha National Park of Chaiyaphum features arrays of extraterrestrial white rock columns, hence the name. It is above is also a popular place for nature lovers who usually camp out for the best scenes the sunrise.

Most rocks at Mo Hin Khao are white sandstone, some contain siltstone, mudstone and purple sandstone. These are another archeological gem of Thailand's central plateau, believed to have taken place almost 200 million years ago. Cooler months boast colourful blossoms of wild flowers that blanket the entire area. Another great spot for photo ops.



Nearby Attractions



Tat Ton Waterfall

A part of the Phu Laen Kha mountain range, Tat Ton Waterfall is a key natural attraction in Chaiyaphum. Cascades plunging down the wide rock plateaus are at their best during the rainy season (around June - September).



Siam Tulip and Pa Hin Ngam National Park

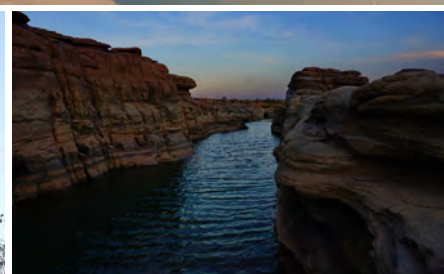
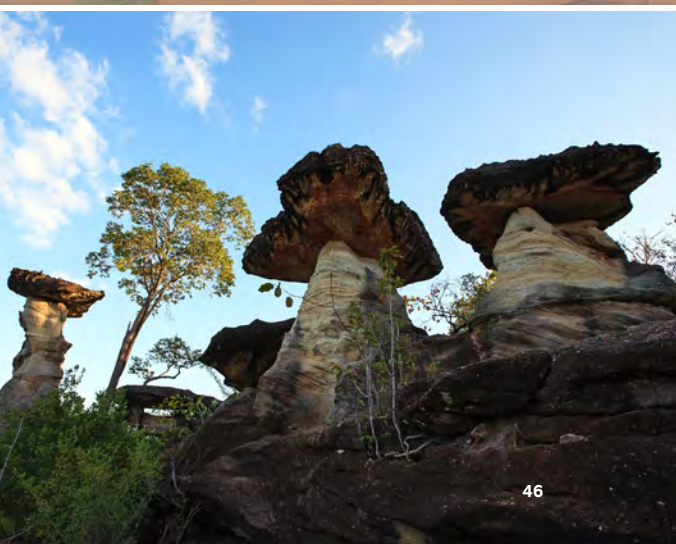
This national park is best seen during the rainy season (from May - August) when its unique and unusual rock formations are blanketed with the bright pink field of 'Dok Krachiao'.



Phrathat Chaiyaphum

This sacred Phrathat features a mix of Lanna and Lan Xang architecture and enshrines relics of Lord Buddha, making it the most revered temple of Chaiyaphum.





Rock Wonder in Ubon Ratchathani

The wonders of Ubon Ratchathani is province-wide. Along the Khong River that lines the borders of the province are places that make Ubon Ratchathani even more special.

You might have heard of their spectacular 'Sam Phan Bok' or literally 'Three Thousand Small Basins' which scientifically means the beautiful forms of erosion of the rock river base. Sam Phan Bok will emerge during the dry months of the year; during other months though, they are all covered under the river.

If you feel Sam Phan Bok a bit too touristic, head north towards 'Hat Chom Dao' which is also another stunning rock bed eroded form. The area here is a bit smaller, but not less stunning. Less people means you will get almost the entire place to yourself. The best times to visit these two locations are either early in the morning or late afternoon just before then sundown.

As one of the most expansive provinces in Thailand, Ubon Ratchathani offers a large array of natural wonders. From their famous Sam Phan Bok rock reef a rich and mysterious national park.

But then, Ubon Ratchathani is an all-year-round destination, too. During the colder months (November - December), in the area the Dong Na Tham Fores in Pha Taem National Park, one can enjoy the colourful blankets of wild flowers. This national park has welcomed Her Majesty Queen Regent Sirikit on various occasions and she had bestowed the name of a flower field. If you happen to be here during the dry months, be informed that the changing colour trees are also beautiful.

If you are into Ubon Ratchathani's famous sunset, the best spot to watch it is at the two very famous sandstone columns (Sao Hin Chalieng Koo) that their mysterious shapes and forms created by centuries of natural erosions made them another key attraction in the area.

The nearby 'Namtok Saeng Chan' is dubbed 'Namtok Long Ru' for the fact that the falling water here passes through an open hole between the rocks. On a good day, the light above will create a moonlight illusion with the ground where the water falls into a heart-shaped pattern.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Sirindhorn Wararam Phu Prao

With a concept portraying the mythical Himavanta Forest, Wat Sirindhorn features arrays of religious elements and architectural highlights being the illuminating Kalaprehreuk or the Wishing tree.



Khemmarat Walking Street

Khemmarat is a small district by the side of the Mekong. This weekly walking street that features delicious local edibles along with arrays of souvenirs. Every Saturday from 16.00 Hrs. onwards.



Ubon Grand Canyon

The sleepy town of Ban Nong Lai in Ubon Ratchathani has recently been in the limelight thanks to this man-made 'canyon' of clay-dyke-allotted emerald-green ponds.





The Red Carpet of Nong Han, Udon Thani

Experience the sudden burst of the red lotus sea in Nong Han, Udon Thani.

One of the most romantic, and amazing, in terms of natural wonders in Udon Thani, Thale Bua Daeng (Red Lotus Lake) is the largest natural lotus pond you can find in Thailand.

Located in the Nong Han district about 50 kilometres south of the town centre, this lake is in full bloom during the colder months of each year (December - February). The best time to observe the beauty is early in the morning when

you charter a boat down a boat and wander into the misty morning and then in a sudden burst, the rollicking sea of pink appears before you. To capture the theme of the nature, the province also organises an annual 'red carpet' wedding to romanticise the nature every February.





Nearby Attractions



Wat Pa Phu Kon

Set in a lush preserved forest, Wat Pa Phu Kon is a serene spot perfect for pilgrimage. Their Great Wihan features modern Rattanakosin architecture that is home to a sacred marbled reclining Buddha.



Phu Phra Bat Historical Park

The province's geological wonders of unusual rock formations (caused by centuries of natural erosion) that has become stuck in the minds of the locals to the point of being sacred and revered.



Kham Chanot

This area has recently gained a big hype thanks to the story of the mysterious and powerful wish-granting Naga. Also to complete the picture is their so-called 'sacred pond' and the ancient banyan trees.





The Myth of the Great Naga in Nong Khai

The mythical powers of the Naga in this small town along the Mekong are portrayed by a love story between the daughter of the Naga and an irresistible human.

Many Isan provinces along the Mekong have their cultures closely related to the myth of the Naga. That explains many unique festivals; such as, the Naga Fireball and places like 'Payanak Cave' where it is believed to be the hidden passage to the Naga world.

Wat Tam Sri Mongkhon or Wat Tam Piang Din in Sangkhom district of Nong Khai is where the mysterious 'Naga Cave' or the 'Payanak Cave' is located. Legend has it that this is the place where the daughter of the Naga sneaked out to meet her lover, the irresistible human, but then was forced



to end the love. The inspiration for the movie 'The Shape of Water' perhaps. Also, while there, enjoy the unusual terrains of serpentine rock formations that actually back up the Thai Naga wonders.



Nearby Attractions



Phu Pha Dak

A hill overlooking the Mekong, Phu Pha Dak is known for its sea of mist best seen at sunrise. A long hike that takes about 45 minutes is part of the deal. And that means you will have to be there before dawn to reach the top before the rising of the sun.



Sala Keoku

Also known as 'Wat Khaek,' Sala Keoku is a man-made park packed with soaring concrete figures and sculptures built to reflect the personal vision of Luang Pu Bunleua Sulitatt to depict religious teachings in a dramatic fashion.



Nong Khai Sky Walk

The latest attraction in Sangkhom district of Nong Khai, this see-through tempered glass walkway offers a wide-angle view of the Mekong. Be extra careful when taking a selfie.





Whales of Rocks in Phu Sing, Bueng Kan

The trio pod of whales amidst the lush forest. Rock formations that assimilate the love of the world's largest aquatic mammals.

Phu Sing Reserve Forest is part of Bueng Kan's larger reserve tropical region that features not only lush verdant but also uniquely and miraculously formed rock formations that give the place many unusual names. The Three-Whale-Rock, looking just like a trio pod of whales sitting on top of a sandstone mountain is huge evidence of this area's geological richness that harks back over 75 million years.

The large sandstones that have become the namesake of the place are said to be the best spot in the province to gawk at the shades of sunrise. Also while there, look around and take it all in the green lushness amid the largest wildlife sanctuary in Thailand's Northeast. Sandstone can be slippery when wet. Be extra careful.

Nearby Attractions



Phu Tham Phra Waterfall

A huge cascading waterfall tucked deep in the Pa Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary, this waterfall is only accessible via a boat ride followed by a good long hike. The best time to visit is the rainy season when the lushness fills the waterfalls.



Wat Phu Thok

Another of Bueng Kan's amazing destinations, Wat Phu Thok is built high up the sandstone mountain and is accessible only via a strenuous hike up. The faith lies in the man-made wooden trails hung on the stone hills. A truly breathtaking experience.



Bueng Khong Long

A large reservoir south of Bueng Kan's town, Bueng Khong Long was built under the royal initiative of the late King Bhumibol to provide the much-needed agricultural irrigation. Now a major wildlife sanctuary that sees huge fowl migration in the wintertime.





Indigo Rules in Sakon Nakhon

Sakon Nakhon's local wisdom of indigo dyeing has recently experienced a big-time renaissance.

Sakon Nakhon is another province that has proved to us all that their indigenous wisdom could grow beyond times and borders. Indigo dyeing, an ancient local wisdom that uses the indigo plant to create natural blues on cottons, has recently been brought back to life in this part of Thailand. Sakon Nakhon's uniquely indigo-dyed cottons have now been GI registered and become the province's main pride and joy that has been successfully promoted, exported and sustained not only in Thailand, but also internationally.

Indigo-dyeing has always been an indigenous wisdom of people in Isan. Long before, this type of fabric was associated with farmers and local cultures. But later, indigo-dyed cottons have cotton gained international recognition. With its of nature UV protection property, this beautiful outcome of the nature has now been developed with great artistic designs of patterning and weaving. A great product to shop for while in Sakon Nakhon.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum

The ancient temple of Sakon Nahon, Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum is where the much-sacred Luangpho Ong Saen is enshrined. A must-visit while in Sakon Nakhon.



Wat Tham Pha Daen

Another staple attraction in Sakon Nakhon, Wat Tham Pha Daen is perched on a high hill overlooking Sakon Nakhon town. Also highlights are the giant-sized carved sandstone in reclining Buddha and other religious figures.



Kong Ping Ngu

A part of the winding highway connecting Sakon Nakhon and Kalasin, this stretch of road is a series of curves and bends that assimilate a slithering snake, hence the name. A great place to launch your drone camera to capture the top view of the entire area.





Kalasin, A Geological Gem

The small town of Kalasin slid into the limelight when it became Thailand's major dinosaur fossil excavation site about 30 years ago.

The trails of the world's great geological wonders found their home in the Northeastern province of Kalasin in Thailand when the accidental finding of dinosaur fossils led into full-blown international excavation efforts that later expanded into a complete exhibition of one of the world's greatest geological wonders.

Inside the Sirindhorn Museum, one will find a real paleontological treasure, harking back to the origins of the Earth. This museum makes a wonderful visit for those wishing to learn more about dinosaurs in Thailand. Highlights of the exhibits include the *Phuwiangosaurus sirindhorn* - the first sauropod (herbivorous dinosaur) found in the Kingdom and was named after Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Nearby Attractions



Phu Faek Forest Park

The place where you can observe Thailand's most famous dinosaur footprints found back in 1996 amidst the Park's rock terrace and wild forests.



Thepsuda Bridge

The longest concrete construction that spans across Lam Pao Dam, Thepsuda Bridge links the sleepy town of Kalasin to other economic parts of the Isan region. Also a great place to chill out on the water, as there are rafting and water recreation activities also available.



Wat Wang Kham

With the architecture assimilating the famous Wat Xiang Thong in Luang Phrabang, the beautiful Wat Wang Kham exudes a sacred quality. A good collection of religious arts and elements throughout the premises.





Silk with the Golden Thread, Ban Tha Sawang, Surin

This small village of Surin is known for its exquisite 'Chansoma' golden brocade silk that had earned Thailand a global reputation.

Surin has already been known as the silk superstar of Thailand. But at the small village of Ban Tha Sawang, their intricate and very exquisite 'Chansoma' golden brocade silk has earned the province another level of reputation.

Chansoma is considered a very complex silk woven with utmost precision. Using only the finest and most delicate silk threads from the innermost part of the silk cocoon, Chansoma showcases the array of meticulously complex traditional Thai patterns. This silk also

requires 4-5 weavers to perform the task. This is part of the silk weaving restoration project under the royal initiative of Her Majesty Queen Regent Sirikit to bring back the long-lost traditional royal Thai silk weaving culture. The village is open for visitors who are interested in seeing for themselves the process of 'Chansoma' silk making.



Nearby Attractions



Phanom Sawai Forest Park

This forest park is an religious icon for Surin, with a three-peak mountain home to various deities, Buddha images and a good array of auspicious statues. A great place to walk around and calm your mind.

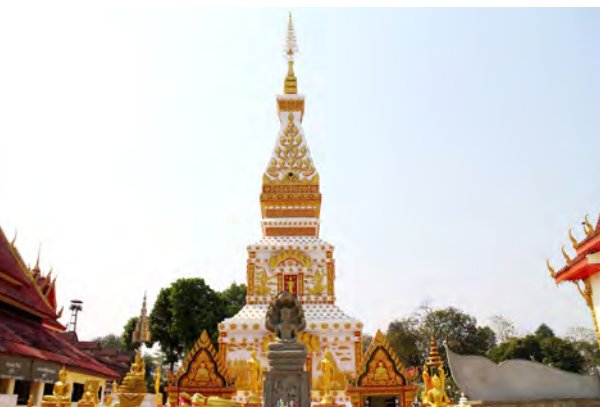
Prasat Ta Muen Thom

The largest Khmer architecture within the 'Prasat Ta Muen' Historical Park, Prasat Ta Muen Thom is an archaeological treasure surrounded by lush forests of the Dangrek Mountains at the Thai-Cambodian border.

Ban Ta Klang Elephant Village

Known as the world's largest elephant village, Ban Ta Klang is a place where Surin's local tribes naturally cohabit with their elephantine friends. Also nearby is Wang Thalu viewpoint and elephant museum.





Daily Blessings at Nakhon Phanom

There is a belief that if you pay homage to each and every one of the seven Phrathat temples of Nakhon Phanom, you will forever be an honourable acolyte.

Phrathat Phanom for those born on Sunday.

The sacred white-and-gold Phrathat at Wat Phrathat Phanom Worawihan is Nakhon Phanom's religious staple. People come here for a perennial blessing, although the temple is designated for those born on Sunday.

Phrathat Renu Nakorn for those born on Monday.

The glowing pink Phrathat is meant for those born on Monday. It is believed that worshipping here will make one's skin glow like a bright moon. Inside the main ubosot is the much-revered Lao-style meditating Phra Ong Saeng Buddha statue.

Phrathat Sri Kun for those born on Tuesday.

Located in Na Kae district, Phrathat Sri Kun is

In Nakhon Phanom, there are seven 'Phrathat' temples individually designated for those born on each day of the week.

similar to Phrathat Phanom in overall architecture, albeit with some minor different details. This Phrathat is believed to boost your honour and glory.

Phrathat Maha Chai for those born on Wednesday.

Located in Mahachai sub-district, this sacred ground enshrines the relics of Lord Buddha. The temple is popular for prosperity and good business.

Phrathat Prasit for those born on Thursday.

Another of Nakhon Phanom's religious staple, this Phrathat is known for boosting your career and professional stability.

Phrathat Tha Utaï for those born on Friday.

Modelled after Phrathat Phanom, this square-shaped Phrathat is believed to boost your success and affluence.

Phrathat Nakhon for those born on Saturday.

Located at the riverside temple of Wat Maha That, this Phrathat enshrines relics of Lord Buddha and the much-revered Golden Buddha. Worshipping here is said to increase one's fortune and virtues.

Nearby Attractions



Phu Lang Ka National Park

A great undulating highland of three continuous peaks, this national park is packed with natural wonders. A great place to explore a multitude of waterfalls and the renowned Chedi Kong Khao Si Bun Nao that looks like a giant rice heap.



Uncle Ho House

Located in Ban Na Chok, this is a replica of the simple wooden house where 'Uncle Ho' or Ho Chi Minh was said to sometimes stay while planning his resistance movement against France, hence a historical heritage of this area.



Former Governor's Residence Museum

This beautiful museum features the restored 1925 mansion of 'Juan' or governor's residence that features architectural and carpentry precision of being column-free with no-nail woodwork.





วัดอัครเทวดามีคาแอล คท. 1954

Yasothon's Catholic Church of Faith

Yasothon features this one-of-a-kind Thai-style Catholic church that is the result of collective faith of the supporting locals.

This wooden, century-old Thai-style Catholic church is a good testament of multi-religious cohabitation in Thailand. From the outside, this church looks just like a traditional Thai teak-wood house. In fact, it is said to employ over 300 trees and 80,000 pieces of wood to support its roof. Inside of the church, however, Catholic elements; such as, stained glass, angels, altars and saints are all beautifully and theologically presented.

This church, despite being a bit off the beaten track, is a local charm where each year on Valentine's Day will host a mass wedding. Yet another unseen destination in Thailand.

Nearby Attractions



Giant-Toad Museum

One of a kind landmark of Yasothon, this 'Phaya Khan Khok museum is built in the shape of a giant toad - the mythical creature of the Thai Northeastern region. Inside their multistorey exhibitions include the stories of Bang Fai rockets (explained in historical, and scientific aspects) as well as extensive collections of toads as well as Yasothon's memorabilia.



Phrathat Kong Khao Noi

Square-shaped Khmer-style stupa, Phrathat Kong Khao Noi enshrines the holy relics of Lord Buddha. Yet it is the ancient brick Buddha statue at the back that is believed to be super sacred. The name of this temple was believed to come from a folklore legend that portrayed a deadly hunger rage of a son committed towards his own mother.



Phu Tham Phra

Tucked deep in the verdant lushness of tropical forest and the water sources of Yasothon's various creeks, Phu Tham Phra consists of a large cave that houses countless numbers of Buddha images and the holy brick entrance that is called 'Phu Ngo.'





Miracles of Creation: Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit, Amnat Charoen

This Buddha image is considered to be the most exquisite in Northeastern Thailand.



Phra Lao Thep Nimit - the principle Buddha image at this small town of Amnat Charoen - showcases a religious masterpiece. This is a Buddha statue so beautiful that is dubbed 'Phra Phuttha Chinnarat' of Thailand's Northeast.

Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit reflects the area's historical reception of the Lanna influences. This ancient temple features Lanna architecture, its interior

depicts the best of Lanna shrines with its principle Buddha image built back in the early 1700s the best showcase of the glorious time. The name 'Lao Thep Nimit' is in fact means it is so delicately beautiful as if it is crafted by hand. The much-revered Buddha image in the state of subduing demons is decorated by gold leaf.



Nearby Attractions



Phu Phanom Dee

Also called the 'Pagoda of a Billion Rocks' - this all white stupa was built by the collective band of the locals. Nearby includes natural attractions; such as, caves and cliffs.



Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang

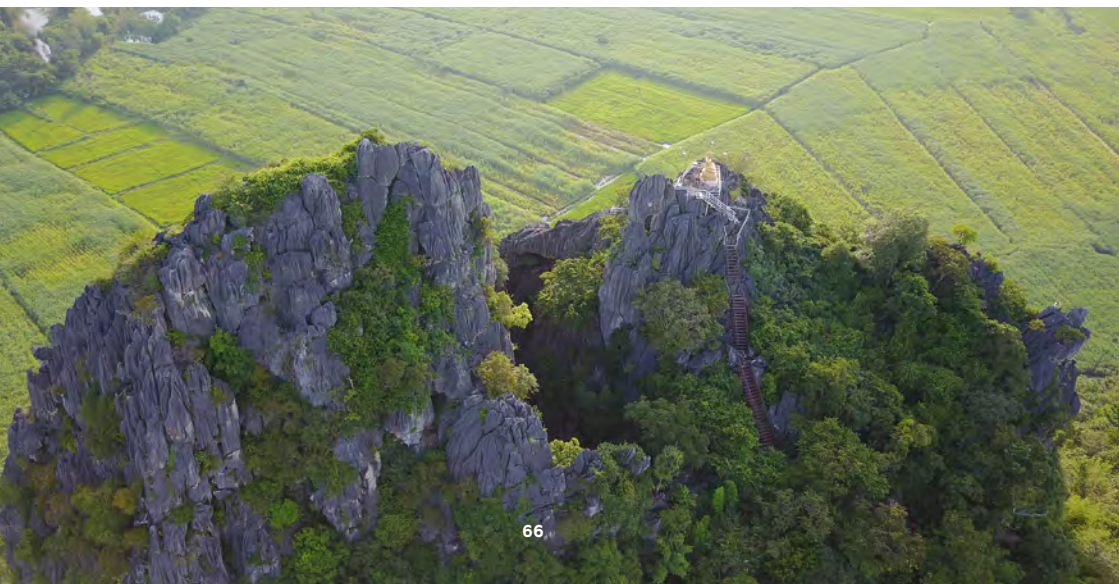
In the so-called 'Mongkhon Ming Mueang' Buddhist Park is 'Mongkhon Ming Mueang' - another of Amnat Charoen's most revered Buddha images that is believed to help propel your luck and prosperity.



Wat Tham Saeng Phet

This ancient temple was the location where a century-old stone inscription (Bai Sema) was found. Tucked deep in the forest, this is one truly natural sanctuary with some good stories for history lovers.





Wat Tham Phu Pha Tham Sathit, Nong Bua Lamphu

Northeastern plateau of Thailand's Isan is a sacred ground for Buddhism. Devotion and faith have created many wonderful spaces.

Nong Bua Lam Phu has a natural geography good for religious practices. The vast area of high plateau bordered by mountain ranges have created multitude of caves for monks to maintain a meditating isolation. This is why this area is a strong religious ground of the Thai Northeast.

Wat Tham Pha Cho is nestled inside a big natural hole in the mountain with many natural wonders around their primary Buddha image. Take the stairway to heaven at Wat Tham Erawan and enjoy the series of cavernous rocks so amazing with the backdrop being the expansive green fields.

At the vast area of Wat Tham Suwan Kuha, visitors will enjoy a big collection of Lan Xang period artefacts and Buddha images. A wonderful reminiscence of the Isan lifestyle during the early Ayutthaya period.

Wat Tham Klong Pane - perhaps the province's most visited temple - portrays the ancient Khmer influences amidst its super shady ambiance. A perfect spot to seek your inner solitude while also enjoying the stone garden. The sacred Buddha image here is called 'Luang Pu Khao' - and this temple, together with so many of its artefacts, perpetuates the stories of this (Luang Pu Khao's) holy persona.

Nearby Attractions



Wooden Sim at Wat Charoen Song Tham

Isan's unique wooden ubosot is called 'sim,' and the one at this temple features a traditional Isan religious form that inside houses a meditating Buddha image called 'Phra Kino'.



Wat Santi Tham Banpot

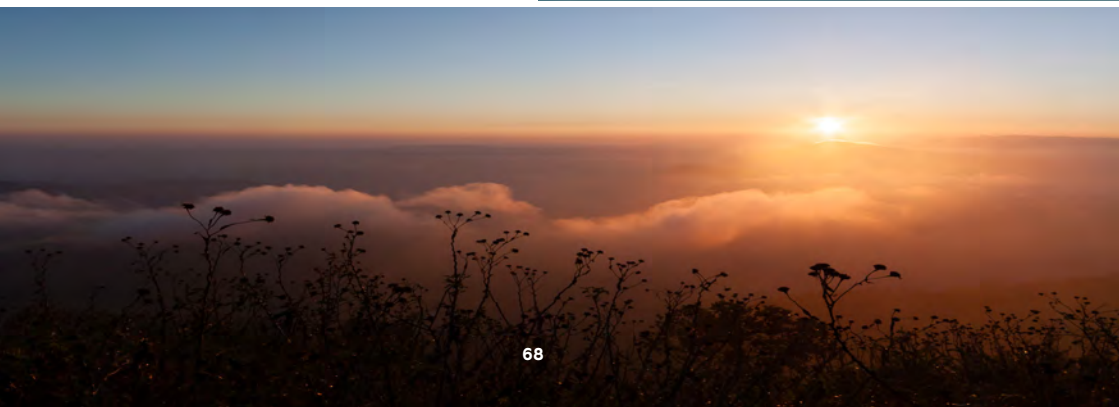
Also known as 'Wat Pa Phu Noi,' this temple enshrines a Buddha's footprint with an ancient stone inscription in eight auspicious directions. Shady, ancient and quiet. Good for a long-term meditation stay.



Hat Non Yao

Nong Bua Lamphu's major 'beach' which is in fact a freshwater beach along the Ubonrat Dam. Enjoy full-on 'beach town' services of food, drinks and lounge chairs.





Conquer Your Mind in Loei

Loei is known for scenic highlands and beautiful peaks that post a good challenge not only to your body, but also your mind.

It used to be that to prove your true love, you would need to conquer the top of 'Phu Kradueng' in Loei. This gorgeous peak requires an over 9-kilometre upward and strenuous trek and if you and your loved one can make it, chances are your love will make it too. Proving your true love or not, Phu Kradueng is a great place for nature lovers. This is also the place known for many exotic plants, wildlife and so many scenic spots.

Meanwhile, at 'Phu Lom Lo' people arrive in droves during the colder months to enjoy the pink blankets of wild Himalayan cherry (Phaya Suea Krong)

trees in full bloom that turn this whole area into a pink paradise. Camping or homestay with the locals (some with cute cabbage patches) in this middle-of-nowhere destination is also a great option.

Phu Ruea - the mountain peak that assimilates a boat, hence the name - is Thailand's coolest (temperature-wise) spot. Perennial cold climes here beckon visitors for all seasons. Beautiful wild flowers, exotic plantations, and hidden natural wonders. Also popular are many beautiful waterfalls in the vicinity. Camping facilities are also available.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Pa Huai Lat

Another major attraction in the Phu Ruea region, this temple boasts majestic architecture, a scenic reservoir and many religious and auspicious elements. The great naga - the symbol of fortune and greatness, for example.



Chiang Khan

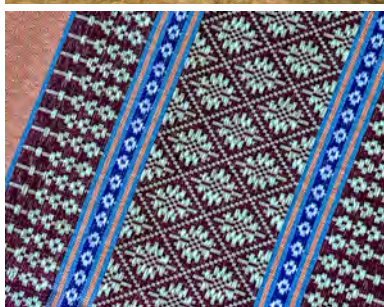
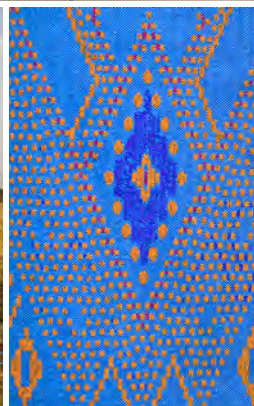
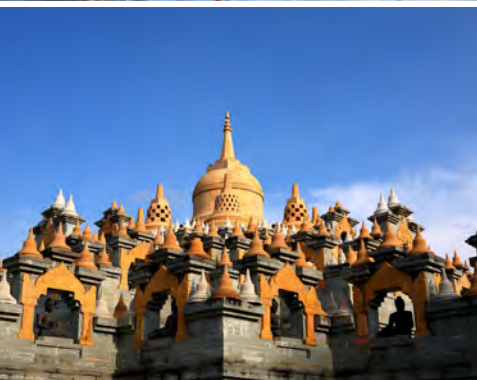
A small, laid-back riverside village northernmost of Loei, Chiang Khan has an iconic small town charm. Old wooden house rows, along with simple lifestyle and ethnic cultures are also prominent. A great place to explore on two wheels with lots of easy-paced activities.



Huai Krating

The natural reservoir with scenic water-and-sky vibes with surrounding lush bamboo forest and high peaks as the backdrops. Rafting tours and lunch are always popular.





Roi Et - Artsy 101

Art, culture, and festivals unique to Roi Et create a seamless scene for those into the richness of local life. Roi Et - a small town in the Isan region of Thailand - features many colourful scenes for those looking into the beauty of a simple and natural lifestyle.

Every October when the rivers are full, locals take to their traditional long-tail boat and make a fun-filled race called "Suk Sai Nam." There are vibrant scenes of the thunderous cheering crowds and the muscle-driven gliding boats. This is a traditional celebration of the water and people that has passed through time.

Another scene is equally thunderous. Bun Bung Fai or the famous Rocket Festival is another of Isan's ancient culture. Every year, just before the beginning of the new rice growing season, the locals will make this blasting call for the rain deities, asking for a rich and abundant year ahead.

Another must-see is the annual candle procession festival. A display of collective faith and local intricate craftsmanship.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Pha Nam Thip Thep Prasit Wanaram

Known as the location of the Maha Chedi Chai Mongkhon, one of Thailand's largest and most elaborate pagodas, this temple features the eclectic mixes of the Central Region's and Isan's religious arts and architecture.



Bueng Palan Chai

A local go-to for a lake park, this 'bueng' serves as both the province's freshwater reservoir and recreational spot. Plus, the sacred city pillar and Buddha images are also located here.



Soda Cave

This is the largest waterfall cave in Roi Et. Perfect to cool down, chill out and get a good dip amidst the lush nature.



Roi Et boasts a various array of artsy scenes - so much so that we can collect them into 7 different categories.

Roi Et is also known for their 'Saket' hand-dyed and hand-woven silk that is elaborately made from five distinguished 'matmi' silks that are already intricate. This is Roi Et's iconic silk that also reflects the strong unity of the locals.

At Wat Pa Kong, one can observe the unique replica of ancient Java-style Borobudur chedis in multi-layers. Carved out from rocks, this chedi also enshrines relics of the Lord Buddha. Also worth noting is the beautiful works of the surrounding walls.

Thung Kula Ronghai is the area closest associated with Thailand's rice paddies. Every year, after the harvest, farmers create free-style arts out of the abundant haystacks, forming them into gigantic figures and turning this rice field into another unique artsy spot.

Roi Et also boasts Isan's longest street art that adorns the entire length of the west Ku Mueang Road. This stretch was a collective paintings of over 50 artists from all over the country. And now it is becoming a hot check-in spot in the province.



Isan's Oasis at Nong Kae Dam, Maha Sarakham

Century-old wooden bridge spanning over the lake has cherished the souls of the Maha Sarakham people for ages.

Local wisdom and collective efforts had created a quaint landmark unique to this sub-district of Maha Sarakham.

Nong Kae Dam is the name of the local lake that was once a small creek. Later, rain after one rain storm after another, this creek expanded into a large lake and the locals, seeking for a good way to make it across this water basin, banded together to built a wooden bridge that spans over one kilometre across this lake. The story and years of this unique bridge aside, this lake is home to a great collection of fresh-water creatures, especially wild birds



that seem to enjoy this particularly rich natural ecology. This natural reservoir also gathers people, especially during the festive times.

Nearby Attractions



Phrathat Na Dun

One of oldest temples in the area, this Phrathat that enshrines relics of Lord Buddha in gold, silver and bronze cases, has a long history harking back over 1,300 years. A great place for historical bugs who want to enjoy the multitude of artefacts and antiques.



Wat Pa Wang Nam Yen

Perhaps Maha Sarakham's largest temple, but not necessarily oldest and most traditional, Wat Pa Wang Nam Yen features Buddhism in forms of all-teak mansions and elaborate elements that showcase the richness of the premises.





Temple of Glass, Si Sa Ket

This temple is real avant-garde in the way that it is built entirely out of recycled bottles.

In the time that we are beginning to be really concerned about global warming, this temple sends out a strong and clear message. We are trashing way too much and we are using way too much. Instead of employing, like all other temples before, the usual glittering materials in its construction, this temple is built entirely out of recycled bottles. The glittering greens are from one brand of beer, the anchoring brown lines are from another. Creative, and functional, and big-time environmentalist. Bravo to this unique temple. A great testament of how religious faith can actually do good in the world.

Nearby Attractions



Sri Lamduan Chalermparakiet Tower
Soaring high over 84 storeys, this tower is Si Sa Ket's main museum with exhibits portraying the province's key personas and events. The top floor that offers the province's panoramic views is a big plus.



Pha Mo I-Daeng
This expansive cliff is perched on top of the ridge overlooking the Thai-Cambodian border. The magnets of the scenery include Preah Vihear Temple, ancient stone-carved murals and natural artefacts.



Wat Sa Kamphaeng Yai
Si Sa Ket's most complete Khmer ruins that were built as a shrine to Shiva, Prasat Wat Sa Kamphaeng Yai is where the 13 ancient and sacred lintels were unearthed, making this a treasured archaeological spot of the province.





Martyrs of Songkhon, Mukdahan

Mukdahan is an unlikely place for Catholicism, but here at the riverside sub-district of Songkhon, there is one magnificent Catholic church that reflects the strong faith of the locals.

The Martyrs of Songkhon in Mukdahan is also called the Seven Blessed Martyrs of Songkhon after the seven Thai Roman Catholics Thai who sacrificed their lives for Christianity during the Franco-Thai during the World War during World War II. Later, on 22 October, 1989, the seven devotees were beatified by Pope Jean Paul II in Rome.

In size, Wat Songkhon is also one of Thailand's largest Catholic churches, but its modern architecture of stark clear lines and vast premises have made it even more outstanding. The church's unique architecture also earned the premises an outstanding architecture award from the Association of Siamese Architects (ASA) in 1996. The seven martyrs along with their ashes inside wax figures are displayed in the church.



Nearby Attractions



Wat Roi Phra Putthabat Phu Manorum

Overlooking the town of Mukdahan and the Mekong River, this temple, perching high on top of a hill, boasts one of the most decorated Great Naga statues as the province's mythical and much-revered icon.



Ho Kao Mukdahan

The province's observation tower that stands 65 metres high, Ho Kao Mukdahan exhibits the province's chronological history while its top floor is home to an observatory deck and a sacred Buddha image.



Phu Pha Thoe National Park

This national park of Mukdahan is known for a wonderful array of rock formations. Colder months here see colourful blankets of wild flowers adorning its lush terrains and waterfalls.







CENTRAL REGION



สถานีตำรวจภูธรอำเภอเสนา

Timeless Sapphaya, Chai Nat

Tracing the classic past of the tranquil riverside district of Sapphaya, Chai Nat.

The small, charming sub-district of Sapphaya in Chai Nat has a time stands still kind of vibes. As a province along the Chao Phraya River, Chai Nat played a crucial role during the time when Siam's main commuting routes were rivers and canals. And this riverside sub-district a major portal spot along the way.

Now, some of the classic past of this town are well-preserved. Coming here, observing their century-old all-wooden police station. Built during the heyday of the province, this elevated police station boasts intricate woodcarving, perforated gables that echo the popular tropical architecture of the time. Now listed as Thailand's registered historical site, this police station is pointed for a complete restoration. Locals come here to observe the premises and also to pay tribute to the much-revered 'Luang Pu Feung' Buddha image.



Nearby Attractions



Wat Klai Kangwon

An ancient temple dating back to the Lop Buri era (9th – 12th century), this once-abandoned temple underwent a major renovation in 1967. Now, it's a major sacred ground of the province with a very lengthy fence that goes on for more than 5 kilometres.



Chai Nat Bird Park

Considered Asia's largest aviary, Chai Nat Bird Park, covering over 26 rai, is home to more than 100 species of birds - all with plenty of space, although not total freedom like they would really wish, to fly around and amidst other animals kept in a zoo-like atmosphere.



Wat Phra Boromthat Worawihan

Formerly known as 'Wat Sri Sa Mueang' this ancient temple is considered the guardian of the Chai Nat people. Featured here is the Ayutthaya-period architecture and 700-year-old much-revered Luangpho Yai.





Honouring the Royal Khon at Silapacheep Si Bua Thong, Ang Thong



Khon - the very exquisite Thai royal performance - is considered the epitome of the country's utmost performance. Traditional and elaborate in every way, Khon is the special occasion that gathers the country's highest forms of all traditional arts. Whether it is the embroidery, apparel, music, songs and

The very intricate and much-elaborate accessories and elements of the Royal Khon are now being perpetuated at this small town of Si Bua Thong in Ang Thong.

the dances, Khon is Thailand's national treasure. And every year, the Royal Khon Performance under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Regent Sirikit is one most coveted performances of the year.

At Si Bua Thong Silapacheep or the SUPPORT Foundation, the heritage of the Thai traditional arts is perpetuated with lines of fine royal craftsmanship strenuously taught and studied. Gold thread in silk weaving, the meticulous making of Khon masks, and the fine silk brocade. All are part of the continuous workshops here along with home kitchen farming that, as always, anchors the traditional ways of life in Thailand.



Wat Muang

This temple houses the renown gigantic silver Buddha image that was built to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the late King Bhumibol's accession to the throne. A great testament of love and faith to the late and much-beloved King.



Nearby Attractions



Wat Khun Inthapramun

This Sukhothai-period ancient temple is the shrine of a magnificent all-white reclining Buddha. This much revered temple has been visited by the Kings of Siam since 1753.



Wat Sang Kratai

Perhaps the oldest temple in Ang Thong, Wat Kratai is said to have been built during the Ayutthaya period. Now the premises which has been registered as an ancient site is almost entirely covered with a large expanding Bodhi tree.





King Narai's Palace, Lop Buri

King Narai the Great designated Lop Buri as the second capital outside the Ayutthaya Kingdom. He built Phra Narai Ratchaniwet in 1666 as an alternative palace for him to relax. This was his favourite palace that portrayed the peak of glory during the Lawo dynasty. Now, this magnificence has been restored with instalment of a museum that tells the related histories.

History bugs would know that the reign of King Narai the Great was the peak of Siam's prosperity. The construction of Phra Narai Ratchaniwet combines the architecture of many nations that were trading with Siam during those

King Narai the Great who ruled Ayutthaya in the mid 1600s built Phra Narai Ratchaniwet as a summer palace. Restored by King Mongkut (Rama IV), this palace hosted Siam's first astronomical class back in the day.

days. Local craftsmanship juxtaposed with Khmer architecture, worked with Western ideas and delicate patterns of Persia, creating a one-of-a-kind beauty of the King's favourite summer palace. Wander around the compound and see the remains of the grandiose. A record by a French described the King using a telescope; hence, an assumption that Siam's first astronomical experience happened right here at this palace.

Nearby Attractions



Khao Wongprachan

Lop Buri's own natural observation deck that is perched on top of a hill, Khao Wongprachan posts a big challenge to your physical strength and strong will. Some said true love can be proven by successfully trekking up the endless stairs of this temple.



Namtok Wang Kan Lueang Arboretum

This Lop Buri oasis is centred on a waterfall that is the province's main freshwater resource. The natural lushness of the surroundings make this an all-year-round spot for a good refreshing dip.



Pa Sak Jolasid Dam

Thailand's largest earthen dam that stretches between Lop Buri and Saraburi and covers a vast area of over 14,520 square kilometres. Its serene scenes and unique natural attractions can be observed via a train ride across the dam during weekends and holidays.





U Thong, Suphan Buri

U Thong - an ancient state in the Chao Phraya basin - awaits with its archaeological sites and beautiful nature.

Tracing back into the complex state societies in the Chao Phraya basin and the breezy sub-district of U Thong in Suphan Buri appeared to have had played a significant role. The findings of ancient clay moats that made up for the natural defence of this ancient town was followed by the unearthing of evidence of old communities - Neolithic axe, beads, ceramic and metal wares. Those all proved that U Thong was once quite a prospering place. U Thong is home of many much-revered temples. For example, Luangpho U Thong - the enshrined carved-from-stone Buddha image, the century-old Wat Khao Thiam and Wat Tham Seu for sacred amulets.

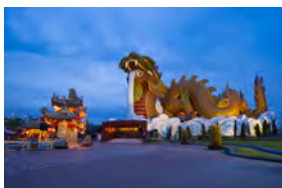
Also prominent for U Thong is the rich nature. This is the place to wander into Puhangnak stone garden and make a botanical stop at the U Thong Garden Centre. Or perhaps arrange yourself a homestay experience to soak in the unique culture.

Nearby Attractions



Pu Toei National Park

This is Suphan Buri's lushest grounds that cover three forests and a vast area of over 202,000 rai. Camping facilities are available.



Dragon Descendants Museum

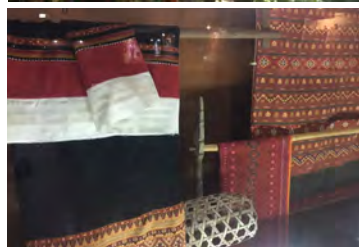
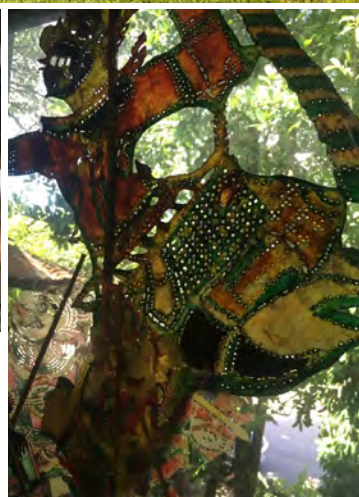
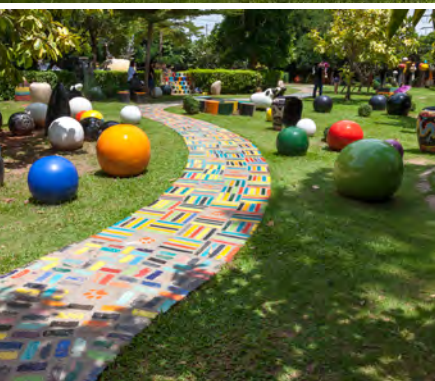
Established to celebrate Thai-Sino diplomatic relations in 1996, this museum is visible from afar thanks to their gigantic dragon statues. Inside are exhibitions of Chinese settlements in this particular part of Thailand.



Hub Kao Wong Reservoir

With pure ozone not too far from Bangkok, Hub Kao Wong offers rafting accommodation along with some unplugged water activities. Try kayaking and observing the natural lushness of Thailand's Central Plateau.





To the Artsy Souls of Ratchaburi

The artsy feels hit you as soon as you step into Ratchaburi town. Along the Mae Klong River - the main stream that runs through its centre - are punctuations of art installations. But Ratchaburi has so much more to offer. From the well-preserved grand leather puppetry, religious arts and contemporary ventures that sum up the creative characters of this small town. The following are the key art scenes of Ratchaburi.

Ratchaburi National Museum

This beautiful 1920s building of the former town hall was turned into the Museum in the late 1980s and from then on has become the major attraction for Ratchaburi. Compre-

Ratchaburi has become one of the artiest destinations in Thailand with its well-preserved ancient treasures and new streams of creativity.

hensive exhibits from geology, archaeology, and arts. A perfect start to get to know this small town.

Tao Hong Tai Ceramics Factory

Ratchaburi's iconic destination, the almost-a-century-old Tao Hong Tai has been the province's magnet for tourism. Enjoy their creative products, art exhibition and their museum-run coffee shop.

Nang Yai Wat Khanon, Photharam

Who would have imagined that the best place to watch the rare and exquisite performance of Thai traditional grand puppetry would be at this temple. The performance is still going on every weekend. Their UNESCO-recognised puppetry museum is also worth a thorough visit.

Jipathapun Ban Khu Mua Museum

A homage to Thai-Vietnamese ancestors living in Ratchaburi, this museum exhibits a good collection of this unique cultural heritage that harks as far back as the Dvaravati Period (6th - 11th century).

Nearby Attractions



Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

This iconic century-old floating market is known the world over and is also perhaps Thailand's most photographed destination. The market is available every day from early in the morning until early afternoon.



Koi Ki Old Market

Believed to be much older than Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Koi Ki Old Market still preserves the traditional Ratchaburi's riverside way of life. Old, untainted lifestyle juxtaposes with new artsy ventures with a weekend walking street available.



Wat Nong Hoi

This is a Thai-Chinese temple with highlights being the giant Guan Yin statue perching on top of the hill, and the much-revered Luangpho Yai Buddha image. Panoramic views, especially during the sunset.





All about the Rivers at Samut Songkhram

Even to this day, Samut Songkhram's traditional river lifestyle is still well-preserved.

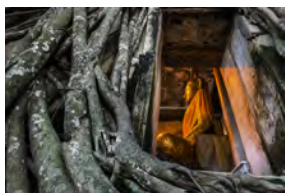
Amphawa Floating Market might be the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of Samut Songkhram. But then, this province has so much more to offer when it comes to its riverside charms.

Life starts early at Don Manora Floating Market. Untainted local lifestyle is preserved here for this is the real living market where locals converge and exchange their fresh produce. In the same vicinity is Tha Kha Floating Market that still takes place based on the Buddhist calendar (they are also open every weekend). Another fantastic spot for a true local life observation.

Bang Nok Kwaek is a century-old floating market that is open during the evening. This area used to be a major port, with their locals still experts of delicious Thai foods. Also in the vicinity is the 400-year-old Wat Sai and museum as well as the nearby Bang Noi Floating Market that is known for Khlong Khon shrimp paste and pickled limes.

The famous Amphawa Floating Market comes alive in the evening. This area is still dense with firefly-lit mangrove patches. A vibrant market if you like food off the boats.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Bang Kung

Part of the ancient navy campsite since the time of King Taksin the Great, Wat Bang Kung was left deserted for centuries before being finally restored. Now their ficus-covered ruins and the much-revered Ayutthaya-period Luangpho Dam are the main events.



Nativity of Our Lady Cathedral

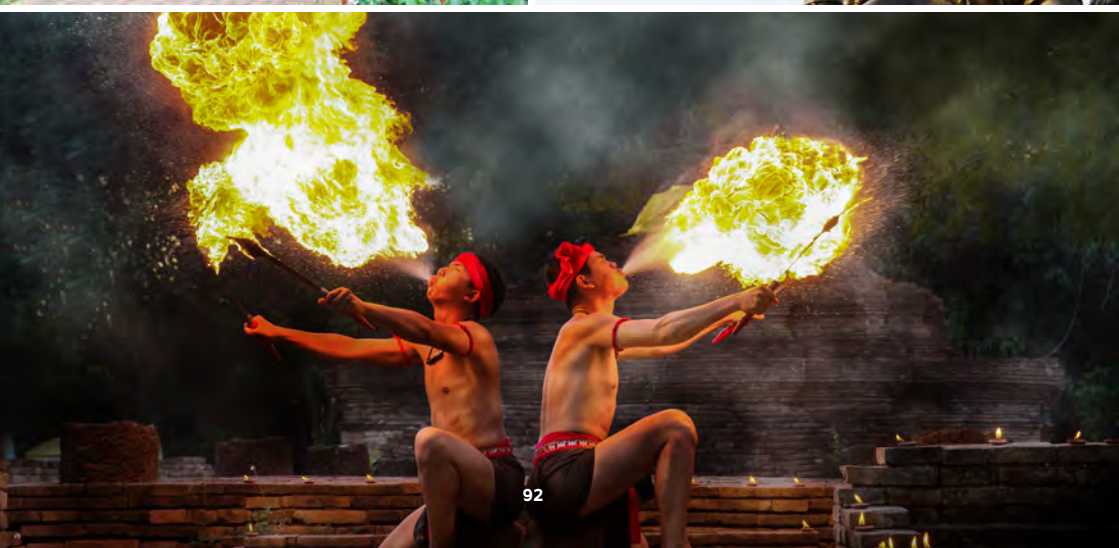
One of the most beautiful Churches in Thailand, decorated in French Gothic style, located by the riverside. The magnificent interior consists of stained glass and Picture of Virgin Mary.



Khlong Khon

Set right on the rich estuary of the Gulf of Thailand, Khlong Khon is a haven for those into natural breeze, home-stay experience and lots of super fresh seafood meals.





The Bravehearts of Bang Rachan

Bang Rachan district of Sing Buri is known throughout history for the remarkable bravery and patriotism during the 18th century Siam-Burmese war,

There is no sub-district with a story as big as Bang Rachan. Legend has it that villagers of this small farming community banded together to resist the incoming Burmese army on their way to conquer Ayutthaya. The bravery of the people here was so that it was retold over and over again both in history and many later films and movie productions.

Now, Bang Rachan might not be fighting with anyone, but the renaissance of being patriotic is still present in everyday life. At the popular 'Bang Rachan Thai Retro Market,' one can reminisce the old days in traditional period costumes and even shop for some purposely designed retro products. Also iconic of Bang Rachan is the Phra Achan Thammachot statue and Bang Rachan Memorial Park.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Pikul Thong

The guardian temple of the Pikul Thong people of Singburi, this temple boasts one of Thailand's largest Buddha images and the much-revered Luangpho Pae with a museum as a tribute to his past social work.



Wat Pho Kao Ton

The ancient temple that was said to be the stronghold of the Bang Rachan villagers while fighting against the invading Burmese during the mid-18th century. Now the main attractions include the sacred Phra Achan Thammachot statue and a replica of the ancient stronghold.



Bang Rachan Historical Museum

Part of the Bang Rachan Memorial Park, this museum was built in the memory of Bang Rachan's heroes. The exhibits include the stories of the resistance and modelled villagers' camps and strongholds.





A scenic view of a wooden suspension bridge over a calm sea at sunset. The bridge, made of wooden planks and supported by concrete pillars, extends from a rocky shore in the foreground towards the horizon. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, reflecting on the water. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. The foreground shows rough, light-colored rocks.

EAST



Na Mui Rice Field, Nakhon Nayok

Pure ozone can be all yours at this expansive rice field in the small town of Tung Na Mui, Nakhon Nayok

Tung Na Mui is the name of an expansive rice field at Sarika sub-district of Nakhon Nayok. Here, people come to unwind, take in all the ozone and laze about into the traditional Thai rice paddy culture.



The wandering wooden bridge that spans across the rice field might be the main visual highlight, but then, it is the unadulterated (yet) local charms of the people, the opportunity to go everywhere on a bike and the time that you can spend closely with the nature has won the hearts of the visitors.

Nearby Attractions



Wang Takrai Park
Lushness not too far from the popular Sarika Waterfall, this park is a botanical heaven featuring over 200 specimens of lotus and much more. A wide range of physical activities, from canoeing and cycling to ziplining and camping, are also available.



Phu Krarieng
A natural learning centre that hopes to perpetuate the teaching wisdom of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Phu Krarieng sets in a vast sustainable farming model with rice paddies, fruit orchards, reservoir and kitchen farms. Highlights include 'Phrao Phu Fa' wooden bridge, in-house cafe and a restaurant.



Nang Rong Waterfall
One of the most popular and visitor-friendliest waterfalls in Central Thailand, Nang Rong Waterfall multi-layered, yet generous, slopes always attract anyone. The surrounding lushness is also a big perk.



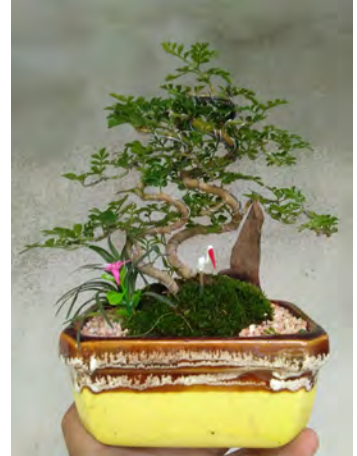


All about Herbs at Ban Dong Bung, Prachin Buri

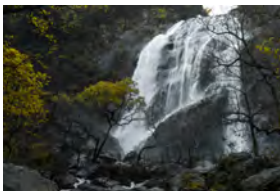
The under the radar district of Ban Dong Bung is in fact the major suppliers of all the medicinal herbs used at the Chaophraya Abhaibhubejhr Hospital and retails.

If you want to know more about Thai herbs, medicinal or not, Ban Dong Bung in Prachin Buri should be on your bucket list. This small district is known for the extensive native herbs, both medicinal and not. Visitors will learn everything there is to know about the amazing Thai ways of using herbs to cure basic symptoms. Also in their exhibit garden are some of very rare herbs, notably 'Phet-sang-kat' or veld grape that is known to heal broken bones.

A delicious herbal lunch, herbal spa, reflexology and Thai massage and herbal sauna are also among the highlights.



Nearby Attractions



Thap Lan Waterfall

The main event of Thap Lan National Park, this magnificent waterfall is a local favourite especially at the peak of the rainy season.



Phra Phutta Varavadee Sri Prachin, Sirindhorn Lokkanat

Another of Thailand's humongous Buddha images, this one - again perched on the top of a hill - features a sitting Buddha surrounded by naga heads. A new hotspot to check out.



Four-Generation Naga Park

This is one-of-a-kind attraction with four naga statues (said to be from four generations) adorning a stone park. A part of 'Luang Pu Sodh' Buddhist Park.





Pink Rocks and Wildlife Sanctuary, Chanthaburi

If you like sweetness that can be associated with the colour pink, you might fall for the unique pink stone terrace of Kung Krabaen in Chanthaburi.



One of the most photographed spots in the seaside town of Chanthaburi is the pink stone beach where a good portion of the beach is literally stacked

with pink stones. These pink stones, as we found out, are actually arkosic sandstone with the pink hues caused by iron oxidation. And that is enough of a natural wonder to attract a massive amount of people.

The Pink Rock beach is located within the area of Kung Krabaen Wildlife Reserve. From this sweet-toned rock beach, one can spot many of Chanthaburi's faraway islands. The best time to visit is late afternoon when the sun makes a perfect angle to catch the golden shimmering lights.

Nearby Attractions



Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Centre

A royal development study centre that focuses on sustainable fishing and aquaculture. Highlights include a network of long trails in and out of the rich mangrove forests.



Chanthaboon Riverside Community

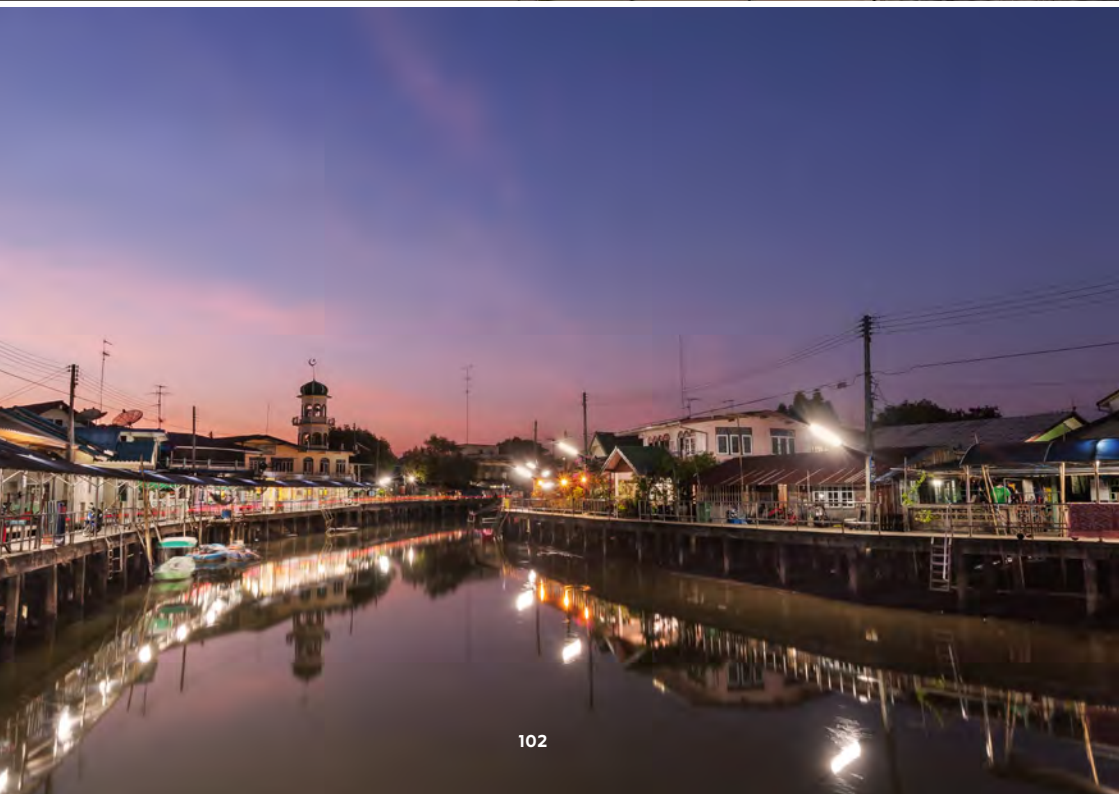
A historic site of Chanthaburi and still a living museum, this old community was settled since the early Rattanakosin era, with the influx of the Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants. Highlights include beautifully restored wooden row houses and amazing food stalls.



Noen Nangphaya Viewpoint

Known for being a part of the notably lengthy Eastern seaside highway of Thailand, Noen Nangphaya that winds up a small hill along the beach is an elevated viewpoint that offers a panoramic view of the entire area.





The Unity of the Nam Chiew People, Trat

Strong unity rules at Ban Nam Chiew, Trat where multi-religions cohabit peacefully.

Ban Nam Chiew fishing community in Trat is an epitome of Thailand's peaceful cohabitation. Here, Thai-Muslim, Thai-Buddhist and Thai-Chinese descendants have been sharing this space for generations. The century-old Alkuboro Masjid stands side by side with 'the Chao Pho Nam Chiew' shrine and 'Wat Nam Chiew Temple.' The community might be cut through with a tributary, but the two sides of the community is linked by their uniquely high yet narrow wooden footbridge (Sapan Wat Jai).

Home-staying at this community means a good chance to observe it all and enjoy the local fisherman's lifestyle. Opt for activities; such as, a night out fishing on a small boat or a shuttle out to visit oyster farms, for instance. Other cultural highlights include their 'Khao Kriap Ya Na' or rice crepes with minced shrimp topping and their Nam Chiew conical hat.

Nearby Attractions



Ko Mak

The 3rd largest island off Trat's shores Ko Mak's relatively bare nature attracts those who want an untainted sea paradise. Great spot to bike about in the wild or snorkelling around the island.



Ban Tha Ranae

This archaic mangrove forest is so vast and dense with gnarled giant branches and roots that it creates good haunting vibes. Those into botany will enjoy the variety of the local mangrove forests.



Black Beach

Another highlight of Trat, this naturally black beach is the result of centuries of sedimentation at the nearby mangrove forests. The blackness here is believed to contain a healing property. A day out at this natural spa, perhaps?





Eri Silk at Sa Kaeo

Eri silk - an ancient type of tribal silk - is the up-and-coming fabric at the sleepy Wattana Nakhon sub-district of Sa Kaeo.

Eri silk - or Endi or Errandi - is a multivoltine silk spun from domesticated Eri worms or *Philosamia ricini*, a type of moth that feeds mainly on castor leaves. Although Eri silk is an ancient type of silk that was widely used by many parts of Asia, especially among tribal communities in India, it is pretty new in Thailand and the fabric is still available in limited amounts.

In the small sub-district town of Wattana Nakhon in Sa Kaeo, a silk-weaving community is developing their own Eri silk products. The threads of Eri silk is strong and glossy, suitable for up-scale upholstery works. Also, Thai traditional silk weaving patterns make Eri silk produced in Thailand even more special.



Nearby Attractions



Pang Sida National Park

A national park in the Sankamphaeng Range, Pang Sida is Thailand's major wildlife sanctuary. Like the nearby Khao Yai National Park, Pang Sida constitutes a part of the Dong Phrayayen Forest Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Lalu

Meaning 'pierced' or 'punctured' in Khmer, Lalu is Sa Kaeo's own canyon - a natural phenomenon of eroded sandstones that appear as if they are piercing columns from the grounds. A ride on a local 'E-tak' tricycle and homestay are also recommended.



Wat Tham Khao Chakan

The cave temple that takes up one of many natural caves in the limestone hill of Khao Chakan, this temple is a much-revered ground where religion meets the peaceful nature.







SOUTH



Satun Geopark Museum

In April 2018, the Deep South province of Satun was listed as Thailand's first UNESCO Global Geopark, joining the other seven such Geoparks in the Asia-Pacific. Satun Geopark covers four of the province's districts: Thung Wa, Manang, La-Ngu and Mueang that are recognised for its prehistoric limestone mountain ranges, abundance of fossils and network of beautiful islands. Also, Satun's uniquely diverse geological and cultural heritage contributed into this global recognition.

For those who want to visit, the first stop would be their website where you can read through everything you need

Satun is just the place that will take you back at least 500 million years ago.

to appreciate these geological treasures. The thousand-peak castle islands that you think are already very stunning will become even more special when you learn that it is in fact a limestone mountain that has been standing there for over 500 million years.



Nearby Attractions



Phu Pa Phet Cave

This is a large limestone cave with diversified and very spectacular speleothems. The interior of the cave is sectioned into rooms, named after geological findings; such as, diamond, emerald, and coral. Highlights include the karst window spectacular with a sunbeam.



Satun National Museum

A colonial-period two-storey building of the early 1900s, this 'Kuden' mansion was first a governor's mansion and then a city hall. Distinguished with Muslim architectural elements (such as semi-circular clay tiles and star-shaped patterns), this mansion now exhibits Satun's history and artefacts.



Wang Sai Thong Waterfall

The main freshwater source and recreational attraction for the people of La-Ngu sub-district, Wang Sai Thong is known for its multi-layered pools surrounded by cascading waters that assimilate the forms of lotuses.





Morning Sketches at Ban Pak Pra, Phatthalung

Lining the Eastern side of the Southern Thai strip, Phatthalung gets the first sunlight of the day. At Ban Pak Pra, fishermen here are still perpetuating the old-school ways of fishing, using the hand-operated shore-lining fishing frames (yo, in Thai). In the morning, the glimmering light shimmering over the surfaces of the water, shining through those frames creates sketch-like pictures perfect for photography. This is a haven for those who love to capture memories in frames and then learn all about their unique culture.

The iconic row of fishing frames that line the shores of Ban Pak Pra creates a dreamy sketch of the morning.



Ban Pak Pra is pristine, with the surrounding nature a wonder. This is an unspoiled land, and one of Thailand's most important wildlife and waterfowl reserves.

Nearby Attractions



Thale Noi Waterfowl Reserve

A national wildlife reserve and a non-hunting zone of the Deep South, Thale Noi covers over 450 square kilometres. The natural abundance aside, this is a sanctuary for both indigenous and migratory birds. The best time for bird-watching is from October - March.



Bamboo Market

Phatthalung's latest farmers market set in a beautifully lush bamboo grove just about 17 kilometres from the city centre, this Saturday market features a back-to-nature theme. Organic, home-grown, home-made, and bring-your-own shopping tote.



Na Po Kae

A new touristy attraction that combines the traditional rice paddy culture to the modern day's constant demands to selfie. Learn about Phatthalung's local rice varieties and their unique rice farming elements; such as, the beautiful bamboo-woven rice silo and resting huts.





Minerals of Life, Ranong

Meet Thailand's famous
geothermal region.

Ranong, a small town tucked away on the West side of the Southern Thai strip, is the place perfect for hot spring indulgence. This geothermal region of Thailand has been a popular spot for health-seeking visitors since the beginning of time. Now, visitors can enjoy soaking up the natural hot springs amidst the lush forest at the Raksawarin Public Park or choose from one of the many accommodation premises with in-house hot spring facilities.

Sitting on the Kra Isthmus - Thailand's narrowest strip - Ranong is a quirky portal town with mixed cultures. A great destination if you like the lushness of nature, the aforementioned hot springs, and the pure solitude of a small town.

Nearby Attractions



Ko Phayam

This second largest island off the coast of Ranong still retains its natural ruggedness and that is still preferred by many people. Choose from the available accommodation and enjoy being at one with nature.



Punyaban Waterfall

A medium-sized waterfall that is easily accessible from the highway, Punyaban is a perennial destination with a natural trail not too daunting (about 300 metres) up to the water source.



Baan Rai I Arun

An ecolodge and farm stay run by a former urban dweller who decided to leave it all and return back to nature. This is a small family-run lodge with only two rooms available. Best chance to be enveloped in Ranong's beautiful nature.





Ban Tong Tom Yai Homestay, Chumphon

All about the sea at this natural setting of Chumphon's fisherman's village.

Ban Tong Tom Yai is the name of a fisherman's village built on stilts and set along the shore of Sawi district in Chumphon. Locals here open their homes to welcome visitors who want to experience an untainted and real fisherman's lifestyle.

Being this close to the sea means you will get to experience everything from freshest available seafood to the myriad of marine activities - in the boat

and out on the sea. Line-fishing with the fisherman, learning the tricks for squid hunting or diving to see with your own eyes the man-made fish habitats, for example. Also available are the nearby mangrove trails and, if you time your visit right, their annual environmental conservation rituals that juxtapose with Buddhist ceremonies.

Nearby Attractions



Khao Matsee Viewpoint

Located near the touristy beach of Hat Sai Ri, this elevated viewpoint is accessible by car and it is a good location to gawk at the stunning sunset and Chumphon's island-dotted seascape.



Mu Ko Chumphon National Park

This is the vast sea-and-shore area that covers more than 40 islands and islets perfect for snorkelling and diving. Among the highlights include Ko Thong Lang, Ko Lawa, Ko Langka Jiew and Ko Matra.



Thung Wua Laen Beach

Chumphon's favourite beach for those who like the bare-bone nature. Long, white-powdery sand beach with no disruption whatsoever from beach hawkers and jet skis.





Sacred Grounds of Nakhon Si Thammarat

Nakhon Si Thammarat is home to a staggering number of Buddhist temples; hence, an impressive list of sacred items,

Sometimes, it happened that there was a big trend in amulets. Years ago, people were crazed about the palm-sized amulets called 'Jatukham Rammathep' and the origin of it all was here at Nakhon Si Thammarat where a great number of auspicious Buddha images could still be the reason of your visit.

Pho Than Khlai

the respectable monk of Wat That Noi or Wat Suan Khan, which people often pray for wishes due to his good speeches, his kindness and his miraculously made incidents.

Phra Ad

Phra Sangkajai or Budai of Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan in the city centre

is known for his curing and fortuitous powers. People worship and ask him for health and children.

Phra Puay

Another much-revered Buddha image at the aforementioned temple, this Ayutthaya-period standing Buddha is believed to bestow children.

Ai Kai Wat Chedi

Ai Kai is the name of a sanctified young boy or 'Kuman Thong' at Wat Chedi or Chicken Temple thanks to their symbolic chicken or roosters abound the premises. People come here and ask for fortune to be followed by a round of deafening lighting of firecrackers.

Nearby Attractions



Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan

This main Buddhist temple of Nakhon Si Thammarat is the sacred ground that enshrines the iconic and much-revered chedi with the relics of the Lord Buddha. Registered as a historical site, this is one of the most known and most sacred grounds of the province.



Pak Phanang

Located at the mouth of the namesake river, Pak Phanang is a monsoon-prone area and that prompts the locals to be always on the lookout. However, this is an old region where local charms, including the Thai-style seafood meals, are the year-round highlights.





Eating Non-stop at Trang

The prominent Chinese settlement in Trang makes this small town vibrant with local delicacies.

Apart from its famous beaches and islands, Trang is known for their local delicacies. In Trang town, one can enjoy a series of endless meals. Food here comprises of Chinese Hokkien flavours and the unique fieriness of Southern Thai spices.

Tucking into Trang's dim sum and note the Hokkien dialects that are still perpetuated, albeit locally adapted, in each dish. The unique red dim sum sauce - called Dou Ban Jiang (or locally called 'Som Jeung') - a remnant of the past - is still presented on the table here. Also popular are Trang's unique grilled pork, egg noodles and wontons, and their sponge cakes whose recipes are adapted from the Peranakan kitchen.

Nearby Attractions



Ko Kradan

An island part of the Hat Chao Mai Marine National Park, Ko Kradan is where Trang's famous underwater wedding takes place. Summer - from February to April - is the best time to visit.



Theptharo Tree Park

Theptharo is a local tree that is known for its healing and - for some - auspicious properties. But at this park, curvy roots of the trees are made into almost 100 giant dragons that have now become the Park's main attraction. Souvenirs are made from Theptharo wood and its fragrant oil.



Kantang Train Station

The last terminal of the Southern-Andaman train, this pastel-yellow wooden train station of the 1910s has been registered as a Thailand's heritage. For a trip down memory lane, hop on the still-running Trang-Kantang train that takes 44 minutes and a Bt5 ticket.





Hidden Beauties at Pattani

One of the three Deep South provinces of Thailand, Pattani awaits with local secret charms.

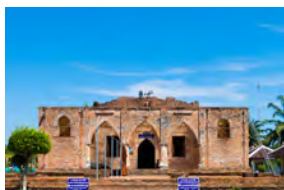
Walking through Pattani old town and you might feel like the time stands still. Well-preserved, although some charmingly dilapidated, Muslim-inspired Colonial architecture reflect the rich cultures of mixed nationalities of this province.

With a majority of its population being Malay Muslim, Pattani features jewels of Islamic architecture as in its Central

Mosque. Built in 1954, this traditionally symmetrical Muslim icon boasts an exquisite main green dome surrounded by four minarets. Its front and centre pool creates the serene reflection of faith. Also notable is the nearby Yaring Governor Residence that was built during the reign of King Rama V the Great and now a heritage of Thailand's Deep South.

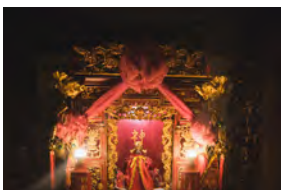


Nearby Attractions



Krue Se Mosque

Pattani's ancient and exquisite mosque that is believed to be from the era of Phra King Narai the Great (16th century). The bare brick structure features a mixture of Middle Eastern and European architectures.



Chao Mae Lim Ko Niao Shrine

Pattani's main Chinese shrine dedicated to a much-revered local Chinese heroine - Chao Mae Lim Ko Niao, this ancient and sacred grounds enshrines a wooden statue of the goddess along with other Chinese deities. An annual procession to celebrate the Shrine is one of the province's main events.



Pattani Sky Walk

Located within the premises of the lush Princess Galyani Vadhana Public Park, this new item of the connected sky walk perches four-storey high; hence, a good spot to observe the tree tops, Pattani's Gulf of Thailand and the entire city.





Go Hala-Bala in Narathiwat

Tropical rainforest at its best, Hala-Bala is a must-see for nature lovers.

Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary is a vast, lush land that covers the most part of the San Kala Khiri Range at the Thai-Malay border. This rich tropical rainforest is known for being really abundant with pure nature. A great place for those who appreciate the ruggedness of the terrain, the refreshing ozone and a soft adventure into the wild.

Educational trails available in different strenuous levels are a good start for a refreshing hike. Camping and national park accommodation are available. Hire a guide and get inspired by this rich cosmos.



Sirindhorn Waterfall

Named after the beloved princess, this beautiful waterfall is in the Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary. Nearby are the Southern Forest Flowers and Decorative Plants Survey and Collection Project under the Patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Nearby Attractions



Narathat Beach

Narathiwat's main beach that is home to local communities. This 5-kilometre stretch of white sand is the place to spot the exquisitely colourful local fishing boat called 'Kolae.' This beach is also the venue of the annual Chak Phra Festival that marks the end of Buddhist Lent.



Ao Manao Forest Park

This is another pristine beach of Narathiwat, Ao Manao with small bays and rocky seashores is also adjacent to the Thaksin Ratchaniwet Palace.





Diverse Delicacies in Betong, Yala

The southernmost small town of Betong boasts tasty local delicacies that would make a trip down worth it.

Betong - the furthestmost region of Thailand's Deep South - is a municipal town of Yala. Here, the diversity of cultures and kitchens make for a unique collection of deliciousness. For example, their free-range local-breed of chicken called 'Betong chicken' graces many signature scrumptious menus - notably the Hainanese style Betong chicken rice.

Betong's Chinese settlement is also well-represented in other iconic dishes. For example, Khao Yok - steamed pork with taro, Betong's native watercress, and Betong noodle - the egg noodle typical to this area.

Nearby Attractions



Piyamit Tunnel

Winding through for about 1 kilometre in a mountain, this tunnel was built in 1976 as an air raid shelter and food storage back during the Malaya Communist insurgency. Now with an exhibition portraying that portion of Yala's history.



Phra Mahathat Chedi Phra Phuttha Tham Prakat

This is a large and beautiful temple that features a Srivijaya-style golden chedi that enshrines relics of Lord Buddha. This temple was built to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Regent Sirikit's 60th birthday in the early 1990s.



Bang Lang Dam

A multi-purpose hydroelectric earthen dam that impounded the Pattani River. Since its opening in 1981, this dam - aside from its irrigation purposes - has become a main attraction in Yala, with rafting tours featuring beautiful Hala-Bala forest scenes as a highlight.





North

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Chiang Rai Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Chiang Rai, Phayao

Tel. +66 5371 7433,

+66 5374 4674-5

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Lampang Office

Area of Responsibility:

Lampang, Lamphun

Tel. +66 5422 2214-5

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Nakhon Sawan Office

Area of Responsibility:

Nakhon Sawan, Phichit

Tel. +66 5622 1811-2

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Phitsanulok Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Phetchabun, Phitsanulok

Tel. +66 5525 2742-3,

+66 5525 9907

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Tak Office

Areas of Responsibility: Tak

Tel. +66 5551 4341-3

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Mae Hong Son Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Mae Hong Son

Tel. +66 5361 2982-3

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Phrae Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Phrae, Nan

Tel. +66 5452 1127

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Sukhothai Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Kamphaeng Phet, Sukhothai,

Uttaradit

Tel. +66 5561 6228-9

Tourism Authority of Thailand,

Uthai Thani Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Uthai Thani

Tel. +66 5651 4651-2



The North East

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Ratchasima Office

Areas of Responsibility: Nakhon
Ratchasima, Chaiyaphum

Tel. +66 4421 3030,
+66 4421 3666

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Phanom Office

Areas of Responsibility: Nakhon
Phanom, Sakon Nakhon,

Mukdahan
Tel. +66 4251 3490-1

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Ubon Ratchathani Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Ubon Ratchathani,
Amnat Charoen, Yasothon,
Si Sa Ket

Tel. +66 4524 3770 ,
+66 4525 0714

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Udon Thani Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Udon Thani, Nong Khai,
Buang Kan

Tel. +66 4232 5406-7

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Khon Kaen Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Khon Kaen, Roi Et, Kalasin,
Maha Sarakham

Tel. +66 4322 7714-5

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Loei Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Loei, Nong Bua Lamphu

Tel. +66 4281 2812,
+66 4281 1405

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Surin Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Surin, Buri Ram

Tel. Tel. +66 4451 4447-8



Central Region

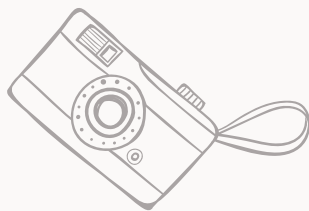
Tourism Authority of Thailand, Kanchanaburi Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi

Tel. +66 3451 1200,

+66 3451 2500



East

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Lop Buri Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Lop Buri, Sing Buri, Ang Thong,
Chainat

Tel. +66 3677 0096-7

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Nayok Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri,
Sa Kaeo

Tel. +66 3731 2282,

+66 3731 2284

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Suphan Buri Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Suphan Buri, Nakhon Pathom

Tel. +66 3552 5867,

+66 3552 5880

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Rayong Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Rayong, Chanthaburi

Tel. +66 3865 5420-1

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Samut Songkhram Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Samut Sakhon,

Samut Songkhram

Tel. +66 3475 2847-8

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Trat Office

Areas of Responsibility:

Trat

Tel. +66 3959 7259-60



South



Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Si Thammarat Office

Tel. +66 7534 6515-6



Areas of Responsibility:
Nakhon Si Thammarat and
Phatthalung

Tourism Authority of Thailand,Narathiwat Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala

Tel. +66 7354 3345-6,
+66 7354 2346



Tourism Authority of Thailand,Trang Office

Tel. +66 7521 5867,
+66 7521 1058, +66 7521 1085

Areas of Responsibility: Trang

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Chumphon Office

Areas of Responsibility:
Chumphon, Ranong
Tel. +66 7750 1831,
+66 7750 2775-6

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