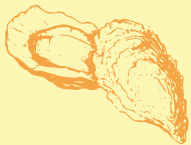


Joyful CHAN THABURI



What is Creative Tourism?

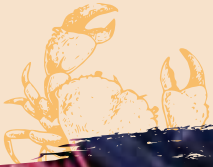


If tourism in general was considered as taking yourself somewhere to relax, going to see exotic places, taking photos, checking into a highlighted destination, eating food, trying desserts at a top chic place, sitting with a coffee and enjoying the “slow life”, and then returning to the same old life, then that’s the meaning of “Creative Tourism”. This is what we are going to take you to experience that defines the diversity of “tourism” because we are going to take you to travel to learn in depth about local communities that have their own identity. You will know about many ways of life that differ from city life. Not only just to a beautiful place, not only to stop to try exotic local food, but you are about to travel with fun, as well as learn and experience the true identity of those communities. This will open up your mind and fill it with a new inspiration for your life and make the meaning of “tourism” for you never to be the same again.



About Chanthaburi

Chanthaburi, the city of priceless gems and the famous land of various species of fruit of the East of Thailand, is another tourist destination that many people choose to take time for relaxing. This is because besides being full of delectable food, it is also abundant in natural tourism attractions including rivers, the sea, waterfalls, mountains, and another charm that attracts tourists to experience is the communal way of life that is unique and is full of stories that are of great interest. There's also the generosity and friendliness of the local people that awaits us to visit and experience the true identity of the people of Chanthaburi.



Recommended Creative Tourism Communities



Rak Khao Bai Sui

This community is surrounded by fruit orchards, as it is a production source of “salacca”, a fruit that is difficult to find but here you can eat it all-year round. This is because every villager has been given the duty and is dependent on every important step of making an orchard; e.g., building a reserve water source through local wisdom of making a tunnel that has provided this community with water for their orchards all-year round, making their own fertiliser to fruit processing to increase the value of their products and generate income for the community. So, we can experience the orchardists’ real way of life.



Ban Patthawi

The local people have formed an organic fruit orchard cooperative and refrained from using chemicals. This cooperative was initiated by 9 orchards to welcome tourists who are interested in agro-tourism and want to learn about organic agriculture according to the sufficiency principle of King Bhumibol’s Royal Initiative.

Ban Samet Ngam

A community surrounded by the sea that has made the area have brackish water, which is suitable for reed farming plus the skills, experience and meticulousness of the local people in weaving mats to be "Chanthaboon mats". These are woven from reeds and are a famous handicraft of this community that has resulted in a worthwhile activity for tourists to come and see for themselves. The people have been involved in the production of this well-known mat of Chanthaburi from the source of the raw material to the end product reaching the consumer.



Bang Sa Kao

A community of 3 waterways in which most of the local people are fishermen. The people are conscientious and conduct sustainable fishing to conserve the community's marine source to remain unspoiled. This community is truly self-reliant and has a variety of interesting marine ecotourism activities waiting for tourists to come and experience.



Tha Chalaep

This riverine community conducts local fishery as its mainstay. It does oyster farming on rafts in the middle of the Chanthaburi River mouth. Enjoy cruising to see the oyster farm and mangroves, learn about farming various species of oysters, especially "Takorom", a tasty oyster that isn't smelly and is as large as the palm of your hand that won an award as the largest oyster in Thailand. Also, don't miss trying the tasty large oysters with seafood dip from Pa Louie's farm, and whoever tries these will be really impressed.



Khanom Plaek (Strange Desserts) by Khlong Nong Bua

An ancient market of more than 100 years old that is identified with the community of Nong Bua. There are 100-year-old wooden houses for visitors to see and experience the classic atmosphere as well as numerous ancient desserts with strange names to try.



Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront

An old community by the Chanthaburi River that used to be an important economic and trading hub during the reign of King Rama V the Great. At present, this community has become another tourist attraction that you shouldn't miss, as it's suitable for walking and taking great photos of chic spots.



Bao Ploy Lek Phet (Indy Stone)

A community learning centre that tourists can learn in depth about the gems of Chanthaburi that have been kept for tourists to experience the whole process from the raw material to the end product reaching the customer. This starts with the excavation and sifting of gems in the ancient way that can no longer be found to the cutting and crafting as precious jewellery. This is known as the legend of Chanthaburi's gems.

Rak Khao Bai Sri

This is an old community in which most of the local people are longan, mangosteen, durian, and langsat orchardists. It's like heaven on Earth for people who love eating fruit, especially "salacca" difficult to find elsewhere. But if you come here, you can eat salacca all-year round. This is because every village in this community has collaborated together to do various aspects of agriculture. Mu 1 is a source of compost and water in which a tunnel has been excavated to store water underground that provides this community with water all year. Mu 4 has orchards and 100-year-old durian and mangosteen trees, and Mu 8 emphasises on processing quality fruit products and generating extra income for the community.



Contact :

Rak Khao Bai Sri Community: 11/1 Mu 4, Tambon Khao Bai Sri,
Amphoe Tha Mai, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 086 834 9604.

Salacca orchard tour

Arriving at this salacca source, you shouldn't miss walking about the orchard and tasting fresh salacca off the tree. Besides salacca, there are various types of fruit that are rotated bearing fruit that you can try according to the season. But even if it's not like that, there's always delicious fresh salacca that has a sweet and slightly sour taste and is refreshing. It's guaranteed to make you happy.



Making thatch from Salacca leaves

The fact that this community is full of salacca orchards has made the people think of applying the abundance of salacca leaves that were not being used to be "salacca thatch". This can be used for roofing from the sun and rain instead of Nipa palm leaves from the local wisdom. And of course, when we visited this community, we didn't miss trying to make it. The initial steps are not too difficult. Start by folding the leaves into the arranged size then use the stalk to stitch together in various levels till it's strong. Then you can use the salacca thatch for roofing. You don't need to use money to buy materials just use things that can be found in the locality for your benefit.





Cycling around the orchards, See the underground tunnel, and 100-year-old trees

Following trying some fresh fruit off the tree like salacca, you don't have to walk too far, as the community has organised a fun activity. This is cycling to see the orchards and experiencing the way of life of the orchardists, and seeing the underground tunnel that the people have used local wisdom in excavating so to store water. They replicated the concept from the way of finding gems, which has helped store water for irrigating the orchards all-year round. Besides this, along the way, we saw 100-year-old trees of durian and mangosteen, which the elderly people of the community said that when they were born, the trees already existed.



Making durian toffees



Like we said, this community has made a plan for every village to work together to think and make activities that can be applied. One group of villagers thought about processing local fruit to help preserve food and increase the value of the products. There's sweets, desserts, and juices. So when we came here, we had the opportunity to learn about another aspect of durian, the King of fruit, that besides being popular for eating, the fresh fruit can also be processed to be deep-fried durian that is odourless. When the fruit is over ripe, it can be made into preserved durian and toffees. So, today, we shouldn't miss out on seeing the steps of making durian toffees. The first step is separating the ripe durian from the raw durian. Raw durian will be used for making durian chips whereas the ripe durian will be used for making preserved durian and toffees. After that, remove the durian flesh to season and then gradually mould it into an appropriate size for packaging. This was our part of the process, but just before we began, we had to put on a cap and wash our hands for hygienic reasons. After that, the toffees were placed in a pile and one after another came out for us to mould and wrap in the colourful paper before being packaged in a box for sale. We also got to take home some toffees that we had processed as souvenirs. Whoever wants to buy other souvenirs, besides durian toffees, there's also ready-made meals like Chanthaburi noodles with tasty soup, delicious chilli sauce, as well as renowned pepper that we bought to take home; all of which are at reasonable prices.



Rak Khao Bai Sri Map



Travel by Car
Google Maps :



Ban Patthawi

As a result of the problems and effects from using chemicals in the past, this made Pi Ratthai, who is presently the President of the Learning Centre of the Patthawi Community Economy, stand up to speak out and make the local people understand to study about organic agriculture by growing chemical-free fruit and vegetables. This was because each stage of agriculture could rely on nature like insect repellent, which the local people make from lemongrass. They don't use chemicals to accelerate flowering or fruiting, but changed to use natural mechanisms by using bees for pollination. This has resulted in a bees bank that members can deposit, withdraw or borrow to use in their orchards. The honey is a collective product of the community.



Pi Ratthai said that before when farming with chemicals, he clearly saw the side effects on his health and made him think about when people eat as well as about their kids who would also be affected in the long term. So he studied about sufficiency farming according to the teaching of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and collaborated with 9 orchardists in the surrounding area to welcome tourists who are interested in organic farming to come to the orchards and taste organic fruit. They also used tourism to solve the problem in the fruit market as well as created confidence among consumers, which has resulted in the cooperative's fruit being sold at reasonable prices. The major buyers are well-known retailers in Bangkok, and when people buy the fruit, they feel safe and it's sold at a good price. This has resulted in the local agriculture being continued by the children, so they no longer have to leave the area to search for work elsewhere.



Contact :

Learning Centre of the Patthawi Community Economy:
5 Mu 2, Tambon Patthawi, Amphoe Makham, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 063 226 2251.



Orchard tour by Saleng

After relaxing, one of the villagers took us to sit on a stylish vehicle called the “community’s Saleng”, a local vehicle, to visit the orchards and tourist attractions, as well as experience the community’s way of life. First, we went to “Wat Mathai”, which is very strange as it has an ancient large Buddha image that is situated outside of the temple. After paying homage, we took the Saleng to see the view of the orchard at leisure. Not long after, we arrived at “Ban Ton Baep Pho Phiang or Sufficiency House” in which the owner gave us a cool drink of Butterfly Pea juice to quench our thirst, and told us about establishing a farm around the house with the intention of following the teaching of King Bhumibol Adulyadej to live sufficiently and sustainably.



Bee apiary and Calamondin orchard

See original products at the “Chan Rong Bee Apiary”, which besides producing 100% honey, we can find out more how this community established a bees bank to rely on the natural pollination from the bees to help in the orchards. The orchardist showed us the hive while the bees were flying about and of course we had to taste the honeycomb and fresh honey that was sweet, fragrant and unique. Following this, we went to see a Calamondin orchard where we could enjoy picking and eating the fresh fruit. And, we could take cool photos in the orchard together with the orchardist who used the Calamondin and honey to make a juice for us to try. The taste was both sweet and sour, or just add soda that will make you feel refreshed.



Mangosteen lotion & Soap workshop

After tasting fruit from the orchards, it was time for a fun learning activity like making "mangosteen lotion" for applying on the skin. We could see the way of making it that has mangosteen rind as an important component. It has lotion and soap for skin care. We tried to produce the lotion that was produced and put into a pump bottle that is beautiful packaging. And for sure, we have to also test the lotion. It has a very aromatic fragrance and will make the skin be soft and moist not sticky. Whoever tries and likes it, can buy this great product from the community for the family.

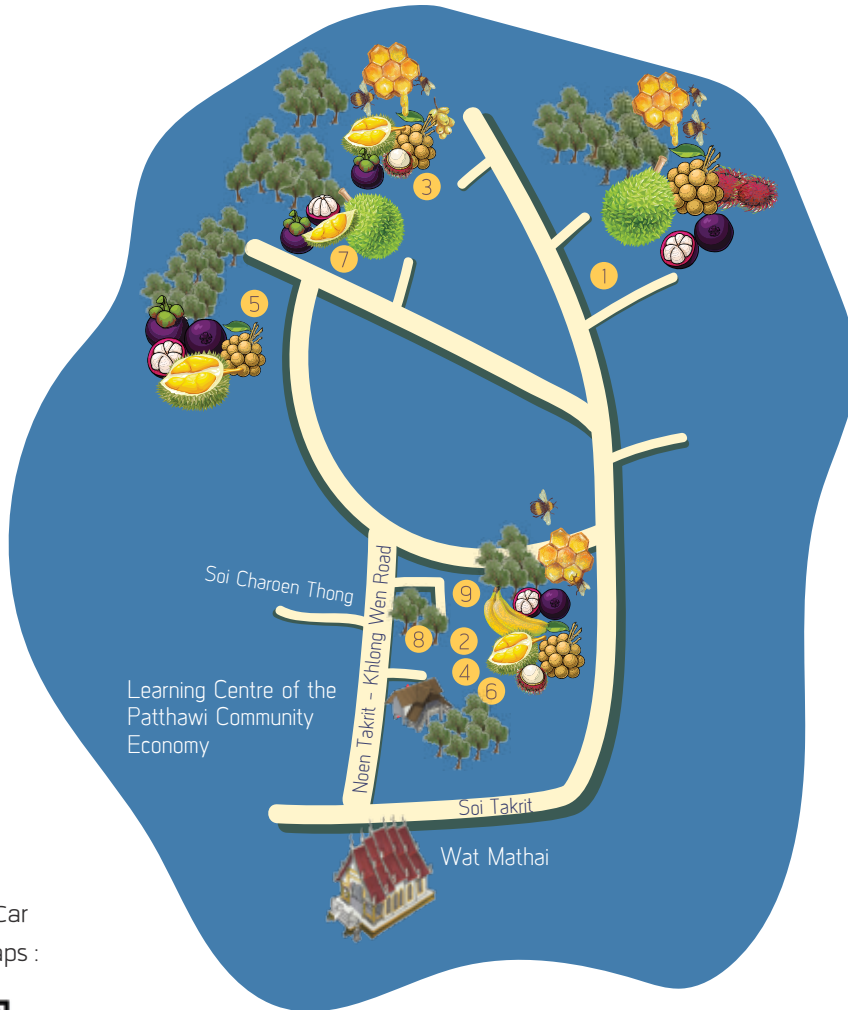


Tasting local food from raw materials

Join in having lunch of a local menu made from raw materials in the community to be ingredients in various dishes. These were arranged for us and was local food that had a very delicious taste. There was fried fish, fried vegetables, fresh vegetables with chilli sauce that was eaten together with steamed rice. This simple menu that is very tasty will not want you to return home and for sure, the food here is safe and good for health.



Ban Patthawi Map



- 1 Suan Raththai
- 2 Suan Soomporn
- 3 Suan Anun
- 4 Suan Lamead
- 5 Suan Daoruang
- 6 Suan Rian
- 7 Suan Somnuek
- 8 Suan Payom
- 9 Suan Kritsana



Travel by Car
Google Maps :



Ban Samet Ngam



The local geography is a river mouth going to the sea that in the past, the Samet Ngam community used to be a shipyard before transporting the troops to retrieve the sovereignty during the reign of King Taksin the Great. The wreck of an ancient junk was found not far from the river mouth. The area of Samet Ngam is an underwater archaeological site of importance and has been organised to be a local museum with a memorial of King Taksin the Great. Whoever comes here must go to pay homage to the King, see the dockyard, and because of the geography that is surrounded by the sea, this has resulted in the water in the area to be brackish. This is appropriate for reed farming as a raw material for making "Chanthaboon mats", a handicraft that has arisen from the people's meticulous skills. The design "Chat Piman" is unique and originated from the wisdom of the people of Ban Samet Ngam who live together in the community. The lifestyle of weaving mats is unique of the local people here.



Farming and cutting reed

About the reed farming process, we learned from the method of planting the reed to cutting the plant to be used as a raw material for handicrafts, an activity that kids like and enjoy very much because you can walk in the actual reed area that is like a watery field. So the local people have arranged a demonstration plot for tourists like us and in particular kids to try for themselves in a fun and safe way.



Planting



Harvesting



Weaving a Chanthaboon mat

After cleaning ourselves from being in the reed field, we moved onto the next step, which was cutting and separating the reed according to the length. This is measured by a piece of wood, so it can be used for making various products like long reeds are used for making mats but shorter reeds are used for producing bags, and if really short, they are used for making place mats or coasters. After cutting the reed to the required length, then it's dyed with food colouring into various colours. This important step requires a specialist because whether the colour will be beautiful or not depends on the skill of this person. So we had the duty of being a spectator. After the dyeing was completed, the reed is left to dry before being used as raw material for weaving by a "loom", which requires 2 people to operate. The hundreds of jute thread must be stretched on the loom and then continually passed through the beater. One person will throw the reed between the beater and the loom whereas the other person will slide the beater to strike the reed to be close together till finally becoming a Chanthaboon mat that we had the opportunity to make by hand.



Weaving



Dyeing



Contact :

Ban Samet Ngam Women's Reed Mat Weaving Group: 40/3 Mu 11,
Ban Samet Ngam, Tambon Nong Bua, Amphoe Mueang, Chanthaburi;
Tel.: 089 881 4344.

Ban Samet Ngam Map



Travel by Car
Google Maps :

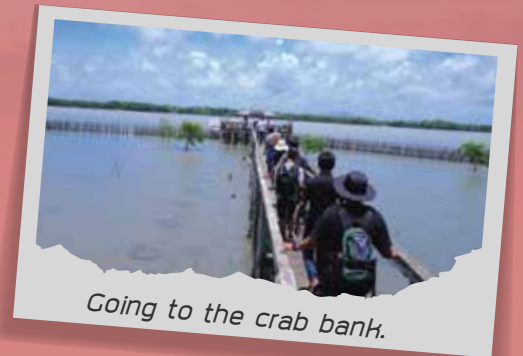


Bang Sa Kao

A community of 3 waterways in which most of the local people are fishermen, rice farmers, work coconut plantations, and make Chanthaboon reed mats. Also, Khlong Nong Bua and Khlong Sa Kao are located in the area of the 3 waterways that comprise freshwater, salt water, and brackish water making the natural water source of this place be full of plankton, so this is a food source and habitat of numerous shrimp, shellfish, crabs, and fish. This resulted in the invasion from external investors who came to conduct fishing by using large boats that caused environmental damage. This resulted in the rapid reduction of marine creatures. Eventually, the people in the Bang Sa Kao community gathered together to resist and expel the investors' boats from the locality. This cooperation resolved the problem, and the people chose to do fishing and farming in a sustainable way to preserve the community's natural water sources to return to its former self. This community is considered to be abundant and truly self-reliant.



Artificial reefs



Going to the crab bank.

Fish house and crab bank



Reaching at our destination, "Phuyai Sathit", leader of the community welcomed us with Indian marsh fleabane tea and delicious Miang Kham, a traditional snack. After that, we went to see the fish house and crab bank. Along the way, we passed various places that had some interesting spots for us to see and learn about. A community elder told us about an economic plant and oysters from the local nature. The elder was very kind and unshelled the fresh oysters for us to eat, which the taste was very delicious.



Fresh seafood from Khlong Bang Sa Kao.



Crab bank



Following tasting great fresh food, we arrived at the “fish house” that the elder told about the background of establishing the fish house or an artificial reef that came from old car tyres bound together like a dice and then released in the waterways for small fish to receive the benefit like a shelter from the current and other enemies. This is so there would be more small fish and larger fish would come and eat them making the community’s water sources be abundant. So, the local fishermen do not have to travel very far to catch fish, which saves time and investment. Next, not too far away is the “crab bank” that the community established to be like a hospital. There’s a place for receiving, raising and depositing crab eggs outside the shell that can result in the birth of millions of baby crabs. The local fishermen agreed to cooperate together on the concept of conservative fishing as well as expand the species of marine creatures. As such, whenever the local people catch crab eggs outside the shell, they will bring the crab to hatch the eggs of the baby crabs here and when the young crabs are strong enough, they will be released into the natural water sources; thus, developing a complete food cycle for the community.

Making a fish house

After seeing the villagers making a fish house or artificial reef, next it was our turn. The community had organised the materials to use for making a fish house by using 4–5 old car tyres tied together to look like a dice. Concrete was placed on the tyres to be a base to use to weigh them down and when we had tied the tyres together, the villagers took us on a boat to release them in the river.



Making an artificial reef.



Pla Ngian

Tasty renowned menu and fresh Seafood lunch

For lunch, the community arranged a local menu called “Pla Ngian” that was really WOW. This is a well-known secret recipe made from fresh fish mixed with herbs and lime to reduce the odour. It’s topped with locally made peanut sauce and eaten with wild betel leaves and Chinese kale, which makes it extremely tasty that you’ll want to eat it non-stop.



Community tour by Saleng



The sunshine and wind of the afternoon dropped, so we decided to continue to travel, but not walk but sit on the “community’s Saleng”, a local vehicle, that Lung and Pa took us to see the community’s way of life. The first stop was “Wat Bang Sa Kao”, an ancient temple that is the spiritual centre of the community and the location of a pond that it was said in the past, an elephant came and rolled here until forming a hole. When it rained, there were a total of 9 ponds, which is the background of the name of Tambon Bang Sa Kao. After paying homage, we moved onto “Talat 4 Mum Meru” that is full of food, souvenirs and community products on sale daily for us to look for, taste, and buy. After walking and eating, we returned to the Saleng to continue onto a “coconut plantation” to try fresh aromatic coconut juice direct from the tree. Along the way, we took photos of the lotus ponds of a species that is as tall as us. Whoever comes to Bang Sa Kao shouldn’t forget to take photos. Arriving at the coconut plantation, why wait. It’s hot so you have to have fresh coconut juice from the tree that will really refresh you, and the sweet taste is different from other coconuts that you have bought in Bangkok. If anyone doesn’t only just want to drink it, the villagers are happy to let tourists try to climb the coconut palm, which isn’t too high.



Drinking fresh coconut juice from the tree.



Rafting

Rafting, Swimming and herbal chicken coop spa

After eating, it’s time for “rafting” on a large bamboo raft tied to a boat that takes you to see the simple way of rural life, mangroves, fish cages, habitat of the red hawk, and finally have fun by going swimming to relieve the sun’s heat, and seeing the sunset before returning to the community. Before showering and changing our clothes, we enjoyed a “chicken coop spa”, which uses more than 10 kinds of herbs that are boiled and then the steam of the herbs is fed through a pipe to enter the chicken coop that we are sitting in. Whoever comes here should try the herbal chicken coop spa.



Chicken coop spa

Contact :

Nature and Environment Learning Centre (Fish House – Crab Bank), Bang Sa Kao Community:
Mu 5, Tambon Bang Sa Kao, Amphoe Laem Sing, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 099 259 6832.

Bang Sa Kao Map



Travel by Car
Google Maps :

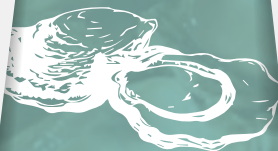


Tha Chalaep

The area of Tha Chalaep has been a prosperous city port since the past. In ancient times, many ships constantly coming in and out of here would have to be careful not to collide with each other. This was the background the community's name "Tha Chalaep", and from the abundance of food in the water made the local people become fishermen. The breeding of fish and oyster farms are of a national champion level like "Pa Louie and Lung Thom's Oyster Farm" on rafts in the middle of the Chanthaburi River that is open for interested tourists to see and study the way of farming various species of oysters including "Takorom", a large species the size of the palm of your hand and "Pak Chip", a familiar smaller species.



Fresh oysters





Visit Wat Thammat and the oyster farm

Before taking a boat out to see the oyster farm, Lung Thom, owner of the farm, came to welcome us with a big smile. He told us that according to the custom of the fishermen of this area before sailing, we must go to ask for a blessing from Saint Peter, who is highly respected by the local people, at Wat Thammat for our safety at sea. While cruising, we listened to the history of the community from a local like Lung Thom. Not long after, we arrived at the oyster farm, and Pa Louie welcomed us with a health drink.



Raising oysters.



After that, Lung Thom took us to follow the raft bridge to see and study the way of farming oysters. He told us here raises large white Takorom oysters that were tied on gallon drums with bamboo to increase the space between the oysters from hitting each other. This allowed them to be bigger than raising in a bottle. Lung Thom also showed the shells of the oysters that were as large as 2 palms that he submitted in a contest and became national champion that guaranteed the size. He said that it took 4 years to raise the oysters to be that large, but if comparing to the taste, they were sweet and delicious and not smelly when we tried them fresh or in a menu like omelet with oysters, which was the skill of Pa Louie and was very tasty so we had to watch how she made it. This was appropriate for the attention given by Pa Louie and Lung Thom in raising oysters.



As big as your palm.



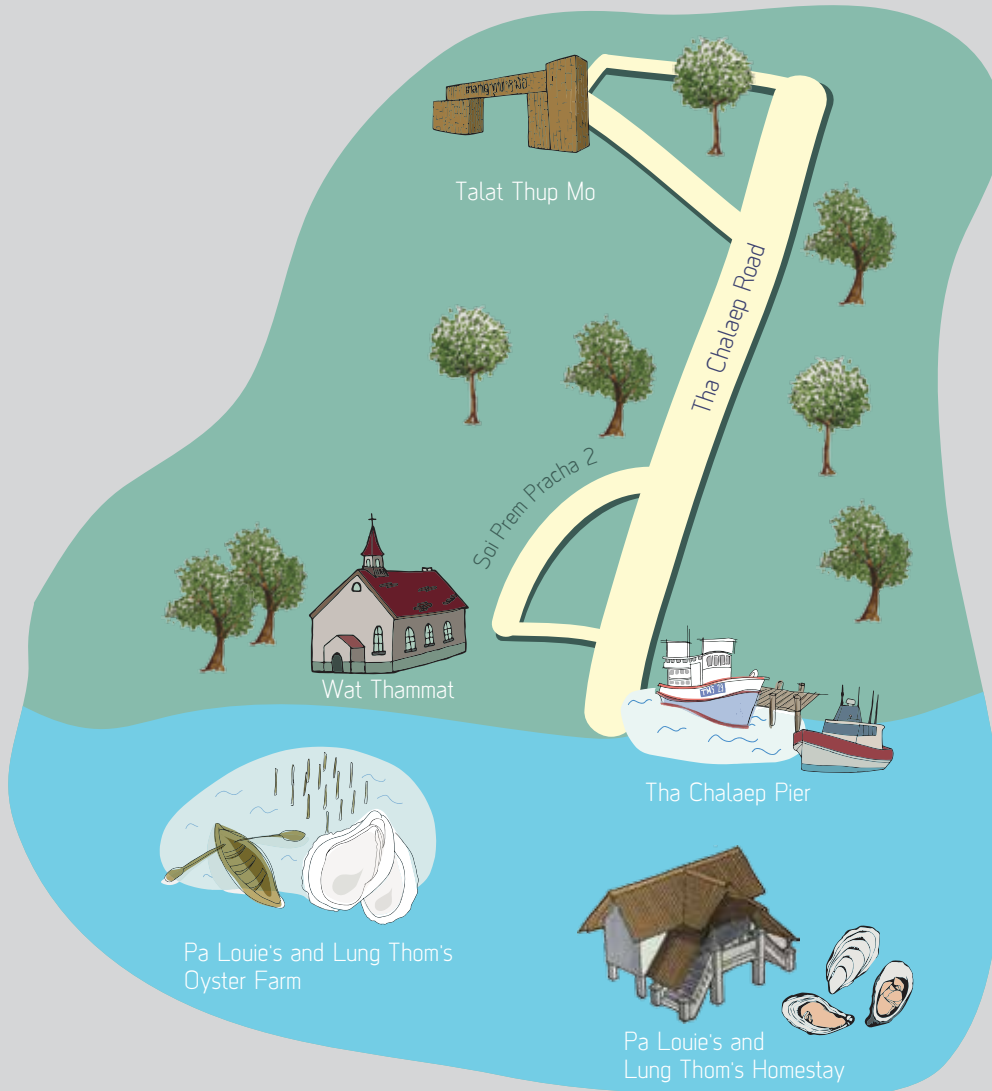
Fresh oysters eaten with side dishes.

Contacts :

Pa Louie and Lung Thom's Oyster Farm: Tha Chalaep Community,

Tambon Bang Kachai, Amphoe Laem Sing, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 089 803 0020.

Tha Chalaep Map



Travel by Car
Google Maps :



Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront

This ancient community located by the Chanthaburi River has at present still retained its classic atmosphere that reflects the prosperity of the past during the reign of King Rama V the Great. It used to be a bustling trading area, and presently, the attraction is the ancient buildings that the local people have adapted to live and open for business, so tourists can come and experience the riverine way of life like the people of Chanthaburi. It is also the location of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception considered the most beautiful in the country. There are also renowned old restaurants as well as numerous tourist spots of interest.



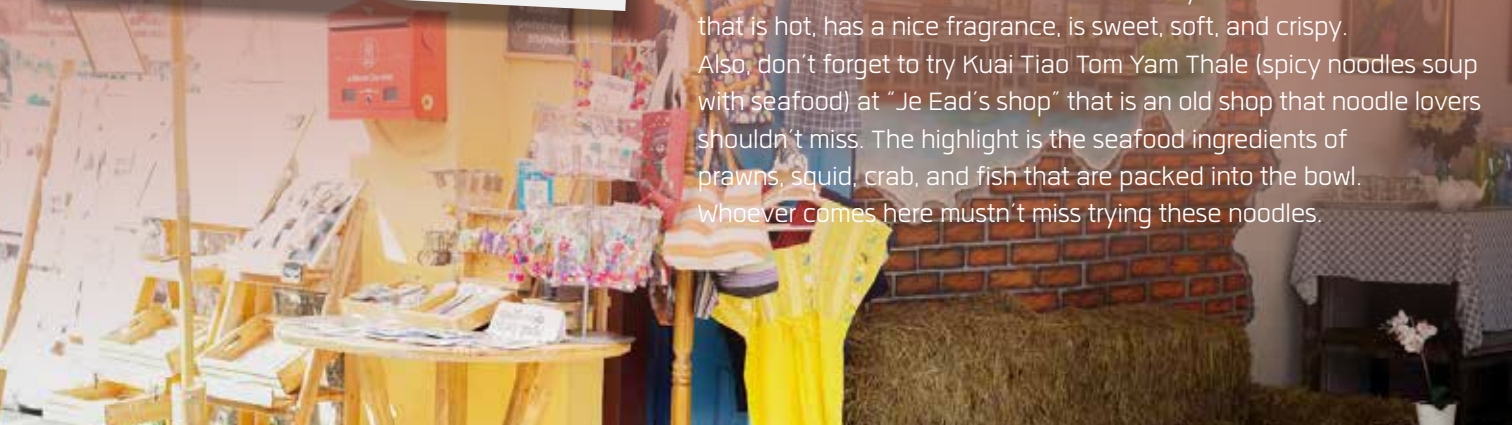
Making Khanom Khai.



Postcard of the community.

Experience the Chanthaburi River community's lifestyle

We started from the Chanthaburi River to walk around the city and experience the untainted way of life, tasted sweets in an old shop that had been open for more than 60 years, as well as had an opportunity of pouring the dough into the mould that would be baked until cooked. You should try Khanom Khai that is hot, has a nice fragrance, is sweet, soft, and crispy. Also, don't forget to try Kuai Tiao Tom Yam Thale (spicy noodles soup with seafood) at "Je Ead's shop" that is an old shop that noodle lovers shouldn't miss. The highlight is the seafood ingredients of prawns, squid, crab, and fish that are packed into the bowl. Whoever comes here mustn't miss trying these noodles.



Visit House No. 69, a community learning centre and The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

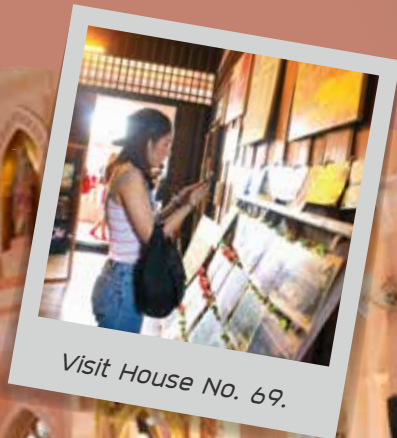
This old house is regarded as the place for organising various communal activities that has compiled and publicises the knowledge of preserving the old buildings and history of this community. The caretaker said that the Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront consists of 3 main ethnicities: Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai. It is said that during the war, the Vietnamese from Ho Chi Minh came by boat to seek asylum and settle here. It is known as a very old community. Besides listening to this story, there are numerous hit spots for taking photos like the ancient wall that has chic paintings by creative artists; e.g. painting of Marilyn Monroe that whoever sees it will want to take a photo and frame it as a souvenir. There are also locations of shooting numerous dramas and advertisements that are beautiful spots for taking lots of photos that you'll be certainly impressed by.



The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



Ancient wall



Visit House No. 69.



Khanom Plaek (Strange Sweets) by Khlong Nong Bua



A unique 100-year-old market of the community that originated from the cooperation of the community development group that developed Nong Bua that had the highlight of 100-year-old wooden row houses on both sides of the road like a market. This was opened for tourists to come and see the community's original simple way of life, and taste and buy delicious Thai sweets with strange names that had been passed down from ancient times, as well as take photos of the beautiful 3D Street Art on the old walls in the area of the market. This market is open only on weekends.



Khanom Kluai Nam Taek



Street Art for taking great photos.

Tasting ancient sweets with Strange names

Besides walking amidst the atmosphere of the old wooden houses in this market, a not-to-be-missed highlight is tasting and buying local sweets that are hard to find. Also the names are strange, but we guarantee they are delicious like Khanom Khuai Ling, Khanom Dit Kho, Khanom Thua that is made from glutinous rice flour and is stuffed with crushed mung bean, and Khanom Tang Kuai. These ancient sweets are difficult to find, have a sweet fragrance, are delicious and do not use chemicals. Besides this, the Nong Bua community has a variety of items to buy as souvenirs including shrimp paste, fish sauce, dried shrimps, etc. After eating and shopping, if you still have some energy, then we recommend going to see the chic 3D Street Art that relates the original way of life of this community and is nestled in the alleys of the market for you to take photos.



Enjoy shopping for souvenirs.



Bao Ploy Lek Phet (Indy Stone)

This is like a living museum because in the past it was a well-known gems source of Thailand. There's digging and sifting of gems by using the ancient methods that at present cannot be seen because mostly investors have come and opened a gems mine like an industry that has made the ancient methods vanish. But if you come to Bao Ploy Lek Phet, you will see and can try the ancient way because the owner wants to preserve the original methods for future generations to see and study.



Various gems



Ancient method of digging and Sifting for gems

For digging for gems in the original way, it's not too difficult. Kids can also do this activity. We had to climb down into the real mine that was 1-4 metres deep. We chose to dig with our 2 hands and put the soil into a bucket then washed the soil to dispose of it so to find any gems that would shimmer different from the rock and gravel. In this step, anyone who has good eyesight or good luck and finds a gem will be allowed to take it home as a souvenir. The fee for joining this fun activity is only 100 Baht for adults and free for kids. So, we recommend that all the family find the time to join in.



Digging for gems.



Sifting the ancient way.



Contacts :

Bao Ploy Lek Phet : 11 Mu 8, Tambon Siphaya,
Amphoe Tha Mai, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 087 822 9138.

Basic Information & Preparation

Travel Style

Tourists who love to be close to nature can get together to do various fun and valuable activities. Like have an opportunity to know more about another way of life that is simple, so to experience the sufficiency way of happiness like the people of a community that is totally different from the rushed lifestyle of the city.

Preparation



Arrange suitable clothing for the season, especially long-sleeves that can protect you comfortably from the sun and the rain as well as for messy activities like wading through a reed field and mud. Take photos in the real fields. Besides this, you should prepare a swimming costume for swimming at waterfalls and the sea.



Valuable Memorable Impressions

In travelling for fun as well as learning about the different way of life of the people in each locality makes us know the real thing. Even though we are happy, it is not necessary to search for something worldly to satisfy us. This is because we can get to know the people of the local community through various activities and listen to them that reflects the origin and intention of the people. This might make you see the answer to true happiness that we are searching for and is very simple. However, just choosing a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature cannot be compared, cannot be something to ask for, but only depends on oneself and using the natural benefits. The local people don't have to have an extravagant life, but have happiness that is sustainable. The rest of this way is up to us to choose to use the valuable impression from this trip in our own life.



Best Time to Visit

Chanthaburi is a province that isn't too far, as it's only about 3.5 hours from Bangkok. So you can come, relax and travel in a province that has historical importance in various eras with numerous incidents and has geographic diversity full of natural tourism attractions including forests, mountains, river plains, and beaches. The province is also abundant in food and fruit, so it's another province that can be visited all-year round. There are different times for visiting for each travel style.



Beaches:

November–February because at this time, the sea is clear and clean.



Waterfalls and mountain forests:

October–December because this is the end of the rainy season and beginning of the cool season when the trees are verdant green. But even though the monsoon is over, the waterfalls are fun for playing and swimming as there's a lot of water.



Fruit season:

May–July is when the fruit is ripe and harvested, so it's really perfect for those who love to eat fruit at a fruit buffet at various orchards in Chanthaburi.



Climbing Khao Khitchakut:

January–March or February–April during the Buddhist pilgrimage to climb up the mountain to pay homage to the Buddha's Footprint at least once in your lifetime.



Contact



- Learning Centre of the Patthawi Community Economy: 5 Mu 2, Tambon Patthawi, Amphoe Makham, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 063 226 2251.
- Nature and Environment Learning Centre (Fish House – Crab Bank), Bang Sa Kao Community: Mu 5, Tambon Bang Sa Kao, Amphoe Laem Sing, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 099 259 6832.
- Rak Khao Bai Sri Community: 11/1 Mu 4, Tambon Khao Bai Sri, Amphoe Tha Mai, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 086 834 9604.
- Ban Samet Ngam Women's Reed Mat Weaving Group: 40/3 Mu 11, Ban Samet Ngam, Tambon Nong Bua, Amphoe Mueang, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 089 881 4344.
- Pa Louie and Lung Thom's Oyster Farm: Tha Chalaep Community, Tambon Bang Kachai, Amphoe Laem Sing, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 089 803 0020.
- Bao Ploy Lek Phet (Indy Stone): 11 Mu 8, Tambon Siphaya, Amphoe Tha Mai, Chanthaburi; Tel.: 087 822 9138.



Must-buy Souvenirs

- Gems and jewellery that are known for their quality and design at reasonable prices.
- Quality Chanthaboon reed mats, a renowned handicraft of Chanthaburi.
- Fresh fruit including salacca, durian, mangosteen, longan, and other seasonal fruit.
- Malva nut juice that besides quenching thirst, also has numerous medicinal properties.
- proecessed products; e.g., shrimp paste, durian toffees, Chanthaburi noodles, etc.
- High-quality pepper that has a good fragrance that's needed for every household.



Recommended Tourist Routes



"Signature of Chan"

If coming to Chanthaburi, you must experience according to the province's motto because this compiles all the highlights into one.



"Pure Nature"

Cleanse your lungs and experience fresh air amidst the nature with a route from the mountains to the sea, which is a little challenging.



"Taste of Chan"

A route where you can eat local cuisine and fruit with old and chic shops as well as collecting raw materials from various sources to cook and eat from your own handiwork.



"Learn by Doing"

Learn by doing that focuses on activities that makes you understand much more with numerous experiences.



"Adventure of the Flow"

Travel along the river starting from the river to the sea, learn about the riverine way of life, and see the water bring freshness to life.

"Signature Of Chan"

If coming to Chanthaburi, you must experience according to the province's motto because this compiles all the highlights into one.





Day 1



09.00 – 12.00 Hrs.

Rak Khao Bai Sri Community

- Learn how to make thatch from salacca leaves.
- Visit the fruit orchards and pick and try fruit fresh off the tree.
- Make durian toffees.



13.00 – 15.00 Hrs.

Bao Ploy Lek Phet (Indy Stone)

- Experience the ancient way of digging and sifting for gems.
- Relax with a Calamondin coffee at a fruit orchard.



Day 2



13.00 – 15.00 Hrs.

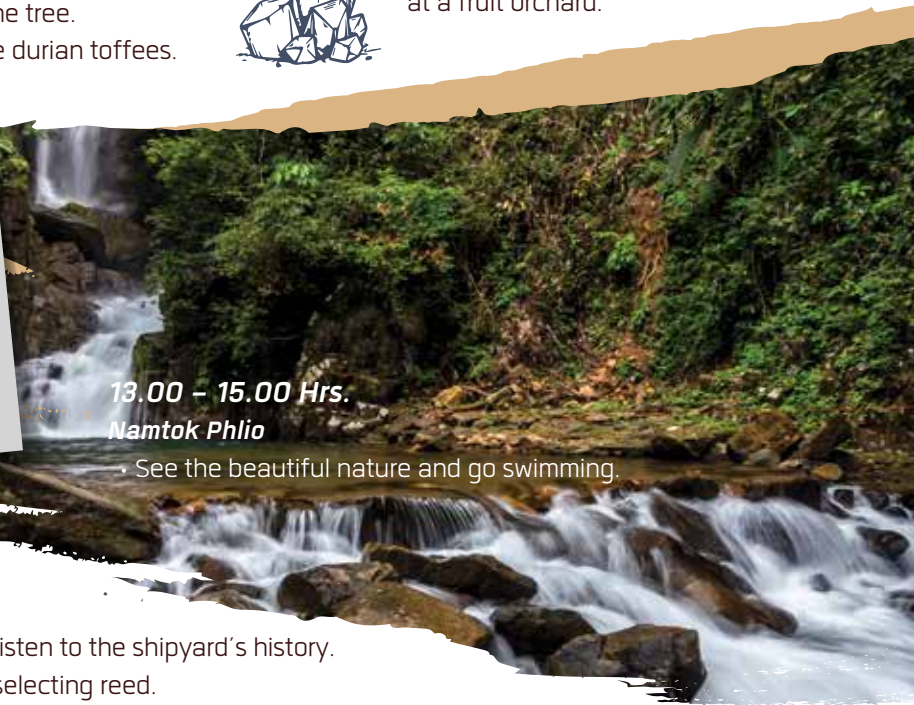
Namtok Phlio

- See the beautiful nature and go swimming.

09.00 – 12.00 Hrs.

Ban Samet Ngam Community

- Pay homage to King Taksin the Great and listen to the shipyard's history.
- Learn about reed farming, harvesting and selecting reed.
- Learn how to weave a reed mat.



"Taste Of Chan"

A route where you can eat local cuisine and fruit with old and chic shops as well as collecting raw materials from various sources to cook and eat from your own handiwork.



Day 1



13.30 – 16.00 Hrs.

Tha Chalaep Community

- Learn about raising oysters.
- Try various kinds of oysters.



08.00 – 12.00 Hrs.

Ban Patthawi Community

- Learn about organic farming.
- Take a Saleng, a local vehicle, to visit the fruit orchards.
- Collect honey from the Chan Rong Bee Apiary; make herbal juice.
- Make soap and lotion from mangosteen rind.



Day 2

08.00 – 12.00 Hrs.

Bang Sa Kao Community

- Learn about the conservation of marine creatures.
- Take a Saleng, a local vehicle, to see the community's way of life.
- Make an herbal chicken coop spa.
- Cook local food with the community.



13.30 – 17.00 Hrs.

Khanom Plaek (Strange Sweets) Community

by Khlong Nong Bua / Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront

- Find ancient sweets in the Khanom Plaek Market.
- Taste renowned dishes of Chanthaburi.
- See the old houses and buildings of the Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront



“Learn by Doing”

Learn by doing that focuses on activities
that makes you understand much more
with numerous experiences.



Day 1



09.00 – 13.00 Hrs.

Bang Sa Kao Community

- Learn about the conservation of marine life.
- See the way of shallow water fishery.



14.00 – 16.00 Hrs.

Ban Samet Ngam Community

- Learn about reed farming.
- Know how to harvest and select the reed.
- Learn how to weave a reed mat.

Day 2

08.00 – 12.00 Hrs.

Rak Khao Bai Sri Community

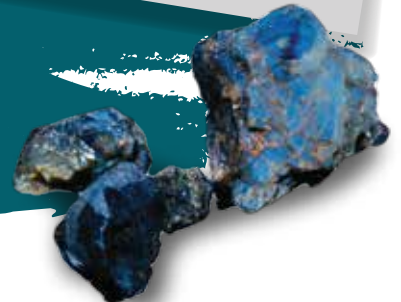
- Learn about the pollination of salacca flowers.
- Learn how to make thatch from salacca leaves.
- Visit the fruit orchards and pick and try fresh fruit off the tree.



13.00 – 16.00 Hrs.

Bao Ploy Lek Phet (Indy Stone)

- Experience the ancient way of digging and sifting for gems.
- Relax with a Calamondin coffee at a fruit orchard.



"Adventure of the Flow"

Travel along the river starting from the river to the sea,
learn about the riverine way of life, and see the water bring
freshness to life.



Day 1

14.30 – 18.00 Hrs.

Bang Sa Kao Community

- Learn about making artificial coral reefs.
- See the way of shallow water fishery.
- Make an herbal chicken coop spa.
- Cook local food and try Indian marsh fleabane tea.



10.00 – 13.00 Hrs.

Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront

- Take photos of Street Art.
- Stroll to see the community's way of life.
- Make ancient Khanom Khai.
- Enjoy noodles at a well-known shop.



Day 2



16.30 – 18.00 Hrs.

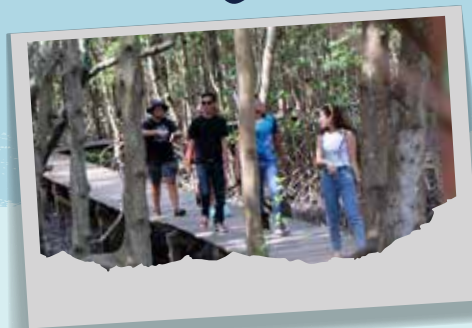
Noen Nangphaya Viewpoint

- Take photos of the beautiful sunset.

08.00 – 13.00 Hrs.

Tha Chalaep Community

- Take a boat to see the fish cages and learn about the nature of mangroves.
- Learn about raising oysters and making paste.
- Try various kinds of oysters.



14.00 – 16.00 Hrs.

Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Centre

- Go kayaking.
- Walk to see the mangroves and take photos.



"Pure Nature"

Cleanse your lungs and experience fresh air amidst the nature with a route from the mountains to the sea, which is a little challenging.

Day 1



09.00 – 13.00 Hrs.

Old Town Chanthaboon Waterfront

- Take photos of Street Art.
- Stroll to see the community's way of life.
- Sip on a coffee at a renowned cafe.
- Enjoy noodles at a well-known shop.

14.00 – 17.00 Hrs.

Ban Patthawi Community

- Learn about organic farming.
- Take a Saleng, a local vehicle, to visit the fruit orchards.

18.00 Hrs.

Thung Phen

- Go swimming and overnight at a homestay.

Day 2

09.00 – 12.30 Hrs.

Krathing Waterfall

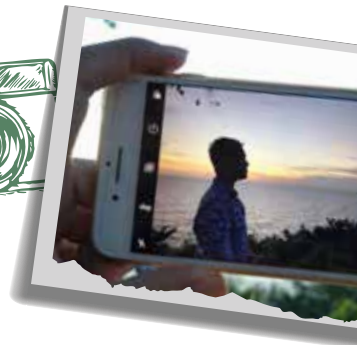
- Go swimming and walk along the nature study trail.



14.00 – 16.00 Hrs.

Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Centre

- Go kayaking.
- Walk to see the mangroves and take photos.



16.30 – 18.00 Hrs.

Noen Nangphaya Viewpoint

- Admire the stunning sunset.

Tourist Attractions



1. City Pillar Shrine and King Taksin the Great Shrine :

Pay homage to these 2 shrines that have invaluable sacredness for Chanthaburi province for prosperity.

2. Namtok Phlio National Park :

Has a large waterfall ideal for swimming and taking photos. with water flowing all-year round and numerous schools of fish, especially Mahseer barb. This is another tourism highlight that everyone should visit for swimming and taking photos.

3. Queen Sunandha Stupa :

A memorial of love that King Rama V the Great had erected like a pyramid at Namtok Phlio in remembrance of Queen Sunandha, his consort. This location was selected because that the King and his Queen once visited and were impressed by the beauty of the waterfall.

4. Noen Nangphaya Viewpoint :

A landmark that whoever comes here must take photos of the S-bend and the road skirting the coastline in which you can see an 180-degree view of the sea as far as the eyes can see.

5. Tuek Daeng Ro. So. 112 :

This used to be the living quarters of the French soldiers during the period of the territorial dispute with Siam. At present, it is a historical learning centre and is another spot for taking chic photos that tourists shouldn't miss.

6. Khuk Khi Kai :

An important historical tourist attraction built when Siam and France had a territorial dispute. The area below was used to imprison prisoners whereas the upper part was used for raising chickens, and the chickens would defecate on the prisoners below. This was another form of cruel punishment.

7. Hat Laem Sing :

A beautiful beach in which the highlight is its length of 1.5 kilometres plus the shadiness of the rows of pine trees and restaurants that provide services for tourists.

8. Wat Mangkon Buppharam (Leng Hua Yi) :

A Chinese temple where you can request for a blessing and you will get your wish for sure because the Thai-Chinese people believe that it has Feng Shui of importance. like its position "the dragon's tail". (The dragon's head is Wat Mangkon Kamalawat or Wat Leng Noei Yi, Yaowarat, and the dragon's body is Wat Chin Pracha Samoson or Wat Leng Hok Yi at Chachoengsao.) Ask for a blessing and you will get your wish for sure.





9. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception :

An old Catholic cathedral that is known as the most beautiful in Thailand. It is considered as a centre of faith of Christians and is another must-visit highlight of Chanthaburi for taking photos.

10. 270-year-old Market :

Is located at Ban Tapon Yai, Amphoe Khlung and is only open on Saturday for tourists to stroll around this retro market to see the various demonstrations, shop for goods, taste delicious local food and ancient desserts, plus more.

11. Gem and Jewellery Centre :

This is a museum displaying and providing knowledge about gems. It is considered to be the largest gems museum in Thailand. Visitors can learn and buy gems of Chanthaburi here.

12. Pha Hin Kup

An outstanding nature study trail of the East that you should visit at least once in your lifetime, as it's a challenging trek for adventurers who love a dare. Here, there's a viewpoint from a rocky ground to see the mesmerising sea of mist with the route climbing the cliffs that is regarded as grueling. From the flat below, the sloping route that has to be climbed occasionally passes streams, bamboo forest, caves, and large cliffs. It is suitable for trekking and staying overnight to gaze at the stars and waking up very early to see the beauty of the sea of mist.



Namtok Phlio National Park

13. Khao Soi Dao Waterfall

This is a large waterfall with 16 tiers that is surrounded by abundant forest of flora, wildlife, and various insects. The falls cascade over a cliff from its source from the top of Khao Soi Dao. We can see the beauty of the falls from Tiers 1-9 for ourselves, which is suitable for nature lovers, trekkers, bird and butterfly watchers, as well it is appropriate for relaxing for your family and friends.



Queen Sunandha Stupa



The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Recommended Accommodation

- Baanluangrajamaitri Historical Inn Tel. 088 843 4516
- Maneechan Resort & Sports Club Tel. 039 373 666
- Pimdara Hotel Tel. 039 609 878
- Blue Rabbit Hotel Tel. 039 471 288
- Kasemsarn Hotel Tel. 039 311 100
- Rimnaam Klangchan Hotel Tel. 039 321 123
- Bedgasm Hostel Tel. 091 915 4442
- Tamajun Hotel Tel. 098 968 6111
- Al Medina Beach House Tel. 094 454 2264
- Sand Dunes Chaolao Beach Resort Tel. 039 460 550



Recommended Restaurants

- Krua Alisa Tel. 094 945 4520
- Tasodshean Tel. 092 189 8585
- Tamajun Riverside Cuisine & Cafe Tel. 098 968 6111
- BaanChan Padthai & Cafe Tel. 096 656 7246
- Ui Im seafood Restaurant Tel. 094 184 1951
- Bangmanao Tel. 092 538 6511
- Chanthorn Restaurant Tel. 039 302 350
- Je Eat Rim Nam Contact at the shop only.
- Moo Leang Phraya Trang Noodle Tel. 039 339 761
- Som Tum Je Luck Tel. 085 988 1255
- Je Pen Yentafo Tel. 039 325 430
- Pu Jaa Tha Chalab Tel. 039 388 076
- Krua Loongchaey Tel. 039 311 987

Recommended Cafes

- Sometimes Coffee&Gallery Tel. 096 183 8516
- Kays Espresso Bar Tel. 083 028 3993
- Rock S Presso & Bistro Tel. 039 324 999
- Whee Cafe Tel. 062 464 5614
- C.A.P. Tel. 085 499 6266
- Bunny & Boom Tel. 039 471 288
- Sea Bound Cafe Tel. 083 447 3708
- Dragon Cafe Tel. 039 460 433
- Fineday Tel. 062 369 4236



This is the new community-based tourist attractions that we would like to introduce for everyone to know. We also hope that these attractions of interest will encourage everyone to come, have fun and learn about the true identity of Chanthaburi more than the local people. This is because if you want to travel with exotic fun, then don't forget to choose to visit the local communities in the way of Creative Tourism.





Chanthaburi



www.tourismthailand.org/tourismproduct

Services Promotion Division, Tourism Authority of Thailand
1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan, Ratchathevi, Bangkok 10400 Thailand,
Tel. : 662 250 5500, TAT Call Center 1672