

Surat Thani

amazing
THAILAND

The logo for 'amazing THAILAND' features the word 'amazing' in a smaller font above 'THAILAND' in a larger, bold font. Below the text is a stylized white smile that curves upwards, resembling a rising sun or a happy face.

Surat Thani

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THAILAND





Rajjaprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam

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Ko Samui

Surat Thani



Rajjaprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam

Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	:	District
Ao	:	Bay
Ban	:	Village
Chedi	:	Stupa or Pagoda
Hat	:	Beach
Khao	:	Mountain
Khlong	:	Canal
Ko	:	Island
Laem	:	Cape
Mueang	:	Town or City
Namtok	:	Waterfall
Tambon	:	Sub-district
Wat	:	Temple

Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai Pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help for direction, point to the Thai spelling given after each place name.

Surat Thani is an ancient city with traces of human habitation. In the 7th century, from found evidence, the city merged with the Kingdom of Srivijaya. The ancient city was divided into 3 towns: Viangsa, Khiri Rat Nikom and Tha Thong. Then in the reign of King Rama IV, the town of Tha Thong was moved by Royal command to Ban Don and upgraded to a fourth-level town subject to Bangkok, and was royally renamed “Kanchanadit.” When a province was established as a form of administration in the reign of King Rama V, the three towns were combined as one called Chaiya. In 1915, King Rama VI changed the name from Chaiya to Surat Thani, meaning the “city of good people.”

Surat Thani is the largest province in the South, spreading over an area of 12,891 square kilometres. It covers a rainforest area with a

diversity of flora and fauna. Furthermore, it boasts crystal-clear sea, white sandy beaches, and famous islands; such as, Ko Samui, Ko Pha-Ngan, Ko Tao, and Ko Nang Yuan. Each of the islands has their own diversified nature. The province is divided into 19 districts: Amphoe Mueang, Amphoe Phunphin, Amphoe Kanchanadit, Amphoe Tha Chang, Amphoe Ban Na Doem, Amphoe Ban Na San, Amphoe Chaiya, Amphoe Khian Sa, Amphoe Wiang Sa, Amphoe Don Sak, Amphoe Khiri Rat Nikhom, Amphoe Vibhavadi, Amphoe Ban Ta Khun, Amphoe Phra Saeng, Amphoe Tha Chana, Amphoe Phanom, Amphoe Chai Buri, Amphoe Ko Pha-Ngan and Amphoe Ko Samui.

Distances from Surat Thani to Nearby Provinces

Nakhon Si Thammarat	136 kilometres
Krabi	162 kilometres
Phang-nga	154 kilometres
Ranong	221 kilometres
Chumphon	199 kilometres

Distances from the Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani to Other Districts

Amphoe Ko Samui	102 kilometres
Amphoe Ko Pha-Ngan	120 kilometres
Amphoe Don Sak	63 kilometres
Amphoe Kanchanadit	19 kilometres
Amphoe Ban Na Doem	40 kilometres
Amphoe Ban Na San	42 kilometres
Amphoe Wiang Sa	69 kilometres
Amphoe Phunphin	15 kilometres
Amphoe Khian Sa	48 kilometres
Amphoe Phrasaeng	83 kilometres
Amphoe Chai Buri	96 kilometres

Amphoe Phanom	82 kilometres
Amphoe Ban Ta Khun	70 kilometres
Amphoe Khiri Rat Nikhom	54 kilometres
Amphoe Vibhavadi	69 kilometres
Amphoe Tha Chang	42 kilometres
Amphoe Chaiya	58 kilometres
Amphoe Tha Chana	78 kilometres

HOW TO GET THERE

By car: From Bangkok, take highway no. 35 (Thonbi-Paktho) via Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkram until Wang Manao T-junction and entering to Highway no. 4 (Phetchakasem Road) to Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon and the onto Highway No.41, reaching to Amphoe Chaiya and Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani total distance of 660 kilometres.

By bus: There is a daily air-conditioned bus from Bangkok to Surat Thani. The bus leaves the Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road. For more information, please contact,

- *Krung Siam Tour*; Bangkok Office Tel. 0 2894 6045, Surat Thani Office Tel. 0 7727 2506, 0 7743 7342

- *Transport Co., Ltd*; Bangkok-Surat Thani and Bangkok-Ko Samui Tel. 0 2422 4444, 0 2894 6122 www.transport.co.th

- *Bangkok Bus Line*; Bangkok Office Tel. 0 2894 6050, Surat Thai Office Tel. 0 7720 0161

By train: From the Hua Lamphong Railway Station, a daily train service is available. Get off at the Surat Thani Railway Station in Amphoe Phunphin. Then, take a bus or taxi for 14 kilometres to reach the town of Surat Thani. For more information, contact the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) at Tel. 1690 Surat

Thani Railway Station in Amphoe Phunphin at Tel. 0 7731 1213 or www.railway.co.th.

By Air: There are many airlines operating flights between Bangkok and Surat Thani as follows:

From Suvarnabhumi airport (Bangkok-Surat Thani Route)

- Thai Smile Airways Tel. 1181, 0 2118 8888 www.thaismileair.com

(Bangkok-Ko Samui Route)

- Bangkok Airways Tel. 1771, 0 2270 6699 or the Ko Samui Office Tel. 0 7742 8500, 0 7760 1300, 0 7742 8555 or www.bangkokair.com

From Donmueang Airport (Bangkok-Surat Thani)

- Thai Air Asia Tel. 0 2515 9999 www.airasia.com

- Thai Lion Air Tel. 0 2529 9999 www.lionairthai.com

- Nok Air Tel. 1318, 0 2900 9955 www.nokair.com

From Surat Thani airport, there are shuttle bus service to Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani and Ko Samui. For more information, please contact Pantip Travel Co., Ltd (Surat Thani Airport Office) Tel. 0 7727 2230 or www.phantiptravel.com



Khao Na Nai Luang Dhamma Park

Transportation within Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani

In Surat Thani Town, there are many public transportation services, such as Tuk-Tuk, minibus (Song Thaeo), van and motorcycle operate in many areas such as, market or bus terminal.

By train: From the Surat Thani Railway Station in Amphoe Phunphin, a train service is available to Narathiwat, Yala, Trang, Hat Yai, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Chaiya, Chumphon, and Hua Hin. For more information, Tel. 0 7731 1213 or www.railway.co.th

Transportation from Surat Thani to nearby Provinces

By Bus and By Van: From Surat Thani, there are bus and van service to Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi, Phuket. For more information, please call Pantip Travel Tel. 0 7728 2331 or www.phantiptravel.com, Surat Thani Bus Terminal Tel. 0 7720 0032

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani (อำเภอเมืองสุราษฎร์ธานี)

Taladnud Taladnam Bandon (ตลาดนัด ตลาดน้ำบ้านดอน)

is located on the shoulder of the Tapi River embankment, Na Mueang Road, is a Sunday Market centre of rare folk arts and culture; for



Ecotourism Khlong Noi Community

example, Li-ke Pa Chaiya, Manora and shadow play, including well-known provincial desserts like Khanom Kho Ban Don, Khao Kriap On Chaiya, Khanom Bok Phum Rieng, as well as OTOP products. Open during 3.00-9.00 p.m.

Khao Tha Phet Wildlife Conservation Promotion and Development Station

(สถานีพัฒนาและส่งเสริมการอนุรักษ์สัตว์ป่าเขาท่าเพชร)

is located in Tambon Dan Makham Tia, The Station sits on an area of 4.65 square kilometres (2,906 rai), and is 210 metres above sea level. It was declared a national reserved forest in 1965 and named Khao Tha Phet Forest Park. Then, the Wildlife Conservation Division established it as a Wildlife and Nature Study Centre in 1976. It was again changed to the present name. The Station occupies an area of dry evergreen forest and mixed deciduous forest. The surrounding area is shady with many large trees. Wildlife that can be found in the station includes mouse deer, common wild pigs, bulbuls, and tailorbirds. A panoramic view of the town can be seen from the mountaintop. Also situated here is Phrathat Si Surat under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King, which was built in 1957. It was the first revered place of worship of the people of Ban Don. Then, a crack was found on its base, so the whole structure was demolished and rebuilt into a candle like-shaped pagoda, which is a beautiful work of architecture. On the grounds of the Station, there is an 800 metres nature trail with interpretation signs for visitors to study nature by themselves. Furthermore, a campsite is on offer, but visitors have to bring their own tents.

To get there: Take Highway no. 4009 (Surat Thani-Ban Na San) via Bang Yai intersection around 2 kilometres and take a left for another 1.5 kilometres to reach the Station's headquarters.

Ecotourism Bang Bai Mai Community

(กลุ่มท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ชุมชนบางไผ่)

in Tambon Bang Bai Mai, or as it is locally called "Nai Bang", is an old community featuring a network of innumerable little canals that flow into the Tapi River. The villagers live a simple life on the canal sides, in which is surrounded by abundant plant varieties on both sides. It provides various activities; such as, cruising and sightseeing through the arch of the nipa palm trees, learning local wisdom about making vinegar and syrup from nipa palm, which are the community's signature products. The Bang Bai Mai Pracharat Market is organized by the community to be a market center of local products from villagers both in the area and neighbouring communities. It is open every Sunday from 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. For more information, please contact Tel. 08 1607 4935 and 0 7729 2903

Ecotourism Khlong Noi Community

(กลุ่มท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ตำบลคลองน้อย)

is one of the communities situated on Khlong Roi Sai. The locals have a simple way of living by the canal side among the richness of nature. The community offers a wide range of activities and attractions; for example, cruising and observing the nature, watching Archer fish at Uncle Phan Chongakson's house, visiting the old dockyard, enjoying a demonstration of training monkeys to pick up coconuts, and shopping for some local wisdom products; such as, nipa plam leaf and coconut shell products. Homestays are available for tourists. For interested persons who want to learn more about the community's lifestyle, please make further inquires at Tel. 08 9728 2810, 08 1087 7648, 06 3078 1751.

The Pirates Park (สวนน้ำ เดอะไพเรท พาร์ค)

is a large water park covering an area of 50 rai, equipped with a wide range of playing machines; such as, Giant Slider, and swimming pool for children. The park provides staff's assistance for all the operating time. Open daily from 11.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m. on weekdays and from 10.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m. on weekends and official holidays. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7738 0999.

Amphoe Ko Samui (อำเภอเกาะสมุย)

Ko Samui (เกาะสมุย)

is a world-renowned island situated in the Gulf of Thailand, 84 kilometres to the east of Surat

Thani. It covers an area of 247 square kilometres. The road around the island (Thawi Rat Phakdi Road) is 52 kilometres long. Only one third of the total area surrounded by mountains is a plain. Many beautiful white sandy beaches of Ko Samui. It is an ideal island for visitors who wish to enjoy the sea, sand, breeze, and sunlight. A long coastal line fringed with coconut trees together with the crystal-clear sea attracts visitors to make countless revisits. Fresh seafood is another charm that keeps reminding visitors of this island.

Apart from the crystal-clear sea, Ko Samui has a tourist activity that has become popular among visitors from around the world, a spa



Hat Lamai, Ko Samui





Hin Ta Hin Yai

service. This kind of health service associated with hydrotherapy, including bathing, soaking in mineral or hot water, massaging, and phyto-aromatherapy, is available in both hotels and spa centres, having a specific atmosphere, comfort, and excellent services to make visitors really relax. For golfers, golf courses are on offer as well.

Interesting attractions within Ko Samui

Phra Yai or Phra Phutthakhodom (พระใหญ่หรือพระพุทธรูปโตม) is a Buddha image in the posture of subduing Mara, having a lap width of 5 Wa and 9 inches. The image is housed on Ko Fan where an insight development centre is located;

those who are interested in Dharma practice can stay here.

Hin Ta Hin Yai (หินตา หินยาย) is located in Hat Lamai, Tambon Maret. This natural phenomenon originates from the granite eroded by sea water and heat to form weird boulders. There is hearsay among the locals that a long time ago the grandparents, Ta Khreng and Yai Riam, natives of Nakhon Si Thammarat, travelled by sail boat to Prachuap Khiri Khan for proposing the marriage of their son to a daughter of Ta Monglai. Unfortunately, a strong storm sank their boat in Hat Lamai and the grandparents drowned. Their bodies were washed ashore and turned into the stones as seen nowadays.



Phra Yai or Phra Phutthakhodom

Phrathat Hin Ngu (พระธาตุหินงู) is the pagoda for the Lord Buddha's relics called by the villagers on the island as Phrathat Sila Ngu. It is located 17 kilometres from the Ko Samui District Office. History says the pagoda was built by Mr. Sithong, a villager of Tambon Maret. The Lord Buddha's relics which were given by Chaokhun Phra Atthathatsisutthiphong of Wat Chi Thon, Amphoe Phak Hai, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, were enshrined on 12 June, 1955. Their Majesties the King and Queen went to pay homage on 24 April, 1962. Thus, the islanders have made it a tradition to have a homage paying fair.

Tiger Zoo and Samui Aquarium (พิพิธภัณฑสัตว์น้ำ สมุยและสวนเสือ) is located in Ao Laem Set. There are displays of interesting aquatic creatures, as well as Bengal cats and leopards. They are open daily from 9.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. Admission is 750 baht for adults and 450 baht for children. For more information, contact Tel. 0 7742 4017-8 Fax: 0 7742 4019 www.samuiaquariumandtigerzoo.com

Wat Khunaram or Wat Khao Po (วัดคุนาราม หรือวัดเขาโป๊ะ) is located at Km 13. Here, the undecomposed body of Luangpho Daeng or Luangpho Daeng Piyasilo (Than Phrakhru

Samathakittikhun) sitting in meditation is kept in a glass coffin.

Samui Butterfly Farm (สวนผีเสื้อสมุทร) is located on a hill next to the sea, to the south of the island, in the area of Laem Na Thian. It is 3 kilometres from the fishing village of Ban Hua Thanon, on an area of 20 rai, featuring a hill sloping down to the sea. There is a botanical garden landscaped into a stone park with flowers and decorative plants, Thai varieties of plants, herbs, and various kinds of forest trees, as the habitat of butterflies. There are areas set for visitors: Ban Phueng, a Thai wooden house having a dark room showing the growth of bees, Insect Museum displaying Thai and exotic species of insects, etc. The farm is open daily from 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Admission is 200 baht for adults and 120 baht for children. For more information, Tel. 0 7742 4020-21.

Chedi Laem So (เจดีย์แหลมสอ) is a pagoda built by Luangpho Daeng, a most revered monk who died in a boat accident in 1976. The pagoda's body is wholly decorated with golden tiles. The Lord Buddha's relics are enshrined in the pagoda, which is situated by the sea bordering the sub-districts of Taling Ngam and Na Mueang.

Phangka Snake Farm (ฟาร์มงูพังกา) is located at 88/2 Mu 4, Tambon Taling Ngam. Many species of snakes have been raised in the farm, including queen scorpions and king centipedes. There are two snake shows daily at 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Admission is 300 baht for adults and 200 baht for children. For further details, Tel. 0 7742 3247.

How to get to Ko Samui

By Air:

From Suvarnabhumi airport
(Bangkok-Surat Thani Route)

Thai Smile Airways Tel. 1 181, 0 2118 8888 www.thaismileair.com

(Bangkok-Ko Samui Route)

Bangkok Airways Tel. 1771, 0 2270 6699 or the
- Ko Samui Office Tel. 0 7742 8500, 0 7760 1300,
0 7742 8555 or www.bangkokair.com

From Donmueang Airport (Bangkok-Surat Thani):

- Thai Air Asia Tel. 0 2515 9999 www.airasia.com

- Thai Lion Air Tel. 0 2529 9999 www.lionairthai.com

- Nok Air Tel. 1318, 0 2900 9955 www.nokair.com

From Surat Thani Airport; there are buses available for boarding a ferry to Ko Samui. For more information, please call Pantip Travel Co., Ltd (Surat Thani Airport Office) Tel. 0 7727 2230 or www.phantiptravel.com

By train: From Surat Thani Railway Station, there is a bus for boarding a ferry. For more information, please contact Pantip Travel Co., Ltd Tel. 0 7727 2230, 0 7728 2331

By Boat:

Raja Ferry Company Limited (บริษัทราชาเฟอร์รี่) (Surat Thani (Donsak Pier)-Lipa Noi Pier (Ko Samui)) offers a daily ferry service every hour during 5.00 a.m.- 7.30 p.m. The trip takes 1½ hours and costs 140 Baht/person. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2276 8211-2 (Bangkok Office), 0 7737 2800-2 (Ko Samui Office) or www.rajaferryport.com

Lomprayah (บริษัท เรือเร็ว ลมพระยา จำกัด) (Bangkok-Ko Samui) (Pralarn Pier) offers a daily bus include ferry service. The trip takes 13 hours and costs 1,400 Baht. (Ticket includes bus and ferry). For more information, please call Tel. 0 7737 2144-6, 08 1976 7171 (Surat Thani Office), 0 7742 0121, 08 1079 3299 (Ko Samui Office) or www.lomprayah.com

(Surat Thani-Ko Samui (Na Thorn Pier)) takes 2 hours 45 minutes, 600 Baht. For more



Ao Tok, Ko Taen

information, please call Tel. 0 7742 0121, 08 1079 3299 (Ko Samui Office) or www.lomprayah.com
Seatran Ferry Company Limited (บริษัท ซีทราเนอ จำกัด)

(Surat Thani-Ko Samui (Bang Rak Pier)) takes 3 hours, 500 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7795 0559 (Surat Thani Office), 0 7742 6001 (Ko Samui Office) or www.seatranferry.com

Songserm Rungrueang (บริษัท ส่งเสริมรุ่งเรือง จำกัด)
(Bangkok-Ko Samui) takes 16 hours, 750 Baht. (Ticket includes bus and ferry) For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 3415 www.songserm.com

(Surat Thani-Ko Samui) takes 3 hours 30 minutes. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 3415 www.songserm.com

Ko Taen (เกาะแตน)

is located at Mu 2, Tambon Taling Ngam, to the south of Ko Samui. It is a beautiful island of tranquil nature. Its long beach is fringed with coconut trees. To the east, a long beach parallel to inshore coral reefs is called Ao Ok. To the west, it is a closed bay with a strip of mangrove and a rocky beach, called Ao Tok. Here, the shore and coral reefs are rather unspoiled. One interesting thing of this island is that no dog lives here. There were many theories supposed to explain



Muko Ang Thong National Park

this matter: the sacredness of the island, or scientific reasons; such as, sound waves, magnetic fields etc. Apart from the abundance of the forest and nature, Ko Taen also boasts four routes of a nature study trail. Each of the routes offers a different natural landscape as well as living conditions of the villagers of Ko Taen. On the first three routes, in particular, visitors will see various birds inhabiting the island. It is recommended that visitors bring their binoculars, cameras, and notebooks for keeping memories and impressions of bird-watching. The fourth route is a marine one in which visitors will admire the beauty of the underwater world as well as the coast of the island.

Muko Ang Thong National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะอ่างทอง)

is located at Mu 6 Tambon Ang Thong, around 20 kilometres from Ko Samui to the west, which was declared on 12 November, 1980, covering an area of 102 square kilometers (63,750 rai): only 50 square kilometres of land plus the area in the sea comprising 42 islands. Most of the islands are limestone. The main islands include Ko Wua Ta Lap, Ko Phaluai, Ko Wua Chio, Ko Mae Ko, Ko Sam Sao, Ko Phai Luak, Ko Kha, Ko Hin Dap, Ko Wua Kantang, etc. The islands of Ang Thong used to be a prohibited zone of the Royal Thai Navy. However, villagers have migrated and settled on the islands, and earned their



Ko Wua Ta Lap

living from coconut plantation, fishing and collecting bird's nests. There are concessions of swallow's nests on the islands.

Admission fee for Adult 200 Baht. for Children 100 Baht. Accommodation and tent service are available. For more information, please contact Mu Ko Ang Thong National Park Office Tel. 0 7728 6025, 06 4642 5186 www.dnp.go.th

Interesting attractions within the National Park

Ko Wua Ta Lap (เกาะวัวตาหลับ) is the island where the Park's headquarters is located. There is a clean white sandy beach in front of the Park's headquarters. Located near the Park's headquarters is Tham Bua Bok, a cave where there are stalactites and stalagmites in the shape of

a blooming lotus flower. Next to the cave is a 400 metres long walking path to the scenic viewpoint on the mountaintop overlooking the beautiful scenery of the Ang Thong Islands lying in the blue sea.

Thale Nai or Mountain Lake (ทะเลใน) is located on Ko Mae Ko. It is a geological phenomenon caused by the subsidence of a limestone basin. This oval-shaped lake is 250 metres wide, 350 metres long, and 7 metres deep, covering an approximate area of 30 rai. From the Park's headquarters, visitors can go by motor boat for 15 minutes and walk another 400 metres to the viewpoint where a breathtaking view of the emerald lake can be seen, together with the

beautiful scenery of the open sea surrounded by boulders and shady trees.

Ko Sam Sao is an island opposite Ko Mae Ko. It is a 1 kilometre long site of beautiful coral and sea anemones. A natural stone bridge projects and bends into the sea. From Ko Sam Sao, a natural sculpture that looks like a stone castle can be seen towering on the mountaintop of Ko Mae Ko.

Ko Thai Phlao and Ko Wua Kantang are away from Ko Mae Ko to the north. These islands

are among the points of the most beautiful coral reefs.

Ko Hin Dap is the island that has a beautiful and the longest beach of the park. The surrounding nature is beautiful with thin pieces of stone layers looking like a sculpture.

To get there: From Ko Samui, there is a tour service depart from Bo Phut Pier and Na Thon Pier, offer a one-day tour package by speed boat to Mu Ko Ang Thong, which includes morning snack, lunch, and shuttle bus service



Thale Nai or Mountain Lake



Hat Rin, Ko Pha-ngan

Amphoe Ko Pha-ngan (อำเภอเกาะพะงัน)

Ko Pha-ngan (เกาะพะงัน)

is around 20 kilometres from Ko Samui to the north; it takes about 30 minutes for a trip, and 100 kilometres from the town of Surat Thani. The island covers an area of 170 square kilometres. Geographically, it has a mountain in the central part, stretching from north to south. In the west, there are plains. In the east, a mountain range extends to the sea. There are some small bays where boats can be moored in certain seasons. During the monsoon from October to January, an east wind blows; it is not the time for travelling. The island has many white beaches and inviting crystal-clear sea for swimming. Shady trees fringe the beach. The tranquility of the beaches adds another charm to the island for visitors to find.

Interesting attractions within Ko Pha-ngan

Ban Chalok Lam (บ้านฉลอกหล้า) is a bay to the north of Ko Pha-ngan. Since it is deep inland, the bay provides a shelter from strong waves and wind in some seasons. When the sea is rough, boats cannot enter. However, there are many fishing boats being moored here when the sea is calm. Vendors set their stalls of products like those found in Talat Yai (large market). The famous product is sun-dried squid.

Hat Khuat (หาดขูด) This concave beach is located north of Ko Pha-ngan, about 15 kilometres from Thong Sala Pier. A beautiful view of the white concave beach is visible from the big beach rock viewpoint. The crystal clear water makes it an ideal spot for swimming and snorkeling in which visitors will enjoy Staghorn Coral and Knobbed Hump Coral. The beach is rather quiet because of its inaccessibility. Hat Khuat is best reached by a taxi boat—though, visitors can also walk along the forest trail.

Hat Thong Nai Pan (หาดท้องนายปาน) is located in Mu 5, Tambon Ban Tai, about 20 kilometres from the District Office. The beach is a crescent bay with a steep slope and surrounded by coconut trees. It caters to family gathering sand is a suitable spot for a swim.

Hat Rin (หาดรีน) is located southeast of Ko Pha-ngan at Mu 4, Tambon Ban Tai, about 12 kilometres from the District Office. The beach with clear water and white sandy ideal for snorkeling. Restaurants and bars are available. The famous Full Moon Party takes place here.

Wat Khao Tham or Suan Suwan Chottikaram (วัดเขาถ้ำหรือสวนสุวรรณโชติการาม) is located on the mountaintop of Khao Haeng in Mu 1, Tambon Ban Tai. It is a Sangha abode where visitors both Thais and foreigners come to practise insight development during September to November. The temple is a beautiful and shady place. In the temple compound, there are a replica of the Lord Buddha's footprints, and a statue of the Mother Earth wringing her locks. On the rocky hill where a Mondop (square structure) is situated, visitors can see a panoramic view of the island. Interestingly, at the back of a hillside is a stone shelter that looks like a cave.

Thong Sala (ท้องศาลา) is the largest community in Amphoe Ko Pha-ngan. It is a centre for trade, and the location of a passenger pier to Surat Thani, Ko Samui, and Ko Tao. Here, there are banks, tour companies, hotels, restaurants, and the "Song Thaeo" mini-bus station.

Hat Yao (หาดยาว) is a beautiful white sandy beach. There is also a coral reef making it ideal for swimming.

Hat Salat (หาดสลัด) It is beautiful and quiet. An off-shore reef is 150 metres from the beach and is ideal for swimming and snorkelling.



Full Moon Party, Ko Pha-Ngan

Ao Si Thanu (อ่าวศรีธน) This beach is located in Mu 8, Tambon Ko Pha-Ngan, about 10 kilometres from the District Office. This beach quite dangerous for swimming during strong windy periods of the monsoon.

Hat Mae Hat and Ko Ma (หาดแม่หาดและเกาะม้า) Hat Mae Hat with long white sandy beaches is located north-west of Ko Pha-ngan. It is connected to Ko Ma and at low tide visitors can walk across them. Because of its proximity to Ko Ma, Hat Mae Hat is an ideal sunset watching spot and for snorkelling.

Namtok Than Sadet-Ko Pha-ngan National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติน้ำตกธารเสด็จ-เกาะพะงัน) covers an area of 62 square kilometres, including the Ko Pha-ngan national reserved forest, forested areas outside the reserved

forest, and islands surrounding Ko Pha-ngan. Originally, it was named Namtok Phaeng Forest Park. The Park is still a fertile forest with a variety of plants. There is an orchid having the world's largest trunk, called Phetchahueng or Wan Hang Chang (letter plant–Grammatophyllum speciosum). The trunk is more than three metres tall. The stalk holding flowers is more than two metres long. A flower is about ten centimeters in diameter, having petals in green and golden yellow with scattered reddish-brown dots. Because of the fertile forest, various wild animals live here; for instance, sambar, common wild pigs, spectacled langurs, civets, and birds. The Park has Ton Phawa or Ton Wa (*Garcinia speciosa*) as a symbolic tree. The highest mountaintop is Yot Khao Ra, at a height of 627 metres, which is the main origin of water on Ko Pha-ngan. The weather is pleasantly

cool all year round. No accommodation service, only an allocated camping ground is available. For more information, please call Namtok Than Sadet-Ko Pha-ngan National Park Tel. 0 7723 8325

Interesting attractions within National Park:

Namtok Phaeng (น้ำตกแพ่ง) is the location of the Park's headquarters. This beautiful waterfall has many tiers; namely, Phaeng Noi, Than Nam Rak, and Than Kluaimai, which are among the streams of the waterfall. (Phaeng in dialect means a small layering rocky shelter that signifies the moisture of a forested land). The waterfall has flowing water all year round, showing the fertility of the forested land.

Dom Sila Viewpoint is located 500 metres from the Park's headquarters and 300 metres from Namtok Phaeng. It is a place for an impressive sunset.

Namtok Than Sadet is located in Tambon Ban Tai. King Rama V visited this waterfall and named it. It was his favourite one and he paid 14 visits throughout his reign. Furthermore, Kings Rama VI and VII with their consort queens, and King Rama IX visited and had their royal initials inscribed on the stones at the waterfall. To visit the waterfall, visitors can go by boat and car. Travelling by boat, visitors will enter Ao Than Sadet and witness the beauty of a mountain comprising boulders in striking forms, and a white sandy beach. Following the boat trip, a small walk will lead to a stream of rushing water roaring when hitting numerous rocky formations in its course. During October and January, a boat trip is impossible. In the rainy season, it will be very difficult to travel along the steep slopes and highly mountainous areas, so caution must be applied.

Khao Ra Viewpoint (จุดชมทิวทัศน์ยอดเขาตรา) Khao Ra stands at an elevation of 627 metres above sea level and covers an area of approximately 200 square metres. Visitors will enjoy hiking to the summit, an allocated camping ground, as well as, beautiful intact forest with big trees, wild orchids, and ferns, such as, Tiger orchid, Bird's nest Fern, Elk's Horn Fern, and Common Tassel Fern. At the summit, enjoy the sea of mist at sunrise and the scenery around Ao Chalok Lam and Ko Tao, see the ideal spot for the sunset with Mu Ko Ang Thong as the background.

Lord Buddha's Footprints on the Mountain at Wat Mathurawararam or Wat Maduea Wan (พระพุทธรบาทจำลองบนภูเขาวิคมธรรวารามหรือวัดมะเดื่อหวาน) is located in Mu 3, Tambon Ko Pha-ngan. A replica of the Lord Buddha's footprints is enshrined in the Mondop (square structure) on the mountaintop. Visitors can easily climb the stairs from the foot of the mountain to pay homage to the footprints. A homage paying fair is held annually.

How to Get to Ko Pha-ngan By Boat

Raja Ferry Company Limited (บริษัท ราชาเฟอร์รี่) (Surat Thani (Donsak Pier)-Ko Pha-ngan (Thong Sala Pier)) takes 2 hours and 30 minutes, 210 Baht/person. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2276 8211-2 or www.rajaferryport.com (Ko Samui (Raja Ferry Pier)-Ko Pha-ngan (Thong Sala Pier)) The trip takes 1 hour and 30 minutes, 150 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2276 8211-2 or www.rajaferryport.com

Lomprayah (บริษัท เรือเร็ว ลมพระยา จำกัด) (Bangkok-Ko Pha-ngan) 1,300 Baht/person (The ticket includes bus and ferry). For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 2569-70, 0 2629 2550-51 or www.lomprayah.com



Ko Tao

Ko Samui-Ko Pha-ngan; takes 30 minutes, 300 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 2569-70 (Bangkok Office), 0 7742 3761-2, 08 7887 9791 (Ko Pha-ngan Office) or www.lomprayah.com

Seatran Ferry Company Limited (บริษัท ซีทรานเฟอรี่ จำกัด)

(Surat Thani-Ko Pha-ngan) takes 4 hour, 550 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7795 0559 (Don Sak Pier), 0 7742 6001 (Ko Samui Pier) or www.seatranferry.com

Songserm Rungrueang (บริษัท ส่งเสริมรุ่งเรืองจำกัด) *(Bangkok-Ko Pha-ngan)* takes 18 hours, 800 Baht. (Ticket include bus and ferry) For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 3415 www.songserm.com

Ko Samui-Ko Pha-ngan; takes 45 minutes, 200 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 3415 www.songserm.com

Ko Tao (เกาะเต่า)

is an isolated island in the Gulf of Thailand, 45 kilometres northwest of Amphoe Ko Pha-ngan, 64 kilometres from Ko Samui, 110 kilometres off the coast of Surat Thani, and 74 kilometres off the coast of Chumphon. In the past, turtles came here to lay their eggs because it is a remote island with an intact environment. This was how Ko Tao or Turtle Island derived its name. It is an island of nature and has an abundance of marine life, beautiful coral reefs in shallow and deep sea, a variety of fish in

beautiful colours that divers would dream of, and many white sandy beaches for leisure. Furthermore, there are diving schools with new divers coming to learn basic skills. Many types of bungalows are on offer at different prices for visitors to choose.

Interesting attractions within Ko Tao:

Ao Tanot (อ่าวโตนด) is a bay to the east. It is a coral spot. There is a cliff that extends to Laem Thian, and beautiful scenery.

Ao Luek (อ่าวลึก) is a bay located to the southeast, surrounded by cliffs. There is a beautiful rocky cape and a coral diving site.

Laem Ta To (แหลมตาโต๊ะ) is a viewpoint on the mountaintop, overlooking the scenery of Ao Thian Ok and Ao Chalok Ban Kao. There are coconut plantations interspersed with rocks.

Hat Sai Ri (หาดทรายรี) is the longest beach with white sand and coral reefs parallel to the beach.

Laem Hin Cho Po Ro (แหลมหินจปร.) is a cape where the stone incised with the royal initials of King Rama V is located on Hat Sai Ri, as evidenced of a royal marine visit.

Kong Hin Chumphon (กองหินชุมพร) is a pile of underwater rocks away from Ko Tao in the direction to Chumphon. It takes 90 minutes for



Ko Tao

a boat trip. Coral is found in the sea at a depth of 120 feet. It abounds with fish.

How To Get to Ko Tao

From Surat Thani

Lomprayah (บริษัท เรือเร็ว ลมพระยา จำกัด)

(Surat Thani-Ko Tao) takes 5 hours 15 minutes, 800-1,000 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7737 2144-6 (Surat Thani Office), 0 7795 1129, 08 1370 4004 (Ko Tao Office) www.lomprayah.com

(Ko Samui-Ko Tao) takes 3 hours, 600 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7742 0121, 08 1079 3299 (Ko Samui Office), 0 7795 1129, 08 1370 4004 (Ko Tao Office) www.lomprayah.com

(Ko Pha-ngan-Ko Tao) takes 1 hour, 500 Baht. For more information, please call, Tel. 0 7742 3761-2, 08 7887 9791 (Ko Pha-ngan Office), 0 7795 1129, 08 1370 4004 (Ko Tao Office) www.lomprayah.com

Seatran Ferry Company Limited (บริษัท ซีทรานเฟอรี่ จำกัด)

(Surat Thani-Ko Tao) takes 4 hours, 850-900 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7795 0559 (Donsak Pier Office) www.seatran-ferry.com

(Ko Samui-Ko Tao) takes 2 hours, 600 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7742 6001 (Ko Samui Office) www.seatranferry.com

(Ko Pha-ngan-Ko Tao) takes 1 hour 30 minutes, 450 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7742 6001 (Ko Samui Office) www.seatran-ferry.com

From Chumphon

Lomprayah (บริษัท เรือเร็ว ลมพระยา จำกัด)

(Bangkok-Ko Tao) takes 9 hours, 1,100 Baht (Ticket include bus and ferry) For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 2569-70 (Bangkok Office), 0 7795 1129, 08 1370 4004 (Ko Tao Office) www.lomprayah.com

(Chumphon-Ko Tao) takes 1 hour 45 minutes, 600 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 08 1956 5644 (Chumphon Office), 0 7755 8212-3 (Ko Tao Office) www.lomprayah.com

Songserm Rungrueang (บริษัท ส่งเสริมรุ่งเรือง จำกัด)

(Chumphon-Ko Tao) Takes 2 hours 45 minutes, 500 Baht. For more information, please call Tel. 0 2629 3415 www.songserm.com

Ko Nang Yuan (เกาะนางยวน)

is an island located to the northeast of Ko Tao. It consists of three islets linked together. When the sea recedes, sandy beaches can be seen connected. It is an island of white fine sand and crystal-clear sea that mostly suits tranquility lovers. Besides, shallow and deep sea coral reefs, which are beautiful and still intact, attract a regular visit by divers. Furthermore, a scenic viewpoint enables visitors to overlook a splendid line of the island's three beaches. There is an accommodation place on the hillside managed by a private operator, which also overlooks the beauty of the sea.

Amphoe Don Sak (อำเภอดอนสัก)

Ko Nok Phao (เกาะนกผา)

is a tiny limestone island consisting of two bays: Ao Kruat and Ao Thian, which are sandy beaches alternating with rocks. There is a small community on the island. Most of the locals make a living by fishery. The community provides homestays and adventurous and natural study activities that visitors can experience the way of fisherman's life. For more inquiries, please contact Tel. 08 7627 4594

Wat Khao Suwan Pradit (วัดเขาสุวรรณประดิษฐ์)

Phrakhu Suwanpraditkan or Luangpho Choi, a famous Buddhist monk master of the South,



Ko Nang Yuan

pioneered the construction of the temple. He died in 1993 and his body has been kept in a glass coffin in the ordination hall. On the mountaintop is the pagoda where the Lord Buddha's relics, brought from Wat Phrakiat, Amphoe Hot, Chiang Mai, are enshrined. The mountaintop is accessible by car.

To get there: The temple is located around 1 kilometre from the town of Don Sak on the Surat Thani-Nakhon Si Thammarat route (Highway 401)

Stone Fish Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ปลาหิน)

is the creation by Mr. Kitti Sinudom. It was inspired by his past career as a boat captain. He carved stone into different kinds of fish and categorized them in accordance with their

habitat in the sea. Inside the Museum, there are products from the sea made by the Bang Nam Chuet Group of Housewives for sale. It is open daily from 8.00 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, Tel. 0 7737 1197.

To get there: Take Highway 4142 drive past the Don Sak District Office, keep on the way to the Ferry Pier and see the Museum on the left-hand side.

Wat Don Sak or Wat Singkhon (วัดดอนสัก หรือ วัดสิงขร)

is located at Mu 2, Tambon Don Sak, is a more than 500-year-old temple and houses a cave, called Tham Singkhon, which is believed to have been a store during the wartime in the mid-Ayutthaya period. The temple also enshrines a



Kradae Chae Monkey Training Centre

large statue of Luangpu Thuat with a measurement of 29.9 metres lap span and is 32.9 metres high for tourists to pay homage.

Ban Ko Raet Community (ชุมชนบ้านเกาะแรด) is located at Mu 3, Tambon Don Sak, is a tiny island that is approximately 700 metres from the coast. The Ban Ko Raet Community is a Thai-Hainanese fishermen's village who immigrated and made settlement here for almost 200 years. The immigrants also brought a sacred Chinese Buddha figure to worship. Therefore, the way of the local people's life is Chinese influential culture that is illustrated by the way of the construction of the wooden row houses and Chinese shrines. The Community's activities include observing the fisherman's way of living, cruising and sightseeing along the islands nearby, as well as watching dolphins. Homestays are also provided for tourists. For further inquiries, please contact Tel. 08 6945 5249

To get there: It is 2 kilometres from Amphoe Don Sak. Follow Highway No. 4142, passing the Don Sak District Office for about 2 kilometres and crossing the Chaloem Sirirat Bridge.

Ban Nang Kam Community (ชุมชนบ้านนางกำ)

is an ecotourism attraction featuring a beautiful beach, Hat Nang Kam, where visitors can swim and do many interesting activities as follows:

Marine-based tourism activities: will be guided by the people in the community to see Pacific humpback dolphin, Hin Phap Pha, Wethi Phumphueng (Phumphueng's Stage), and a freshwater pond in the middle of the sea at Ko Nui.

The Ecotourism route comprises Khao Chang's Shrine, Hat Hin Khao, Hat Thong Sai Nai, Hat Thong Sai Nok, and Tham Thong Phin including the learning activity of the Ban Nang Kam community's sufficiency economy. For more information, please contact Tel. 08 7008 4409.

To get there: From Amphoe Don Sak, follow Highway No. 4142, drive pass the entrance of the ferry pier for about 2 kilometres, there will be the signpost of Hat Nang Kam, Then make a left and go futher for about 2.7 kilometres.

Amphoe Kanchanadit (อำเภอกาญจนดิษฐ์)
Monkey Training College for Agriculture
(วิทยาลัยฝึกเลี้ยงเพื่อการเกษตร)

is located at 24, Mu 4, Tambon Thung Kong. There is a demonstration and lecture about how to train pig-tailed macaques from the beginning to working levels. For interested people, contact can be made in advance to Monkey Training College, at Tel. 08 4745 5662.

Kradae Chae Monkey Training Centre
(ศูนย์ฝึกเลี้ยงเพื่อการเกษตรกระแตจะนะ)

is located in Tambon Takhian Thong. There is a demonstration and lecture on how to train pig-tailed macaques from the beginning to working levels. A prior appointment is required, Tel. 08 9871 8017, 08 7677 3128.

Sinmana Farmstay (สินมานะ ฟาร์มสเตย์)
is located at the mouths of Khlong Tha Thong and Khlong Kradae. This is a place for the natural culture of oysters. The oysters raised from this farm are larger than those in other sites. Visitors who wish to explore the farm can contact the Sinmana Farmstay at Tel. 08 1597 7575.



Sinmana Farmstay

To get there: Take Highway no. 401 (Surat Thani-Nakhon Sri Thammarat) until Nongsuan Intersection, turn left to Amphoe Kanchanadit for another 7 kilometres to Sinmana Farmstay office and take a boat to farmstay around 30 minutes.

Amphoe Ban Na San (อำเภอบ้านนาสาร)
Tai Rom Yen National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติ
ไทร่มเย็น)

covers an area of 425 square kilometres (265,625 rai) on the Pak Khlong Nam Thao reserved forest in Amphoe Ban Na San, Amphoe Kanchanadit, and Amphoe Wiang Sa. It was declared a national park on 31 December, 1991. The Park features a fertile rainforest with important species of plants; such as, Yang (*Dipterocarpus alatus* Roxb.), Takhian (*Hopea*

odorata Roxb.), Lumpho (*Intsia palembanica* Miq.), Siat Cho (*Huia sumatrana*), Khiam (*Cotylelobium melanoxylon*), and Sato (*Parkia speciosa* Hassk). The mountaintop is covered with clouds and mist almost all year round and a hill evergreen forest is found here with some species of plants; such as, Mueat (*Helicia excelsa* (Roxb.), Kamyam (*Boswellia sacra*), and Mangtan. This is the origin of the Tapi River. Most of the areas are igneous rocks as a result of the extrusion of the earth's surface and eruption of a volcano. The Park is under the influence of the monsoon; it has two seasons: summer from January to April and the rainy season from May to December. Wild animals commonly found here include serows, barking deer, mouse deer, common wild pigs, elephants, Malayan tapirs, and tigers. In addition, there are former camps



Namtok Dat Fa, Tai Rom Yen National Park

of the Communist Party: Khai 180 and Khai 357. Admission fee for Adult 200 Baht. for Children 100 Baht. Accommodation and tent service are available. For more information, please contact Tai Rom Yen National Park Tel. 0 7734 4633 www.dnp.go.th

Interesting attractions within National Park:

Namtok Dat Fa (น้ำตกตาดฟ้า) is the largest and highest waterfall in Surat Thani. It has 22 tiers; the top tier features an 80-metres high cliff face. In the rainy season, mass rushing water flows down the whole towering cliff as if it cascaded from the sky. So the waterfall is named “Dat Fa” which means coming from the sky. It also serves as a nature study trail. The path extends over 15 kilometres and takes 2 walking days and a one-night stay in the forest, starting from Khao Nam Toei to Namtok Dat Fa.

Khao Nong (เขานอง) is the highest mountain in Surat Thani. With a height of 1,530 metres, its tip is clad in clouds and mist amidst moist coldness all year round. Trees of the hill evergreen forest are thickened with moss and lichen. Visitors can enjoy hiking, nature study, as well as, bird and butterfly watching.

Tham Khamin or Tham Men (ถ้ำขมิ้น) is a cave having its name relating to the pungent droppings of the many bats living inside. This cave is a prominent tourist spot of the Park. It is a spacious limestone cave of 2 kilometres long. Beautiful stalactites and stalagmites can be seen in the cave. Besides, the Than Khun Shrine at the mouth of the cave is a place of worship of the villagers. Lan Rot Chip is a large chamber with traces of a Jeep used during the concession period of bat droppings. Lan Than Khun

features a limestone embankment with large-scale stalactites and stalagmites called “Sao Ek” (a major pillar) and “Lak Chai” (a victory post). Chong Fa is a hole going through the cave’s ceiling. Man Si Chomphu depicts a pink wavy limestone curtain resembling an image of the Lord Buddha in the posture of meditation. Man Fa features a giant curtain of stalactites of which some parts look like a head of an elephant. A campsite is available in the area of the cave.

San Yen (สันเขื่อน) A ridge on the east side of the park between Surat Thani and Nakhon Si Thammarat with a length of about 40 kilometres. From a distance, it appears like a smooth unbroken length. Prominent features include an elevation from 1,000 to 1,300 metres above

sea level, as well as, distinctive wildlife and plant species, many of which cannot be found in the forest.

Namtok Mueang Thuat (น้ำตกเหมืองทวด) is located at Ban Mueang Thuat, Tambon Phoemphun Sap, is a 7-tiered waterfall of 20 metres high with shady trees and beautiful plunge pool.

Suan Sala Artit (สวนสละอาทิตย์) in Tambon Khlong Prap, is an agro-tourism attraction that is not only malacca orchard, but also a complete agricultural learning centre, starting from a concept of the production process to the end of the finished products. The orchard is enhanced with a traditional Thai



Lan Rot Chip, Tham Khamin or Tham Men



Li Let Village Ecotourism

house amidst a shady atmosphere and provides a spot for seeing albino buffaloes and feeding fish and lamps. Open daily from 7.00 a.m.-7.00 p.m. without charge.

Amphoe Phunphin (อำเภอพุนพิน)
Li Let Village Ecotourism (แหล่งท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ธรรมชาติหมู่บ้านลิเล็ด)

is located in Tambon Li Let, covering six sub-districts. The villagers here mostly earn

their living from fishing, shrimp farming, and coconut plantations. There are various ecotourism activities; such as, a cruise to see a mangrove forest and fireflies, and a tour to admire ancient monuments and objects; for example, Wat Khao Si Wichai and Wat Khao Phra Anon. Besides, visitors can see and learn about the local handicrafts of the group of housewives, as well as the way of life. For more information, contact the Li Let Community Office: Tour for



Tha Sathon Hot Wells

Conservation, Mu 5 Tambon Li Let, Tel. 06 1174 7445, 09 5257 4428

To get there: Take Highway no. 417 (Surat Thani-Phunphin) across the bridge (Tapi River) around 10 kilometres and turn left At Ban Bang Phla junction, keep going for 20 kilometres will be arrive Li Let Village.

Tha Sathon Hot Wells (บ่อน้ำร้อนท่าสะทอน)

is located in Ban Bo Krang, Tambon Tha Sathon. The site has been landscaped by the Surat Thani Provincial Administration Organization as a health attraction to service the general public and tourists. It offers wells of hot mineral water at a temperature of 70°Celsius for bathing and soaking one's feet, a public park and playground. Furthermore, houses are on offer for those who come for natural mineral treatment.

To get there: Take Highway 41, then turn left to Tha Sathon Sub-district Administration Organization for around 4 kilometres.

Wat Khao Srivijaya (วัดเขาศรีวิชัย)

is located in Tambon Si Wichai, an important archaeological evidence around 13th-16th centuries in Srivijaya Kingdom. There are many antiquities, Such as; a statue of Vishnu on the top of the ruins, the Yoni base. In 1975 excavated an ancient beads assumed that the trade has been around this area since ancient times.

Amphoe Khian Sa (อำเภอเคียนซา)

Talat Chan Kapho or Lat Chan Kapho

(ตลาดจันทน์กะพ้อ หรือ ตลาดจันทน์กะพ้อ)

is located at Mu 1, Talat Kao Khian Sa Road, Tambon Khian Sa, is a Pracharath Green Market that mostly sells local and traditional products

whereas vendors from various communities sell old-styled food and desserts in the old wooden houses environment. The market is divided into various zones; such as, OTOP products, performance stage, demonstrations from communities, as well as photograph corners and rest area for families. The market is open every Sunday from 1.00-8.00 p.m.

Nong Thung Thong Non-hunting Area

(เขตห้ามล่าสัตว์ป่าหนองทุ่งทอง)

is located in Tambon Khao Tok on an area of 62 square kilometers (38,438 rai). It was declared a wildlife sanctuary on 24 September, 1975. Most of the areas are lowlands with swamps. There are as many as 5 giant swamps which are the habitats of birds and aquatic creatures; the largest one is Nong Thung Thong, covering an area of 4 square kilometers (2,500 rai). A valuable and prohibited plant found here is Chankapho (*Vatica diospyroides* Symington). Wild animals living here include Pet Daeng (lesser whistling duck), Yang Thon Yai (great egret), Nak Lek Lep San (oriental small-clawed otter), and Nok Yang Krok Phan Chin (Chinese pond heron). There are over 70 species of birds that usually migrate from temperate zones. The period with the most number of birds is from October to March. The Park also has a natural hot spring at a temperature of 50-60° Celsius, and a nature study trail to the hot spring. This easy-walking even path is equipped with interpretation signs along the distance of 1 kilometre.

514 Base Historical Learning Centre (ศูนย์

เรียนรู้และท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ประวัติศาสตร์ ค่าย ๕๑๔)

is located at Mu 5, Tambon Ban Sadet, this learning centre formerly served as the People's

Liberation Army 514 Camp. With its intact tropical rainforest feature, the Centre provides information on the tropical rainforest's ecosystem, social history, fighter and mass struggle during the movement of the Communist Party of Thailand, folk wisdom, indigenous values, and the concept of sacrifice.

Amphoe Phanom (อำเภอพนม)

Khao Sok National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติเขาสก)

covers an area of 738.74 square kilometres (461,712 rai) in Amphoe Ban Ta Khun and Amphoe Phanom. It was declared the 22nd national park of Thailand on 2 August, 1994. Its general features are earth mounds and high overlapping limestone mountains with sheer cliff faces. To the north is a large lake created by the construction of the Rajjaprabha Dam. The Park abounds with flora and fauna. Rare species of plants found in the Park area include Pam Lang Khao (*Kerriodoxa elegans* Dransfield) and Bua Phut (*Rafflesia Kerrii* Meijer), a flowering plant having a giant flower of 10-25 inches in diameter, seen in bloom on earth during November to January. Interesting rare species of animals are Kop Thut (*Rana blythii* Boulenger) and Pla Mangkon (Malayan bonytonque). Furthermore, the Park has offered interesting activities; such as, whitewater rafting, forest trekking, elephant riding, bird-watching, and walking the nature trail.

Admission fee for Adult 300 Baht for Children 150 Baht. Accommodation and tent service are available. For more information, please contact Khao Sok National Park Tel. 0 7739 5139, 0 7739 5154-5 www.dnp.go.th

To get there: Take Highway no. 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa) around Km.109 turn right for 1.5 kilometres will be arrive at national park.

Interesting attractions within National Park:

Namtok Bang Hua Raet, and Namtok Wing Hin (น้ำตกบางหัวแรดและน้ำตกวังหิน) Namtok Bang Hua Raet is a beautiful two-tiered waterfall of average height. The first tier flows from Bang Hua Raet into Khlong Sok and the second layer is in Khlong Sok. It has flowing water all year round. Namtok Bang Hua Raet merges with Namtok Wing Hin around 120 metres down below. Above this point 40 metres away there is a pool for swimming called “Wang Yao,” which

is 3 kilometres from the Park’s headquarters.

Tang Nam (ตั่งน้ำ) features separated parts of the mountain as a result of erosion by water, which has become two cliffs facing each other with Khlong Sok flowing through them. It is about 6 kilometres from the Park’s headquarters, or around 3.2 kilometres from Namtok Wing Hin, and accessible on foot.

Namtok Than Sawan (น้ำตกธารสวรรค์) rushes down over a sheer cliff, like a rainbow curve, into Khlong Sok. It is about 6 kilometres from



Namtok Bang Hua Raet, and Namtok Wing Hin , Khao Sok National Park



Tang Nam, Khao Sok National Park

the Park's headquarters, or around 1 kilometre from Tang Nam.

Namtok Ton Kloei (น้ำตกโตนกลอย) originates from Khlong Sok. It is a one-tier waterfall with a stony ground for visitors to take a rest beside it. It is about 7 kilometres from the Park's headquarters and 1 kilometre from Tang Nam.

Namtok Sip Et Chan (น้ำตกสิบเอ็ดชั้น) is 4 kilometres from the Park's headquarters. It is a waterfall flowing along the cliff in layers that looks like the stairs of 11 steps. At the bottom, there is a pool for swimming. It is accessible on foot.

Namtok Maeyai (น้ำตกเม้ยาย) is 5.5 kilometres from the Park's headquarters. This is a one-tiered waterfall around 30 metres in height

and accessible by car. It is situated on the Surat Thani-Takua Pa Road, at Km 113.

Khlong Phanom National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติคลองพนม)

was declared a national park on 15 November, 2000. It is spread over the area in three sub-districts of Amphoe Phanom; namely, Tambon Khlong Sok, Tambon Phanom, and Tambon Phlu Thuean. The Park encompasses an area of 410.4 square kilometres (256,500 rai), featuring overlapping limestone mountains and forests rich in a variety of large trees. The forest is wild and shady. There are many small and large streams. The streams flow to merge with Khlong Sok that



Rafflesia Kerrii Meijer or Bua Phut

runs to meet Khlong Saeng, the origin of Khlong Phum Duang that is part of the Tapi River.

Admission fee for Adult 100 Baht for Children 50 Baht. Accommodation and tent service are available. For more information, please contact Khlong Phanom National Park Tel. 0 7791 8559 www.dnp.go.th

To get there: Follow Highway 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa), the same route to the Khao Sok National Park and take a left turn at Km 90 for 50 metres before reaching the Park's headquarters.

Interesting attractions within National Park:

Tham Kaeo (ถ้ำแก้ว) is situated 2 kilometres from the park's headquarters. To reach this cave, visitors must take a 30-minute walk along the high steep ridge of the mountain for 919 metres. The cave consists of many chambers with stalactites and stalagmites in different shapes of which the chambers were named after. For example, *Tham Kaeo* was named after the cave's wall that looks like folds of a curtain and its stone flakes that sparkle like a crystal or Kaeo. *Klet Kaeo* is a chamber filled with the sparkling lights of stone flakes on the stalactites and stalagmites. *Hong Ruesi* has a hermit-like stone. *Hong Manam* boasts stalactites in the shape of hundreds of seahorses astonishingly staying together. *Hong Mo Ya* is a chamber with medicine pot-shaped stalagmites, and some villagers have brought tiny pieces of soil and stone found in this imaginary medicine pot for medical treatment.

Tham Nam Lot Khao Wong (ถ้ำน้ำลอดเขาวงกต) This cave with water flowing through is situated 5 kilometres from the Ranger Station Kho Pho 1 (Ban Khlong Phanom). Visitors will find stalactite and stalagmite formations, as well as, a bat colony, along their 40-minute walk through the cave. The other side of the cave

sees 1,000 rai of the defunct communist camp site-with its exclusively entrance from this cave-surrounded by mountains.

Namtok Khao Wong (น้ำตกเขาวง) is located just 2 kilometres from Tham Nam Lot Khao Wong, this 8-tiered waterfall and also the watershed of Khlong Phanom cascades from a high cliff to the creek below. Its continuous flow of water that runs along Tham Nam Lot Khao Wong passes through the agricultural area of the communist insurgents' camp aka Khai Khao Wong.

Namtok Ton Sai (น้ำตกตื้นไทร) is a 12-tiered waterfall with water seepage all year round. It boasts the natural beauty of forests and is a sanctuary for wildlife and different species of birds. Banyan trees are abundant here. It is located 3.5 kilometres from Ban Saphan Nak-accessible by car-at Mu 5, Tambon Khlong Sok. Visitors can then access the 2-hour path from this village.

Rafflesia Kerrii Meijer or Bua Phut" Hiking Trail (เส้นทางเดินป่าเพื่อไปชมบัวผุด) One of the biggest flowers, this parasitic plant is completely dependent on its host plant 'Tetrastigma papillosum Planch' for water. They usually bloom during November-May as the weather conditions influence moisture contents in the soil. Bua Phut is abundant on the mountain of Ban Tham Phueng, Mu 6, Tambon Khlong Sok, Amphoe Phanom.

Nature Study Trail: "Ton Mai Yai or Big Tree" Hiking Trail (เส้นทางศึกษาธรรมชาติ "ต้นไม้ใหญ่") With its starting point 200 metres from the park's headquarters, trekkers can enjoy the 2-kilometre walk. Outstanding features include the Mersawa tree with a girth of 12 metres, scenic viewpoint from the rocks, dense lush jungle, and pleasant relaxing spots along the path.



Khao Na Nai Luang Dhamma Park

Ban Tham Phueng (บ้านท่าผึ้ง)

is located in Mu 5, Tambon Ton Yuan. This village was named after a mountain. There are many caves and bees-Phueng-living here. An interesting ecotourism attraction is a pool of pressure and sucking sand or a cool spring. The pool is about 4 metres deep, and there is a natural force of pressure at the bottom that moves the sand up all the time. Other attractive places include Namtok Than Bang Khui or Than Phrueksa, Tham Nam Lot, Tham Samoraphum, Phru Nam Ron (hot peat swamp), Namtok Hin Lat, and Nam Phut (small spring). Homestay accommodation and a campsite are available here. The famous OTOP product is honey. For more information, contact Tel. 0 7739 9994, 08 9290 9420

To get there: Take Highway 401 and turn left at Km 63 to follow Ro Pho Cho Road for 10 kilometres.

Khao Na Nai Luang Dhamma Park (อุทยานธรรมเขานาในหลวง)

is located at Mu 8 Tambon Ton Yuan, is a dhamma practicesite founded by a monk, Phra A-Chan Phrai. He and the villagers joined hands to build Phra Phuttha Silawadi, a stupa enshrining the Buddha relics, on the limestone mountaintop. The goal is to build 7 stupas in total, in which each of them will have a different name and shape. The surrounding nature gives a pleasant atmosphere. In the morning, there will be the sea of mist around the area, which make it feel like watching the stupa floating in

the sky. For more information, please call Tel. 06 2873 7135.

To get there: Follow Highway No. 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa) continue driving past the entrance of the Rajjaprabha Dam for about 3 kilometres, make a left turn onto Highway No.4246 and go for about 20 kilometres to reach the Khao Na Nai Luang Dhamma Park.

Amphoe Ban Ta Khun (อำเภอบ้านตาขุน)
Rajjaprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam (เขื่อน
รัชชประภาหรือเขื่อนเชี่ยวหลาน)

is located in the area of the Electricity Authority of Thailand (EGAT) in Mu 3, Tambon Khao Phang, It is a multipurpose dam with a rockfill central clay core, 95 metres high and 700 metres

long. The dam area and reservoir are shady with large trees and a beautiful garden. With striking limestone mountains outcrop in the dam and natural beauty amidst the seemingly cool turquoise lake, as its name Thailand's Guilin, resembling those in Guilin of China. This is an ideal place for leisure.

In the area of Rajjaprabha Dam, there are many accommodations and a long-tail boat service for excursion to the dam. Visitors can take a boat at Chiao Lan Municipality Pier. For more information, please call 0 7791 8036.

Khao Sok National Park Ranger Station: such as; Nang Phrai Raft, Kraison Raft, Ton Toei Raft etc. For more information, please call Tel. 07739 5154-5 or www.dnp.go.th



Rajjaprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam

EGAT has accommodation and interesting activities on offer for visitors. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7724 2555-9, 0 7724 2561 Another accommodations such as; 500 Rai Floating Raft, Khiri Vari Raft, Phutawan Raft, Sai Chon Raft etc. are offer tour package (accommodation include boat service). Visitor can contact directly at each raft.

To get there: Follow Highway 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa) and turn right at Km 60 at T-juction (with a Rajjaprabha Dam signboard) to rural road no. 3062 with another 14 kilometres will reach to Chiao Lan Municipality Pier.

Khao Thep Phithak Bridge (สะพานเขาเทพพิทักษ์)

is located at Mu 1, Tambon Khao Phang (behind Wat Khao Phang), is the 120-metre-long suspension bridge using large wire cables anchored to the concrete pillars. Embraced by the nature, the Bridge was built for the local people to cross over Khlong Phra Saeng with the spectacular background of the heats-shaped mountain.



Khao Thep Phithak Bridge



Wat Tham Singkhon Ancient Monument

Amphoe Khiri Rat Nikhom (อำเภอ
คีรีรัฐนิคม)

Khlong Nam Sai (คลองน้ำใส)

is a canal located in Mu 5, Tambon Tham Singkhon. It looks like a freshwater canal in general, but its water is so clear that one can see to the bottom. Its watercourse is about 5 kilometres long and 1.30 metres deep. The water originates from a spring coming out of the root of a banyan tree which is around 100 metres from the swimming point and flow in to Khlong Phum Duang Canal.

To get there: Take Highway no, 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa) around Km. 109 turn left to Khlong Nam Sai for another 2 kilometres.

Wat Tham Singkhon Ancient Monument
(วัดตำสิงขร)

is a cave temple located in Mu 5, Tambon Tham Singkhon. Its antiquity can tell a long history of the communities that have existed in the basin of Khlong Yan (Khlong Khayan) and the KhiriRat River for hundreds of years. The cave houses many stucco images of Lord Buddha in different patterns and sizes. The important one is a large Buddha statue seated in the European style. Close to the cave wall on the left-hand side, there are at least six stucco standing elephant figures. On the wall on the right-hand side and in the hole of stalactites in the middle of the cave are stucco images of deities, demons, and Mother Earth, surrounding Lord Buddha. On the



Hin Phat

cave ceiling are stucco and spiral motifs and decorated ceramic crockery.

To get there: The temple is 12 kilometres from the town of Khiri Rat Nikhom. Follow the Highway 401 (Surat Thani-Takua Pa) to Km 34-35 and take a turn off the main road toward the temple for around 2 kilometres.

Hin Phat (หินพัด)

is located at Mu 13, Ban Yuan Sao, Tambon Tha Khanom, is an approximately 8-metre-high large fan-shaped stone lying upon another stone. In the morning, there will be a sea of mist flowing around the area. It is another amazing spot for watching the sunrise. To reach there, visitors have to park their cars at the parking space and rent a four-wheeled drive vehicle of villagers at 200 Baht per car.

Watershed Forest Ban Nam Rat (ป่าต้นน้ำบ้านน้ำราด)

in Tambon Ban Thamniap, features a natural blue-crystal-clear pond with sand at the bottom in the watershed forest. Visitors can enjoy paddling a boat and must strictly follow the regulations to preserve the natural resources in the area. Food and alcohol beverages are not allowed. Admission is free of charge.

Amphoe Vibhavadi (อำเภอวิภาวดี)

Kaeng Krung National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติแก่งกรุง)

is located in Mu 8, Tambon Takuk Nuea, covers an area of 541 square kilometres (338,125 rai). Located in the Park area are large rapids called "Chiao Krung or Kaeng Krung," featuring

emerging rock formations against the waterway. Kaeng Krung is the most enjoyable rapids on the route of whitewater rafting. The banks are covered with a tropical rainforest. Apart from beautiful views along the path parallel to Khlong Yan, there are interesting species of plants, and traces of wild animal can be found on the sandy banks.

Admission fee for Adult 100 Baht. for Children 50 Baht. Accommodation and tent service are available. For more information, please contact Kaeng Krung National Park Tel. 0 7791 8063, 09 0878 0774 www.dnp.go.th

Interesting attractions within National Park:

Namtok Bang Cham (น้ำตกบางจำ) This medium-sized waterfall is located in Tambon Takuk Nuea. Its water plummets in large volumes only during the monsoon season, in which water from various streams runs across the valley in the village, flowing into a small canal, plunging off the cliffs to the valley below, and finally merging with Khlong Yan in the area of the Bang Cham Rapids.

Hot Spring (บ่อน้ำร้อน) is located in Tambon Takuk Nuea, this hot spring springs up from the ground with a temperature of 40 degrees





Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratchaworawihan

Celsius, laced with sulphur. The area around the pond is a large salt marsh with an area of 2 rai. The salt lick here attracts many wild animals.

Khlong Yan (ลำน้ำคลองยัน) White water rafting in Khlong Yan, which is situated in Tambon Takuk Nuea, is available all year round with many rapids and the banks are covered with a tropical rainforest. Kaeng Krung Rapids, in which turbulent water steadily slows down and paddlers can enjoy the view.

Namtok Vibhavadi (น้ำตกวิภาวดี) is a waterfall that originates from the Daen Mountain Range and flows along Khlong Phai. It has nine tiers and each of them is high and very beautiful. The most beautiful one is the second tier which features rushing water flowing down over a cliff with a pool for swimming. The waterfall is

approximately 15-20 metres high. It is located in a reserved forest that is rich in various large trees to provide moisture, and worth a visit for leisure.

To get there: Take Highway no. 4262, same route as Kaeng Krung National Park until T-junction Ban Pak Pai-Ban Namtok Vibhavadi and turn right to Ro Pho Cho Road 3176 around 8.5 kilometres.

Amphoe Chaiya (อำเภอไชยา)
Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratchaworawihan (วัดพระบรมธาตุไชยาราชวรวิหาร)

is located in Tambon Wiang. The pagoda here is an ancient monument built with the influence of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism in the Srivijaya period. The pagoda is surrounded by small pagodas in the four cardinal directions,

and a cloister where ancient Buddha images in different sizes are housed goes around the four sides. The pagoda is a revered monument of importance in Buddhism of Surat Thani.

To get there: Take Highway no. 41 (Surat Thaini-Chaiya) turn right at Chaiya intersection, entering to highway 4011 for 2 kilometres. The temple is located on the right.

Chaiya National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติไชยา)

is located in Tambon Wiang, opposite Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratchaworawihan. This is a national museum in the category of

history and archaeology. The first building on the front part displays stone and bronze sculptures excavated from the old town of Chaiya; such as, statues of Vishnu and the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara. The second building exhibits pre-historic evidence and artefacts from the proto-historic periods of Dvaravati, Srivijaya, down to Lop Buri, Sukhothai, and Ayutthaya. Besides, many fine arts are on display. The Museum is open to the public from 8.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.; it is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and national holidays. Admission is 100 baht. For more information Tel. 0 7743 0166





Wat Rattanaram or Wat Kaeo

Wat Rattanaram or Wat Kaeo (วัดรัตนาราม หรือวัดแก้ว)

is located in Ban Wat Kaeo, Tambon Lamet, about 1 kilometre from Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya. It is unknown when this ancient temple was built. It is surmised that the pagoda here would have been constructed in the same period as the one at Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya, between the 14th-15th century. It is an important ancient monument with the influence of Srivijaya architecture. This brick pagoda stands on a square base with porticoes on four sides and 12 indented corners. From the eastern entrance arch, there is a path to the central chamber of the pagoda. A Buddha image in the posture of subduing Mara is housed in every niche inside. The Archaeo-

logical Division of the Fine Arts Department excavated and renovated the pagoda site during 1976-1979.

Lamet Community Ecotourism Group

(กลุ่มท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ชุมชนเลม็ด)

is located at Mu 7, Ban Sai Ngam, Tambon Lamet, is an agro-tourism attraction and producer of the Chaya fragrant rice, local breed rice that contains a good smell. Currently, their rice production has been supported for conservation. The community is a learning centre of the way of living rice farming. In addition, there is the Chaiya salted egg, a local all-known 4-star OTOP product by the O So Mo Community Enterprise Group. The salted egg are made from duck eggs and covers with soil

mixed in salty water to produce a good taste. For more information, please call Tel. 06 3274 8172

Ban Phum Riang Ecotourism Group (กลุ่มท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์บ้านพุมเรียง)

in Tambon Phum Riang, is a Thai Buddhist-Muslim culture community that offers various activities as follows:

Local Fishery: is a major occupation of the locals. The project of the Blue swimmer crabs bank was initiated. The crabs that are captured will be raised for eggs producing and hatching. It also features a floating fish basket and showcases the local fishing tools for educational purposes.

About 30 minutes from the Laem Pho coast is Ko Set, an aquatic animal nursery that is important to the Phum Riang community and a sea people's shelter from monsoons. Tourists can rent a boat from the village to visit this island. When the tide recedes, visitors can enjoy the learning activity of how to do shellfish ranking, in which the shellfish can be cooked for eating.

Follow the path of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu: the late revered monk born in Phum Riang played an important role in the Buddhist religion. The highlights are Wat Ubon or Wat Nok, a temple that Buddhadasa ordained to become a monk. Nowadays, this temple is no longer operating



Phum Riang silk fabric



Suan Mokkhaphalaram

and is now part of Wat Phum Rieng; only the ubosot remains. The first Suan Mokkhaphalaram (Wat Trapang Chik) is the first established Suan Mokkh for Dhamma practice; however, it was moved to merge with the new Suan Mokkh that is located near Amphoe Chaya.

Phum Rieng silk fabric: is a famous local product of the community and the province. The fabric's uniqueness is gold-silver braided fabric with the Phum Rieng original designs; namely, Ratchawat, Dok Khom, Dok Phikun, Nopphakao, and Yok Bet. Interested persons can observe the weaving process.

For more information, please contact the Ban Phum Rieng Ecotourism Group at Tel. 09 2397 3969 and 09 9319 9570.

To get there: Follow Highway No. 4011, the same route as Wat Phraborommathat Chaiya. It is about 16 kilometres from the temple.

Suan Mokkhaphalaram (สวนโมกขพลาราม) is located on Highway 41 at Km 134. Initially, it was named Wat Than Nam Lai. The revered monk master Phutthathat Phikkhu-Buddha dasa-built the temple in 1932 to be a place for retreat for peace and studying Dharma. There

is a spiritual entertainment hall comprising paintings of art, poems, Buddhist doctrines and teachings in different sects of Buddhism, scenes of Lord Buddha's history, and models of carved stones depicting the Lord Buddha's life in India. The surrounding area is pleasantly shady and is suitable for mind practice and Buddhism study. There is a meditation practice training course for foreigners from the 1st-10th days, and for Thais from the 19th-27th days, of every month during 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. For more information, please call Tel. 0 7743 1552, 0 7743 1597

MAJOR EVENTS

Khao Sok Eco Festival (เทศกาลท่องเที่ยวชมดอกไม้ผูดมบน) is held every February at the Khao Sok National Park. The Festival is aimed at publicising the Khao Sok travelling season and promoting attractions in Amphoe Phanom. The activities include trekking in the nature on the route of the Bua Phut (*Rafflesia kerri*) flower, tourism promotion activities, exhibition educating about nature and the OTOP product fair.

Surat Bike Week (งานสุราษฎร์ฯ ไบค์ วิค) is held in February at the field near the Wang Tai Hotel with the purpose of province's tourism promotion, safe driving campaign, as well as fundraising for purchasing medical equipment. The event involves a big bike contest, music performance, planting in the city, and selling souvenirs.

Surat Thani Kite Festival at Tha Chana Beach (มหกรรมว่านานาชาติ ท่าชนะ) is organised during February-March at Hat Samret, Amphoe Tha Chana. The festival features different kinds of kites; such as international fancy kites, a kite

show with light and sound, the battle between the Chula kite and Pakpao kite, the kite show with jet-ski etc.

Hae Pha Hom Pharthat Si Surat Lae Thammachat Khao Tha Phet Fair (งานประเพณีแห่ผ้าห่มพระธาตุศรีสุราษฎร์และธรรมชาติเขาท่าเพชร) is held in March at the area of Phrathat Si Surat Khao Tha Phet, Amphora Mueang Surat Thani, with the purpose for people to pay homage to the Phrathat and promote the province's tourism. For further details, please contact the Cultural Office of Surat Thani at Tel. 0 7728 9863.

Surat Thani Food Fair (งานสุราษฎร์ธานี ฟู๊ดแฟร์) is annually held in March at Pla Wan Pier near Tapi River Dam. The fair offers local food, fresh seafood stalls from famous restaurants of the town, OTOP products, local food for health, cooking contest by junior chefs, and art and cultural stage performances by famous artists. For more information, please contact the Surat Thani Chamber of Commerce at Tel. 0 7721 6721.

Ko Samui Mitnight Run (งานแข่งขันวิ่ง เกาะสมุย มิติไนท์ รัน) take place in March by the Thai Hotels Association and Tourism Association of Ko Samui, and is a running competition for 5-kilometre and 10-kilometre distances at the beach road of Hat Chaweng. The revenue from the running fest will be donated to charity.

Ko Tao Festival (งานเปิดโลกใต้ทะเล เกาะเต่า) is held in March at Hat Sai Ri with the aim of creating consciousness and participation in the natural resourced conservation. The activities include planting reefs, collecting debris under the sea, a conservation exhibition

by communities and related agencies, learning how to dive eco-friendly, and music performance.

Samui Coconut Festival (มหกรรมมะพร้าว ชาวสมุย) organised in March at the Central Festival Samui to promote tourism and make tourist recognise the wide range of benefits of coconuts, a symbol of Ko Samui. The Festival includes coconut made products and souvenirs with the way of the community's life, showcase of coconut products for tourism, and food, beauty and health merchandise from coconuts.

Ko Pha-Ngan Colour Moon Festival (งานประจันตรหลากสีที่พะงัน) is held in April at the Thong Sala Port, Ko Pha-Ngan, as an invitation for tourists to know Pha naan in new perspective, as well as, to receive energy from the moon for 5 days and nights. The Festival aims at publicising the attractions in the community and the community's original traditions. There are also exhibitions, performances, a photo contest, showcase of the Pha-Ngan arts and crafts, local handiworks on sale, a fireball show, and Thai boxing show. For more information, please contact the Ko Pha-Ngan Hotels Association at Tel. 0 7737 7815.

Samui Regatta (งานแข่งขันเรือใบ สมุยรีกัตต้า) taking place in May at Hat Chaweng is yacht racing with competitions from more than 20 countries to promote the tourism attractions of Ko Samui and generate revenue to the local community.

Chak Phra Festival and Surat Thani Boat Races (ประเพณีชักพระทอดผ้าป่าและแข่งเรือยาว) is held on the end of Buddhist Lent Day (the first

day of the waning moon the 11th lunar month) at the embarkment of the Tapi River. The main activity that people in the city join is they will prepare more than 1,000 Pha Pa trees and arrange the parade of Buddha images floats from more than 100 temples. Other activities also include a contest of Pha Pa tree decorations, car floats, boat races, handicraft demonstrations and local product stalls.

Na San Rambutan Fair (งานวันเงาะโรงเรียนนาสาร) is held during July at the bank of Khlong Chawang, Na San City Municipality. The Fair features an agricultural exhibition and sells rambutan harvest and other agricultural products as well as Rambutan Beauty Contest.



Chaiya Salted Eggs

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Chaiya Salted Eggs (ไข่เค็มไชยา) is a famous product of Amphoe Chaiya, the people of Chaiya mostly raised ducks, and there were so many eggs in the market that they were sold cheaply. Therefore, the people tried to preserve the eggs. As a result, they found a way to make salted eggs. The salted eggs here are fresh and delicious, without a fishy taste like duck eggs in general.

Phumriang Silk Cloth (ผ้าไหมพุมเรียง) in Tambon Phumriang, Amphoe Chaiya. Silk cloth-weaving is the handiwork of Thai-Muslim villagers. Silk threads are ordered from Bangkok to be woven by the villagers using a local shuttle loom called Ki Kratuk. Most woven patterns include Lai Ratchawat, Lai Dok Phikun, Lai Nopphakao, and Lai Yok Bet, which have been inherited from the forebears who wove the fabric for nobles in the past. New patterns have been developed to meet the market demand.

Tha Krachai Woven-cloth (ผ้าทอท่ากระจ่าย) originated from the weaving of cloth for household use. It was later developed to have various patterns which are beautiful, unique, and fashionable. The fabric was the winner of the OTOP Award of the Southern Region in 2003.

Para-rubber Leaf Butterflies (ผีเสื้อใบยางพารา) are products made from falling leaves of Para-rubber trees, a cash crop of the South. After being bleached, the beautiful leaves will be made into different forms of souvenirs; such as, butterflies, flowers, etc.

Bulrush Wickerwork (ผลิตภัณฑ์จักสานจากกระจูด) are made from bulrush which is commonly found in Tha Sathon. The forebears brought it to weave a mat. Later, bulrush was transformed by local wisdom into various products. The village of Tha Sathon was selected as a handicraft village in 2002. Its bulrush products are popular locally and overseas.

Kalamae (กะละแม) is a traditional dessert with coconut milk as the main ingredient. Ko Samui is rich in coconut trees. The sweet is made and sold locally. Its sweet and creamy taste plus freshness make it popular and suitable for a souvenir.

Oysters (หอยนางรม) in Tambon Kadae, Amphoe Kanchanadit. Since the location is next to the mouth of the river, oysters abound here. A number of oyster farms are found in the Ban Don bay area. The oysters here are clean, large, and delicious. They are healthy food, and are mostly eaten fresh, or added to an omelette.

Processed Seafood Products (ผลิตภัณฑ์อาหารทะเลแปรรูป) in Amphoe Don Sak. The district of Don Sak is located on the Gulf of Thailand coast which is rich in fresh food from the sea. The villagers here have processed seafood into products; such as, seasoned fish, flossy fish, seasoned squid, salted fish viscera, shrimp paste, dried shrimp, dried squid, etc., which are easy for eating and keeping.

Coconut Wooden Products (ผลิตภัณฑ์ไม้มะพร้าว) are souvenirs and utensils made from coconut wood; such as, bowls, plates, cups, sets of coffee cups, etc., which are beautiful, solid, and durable.

SOUVENIRS SHOP

Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani

Roi Ko Center By pass Road, Tambon Makham Tia, open 7.00 a.m.-7.00 p.m. Tel. 09 1825 6138

Amphoe Phunphin

Rattana Kanomthai in front of Suan Saran Rom Hospital, Tambon Tha kham. Tel. 0 7724 0545

Tha Sathon Bulrush Wickerwork Group

Ban Bo Krang, Tambon Tha Sathon. Tel. 08 1892 4677, 08 926 1175

Amphoe Tha Chang

Mae Jit Tel. 08 1415 1336, 08 1958 9651

Amphoe Chaiya

Jutima (Chaiya Salted Eggs) Tambon lamed Tel. 0 7743 1543, 08 1569 5220

Wanna Silk (Phumriang Silk Cloth) Tel. 0 7743 1359

Amphoe Tha Chana

Tha Krachai Cloth-weaving Group Tel. 0 773888 1395

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Programme 1

Rajjaprabha Dam-Surat Thani 3 days 2 nights

Day 1

- 8.00 a.m. Depart from Donmueang Airport to Surat Thani Airport
- 11.00 a.m. Depart for Rajjaprabha Dam in Amphoe Ban Ta Khun.
- 2.00 p.m. Arrive at the Rajjaprabha Dam.
- 3.00 p.m. Take a boat ride to the raft.

- 5.00 p.m. Enjoy swimming, boating and relaxing
- 6.00 p.m. Stay overnight in Rajjaprabha Dam.

Day 2

- 9.00 a.m. Take a boat ride to sightseeing the scenery of undulated limestone mountain ranges that are so stunning that it is called "Kui Lin of Thailand"
- 11.30 a.m. Continue to Khao Thep Phithak Bridge with the spectacular background of the heats-shaped mountain.
- 3.00 p.m. Visit Khlong Nam Sai, Amphoe Khiri Rat Nikhom
- 5.00 p.m. Stay overnight in Amphoe Phunphin.

Day 3

- 8.00 a.m. Depart for Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani to Ecotourism Bang Bai Mai Community
- 10.00 a.m. Take a boat ride to sightseeing the abundance of nature.
- 12.00 p.m. Enjoy shopping at Talat Nam Pracharat Bang Bai Mai
- 3.00 p.m. Return to Surat Thani Airport.
- 6.00 p.m. Arrive at Donmueang Airport.

Programme 2

(Ko Samui-Donsak-Mueang Surat Thani)

Day 1

- 8.00 a.m. Depart from Donmueang Airport to Surat Thani Airport
- 11.30 a.m. Take a ferry from Donsak Pier to Ko Samui.
- 3.00 p.m. Arrive at Ko Samui, Pay homage at Wat Phra Yai.

5.00 a.m. Visit walking street and stay overnight in Ko Samui

Day 2

8.00 a.m. Take a boat ride to Muko Angthong National Park, sightseeing at Ko Wua Ta Lap and Talay Nai.

4.00 p.m. Return to Ko Samui, visit Hin Ta Hin Yai at Hat Lamai.

6.00 p.m. Relax and stay overnight in Ko Samui.

Day 3

8.00 a.m. Depart from Ko Samui to Don Sak Pier.

11.00 a.m. Visit Ban Nang Kam

11.30 a.m. Take boat trip to watching humpback dolphin.

4.00 p.m. Return to Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani.

6.00 p.m. Enjoy the evening atmosphere by taking a boat ride from Tapi River embarkment for sightseeing sparkling and glittering fireflies.

Day 4

9.00 a.m. Depart from hotel to Ecotourism Bang Bai Mai Community

11.00 a.m. Take a boat ride to sightseeing the abundance of nature.

2.00 p.m. Return to Surat Thani Airport

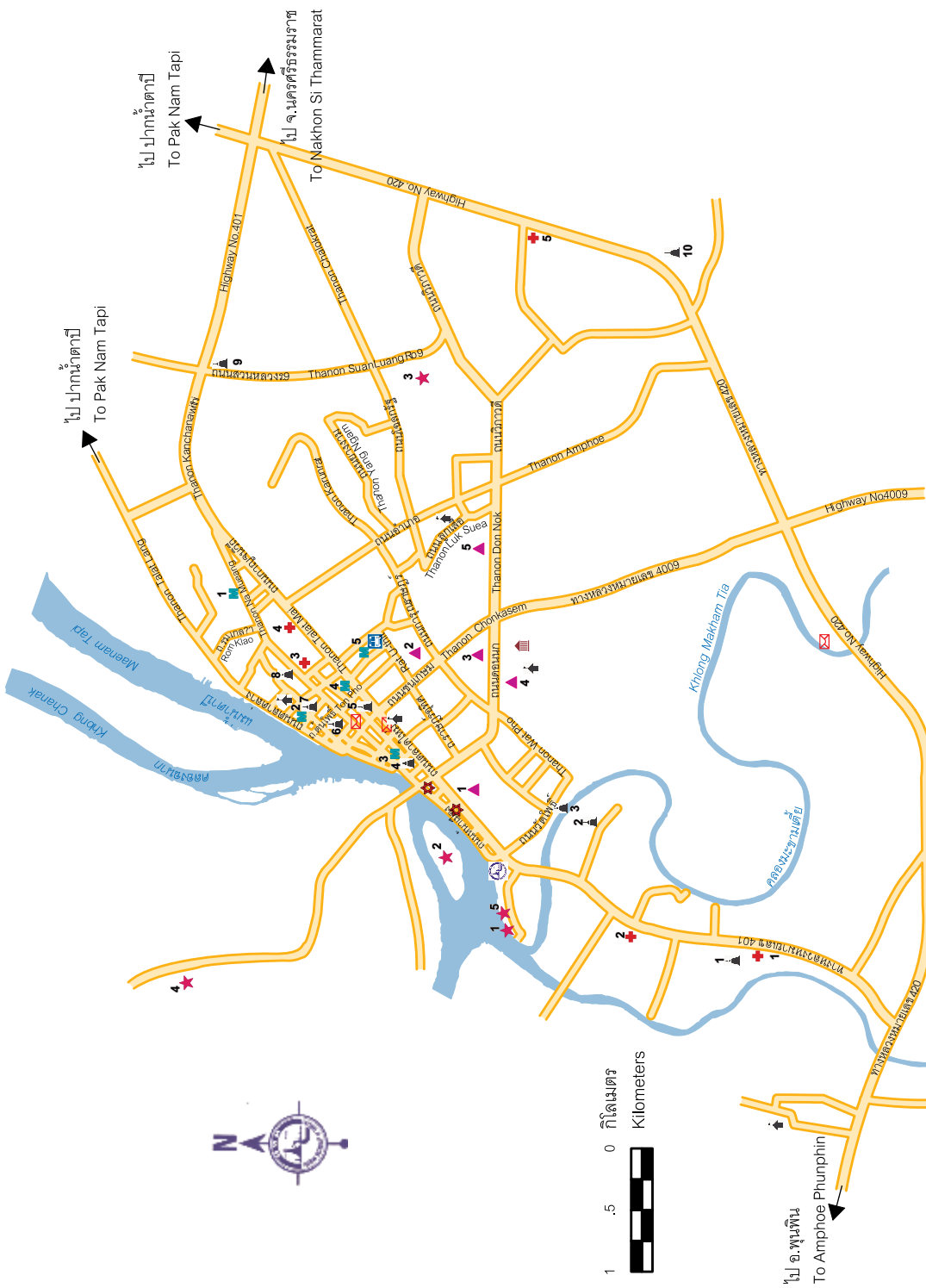
8.00 p.m. Arrive at Donmueang Airport.



Ban Taling Ngam Beach at Samui







ไป ปากน้ำตาดีย์
To Pak Nam Tapi

ไป ปากน้ำตาดีย์
To Pak Nam Tapi

ไป จ. นครศรีธรรมราช
To Nakhon Si Thammarat

ไป อ. พุนพิน
To Amphoe Phumphin

1 0 0.5 กิโลเมตร
Kilometers



แผนที่ตัวเมืองสุราษฎร์ธานี

SURAT THANI CITY MAP

สัญลักษณ์ Legend



วัด Temple (Wat)

- วัดกลางใหม่ Wat Klang Mai
- วัดหน้าเมือง Wat Na Mueang
- วัดโพธาราม Wat Po Thawat
- วัดไตรภูมิ Wat Trithammaram
- วัดธรรมบูชา Wat Thammabucha
- วัดไชย Wat Sai
- วัดพระยอด Wat Phra Yok
- วัดพัฒนาราม Wat Phathanaram
- วัดโพธิ์นimit Wat Po Nimit
- วัดท่าเพชร Wat Tha Phet

โรงพยาบาล Hospital

- โรงพยาบาลศรีวิชัย Srivichai Hospital
- โรงพยาบาลสุราษฎร์ธานี Surat Thani Hospital

โรงพยาบาลดอน Bandon Hospital

- โรงพยาบาลทักษิณ Thaksin Hospital
- โรงพยาบาลค่ายวิภาวดีรังสิต Wiphawadi Rangsit Camp Hospital

ตลาด Market

- ตลาดสดโพธิ์หวาย Po Wai Market
- ตลาดกอบโกยอนุภูมิติ Kopkan Naruemit Market
- ตลาดสด Market
- ตลาดเกษตร Kaset Market
- ตลาดเกษตร 2 Kaset 2 Market

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- สวนสาธารณะศรีตปปี Sri Tapi Park
- สวนสาธารณะเกาะลำพู Ko Lamphu Park
- สวนสาธารณะสวนหลวงง.9 King Rama 9 Park

- กลุ่มท่องเที่ยวเชิงอนุรักษ์ชุมชนบางไปไม้ Ecotourism Bang bai Mai Community
- ตลาดนัด ตลาดน้ำบ้านดอน Taladnuud Taladham Bandon

สถานที่สำคัญ Place of Interest

- ที่ว่าการอำเภอเมืองสุราษฎร์ธานี Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani Office
- สำนักงานเทศบาลเมืองสุราษฎร์ธานี Surat Thani Municipality Office
- วิทยาลัยเทคนิคสุราษฎร์ธานี Surat Thani Technical College
- เรือนจำกลางจังหวัดสุราษฎร์ธานี Surat Thani Prison
- สนามกีฬาากลาง จังหวัดสุราษฎร์ธานี Surat Thani Stadium

แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดสุราษฎร์ธานี

SURAT THANI TOURIST MAP

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

	อำเภอ	Amphoe (District)
	สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว	Tourist Attraction
	สถานีรถไฟ	Railway Station
	แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ	Stream, River
	สนามบิน	Airport
	ทางหลวง	Highway
	เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด	Province Boundary
	เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ	District Boundary
	ทางรถไฟ	Railway

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- ศาลเจ้าแม่กวนอิม Kwan Yin Shrine
- พระพุทธบาทจำลองบนภูเขาวัดมฤคยาราม (วัดมะเดื่อหวาน)
Lord Buddha's Footprints on the Mountain at Wat Mathurawaram or Wat Maduea Wan
- อุทยานแห่งชาติน้ำตกธารเสด็จ - เกาะพะงัน Namtok Than Sadet National Park-Ko Pha-ngan
- ศูนย์ลิงสมุย Samui Monkey Centre
- เกาะสมุย Ko Samui
- อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะอ่างทอง Mu Ko Ang Thong National Park
- วัดรัตนาราม หรือ วัดแก้ว Wat Rattanaram or Wat Kao
- วัดพระบรมธาตุไชยาราชวรวิหาร Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratchaworawihan
- หมู่บ้านพุมเรียงและแหลมโพธิ์ Phumriang Village and Pho Cape
- สวนโมกขพลาราม Suan Mokkhaphalaram
- ปากน้ำตาปี Pak Nam Tapi
- สถานที่พัฒนาและส่งเสริมอนุรักษ์สัตว์ป่าเขาตาเพชร
Khao Tha Phet Wildlife Conservation Promotion and Development Station
- พิพิธภัณฑ์ปลาหิน Stone Fish Museum

14 วัดเขาสถูกรรณประดิษฐ์ Wat Khao Suwan Pradit

15 อุทยานแห่งชาติไตรมยีน Tai Rom Yen National Park

16 บ่อน้ำร้อนท่าละทอน Tha Sathon Hot Wells

17 วัดถ้ำสิงขร Wat Tham Singkhon

18 คลองน้ำใส Khlong Nam Sai

19 เขื่อนรัชชประภา (เขื่อนเชี่ยวหลาน)

Rajprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam

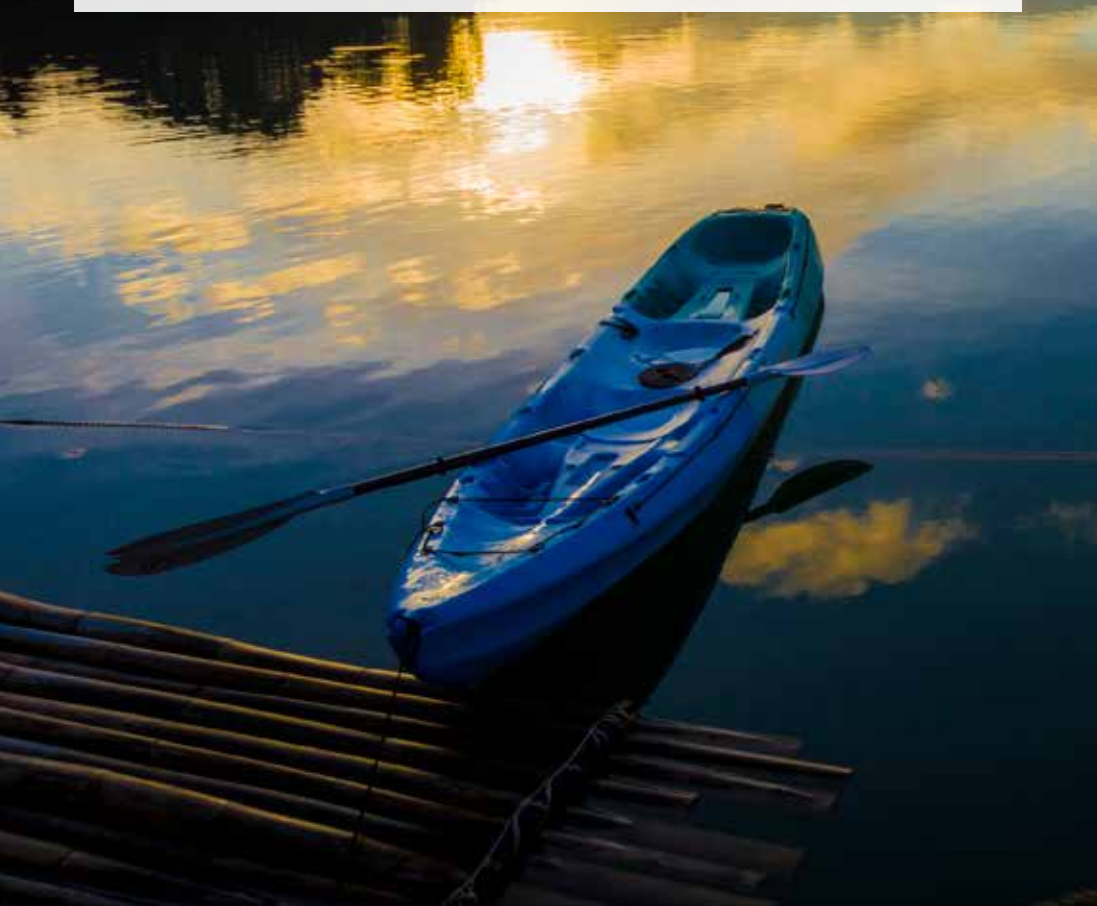
20 อุทยานแห่งชาติคลองพนม

Khlong Phanom National Park

21 อุทยานแห่งชาติเขาสก Khao Sok National Park

USEFUL CALLS

Public Relation of Surat Thani Office	Tel. 0 7728 3970
Surat Thani Municipality Office	Tel. 0 7727 2513
Donsak Town Municipality	Tel. 0 7737 1871
Ko Samui Municipality Office	Tel. 0 7742 1421-2
Surat Thani Police Station	Tel. 0 7735 5678
Ko Samui Police Station	Tel. 0 7742 0506
Surat Thani Hospital	Tel. 0 7791 5600
Ko Samui Hospital	Tel. 0 7791 3200
Samui International Hospital	Tel. 0 7730 0395
Surat Thani Immigration	Tel. 0 7738 0881-2
Samui Immigration Office	Tel. 0 7742 3440-1
Highway Police	Tel. 1193
Tourist Police	Tel. 1155



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

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www.tourismthailand.org
Open daily: 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. everyday

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10100
Tel. 0 2283 1556
Open daily: 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. everyday

Suvarnabhumi Airport

Arrival Hall 2nd Floor Gate No.3
Tel. 0 2134 0040 (24Hrs.)

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5 Talatmai Road, Tambon Talat, Amphoe Mueang Surat Thani 84000
Tel. 0 7728 8817-9
Fax: 0 7728 2828
E-mail: tatsurat@tat.or.th
Area of Responsibility: Surat Thani

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Ko Samui Office

370 Mu 3 Tambon Angthong, Amphoe Ko Samui, Surat Thani 84140
Tel. 0 7742 0504
Fax: 0 7742 0721
E-mail: tatsamui@tat.or.th
Area of Responsibility: Ko Samui, Ko Tao, Ko Pha-ngan



Rajjaprabha Dam or Chiao Lan Dam



Information by: TAT Surat Thani

Tourist Information Division (Tel. 0 2250 5500 ext. 2141-5)

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