

Quick Facts About Chanthaburi

A long journey of history --- an abundance of natural assets --- a unique way of life

Those perfect conditions above make Chanthaburi an ideal city of **diversity of tourism** in the east of Thailand.

The most important part of Chanthaburi legend occurred in 1767, after the fall of Ayutthaya. It was a place where, the King Taksin the Great, consolidated an arm force of the East and fought the freedom of Thai people. This makes Chanthaburi people proud of the patriotism of their ancestors.

Until now, Chanthaburi is a serene city with many interesting aspects. It represents the largest gem and jewelry trading market, the best place to grow pepper, durian, and other tropical fruits in Thailand. Chanthaburi owns plentifully beautiful natural assets combining a number of distinct waterfalls in the forest complex, abundance of rich mangrove and marine creatures, beaches, and coral reef. South Soi Dao is the highest mountain peak in the East.

Consequently, these assets are contributed to wonderful tourism activities such as adventurous tourism, historical & cultural tourism, eco-tourism, marine eco-tourism, and agri-tourism.

From the preceding attributes, Chanthaburi is one of the tourist destinations in Thailand that never fails to impress the people who are eager to experience other faces of life!! **Visit Chanthaburi all year round.**

General Information

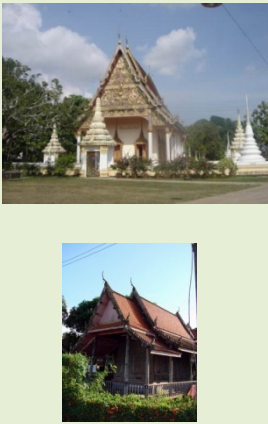
Located in the Southeast of Thailand, Chanthaburi is around 250 kilometers from Bangkok. It covers the area of 6,338 square kilometers. The North of Chanthaburi is marked by a mountain range, a mountain-base plain which is the origin of Chanthaburi River, with shore plain and low land of a river mouth in the South.







Chanthaburi's provincial administration is divided into 9 districts and 1 sub-district which are Muang, Ta Mai, Kloong, Laem Singh, Pong Nam Ron, Makham, Soi Dao, Na Yai Arm, Kaeng Hang Maew, and Kao Kitchakoot Sub-district.


Chanthaburi's Attractions

1. Visit the Historical Sites of Chanthaburi

From the time of King Taksin the Great until the colonial era during Rattanakosin period, Chanthaburi had been a part of long journey of a history.

Place	Photos	Descriptions
Wat Phlab		<p>Wat Phlab, located in Tambol Bang Kaja, about 1 km away from the Nern Wong Military Camp, used to be the ancient community since 2310 B.E. The temple was believed to be where the King Thaksin's arm force stationed during the time of war. In the early Rattanakosin period, this temple is also 1 of the 18 places where holy water was made for the royal coronation ceremony. Wat Phlab is rich of valuable art and architecture such as a wooden image hall aged over hundred years, a scripture library with mural paintings, and a pagoda with age-old amuletic Buddha images.</p>

Place	Photos	Descriptions
Samet Ngam Shipyard (King Taksin's Shipyard)		<p>A shipyard, where a 10m * 10m pond with ancient boats and junks were found, is situated in Tambol Nong Bua, about 11 kms away from town. The shipyard believably played a vital role in the establishment of King Taksin the Great's navy in 2310 B.E.</p>
Nern Wong Military Camp		<p>Nern Wong Military Camp, located in Tambol Bang Kaja, about 7 kms away from town, was founded on January 9, 2377 B.E. by King Rama III of Bangkok. The fort, with more than 10 cannons lining up on the wall. The Camp acted as a stronghold protecting Chanthaburi from the Vietnamese attacks prior to French colonial era.</p>
The National Naval Commerce Museum	 	<p>Situated in the compound of the Nern Wong Military Camp, the museum displays exhibition of history since the pre-historic period until present on naval commerce. The demonstration includes the actual-sized reproductive argosy, the replicas of royal barges and merchant vessels. Additionally, the knowledge of potteries and other sub-marine archaeological objects including gems mining, orchard, attractions as well as the history of Chong, original inhabitants of Chanthaburi are displayed.</p> <p>With over 20 years of study, the museum is treasured with numbers of master pieces of naval study.</p>
Tuk Daeng (Red Building)		<p>Red Building, located in Laem Singh, was built in 2436 B.E. This one-storeyed red building reminds the seizure of French on Chantaburi in 1893 due to a confiscation dispute over the land on the left-sided bank of Khong River. Primarily, this is the location of Phikat Patchamit Fort built in the reign of King Rama III. When French took over, the fort was destroyed and replaced by Tuk Daeng where headquarter and soldier quarters existed.</p>
Kuk Kee Kai (Chicken Dung Cell)		<p>Chicken Dung Cell, located in Laem Singh near Tuk Daeng, was constructed in 2436 B.E. when Chanthaburi was occupied by France. Thai people who then protested against France were imprisoned in the 4.40-meter-wide and long and 7-meter tall building without roof. Prisoners detained here were suffered by chicken droppings from those which were raised above the prisoners' heads.</p>

Place	Photos	Descriptions
Tha Luang		Tha Luang area is the local road along Chanthaburi River down town Chanthaburi (Sukhapiban Road). The area represents the old city of Chanthaburi and life of the locals resided by the river since the French colonial era. The old time architecture and art can be witnessed along the line of old buildings. This area will soon be devolped into the walking street, waitng for the visitors who would like to witness another face of history of Muang Chan.

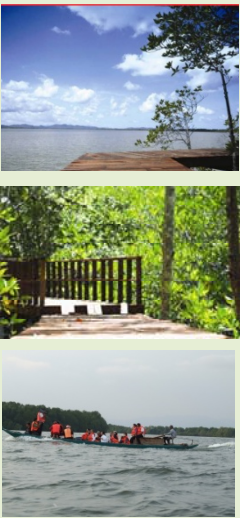

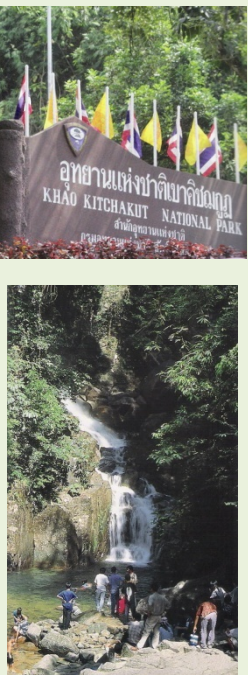
2. Religion, Art, and Culture




Place	Photos	Descriptions
The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception		The Cathedral, built in 2254 B.E., is the biggest and most beautiful cathedral in Thailand originally constructed about 300 years ago by a migrated Christian Vietnamese. The Gothic-architectural church is beautifully decorated with the picture of saints and precious colorful stain glasses depicting famous saints. The Cathedral has been part of Catholic community for 300 years and is full with historical value of community along Chanthaburi river.
Wat Phi Lom		Wat Phi Lom is an ancient temple of the late Ayutthaya period. Inside the chapel, mural painting portraying the story of the Lord Buddha's ten incarnations is elaborately decorated by Ayutthaya talented artisans. Significantly, the biggest Buddha image in the eastern region in a reclining position is installed in the chapel.
Wat Mangkorn Buppharam		Wat Mangkorn Buppharam, widely known as Wat Leng Hua Yi, located about 12 km. away from town, belongs to the Mahayana Sect of Buddhism. Founded in 2520 B.E., the monatery houses a wonderful ordination and the teaching halls which are both decorated with mosaic tiles.
Wat Chak Yai Buddha Park		Wat Chak Yai Buddha Park is located on route #3149 at the cross road leading to Amphoe Leam Singh. The Buddha Park houses hundreds of big sculptures depicting the series of Buddha's life.

3. Chanthaburi's Unique Way of Life

Place	Photos	Descriptions
Gems Market		<p>Chanthaburi is known as centre of world gems and gems cutting. Gems Roads is named for Sri Chan Rd and Krachang Lane in downtown Chanthaburi, the economic route of Chanthaburi where gem-cutting plants are located. The roads, center of gems business and the largest gems market in the country, are very bustling, in particular on Friday and weekends when both Thai and international gems traders gather for gems trading, representing the unique way of life of Chanthaburi people.</p>
The Chanthaburi Plant Research Center		<p>As plantation, especially the tropical fruit, is one of the major sources of income of Chanthaburi which is known as city of Fruit. The Chanthaburi Plant Research Center is a center of agricultural study and covers the area of 280 Rai where many projects of studying and developing plants, fruits, flowers, herbs and spices take place, including durian, rambutan, mangosteen, and zalacca. It is situated in Tambol Prew, about 21 km. away from town.</p>
Bang Sakao Reed Mat Weaving Villages		<p>Bang Sakao Village Mat-Weaving is located in Bang Sakao Sub-district, Laem Singh District is a center of weed product manufacture, is a center of weed product manufacture. The villagers normally earn their lives, as an in-house industry, by drying, dyeing and weaving reed. During the visit, tourist will see the demonstration of mat-weaving procedures.</p>
Fisherman Village, Tumbon Bangchan		<p>Tumbon Bangchan presents local fishery lifestyle of no-land village. Variety of fishery activities is the life of people here and is very fascinating for visitors. Farming of fish, crab, oyster, Mussel, soft crab, and etc is everywhere. Tumbon Bangchan is also where the red hawk flock is housed. A day trip to visit this fisherman village and visit the house of red hawk is recommended for those who would like to discover other faces of life.</p>

4. Ecological Tourism

Place	Photos	Descriptions
<p>Welu Wetland/ Mangrove Forest Development at Tha Sorn</p>		<p>Mangrove forest eco-travelling at mouth of Welu River, the area spread over the boundary of Chanthaburi and Trat province. The place is good for traveling all year round. Activities include observing thousand of red hawks, fire flies, crabs and also unique plant and herb of mangrove forest. Situated in Bann Thason, the area is covered in rich mangrove and is a perfectly balanced ecosystem. The full-cycled marine ecological system of this area makes it a habitat of various species of aquatic animal, bird and insect. The highlight is the night walking street to see million of fire flies. The short trip to see red hawk and fisherman village can also start from here.</p>
<p>The Prew Waterfall National Park</p>		<p>Located 19 km. away from town, in the area of The Prew Waterfall National Park, the medium-sized waterfall originates from underground upon the cliff, with a large habitat of Pluong fish. Ancient remains including Alongkorn Jedi stupa and the Pyramid of Love were erected by the command of King Rama V as love memorial to Queen Sunandhakumareeratana who passed away by accident. Nearby the fall lies a 1.2 km forest trekking route starting from the point opposite to the office of the park to Alongkorn Chedi.</p>
<p>The Kitchakoot Mountain National Park</p>		<p>The Kitchakoot Mountain National Park, covering an area of Amphur Makham and Kao Kitchakoot, the park is a major origin of Chanthaburi River. Blessed with natural beauties, such as fertile tropical mountainous forests, natural herbs, orchids, as well as rare plant. At the Kitchakoot Mountain National Park, visitors can enjoy the following interesting attractions.</p> <p>Krathing Waterfall, originated from the Kitchakoot mountain ranges, has 13 levels. Each level with clear and clean water and is ideal for swimming.</p> <p>Phrabath Hill, located about 5 km. away from the park's office, houses a stone Chedi, the Buddha's footprint, the upside down stone alms bowl and other peculiarly-shaped stones. From atop the hill visitors can appreciate the panoramic views of the Sa Bap Mountain Ranges, the Sukim Mountain and the town.</p> <p>The Pluang Baddha's Footprint, housed atop the Phrabath Hill, could be reached from the Pluang monastery. During the Chinese New Year and Makha Bucha Day, the hill is very crowded.</p> <p>Klong Chang Say Waterfall, located on the way leading to atop the Phrabath Hill, about 10 km. away from the office of the park, is ideal for camping.</p> <p>Klong Krasue Waterfall, shady with tall trees, is quite</p>

Place	Photos	Descriptions
The Kung Kraben Mangrove Forest Study Walkway		big. The fall is located about 8 km. away from the park's office. The Kung Kraben's nature trail board walk is located opposite to the center of the Kung Kraben Bay development, about 23 km. away from the Tha Mai district. The study centre under the advice of His Majesty the King, this is a 1,600-meter Hopea Adorata bridge running through the mangrove forest of copsewood and Sonneratia etc. The area covers 1,100 rais of mangrove.
Marine Aquarium Honoring His Majesty the King's Diamond Jubilee Birthday		Located at the Sadet Cape, aquarium displays wonderful marine creatures. The Fisheries Department has gathered interesting local and regional marine life for exhibit in 36 tanks. Most are marine fish arranged in four categories: Comical, Exotic, Coral and Peculiar.
Wild Life Conservation Area at Kungkraben		This area has a combination of 4 types of forest in one area, evergreen forest, mixed forest, beach forest and mangrove forest. To stress the forest conservation of the Kungkraben Royal Project, the area has become a wild life conservation area in 1999.

5. Other Interesting Activities for Youth and Adventurer

Place	Photos	Descriptions
Oasis Sea World		Oasis Sea World, located on a 68 rai plot of land in Tambon Pak Nam Laem Singh, about 25 km. away from town, preserves and cultures dolphins. Dolphin shows and Swimming with dolphin sessions are available.
Rafting at Pong Nam Ron Canal		Pong Nam Ron Canal, 12 km. long, located 22 km away from Pong Nam Ron District, is found challenging by soft-adventurers because of its stimulating route especially in May – November. The difficulty level of 1-2 and the duration of 2 – 3 hours are suitable for the beginners.
Mountain Bike		Chanthaburi's landscape offers those who are interested in mountain bike opportunity to enjoy beauty of mountain, beach, cove, and etc while exploring life of Chanthaburi and fulfilling personal enjoyment of mountain bike.