

Budget WorldClass Drives

Pattaya and the Eastern Gulf of Siam



Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

SELF DRIVE VACATIONS





Budget WorldClass Drives

PATTAYA AND THE EASTERN GULF OF SIAM

Budget Rent a Car has more than 3,200 rental locations worldwide, including ten convenient locations throughout Thailand.

We're known for our superior customer service, great rates and wide variety of vehicles to choose from, including the adventurous Jeep Cherokee, the sporty Suzuki Vitara and the affordable Toyota Soluna.

Budget offers a great one way program between all locations within Thailand. Child seats are also available from all locations.

Budget has comprehensive fleet insurance coverage for all vehicles, and can offer Personal Accident Insurance for additional protection and peace of mind. Our helpful counter staff will be able to assist with this additional protection if required.

And while we hope you won't need it, 24 hour emergency road assistance is available from Budget. In case of emergency, information is printed on the rental agreement for your convenience.

Please note that the Budget fleet for Thailand consists of right hand drive vehicles.

The Budget Guarantee is our pledge to you that Budget is dedicated to providing a positive, hassle free rental experience. Every rental. Every time. Every location.

On behalf of Budget Rent a Car worldwide, we welcome you and yours to the Kingdom of Thailand. Thank you for including us in your travel plans.

Enjoy your Thailand visit!

SYMBOL LIST

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Main Road | Kilometre Stone |
| Minor Road | Temple |
| Unsealed Road | Park |
| Suggested Routes | Water Fall |
| River | Hot Springs. |
| Province | Hotel/Resort/Guest House |
| District | Hospital |
| Key Point. | Gas Station |
| Distance Between Key Points (kms.) | Restaurant |

Budget: Thailand



Toyota Soluna

- 1.5 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 4, holds 1 large, 2 small suitcases.



Toyota Corolla or similar

- 1.6 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 4, holds 2 large suitcases.



Suzuki Vitara 4WD

- 1.6 litre, Automatic 4WD
- Seats 4, holds 1 large, 2 small suitcases.



Toyota Corona or similar

- 2.0 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 5, holds 2-3 large suitcases.



Honda Accord or similar

- 2.3 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 5, holds 3 large suitcases.



Jeep Cherokee 4WD

- 4.0 litre, Automatic 4WD
- Seats 5, holds 5 large suitcases.

*** All vehicles have air conditioning.

Welcome to your exclusive Budget WorldClass Drive.

PATTAYA AND THE EASTERN GULF OF SIAM

Pristine sandy beaches, idyllic islands, succulent seafood, exciting sea sports, inland adventures — whether wild thrills on the waves, golf with the greats, or family fun under the sun, this tour along Thailand's eastern seaboard on the Gulf of Siam has it all.

Use your Budget car to visit the host of attractions within day trips from Pattaya, then head east along the Sukhumvit Road (Highway 3), a fast divided highway that passes through Rayong to the wealthy coastal provinces of Chantaburi and Trat.

The recommended route takes you to the scenic island of Ko Chang, but there are diversions that include crossing into Cambodia at Hat Lek to gamble at the casino just across the border (a visa must be obtained prior to leaving Bangkok).

Only the outward drive is divided into days with suggested side trips, so leave something for your return journey. Distances are quite short, which allows plenty of time to enjoy yourself along the way, especially as you enter the more relaxing atmosphere of the coast beyond Rayong.

Your car allows you to choose. You can visit excellent seafood restaurants (sea maps), take country roads not suggested as side trips, and even return via Sa Kaeo province (shown only on the map) to explore inland Thailand on your own.

ACCOMMODATION

The listings are necessarily limited and places have been selected for quality. The maps show additional places to stay. Advanced booking is highly recommended, especially if visiting at weekends or national holidays.

WHEN TO GO

The high season and clear skies last from late November till after the Songkran festival in mid-April. The low key atmosphere and turbulent conditions of the green season have a charm of their own.

MAPS AND KEY POINTS

The maps in this booklet are intended to make navigation as easy as possible. Important road junctions are indicated as Key Points.

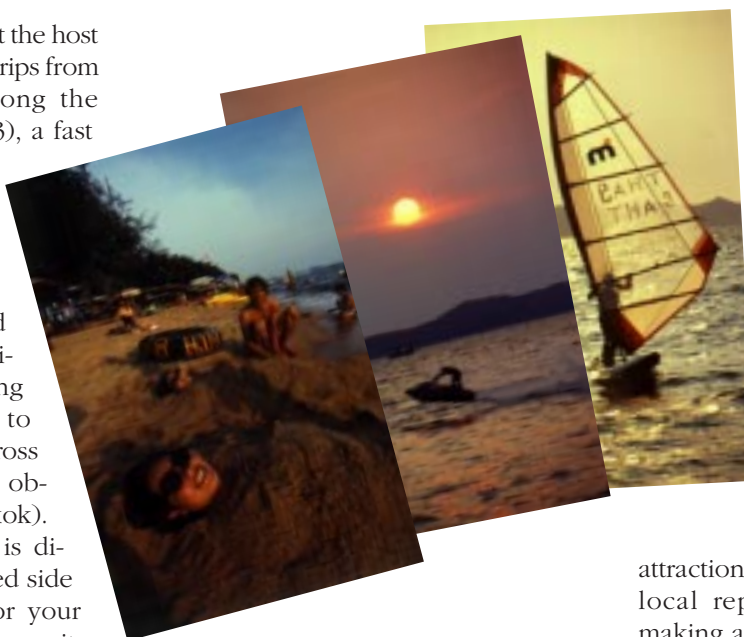
ENTRY FEES

These are usually inexpensive, but to save on attractions near Pattaya inquire at our local representative office before making a journey.

Full prices are listed as follows:

- ฿฿฿฿ (2000 plus)
- ฿฿฿ (1000-2000 Baht)
- ฿฿ (500-1000 Baht)
- ฿ (Less than 500 baht)

Visa and Master card are widely accepted except on the islands. Take cash for places without mainland prepayment facilities. Dial country code 66 and the area code without the 0 if calling from overseas.





7 KEY POINT SEVEN

The intersection of the Cholburi bypass spur (H.3) with the Rama 1X-Cholburi Motorway (H.7) between KM.78-79.

8 KEY POINT EIGHT

The intersection of H7 with H36.

Water sports, motor sports, exotic zoos and gardens, inland adventures, 17 competition class golf courses within an hour's drive and a beat that pulses through the night till dawn — Pattaya has something for everyone. So when the pace gets too hectic, laze sublime and let Pattaya put life in the pink.

The maps locate main attractions within day trips from the city and where

restaurants out of town serve seafood that will seduce your palate.

TOURING AROUND PATTAYA

1 KEY POINT ONE

The T junction of South Pattaya Rd. (Pattaya Tai) with Highway (H)3, the Sukhumwit Rd. near KM.147

2 KEY POINT TWO

The traffic circle joining North Pattaya (Pattaya Nua) Rd., Beach Rd., Pattaya Road 2, and the road to Naklua.

3 KEY POINT THREE

The junction of H36 to Rayong with H3 at KM.137

4 KEY POINT FOUR

The intersection of H3241 with H3 in Si Racha at KM 118.

5 KEY POINT FIVE

The intersection of H3137 to Hat Bang Saen with H3 near KM.104.

6 KEY POINT SIX

The intersection of H3 and the Cholburi bypass near KM.98

DAY TRIPS NORTH

(Round trip to Ang Sila and Khao Kheow Open Zoo. 120 kms.)

This drive goes north to Si Racha, where you may take a boat trip to Ko Si Chang Island. From Si Racha follow coastal roads to Ang Sila, or turn inland to visit Khao Kheow Open Zoo and Si Racha Tiger Farm. If visiting Si Chang Island avoid planning too much for your day lest

you have to return on busy roads after dark.

Start from Key Point 2 and drive to Ban Lamung, passing a fishing village before joining Sukhumvit Road (H3) and heading north. Just before Key Point 4, turn left into Si Racha town (see map 5).

Passenger ferries depart hourly from Soi 14 on a 45 minute trip to the pleasant historical island of Ko Si Chang (last ferry from island 17:00). Motorcycle taxis tour the island via the fishing town, the San Jao Phaw Khao Yai Chinese temple and the site of a royal palace abandoned when the French occupied the island in 1893.

From Si Racha drive inland from Key Point 4 to Si Racha Tiger Zoo for a shorter trip. Otherwise continue north to Nong Mol Market, which is famous for basketry from Phanat Nikhom and dried seafood delicacies. At Key Point



5 turn west towards Bang Saen Beach, visiting the Institute of Marine Science aquarium at Burapha University (2 kms from Key Point 5. 20 Bt. Entrance Hrs: 08:30-16:30. Closed Mondays) and unusual Buddhist sculptures at Wat Saen Suk.

Drive north to Khao Sam Muk, where monkeys roam the peak overlooking seafood restaurants on the north side of the point. Where the road turns sharply inland at Ang Sila, continue straight on a narrow (one-way) lane to enter the high street of the wooden village well-known for its stone mortars.

Two zoos will delight families on the return route inland. To avoid dangerous direct crossings of H7 go via Key Points 6&7 or 4. Khao Kheow Open Zoo has over 300 species in a 2000 acre drive-through park (East turn at KM.14 on H7. Hrs: 07:30-18:00. Map available at zoo office). Si Racha

Tiger Zoo specialises in big cats and crocodiles (East turn at KM.20 on H7. Hrs 08:30-18:00. Shows hourly).

MUANG BORAN & BANGKOK ROUTES

7 KEY POINT SEVEN

The junction of the Chonburi bypass spur (H3) with the Bangkok-Chonburi motorway (H 7).

19 KEY POINT NINETEEN

The intersection of the Sukhumwit Rd. (H3) with the Bang Na-Trat Highway (H34) near KM.75 (approx. 25 kms from Key Point 6. If going to Muang Boran from Pattaya, enter the frontage road prior to reaching the intersection).

20 KEY POINT TWENTY

The intersection at the start of the Bang Na-Trat Highway (H34), the expressway to Din Daeng (for Bangkok International Airport) and the Sukhumwit Rd.

The Bangkok-Chonburi Motorway (H7) is the best way to and from Bangkok International Airport, but the Sukhumwit Road offers an alternative coastal route that passes Muang Boran (ancient city).

Muang Boran (H3 KM.33 4 kms west of Bang Po Industrial Estate approximately 70 kms. from Key Point 6. Entrance 50 Bt. Hrs 08:00 - last entry 17:00, closes 18:00) contains over 100 monuments in a drive-through 320 acre park. Life-sized or reduced replicas and relocated originals, all with bilingual explanations, provide an unmatched view of Thailand's historical buildings.



GOLF COURSES

The golf country clubs welcome visitors, but call first to book your round and accommodation. Map (M) numbers indicate how to locate the courses

- Bangpra International Golf Club (M4)
Tel: (038) 341149-50 Fax: (038) 341151
- Burapha Golf Club (M4)
Tel: (038) 345151-2 Fax: (038) 345 153-8
- Century Golf & Country Club Rayong (M1)
Tel: (038) 602889 Fax: (038) 602889
- Chonburi Century Country Club (M1)
Tel: (01) 212 0825
- Eastern Star Resort & Country Club (M1)
Tel: (038) 630410-17 Fax: (038) 630418
- Great Lake Golf & Country Club (M1)
Tel: (01) 321 1913
- Khao Kheow Country Club (M4)
Tel: (01) 921 4928 Fax: (01) 353 2511
- Laem Chabang International Country Club (M4)
Tel: (01) 485 0639 Fax: (038) 338350-2
- Natural Park Hill Resort Country Club (M4)
Tel: (038) 393001-18 Fax: (038) 393019
- Natural Park Resort Country Club (M4)
Tel: (038) 349370-81 Fax: (038) 349365
- Noble Place Golf Resort & Country Club (M1)
Tel: (01) 484 9066 Fax: (01) 212 9327
- Pattaya Country Club (M3)
Tel: (01) 211 2491, 212 0278
- Phoenix Golf & Country Club (M3)
Tel: (038) 239391-8 Fax: (038) 239402
- Phutaluang Royal Thai Navy Golf Course (M1)
Tel: (038) 431189
- Rayong Green Valley Country Club (M1)
Tel: (038) 603000-5 Fax: (038) 614916
- Siam Country Club Golf Course (M3)
Tel: (038) 249381-6 Fax: (038) 249387
- Soi Dao Highland Golf Course, Chantaburi (M6)
Tel: (039) 322131-2 Fax: (039) 321483
- SriRacha International Golf Club (M4)
Tel: (01) 211 4163 Fax: (038) 338379
- Treasure Hill Golf & Country Club (M1)
Tel: (02) 294 0218 ext 216 or 01 211 7156



DAY 1 : PATTAYA - BAN PHE, KO SAMET & HAT MAE PHIM 157 kms.



KEY POINT TWELVE

The T junction of 3140 with H3 at KM.278

The first Day's drive follows the Sukhumvit Road divided highway (H3) past Rayong's industrial area to Key Point 12 and the pleasant coastline from Ban Phe to Laem Mae Phim. Stay overnight on Ko Samet or visit the island for a day trip (ferry time approx. 45 minutes), returning to stay at a resort east of Ban Phe along H3145.

The inland route (H36) via Key Points 3, 8 and 11 is direct, but has slow, heavy traffic. Places to visit along H3, a divided highway, include Sattahip (continue south at Key Point 9), a market town serving the extensive naval facilities nearby, and Hat Phayun beach near the industrial area of Map Ta Phut (just before Ban Chang turn south near KM.192).

Go to Ban Phe on H3140 from Key Point 12 (or go via Hat Mae Ram Phung, turning off H3 after KM.229), passing a small museum before reaching the bustling market in the old part of town. The port has several piers which serve Samet island and provide parking with overnight security.

KEY POINT ONE

The T junction of South Pattaya Rd. (Pattaya Tai) with H3, the Sukhumvit Rd., near KM.147

KEY POINT NINE

The T junction of H332 with H3 at KM.169

KEY POINT TEN

The intersection of H331 and H332. Turn south here for Uthapao International Airport

KEY POINT ELEVEN

The junction of H36 and H3 at KM. 226



Si Chang Fisherman

DAY 1 : SIDE TRIPS

★ BAN AMPHOE — ST 1

Good seafood restaurants are located at Ban Amphoe (West turn towards beach off H3 at KM.158) and Ban Sarae (Turn towards coast off H3 at KM.165)

★ WAT YANG SANG WARARAM —ST 2

Wat Yang Sang Wararam (KM.160 left turn. 5 kms.) A first class royal temple, Wat Yang has large grounds containing unusual structures that

include a Chinese-style vihara housing Tang dynasty bronzes (Vihara Sien), a hill-top mondop with Buddha footprints (Khao Din), and a huge Buddha image fashioned on a cliff (Khao Chi Chan).

★ LAEM CHAROEN — ST 3

Go to Laem Charoen (KM. 220 south turn in middle of Rayong City. 3 kms) to look at a modern fishing community and to eat at Laem Charoen Seafood.



Soi Dao Highland Golf Course

ACCOMMODATION (Mainland)

The best places to stay are along the coast between Bang Phe and Laem Mae Phim (H3145, especially between KM.12 and 21)

Purimas Beach Hotel. 🏠🏠🏠. 3 Phayun Namrin Rd., Ban Chang, Rayong. Tel: (038) 630 382-90; Fax: (038) 630380. Bangkok Res: (02) 392 6900-3; Fax: (02) 391 6829. Luxurious low-rise hotel on Phayun beach; ideal for access to nearby industrial areas.

PMY Beach Resort. 🏠🏠🏠-🏠🏠🏠. 147/394 Mu 2 Liabchaifang Rd, Nempfra, Rayong 21000. Tel: (038) 614855; Fax: (038) 614887. Bangkok Res. (02) 321 8875-6; Fax: (02) 321 8878. High-rise hotel on Hat Saeng Chan Beach near Rayong.

Rayong City Hotel 🏠🏠🏠. 11 Ratchabamrung Rd., Rayong 21000. Tel: (038) 613887, 614827-3. Fax: (038) 614872. Downtown Rayong hotel.

Star Hotel. 🏠🏠🏠. 109 Rayong Trade Centre Rd.4, Rayong 21000. Tel: (038) 614901-7; Fax: (038) 614608. Bangkok Res. (02) 279 6786-7; Fax: (02) 279 3336. Downtown Rayong hotel.

Rayong Resort 🏠🏠🏠🏠 186 Mu 1, Laem Tan, Ban Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (038) 651000 Fax: (038) 651 007. Bangkok Res: Tel: (02) 255 2392 Fax: 255 2391. Luxury hotel with private beaches on Laem Ya.

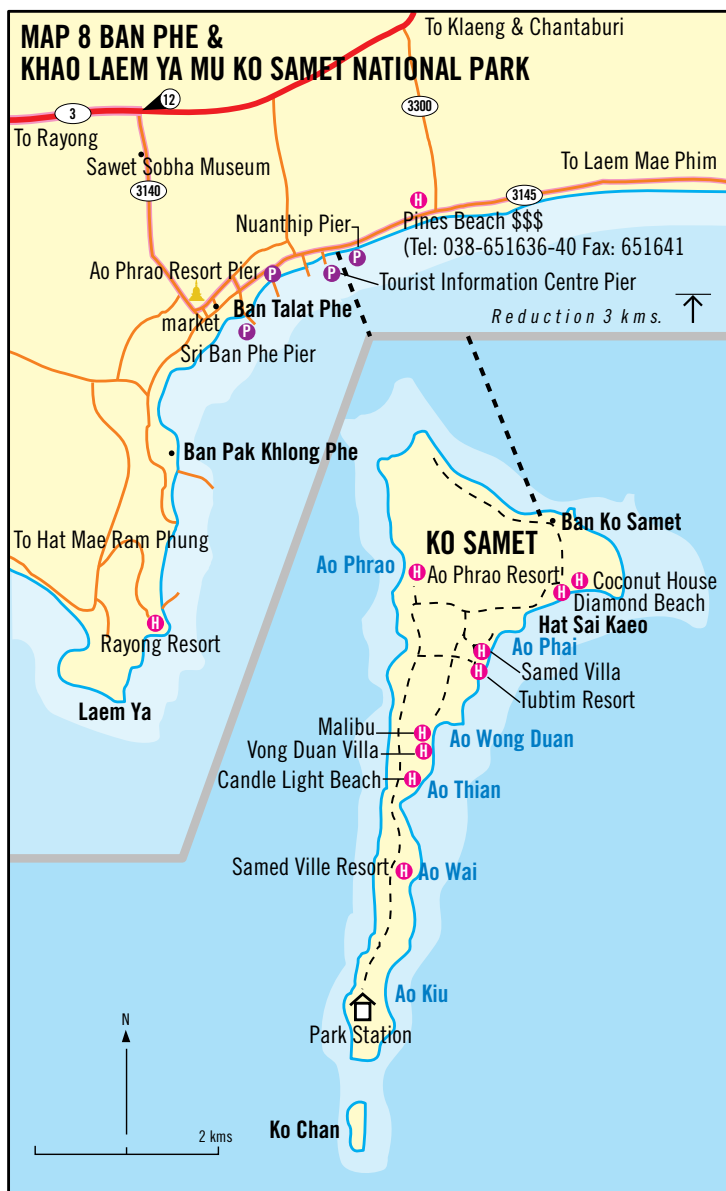
Rayong Chalet. 🏠🏠🏠-🏠🏠🏠. (3145 KM.13) 4/32 Mu 3 Phe-Klaeng Rd., Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (038) 648287-8. Bangkok Res: (02) 2603592-9 Fax: (02) 2603590. Small hotel with bungalows in garden.

Rim Pae Resort, Rayong (Novotel). 🏠🏠🏠. (H3145 KM.14) 4/5 Mu 3 Phe-Klaeng Rd, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (038) 648008 Fax: (038) 648002 or Fax: 001 800 611 3606 Thailand wide. Luxurious garden setting next to sandy beach.

Vang Kaew 🏠🏠🏠-🏠🏠🏠 (H3145 KM.16) Bangkok Res. only. Tel: (02) 259-4150-1, 259 9296 Fax: (02) 259 9297. Wide choice of self-catering cottages for 1-6 persons in woodlands by the sea.

Hin Suai Nam Sai Resort Hotel. (H3145 KM.16) 🏠🏠🏠-🏠🏠🏠. 250 Mu 2, Sakpong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (038) 638035-6 Fax: (038) 638034. Bangkok Res: Tel: (66 2) 243 0095-7, Fax: (66 2) 243 5188. Large hilltop hotel complex.

Palmeraie 🏠🏠🏠 (H3145 KM.21) Ban Phe-Mae Phim Rd., Chak Pong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (038) 638071-2 Fax: (038) 638-073. Bangkok Res: (66 2) 213 1162 Fax: (66 2) 213 1163. Pleasing low-key hotel.



KO SAMET

Hat Sai Kaew is the finest of white sand beaches with numerous resorts. Like those of Ao Wong Duan Beach, these resorts get crowded at week-ends. The sunset beach of Ao Phrao and the beaches south of Ao Wong Duan are more tranquil.

Resorts on Samet generate their own electricity and import water from the mainland. Local pick-ups ply the island's unsealed tracks.

Piers on Ban Phe offer safe overnight parking and can pre-book accommodation, arranging boat transport directly to the beach you plan to stay (take what you need and lock possessions out of sight). Pre-booking should not be necessary during the week in the green season.



ACCOMMODATION Ko Samet

Diamond Beach Resort ❸❸-
❸❸❸❸ Sai Kaew Beach. Tel: (01)

239 0208

Samed Villa. ❸❸-❸❸ Ao Phai Beach. Tel: (01) 2390223, (01) 4948090 Fax: (01) 2390223 Resort on smaller beach

Tubtim Resort, Tubtim Beach. ❸-❸❸. Tel: (01) 2186425 Fax: (01) 2187759 Resort on smaller beach.

Vong Deuan Resort ❸❸-❸❸❸. Wong Duan Beach. Tel: (01) 446 1944, (01) 218 85731. Ban Phe Office Tel: (038) 651777, (038) 652408 Fax: 9038) 651819.

Candle Light Beach ❸❸. Tel: (01) 2186934, (01) 940 2575 Ban Phe Office: (038) 651223. Basic bungalows on quieter beach.

Samed Ville Resort. ❸❸❸. Ao Wai Beach. Tel: (01) 210 3580. Ban Phe Office (038) 651681-2, Bangkok Res: (02) 2471090 Fax: 246 3196. Only resort on beach

Ao Phrao Resort ❸❸❸-❸❸❸❸. Ao Phrao Beach. Tel/Fax: (01) 218 7742, (01) 213 3533, Ban Phe Office: (038) 651134-5 Fax: (038) 651962, Bangkok Res: (02) 438 9771-2 Fax: (02) 439 0352. Slick resort with private ferry and pier.



White Sands Beach, Ko Samet

DAY 2 : HAT MAE PHIM - CHANTABURI 80 kms.

13 KEY POINT THIRTEEN

The junction of H344 from Choburi to Klaeng with H3 near KM.268

14 KEY POINT FOURTEEN

The intersection of H3249 with H3 at KM.324. North turn to Krathing Falls, south turn to Chantaburi City.

15 KEY POINT FIFTEEN

The junction of H3 at KM.333 with H317 to Soi Dao District and Sa Kaeo Province.

From Mae Phim Beach, H3161 goes to Klaeng, skirting a flat landscape of villages, prawn farms and mangrove forests typical of the river estuaries on this coast. The road passes a park celebrating Thailand's classical 19th century poet, Sunthorn Phu, after 3 kms. A side road next to the park gives access to the estuary east of Laem Mae Phim.

From Klaeng, Highway 3 runs between the estuaries and increasingly higher mountains that peak at Soi Dao

Nua (1605m) north of the provincial capital of Chantaburi.

Waterfalls tumble off the high, jungle-clad mountains, whose proximity to the sea has created a rainy climate ideal for fruit production. Chantaburi is the centre for the pungent durian fruit, which is celebrated with a fruit festival in the harvest season at the beginning of May.

Chantaburi lies close to sapphire and ruby mining regions and the gem trading area along Si Chan Rd. throngs with traders on Fridays and Saturdays. Nearby deposits at Bo Rai are largely exhausted, but stones come from Phailin in Cambodia and elsewhere.

Chantaburi was dominated by the Khmer from Angkor in the 14th century, and repeatedly invaded from Cambodia in the 16th. In 1767 Phraya Taksin occupied the city after the Burmese destruction of the Siamese capital of Ayutthaya. From Chantaburi he began the campaign that forced the Burmese out of Siam and secured the polity that evolved into modern Thailand.

From the 18th century Chantaburi provided a haven for Christians fleeing persecution in Vietnam and later attracted many overseas Chinese. The Catholic cathedral was completed in 1909 and may be reached by footbridge across the river from Rim Nam Street, a charming narrow street for walking and sampling the city's Chinese-Vietnamese rice-noodles. Chantaburi's thriving night market is also within close walking distance.

Noen Wong fortress was built in



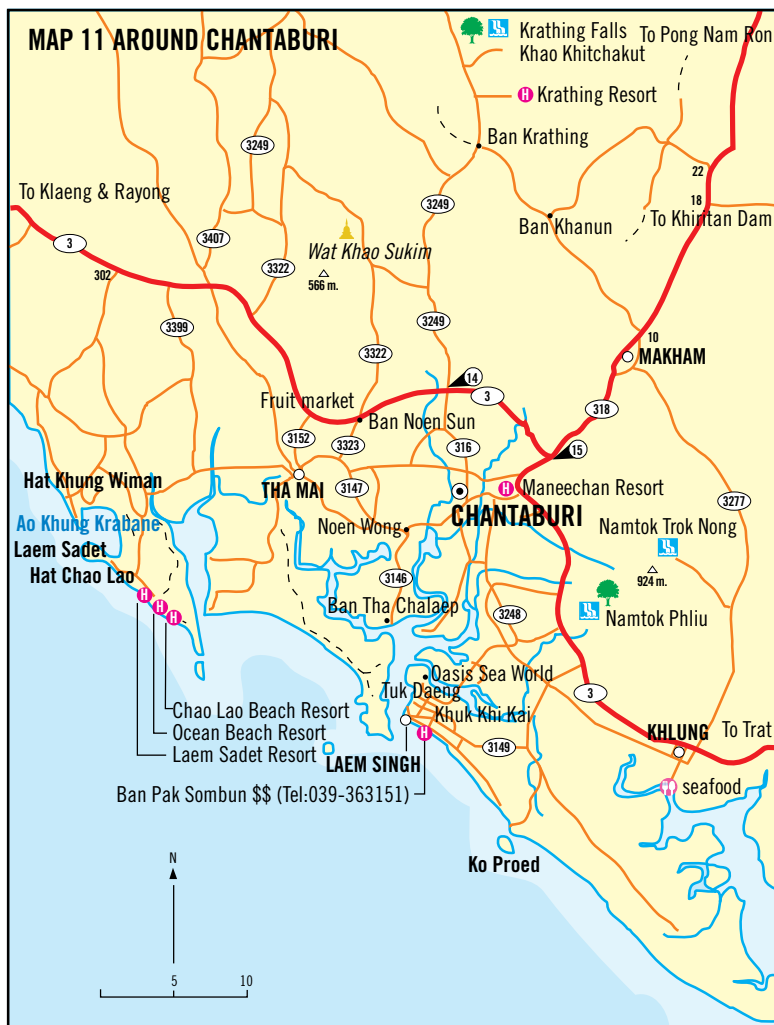
1843 to defend the wealthy area, but it could not prevent the French from occupying Chantaburi and Trat in 1893 as part of their colonial expansion west of the River Mekong in Cambodia and Laos. The French left in 1907, when Siam finally ceded Battambang, Siem Reap and Sisophon.

With the fall of France in 1940, Thai forces retook the lost provinces, though they suffered a naval defeat at Ko Chang. In 1947, the provinces were restored to French Indochina.

The waterfalls in the national parks are best during weekdays and at the end of the green season. Reaching the different levels involves sweaty climbs up sometimes slippery paths through lovely moist evergreen jungle. Take swimming gear to enjoy the cool pools.



King Taksin Shrine, Chantaburi



ACCOMMODATION

To vary your itinerary, stay in the city on your outward journey and stay on the beach or in the mountains on your return.

In Chantaburi City

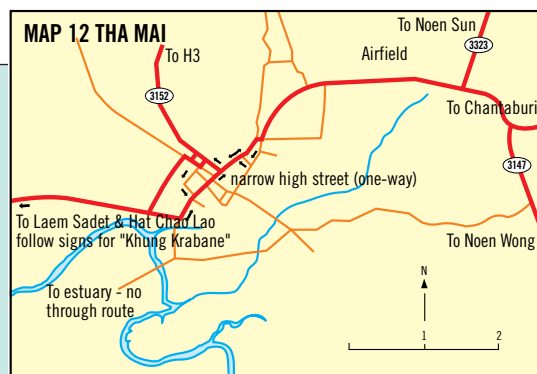
Chantaburi has good, modern hotels as well as a few inexpensive local hotels in the downtown area.

Caribou Highland Hotel. 🏠🏠🏠 14 Chawana Uthit Soi 3, Chantaburi 22000. Tel: (039) 323431-55 Fax: (039) 321584. Medium rise hotel includes Rabieng Restaurant (Hrs. 10:00-23:00)

Eastern Hotel. 🏠🏠🏠🏠 899 Tachalab Rd. Chantaburi 22000. Tel: 312218-20 Fax: 311985. Close to nightlife area. Try the small Nai Thian Restaurant (Tel 322624 Hrs. 14:00-23:00) directly opposite.

KP Grand Hotel. 🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠 35/200-201 Trirat Rd., Chantaburi 22000 Tel: (039) 323201-13. Fax: (039) 33214-5. High-rise hotel near traditional downtown area. Try the Khun Daeng Restaurant (Hrs: 09:00-22:00) opposite.

Maneechan Resort & Sport Club 🏠🏠🏠🏠. 110 Mu 11 Tambol Plubpa, Chantaburi 22000. Tel: (039) 343777-8. Fax: (039) 344123. On outskirts of city. Modern sports facilities include tennis and golf.



On Chao Lao Beach

Numerous places to stay are located along the beach

Chao Lao Beach Resort. 🏠🏠🏠 - 🏠🏠🏠. 99 Mu 6 Tambol Khlong Khut, Thai Mai, Chantaburi 22120. Tel: (039) 369123-5; Fax: (039) 369126. Bangkok Res. (02) 2519008, 2529933 et. 369,371. Fax: 2549797 ext. 369. Hotel and beach bungalows with pool and tennis.

Had Saithong Resort (Golden Beach) 🏠🏠🏠. 57/5 Mu 5 Khlong Kut, Laem Sadet, Chantaburi 22120 Small resort. Tel: 039 369080-1

Laem Sadet Resort. 🏠🏠🏠. Hat Chao Lao, Thai Mai, Chantaburi 22120. Tel; (039) 369194. Bangkok Res. Tel: (02) 277 4159, Tel & Fax: (02) 691 7564. Cabins in traditional resort,

In the Mountains

Krathing Country Resort. 🏠🏠🏠 - 🏠🏠🏠. (H3249 KM.20) 21/7 Mu 2 Tambol Phluang, Khao Khitchakut Sub District. Chantaburi 22210. Tel: (039) 452453-5. Bangkok Res. Tel: (02) 259 8121-4, Fax: (02) 259 0087. Modern

resort in leafy location near falls.

Eng Dao Hill Resort. 🏠🏠🏠-🏠🏠🏠 299 Mu 1 Thapsai, Pong Nam Ron, Chantaburi 22140. Tel: (039) 360179, 360259, Fax: (039) 360258. (*west turn by District offices by main T junction in Pong Nam Ron.*) Bungalows on hill with views over countryside.

Soi Dao Highland Hotel & Golf Club. 🏠🏠🏠. 153/1 Mu 2 Tambol Tabsai, Pong Nam Ron, Chantaburi 22140. Tel: (039) 322831-2. Fax: (039) 321483. Comfortable rooms overlooking golf course.



Soi Dao Falls

you to hill country close to the Kampuchean [Cambodian] border. For river rafting in season take H3193 for 18 kms. from Pong Nam Ron District (KM.36), but call first Tel: [039] 3601790). Try the Sida Restaurant (10:00-22:00) or the Eng Dao Resort near the District Office, or continue to Soi Dao Highland Hotel (KM.42). Soi Dao Falls (*West turn at KM.62. 6 kms.*) are a 45 minute walk from the car park.

Back country routes connect H317 to Krathing Falls and Wat Khao Sukim (*West turns off H317 at KM.10 or KM.22*), to Bo Rai District via the Khiritan Dam (*East turn at KM.18 — 4WD only during upgrading*) and to Khlung District via Makham on H3277. The latter passes an access road to Trok Nong Falls at KM.9. A 3 km. walk from the car park leads to the top level of the falls.

KHAO SOI DAO AND BACK-COUNTRY ROUTES (H317)

H317 north from Key Point 15 takes



Ao Khlong Phrao Beach, Ko Chang



Chantaburi Fruits

DAY 3 : CHANTABURI - TRAT, LAEM NGOP AND KO CHANG 83 kms.

16 KEY POINT SIXTEEN

T junction of H3156 with H3 at approx. KM.379 (2 km. east of large concrete pineapple).

17 KEY POINT SEVENTEEN

T junction of H318 to Khlong Yai District and H3 at KM.399 near Trat.

18 KEY POINT EIGHTEEN

T junction of H3156 at KM.18 on H3148 from Trat to Laem Ngop

The drive goes to Laem Ngop, the mainland port for passenger or car ferries to the lovely island of Ko Chang. Laem Singh beach may be visited on the way and Namtok Phliu Falls are a short distance from the highway. A long side-trip may be made to Hat Lek and Cambodia.

Park in front of the TAT office in

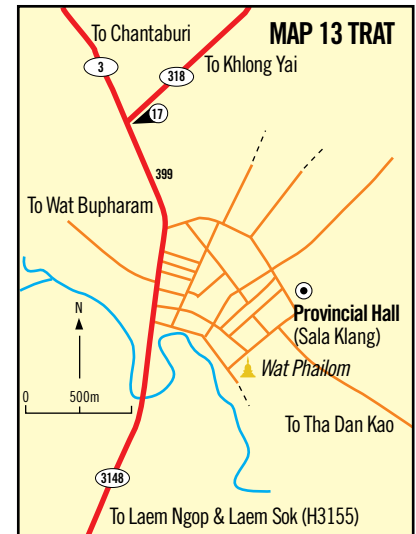
Laem Ngop town for passenger ferries or drive to the car-ferries to cross to the island. The National Park HQ and a memorial commemorating when the French sank two Thai ships in January 1941 are on the sea front road just west of town.

ACCOMMODATION

Cabin rooms may be found by the beach at Ao Tang Ku (H3156 at KM.11) and at Laem Ngop.

Ban Pu Resort & Suan Pu Restaurant. ☎☎☎☎☎ 199 Mu 1, Tambol Nong Khan Song, Trat 23120. Tel: (039) 542355, 512400; Fax: 542359. *(Take H3155 at KM.5 on H3148 between Trat and Laem Ngop. Turn left at KM.6 on H3148. Restaurant Hrs. 10:00-22:00)* Unusual setting in mangrove forest for recommended restaurant and rooms in wooden lodges. Under same management as Ban Pu Ko Chang Hotel.

Laem Ngop Resort. ☎☎ 199/12



Sukhaphibal Rd, Laem Ngop, Trat. Tel: (039) 597085. Wooden cabins close to the main town and pier at Laem Ngop.

KO KUT SPECIAL

You can pre-book an inclusive package to the less visited island of Ko Kut south of Ko Chang with Koh Kood Cabana. Bangkok Office (Nonthaburi) Tel: (02) 9232645-6 Fax: (02) 9232974. Local office (Tel: 039 522955-6) and restaurant is at Tha Dan Kao, approx. 7 kms west of Trat Provincial Capital.

MU KO CHANG NATIONAL PARK

Ko Chang is the largest of 40 islands in the national park. A jungle clad ridge peaking at 743m runs the length of the island. Against this backdrop the western side of the island has three very fine sandy beaches providing ample opportunity for idyllic moments.

From Ao Sapparat west the road is sealed for 10 kms (4WD

DAY 3 : SIDE TRIPS

★ LAEM SINGH — ST 8

(25 kms return. H3 KM.345 turn onto H3348 and then left (south) at sharp bend after almost 3 kms. Follow fish signs to Oasis Sea World dolphinarium and butterfly farm. One hour shows 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00. Adults 90 Bt. From Oasis Sea World, the first sealed road right (south) leads to inland roads parallel to the beach and H3149, an alternative route to H3 at KM.347)

Oasis Sea World offers family entertainment, after which you may drive to Laem Singh where there is a sandy beach with local restaurants. Nearby is a fishing port located at the end of the spit. Sights include *Tuk Daeng*, a former French officer's quarters and *Khuk Khi Kai* (chicken excrement prison), where the French jailed

Thai prisoners beneath a chicken coop with a grill floor (on parallel inland road approx 400 m. from fishing port). Both were built in 1893.

★ NAMTOK PHLIU FALLS — ST 9

(KM 346 left turn to Phliu Waterfall 1.7 kms) From the entrance the falls are a 300 m walk. In 1876 King Rama V (Chulalongkorn) built the moss covered chedi and the pyramid housing the remains of his beloved Queen Sunantha, who drowned in an accident on the Chao Phraya two years after their visit to the falls. A 1 km. nature trail goes round and above the falls. Note the Chinese temple (Wat Mangkol Buppharam) by H3 between KM.345 and 346.

FERRIES TO KO CHANG

Ferry Ko Chang (H3156 KM.10 south turn 4 kms. crossing 20 min. Tel: 039 597143, 521661); Ko Chang Ferry (H3156 KM.4 Centre Point Pier. crossing 45 min. Tel: (01) 318 9789). Both charge 400 baht one-way per vehicle and driver plus extra for passengers. Arrive early to catch the last ferry. Consult our representative office in Pattaya before departure for up-to-the-minute ferry information. Fill up with petrol before leaving mainland (small gas station by Key Point 18).

| Ferry Ko Chang (11 vehicles) | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Outward | Inward |
| 07:30 | 14:00 |
| 08:30 | 15:00 |
| 10:00 | 16:30 |
| 11:00 | 17:30 |
| 12:00 | 13:00 |

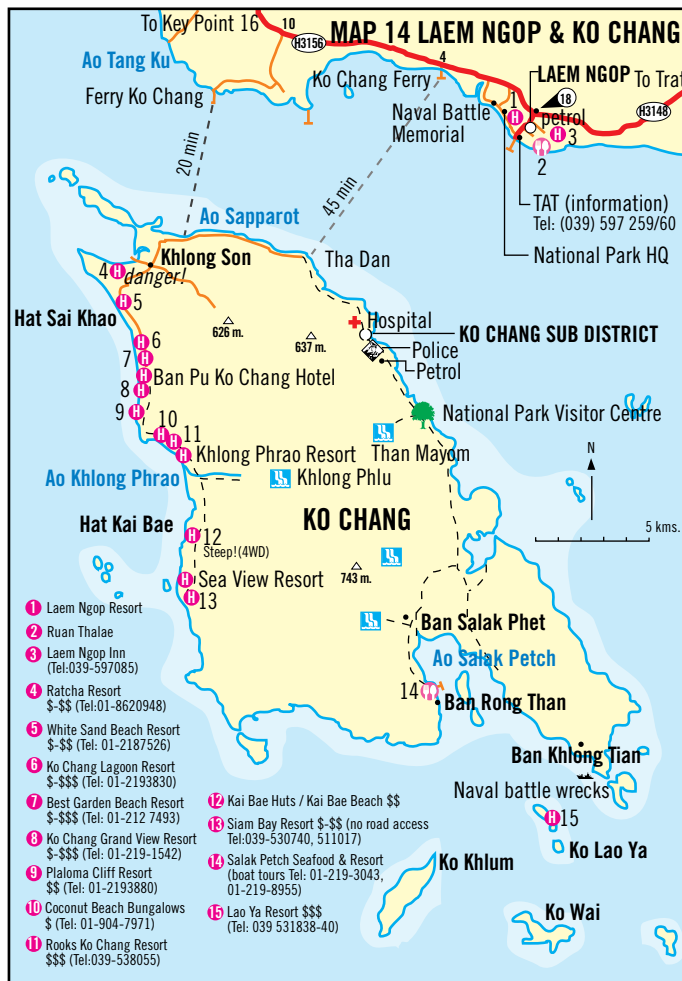
Ko Chang Ferry (18 vehicles)
4 departures daily 07:30 to 17:00
depending on tides

garden around pool.

Khlong Phrao Resort 333 - 3333. Khlong Phrao Beach. Tel: (01) 2193899. Laem Ngop Office Tel: (039) 597-216, 538236, Fax: (039) 597-106. Cabins and lodge rooms on attractive lagoon setting.

Sea View Resort. 3333. Kai Bae Beach. Tel: (01) 218-5055, (039) 529022. Laem Ngop Office. Ferry Ko Chang

Pier, Thammachat Bay. Tel and Fax: (039) 597143. Chalets in mature garden overlooking sandy beach.



beyond). Be careful on the very steep, tight turns south of Khlong Son village. Hat Sai Khao (White Sand Beach. 6 kms) has resorts throughout its length and the liveliest nightlife. The long sandy beach of Khlong Phrao (12 kms.) offers the greatest isolation, but deep inlets must be forded/swum if walking. Khlong Phlu falls at the back has a natural pool 400 metres walk from the parking area. Kai Bae Beach (19 kms.) has lower density development than White Sands Beach.

On the east side of the island a dirt road (4WD. 28 kms. from Ao Sapparot) goes to fishing villages on scenic Ao Salak Petch bay. Good seafood restaurants are found at Ban Rong Than. On the way Than Mayom falls offers isolated pools at the upper levels for those willing to scramble up.

ACCOMMODATION ON KO CHANG

The choice is considerable, and many places offer a basic, clean bungalow for 500 baht up (see map for more suggested places).

Ban Phu Ko Chang Hotel 33333. Hat Sai Khao. Tel. 01-219 3869, 01-942 2964. Comfortable chalets in manicured

SPECIAL SIDE TRIP TO HAT LEK. 89 kms.

To gamble at the Grand Hotel Ca-



Kai Bae moment

sino (Tel: 039 544383-5) just across the border from Hat Lek, you will need a visa from the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok (185 Ratchadamri Rd. Tel: 254 6630, Fax: 253 9859) together with a re-entry permit/visa for Thailand. You must leave your Budget car on the Thai side.

The drive on H318 from Key Point 17 ends at the small, but interesting border market at Hat Lek. It passes a small museum exhibit at a former refugee camp at Khao Lan Ratchakarun (KM.48) and the long undeveloped beach at Hat Chuen (KM.58). The old style fishing town of Amphoe Khlong Yai (74 kms.) and Muslim communities established by Thai-Malays who came by boat across the Gulf are not without interest, but accommodation is only basic beyond KM.41.

Hat Muk Kaew Resort. 3333. H318 KM.41. Pleasant isolated setting in garden by beach. Tel: 039511777, 01-2113358. Bangkok: 02 559 3247-8, Fax: 02 530 7226

SAFE DRIVING IN THAILAND

ROADS IN THAILAND

All main and most minor roads are sealed. On main highways warning signs and reflective arrows mark sharp corners, while temporary signs mark hazards like land-slides and road works (these can be extensive where upgrading is in process). Main intersections are illuminated with sodium lighting. There are no security problems on Thai roads, except in some remote border areas in which case there is an advisory. The police set up highway check-points at night, and the military check traffic in border areas. Both treat foreigners with universal politeness.

ROAD SIGNS AND KILOMETRE STONES

Bilingual (Thai/English) road signs indicate destinations and route numbers before intersections and show the road number and distance to the next main destination after the intersection. Kilometre markers show the road and kilometre number on the front face. Distances in the direction of travel are found on the side of the stone.

LOCAL DRIVERS

Most drivers in Thailand are reasonable but tend to give way little. Be careful of oncoming vehicles that overtake and force you to the left, if not onto the hard shoulder. Be ready to go onto the hard shoulder at a



**For reservations, please contact your
travel consultant or call Budget:**

In the U.K.: 01800-181-181
In the U.S.: (800) 527-0700
In Germany: 89 666-950
In Australia: 13-28-48
In Singapore: 532-4442
In Thailand: 02 203-0250

moment's notice, especially on corners and hills! Be careful of vehicles entering from side roads as they may not stop.

AT NIGHT

Many vehicles do not have lights, especially carts, motorcycles and bicycles. Driving just after dusk is particularly dangerous as local traffic is returning to villages. Be careful of oncoming vehicles with one light — they may not be motorcycles! Night driving is not recommended.

FUEL

24 hour service stations are found on highways near major intersections and towns, but rural stations will close in the evening. Prices are around 13 baht per litre for unleaded fuel, and gas stations will require cash.

ROAD RULES

Driving is on the left. The speed limit for cars is 60 kph in town, 90 kph on highways and 120 kph on motorways. Seat belts must be worn and driving while drunk is illegal.

DRIVERS LICENSE

All drivers must hold a current, non-probationary license. The license may either be Thai, or from the renter's country of residence (with an English translation), or an international driver's permit. Licenses and a valid passport must be carried at all times when driving.

IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT

If possible leave your vehicle where it came to rest (for police to determine responsibility), get injured parties to a hospital and contact the police as soon as possible. Dial 191 for a toll free call to the local police. The tourist police may be reached at 1699 or (038) 429371 (Pattaya area). Contact Budget and stay with your vehicle, taking care of your valuables! Putting branches on the road warns other drivers of an accident or breakdown ahead.

DRIVING ON DIRT ROADS

Numerous small dirt roads across the countryside are a maze, but main dirt roads are usually easy to follow. Drive with caution to prevent sudden dips and ruts from causing mechanical breakdown. For driving on dirt roads in mountain areas, taking a guide is recommended. Before entering remote back country make sure you have enough fuel and drinking water.

Happy safe driving!