

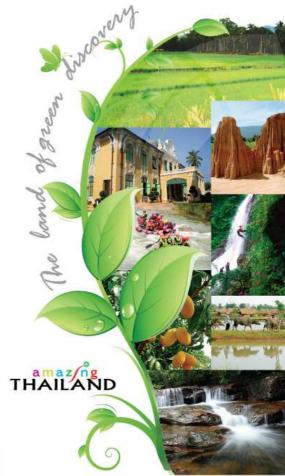


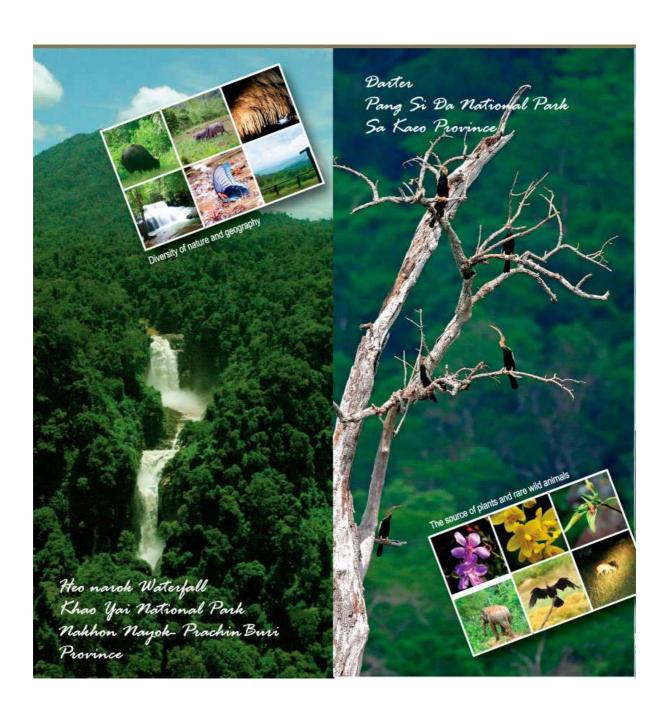


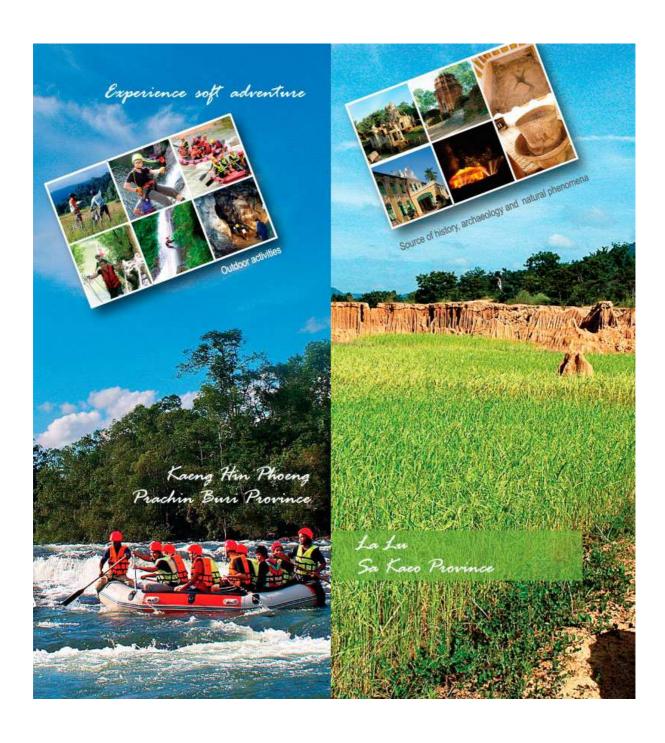
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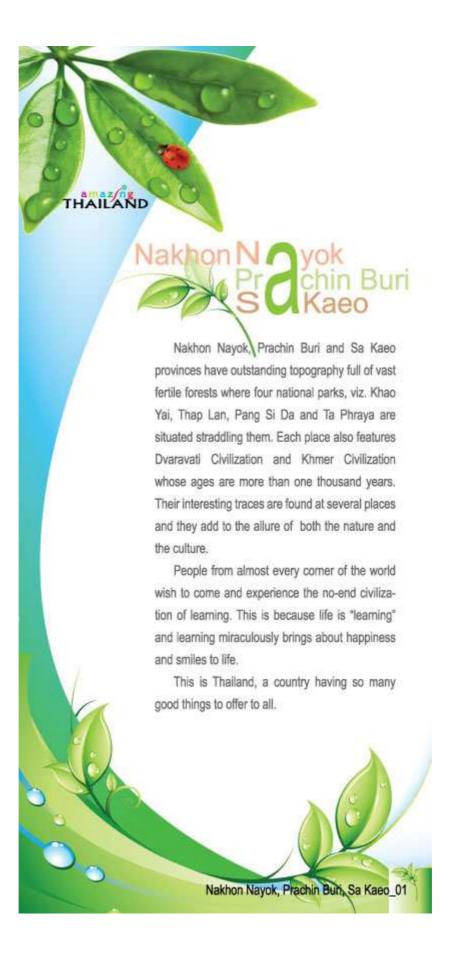
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The natural World Heritage Dong Phaya Yen - Khao Yai Forest

is situated within a mountain range located to the northeast of the country. The total area is 6,155 sq.km. covering land areas in four provinces, i.e. Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Nakhon Ratchasima and Saraburi. Khao Yai consists of virgin forests, sparse woods, waterways, waterfalls and various species of flora and fauna. Khao Laem Hilltop is the highest peak with a height of 1,292 m. above sea level. Seventy-four percent of Khao Yai are thick evergreen forests regarded as a place of great biodiversity of Thailand. The rest of it are mixed deciduous forests and deciduous dipterocarp forests which provide foods for wildlife such as elephants, gaurs and deer. Besides rare wildlife, there are numerous kinds of plants like gurjun-oil tree (Dipterocarpus alatus), rattan (Calamus spp.), krabak (Anisoptera costata Korth.) and Licuala paludosa Griff. At the height more than 1,000 m. above sea level, ancient plants like yellow woods (Podocarpaceae) are found. They are all covered with moss and ferns. This makes the forest similar to the primitive world that has a condition excellent for researching and travelling. Khao Yai is a world's precious property.

The endless sound of nature...always waiting for the visit of those who love travelling.

How To got These: Khao Yai is two and half hours' drive from Bangkok. From Bangkok's Phahonyothin Road at Rangsit junction, take Highway 305 (Rangsit-Nakhon Nayok) and switch right to Highway 33 (Nakhon Nayok-Sa Kaeo). At Naresuan junction, turn left on Highway 3077 which leads northwards another 41 kilometres to the park headquarter.



According to the NAZA ozone map, this area is ranked no.7 in the world for its high content of oxygen.



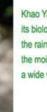
This national park is home to various kinds of rare animals and their offspring living to help decorate this forestry kingdom.





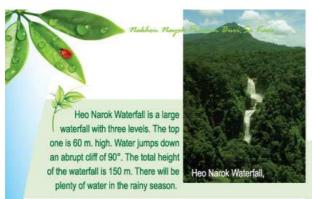












Khao Yai travelling season begins at the end of the rainy season. Tourists will encounter several waterfalls with different characteristics.

Nang Rong Waterfall is a not-too-high beautiful cascade whose water will turn swift and will not be suitable for swimming in the rainy season.

Sarika Waterfall is a large waterfall with nine leaps, each of which has a pond to receive the falling water. Its highest cliff is 200 m. Sarika Waterfall also has plenty of water in the rainy season. At its ground level, bathrooms and toilets are separately provided for men and women. Food shops and souvenir shops are also situated there for tourists to enjoy all – travelling, eating and shopping.

Than Rattana Waterfall Most people are impressed with this waterfall because apart from trekking, visitors are required to abseil down its cliffs which is a way to get close to nature.



Activities at Khac Yai -Jungle Trekking, Animal Watching at Night, Abseiling at 4 Cliffs and 5 Waterfalls

Jungle Trekking at Khao Yai, Nakhon Nayok (Annually from December to June). There are four routes as follows to choose from:

1.The route "Nang Rong Waterfall – Khao Yai National Park" This route leads tourists to Sai Yong Hin Waterfall, Heo Mahesak Waterfall, Tat Ta Pong Waterfall, Tat Ta Khong Waterfall, Tat Ta Phu Waterfall and Manao Waterfall. The total distance is 25 km. This is a 3-day 2 –night trip.

2.The route "Nang Rong Waterfall – Mae Plong Waterfall" Travellers will trek to Wang Takhrai Canal, Huai Som Phung Yai and Mae Plong Waterfall. The total distance is 16 km. This is a 2-day 1-night trip.

3.The route "Nang Rong Waterfall-Sai Yong Hin Waterfall- Khlong Ruam Canal-Mount Thamon" This route covers a total distance of 14 km. Tourists can choose between a 2-day 1-night trip or a one-day trip.

4.The route "Nang Rong Waterfall-Sai Yong Hin Waterfall" This route takes travelers along the Nang Rong Stream and to Sai Yong Hin Waterfall, Bat Cave and Heo Mahesak Waterfall. The round trip is 8 km.



To travel to any route, tourists can contact the park's rangers to find a guide and arrange everything for them. Those who like to go animal watching at night are recommended to go to Khao Yai which offers them not only excitement but also an opportunity to get close to wild animals like elephants, deer and other animals that come out to eat mineral salt in the middle of the night. Tourists who are fond of adventurous outdoor activities are strongly advised to abseil at 4 cliffs and 5 waterfalls at Than Rattana Waterfall. This programme starts from a 300-m trek and then an abseil at Than Rattana Waterfall whose first cliff is about 65 m. high. After that, travelers will go to Song Phinong Waterfall and Song Sawan Waterfall to abseil from a 25-m high cliff and a 34-m high cliff respectively. Then, tourists will head to Wang Bon Waterfall to abseil from a height of 15 m to reach a kayak waiting to bring them back to Wang Bon Reservoir. In addition to touch nature intimately, this is a chance for tourists to prove by themselves that bravery and always come togethe

4_Nakhon Nayok,Prachin Buri,Sa Kaeo







Thap Lan National Park is in Prachin Buri and Nakhon Ratchasima provinces covering an area of 2,240 sq.km. or 1,400,000 rais. This is the last fan palm forest of the country that grows naturally. The fan palm (or Ton Lan in Thai) is a primitive rare palm species. It will produce flowers when its age is over 20 years. Its flowers are soft yellow. After producing flowers, the fan palm tree will die. Thap Lan National Park still has plenty of deciduous dipterocarp forests and thick evergreen forests, both are fertile with a wide array of plant species and are home to wildlife and birds. Tourists will find the park pleasurable as there are several scenic spots such as a 20-rai recreational park full of fan palms and other kinds of plants. Visitors can head to Thap Lan Waterfall (Heo Nok Kok) which is 7 km from Thap Lan Village and then go to Thap Lan Reservoir, 1 km from Thap Lan Village. The reservoir is serene and surrounded by mountains. The weather is cool and fresh suitable for taking a rest. Huai Yai Waterfall is located to the west of the park. This majestic cascade is 50 m high and 30 m wide. Tourists can use Highway 304. And at Km. 79, the route leads you to Huai Yai Waterfall.

> In the dry season, vehicles are allowed to be parked near the waterfall.

Thap Lan National Park

The fan palm or ton lan in Thai is considered to have the largest leave of its kind in the world. The fan palm will produce flowers from the age of 20 until 80. The blooming season starts from April to June. The flowers are in cluster in a pyramid shape. Each cluster consists of millions of the yellow flowers having a pleasant scent. Then, within one year, the flowers will gradually turn into fruits which become brown when they are ripe. The ripe fruits will fall to the ground to propagate while the mother tree dies.

How to get these: Thab Lan National Park is on Highway 304, about 200 kilometres from Bangkok. From the intersection of routes 304 and 33 near Kabin Buri, it is about 32 kilometres to the park office.





Huai Yai Waterfall

Man Fa Waterfall

Bungalows and tents are provided by the park.

For more information, please call

Thap Lan National Park on tel: (66) 0 3721 9408 or

National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation

Department on tel: (66) 0 2561 0777.

06_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



How to get these: From Sa Kaeo town, take Highway 3462 and drive some 27 kilometres to the park office. By train, take the Bangkok-Aranyaprathet train to Sa Kaeo and continue on the mini-bus.

Pang Sida National Park covers areas in Muang District, Watthana Nakhon District and Ta Phraya District of Sa Kaeo Province as well as Nadi District in Prachin Buri Province. The total area is about 844 sq. km. or 527,500 rais. Part of Pang Sida National Park is adjacent to Thap Lan National Park. Pang Sida National Park comprises complicated mountain ranges featuring thick evergreen forests, hill evergreen forests, deciduous dipterocarp forests and grasslands. These forests are water sources of several waterways which flow to either the Bang Pakong River or the Prachin Buri River which is regarded as the principal river of the east.



This national park is interesting especially for studying its hard-to-find wildlife and more than 300 species of birds like hombills and peacocks. A site where numerous animals such as elephants, gaurs, barking deer, wild pigs and tigers are found is around Huai Khlong Phlu whose present condition has become grassland. What's more, the atmosphere in this national park is second to none in the world. In its vast valley which is a vantage point (at Km.25), tourists are recommended not to miss the sunrise with a sea of mist as a backdrop and the sunset with a panoramic view of the mountain range behind. In addition, Pang Sida National Park has several waterfalls. The most distinctive one is Pang Sida Waterfall surrounded by a wide variety of plants making it excellent for nature lovers.

Pang Si Da National Park

Freshwater crocodile habitat Even though freshwater crocodiles are scarce in Thailand, they are seen around Huai Nam Yen in Pang Sida National Park. This indicates the fertility of this national park. Huai Nam Yen is 5 km. from Pang Sida's office. Tourists can head to the route of Khlong Phan Khom-Thung Pho and drive for another 50 km. to reach the site.

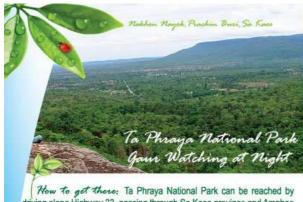
Those who are fond of trekking, there are trails for bird and butterfly watching which can be done all year round. The suitable time to take photographs of butterflies is from 9 o'clock in the morning onwards. The sunlight shining to the mineral salt will attract a large number of butterflies to gather there.

Snake-bird Watching (May to June) Nok Ai Ngua or snake-birds are rare birds with 4 species. When their bodies are under water craning only their heads and throats above the water, they will look like snakes slithering on the water surface. This is because their feather is not waxy. It can become wet. Snake-birds are good at diving to flee from enemies and at the same time they are skilled in flying high. Annually, at the beginning of the rainy season, bird watchers will flock to find snake-birds' nests around the house of Mr. Son Sonchandaeng in Sa Khwan Sub-district, Muang District of Sa Kaeo Province. The area is considered the largest snake-birds' habitat in Thailand.





8 Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



How to get there: Ta Phraya National Park can be reached by driving along Highway 33, passing through Sa Kaeo province and Amphoe Wattana Nakhon. After reaching Aranyaprathet, turn left onto Highway 348 for about 60 kms.

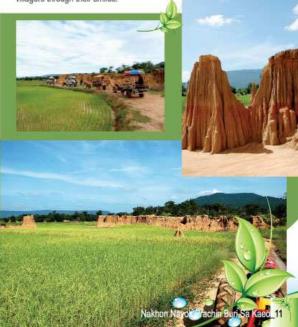
Ta Phraya National Park (371, 250 rais or 594 sq. km.) is in the embrace of the Banthat Mountain Range that lies to the east of Thailand. The mountain range serves as a natural border between Thailand and Cambodia. The west of Ta Phraya National Park is adjacent to Pang Sida National Park while its east stretches to Cambodia. Its north territory connects Thap Lan National Park and Buriram Province while that of the south is in Ta Phraya District of Sa Kaeo Province.

Ta Phraya National Park consists of mixed deciduous forests, dry evergreen forests and deciduous dipterocarp forests which are water sources for several streams. Hard-to-find animals found here include gaurs, wild pigs, barking deer, deer, mouse deer, bears, tigers, bantengs, jackals, wild cats, elephants, porcupines and mongooses. Moreover, there are more than 300 species of birds here such as Minivets, Trogons, Woodpeckers, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Emerald Dove, White-rumped Shama pheasants and hawks.

species of birds nere such as Minivets, Trogons, Woodpeckers, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Emerald Dove, Whiterumped Shama, pheasants and hawks. This National Park stands out because it has several nature-study trails which are superb for bird and butterflies watchers as well as flora and fauna enthusiasts. In addition to its mineral salt, water sources and vantage points.



Ta Phraya National Park also features a wonderful natural phenomenon called "Lalu". Lalu The word "lalu" is derived from a Khmer word meaning "pierced" or "punctured". Since Sa Kaeo Province is adjacent to Cambodia, the Khmer language influence is found all over the place. "Lalu" here refers to a subsided land which is a result of a natural phenomenon caused by the erosion of rainwater and the subsidence or collapse of soil. The strong parts of the soil remain standing and have been continuously eroded by wind and water. This natural creation causes the soil to be in various shapes. When using imagination, some look like walls and some are like poles whose terra cotta colour magically stands out from the blue sky. "Lalu" covers an area of more than 2,000 rais (3.2 sq. km.). Tourists can view "Lalu" by a farm tractor available for rent and can feel the warm welcome and hospitality of the villagers through their smiles.





How to get these: From Bangkok to Prachin Buri, take Suwannasom Road. Once past Nakhon Nayok, take Highway 33 to Amphoe Kabin Buri. When you reach Km.201, turn left toward Sadu-Saphan Hin and continue drive for another 17 kilometres until you reach Ban Nong Haen school, turn left and drive another 7 kilometres to Kaeng Hin Phoeng.

Up to this point, tourists have trekked, walked through the rain and admired nature. But there is still another gut wrenching activity. It is shooting the rapids at Hin Phoeng Rapids. This is a rafting that uses a rubber boat accommodating 8-10 people. The rubber boat will take tourists along the Sai Yai River whose degree of strong current is 3-5. Travellers can contact a reliable entrepreneur who will lead them to Khao Yai 9 Site (Sai Yai) and walk upstream. The total distance is about 2.5 km. Then, they will start shooting the rapids past large and small rapids totaling five. The first rapids is the 150-m long Hin Phoeng Rapids (situated at Khao Yai 9 Forest Guard Unit, Nadi District, Prachin Buri Province).

Then, rafters will reach Wang Nam Lom Rapids which is a large whirlpool and then the 30-m long Wang Bon Rapids. The rapids slightly declines (about 30°), After that, rafters will come to Luk Sua Rapids which is small with a water channel that allows the rubber boat to go past but its passengers are required to dodge the sticking out branches of trees. And the rubber boat will go to Wang Sai Rapids which is a wide rocky rapids with a width of around 50 m, and the length of 150 m. The current flows past these rapids and swirls.

afters need to have skills to paddle in order to control the dinghy. After fighting against the swift current, rafters will arrive at Ngu Hao Rapids at the area of Khao Yai 9. When the water is out, rapids and islets will emerge from the water but during the rainy

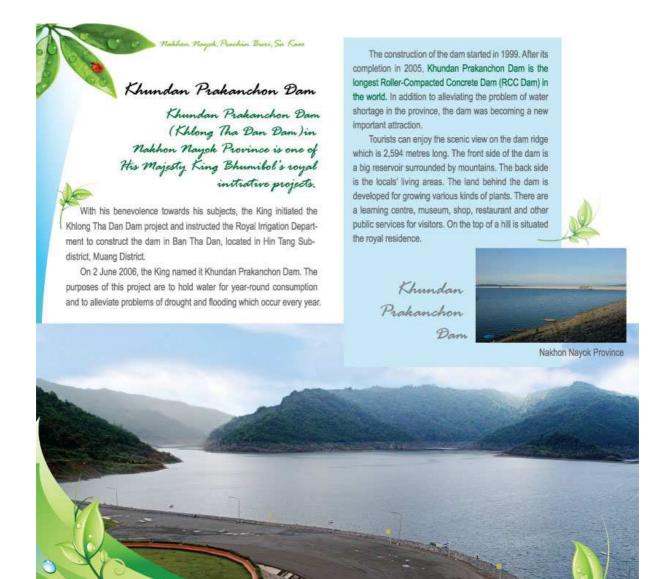
season, the water will cover all of them. Finally, rafters will change their clothes and have a meal in the embrace of nature. Some will exchange their experience while eating. After that, they will go to their resorts which are situated nearby Khao Yai National Park and are ready to welcome all visitors.

Due to its zigzagged path along the way, the Nakhon Nayok River, originating from Khao Yai National Park, is a good place for canoeing, kayaking or practicing to control the direction of rubber boats. The river flows from tier to tier from Kaeng Sam Chan (Sam Chan Rapids) to Ban Wang Yao while the intensity of water gradually diminishes. This creates rapids that generate different kinds of thrills and spills for rafters. For example, rapids abounding with rocks like Kaeng Khot Khung can only be enjoyed in summertime. Meanwhile, in the rainy season, when the level of water is high those rocks will sink into strong current. The highlight of this rafting trip is Kaeng Sam Chan, where the river turns sharply before it cascades down steep gradients for about 50 metres. Now is a challenge for most kayakers when strong current whirls round and collides with underwater rocks making a one metre high rolling wave. Rapids shooting on the Nakhon Nayok River can be done all year round.



Shooting the Rapids on the Nakhon Nayok River

12_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo_15

Agricultural Ways of Life
"The journey from fascinating Asian
herbalism, culture and traditions to the
warmth of local homestays."

How to gathere: Bhumirak Thammachat Center located next to Khun Danprakanchol Dam. Take Highway 3049 (Nakhon Nayok-Khun Danprakanchol Dam), it's about 20 kilometres.

The culture of Asia – Herbalism has been the collective wisdom of the Asian people for thousand years. Though it has been gradually altered by the rising of technology, some people still value the early wisdom and desire to find ways to preserve it for the next generation.

Let the nature be teachers at Bhumirak Thammachat Centre, a royal initiated project. In the centre, the land utilizations are designed to make the most of the resources existing. There are various outdoor demonstrations based on the King's theories and constructions exhibiting natural resource and environmental management. Agricultural activities, livestock farming and energy management are exhibited in this centre as well. All of these are open as a self-learning centre for interested people.





One example is the demonstration plots of three kinds of forests with four benefits. Three forests are fruit trees, trees for charcoal and trees for everyday use. The fourth benefit of the three forests is that these trees constitute forests covering a relatively vast area which contributes to water conservation and the fertility of the soil.

Another example is a demonstration plot of the "Kaem Ling" (Monkey Pouches) royal initiated theory. It has been used as a model to solve the flooding problem in Bangkok and its surrounding areas. To elaborate on the theory, several canals have been dug to lead water to store in a clarification pond. And then some water will be drained into the sea. This is compared with a monkey who, when eating bananas, keeps several of them in both pouches and later gradually eats one efter another.

A demonstration plot of vetiver grass is another showcase in the centre. The grass significantly helps improve soil quality, mitigate soil erosion as well as increase minerals and soil moisture. Plant vetiver grass together with other trees in order that the grass will cover the ground surface to prevent weed problems, help store soil humidity and increase organic matters. Apart from the aforementioned activities, there are several other projects to promote environmental conservation.

Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri Sa Kaeo_17

agricultural Ways of Ly





Flower and Ornamental Plant Village Khlong 15 Homestay – Ban Khu Khot, Bangplakot Sub-district, Ongkharak, Nakhon Nayok. This OTOP Village consists of 6 families. Activities include scented incense sticks making, flower growing and learning lifestyle of flower farmers. Tel. +66 (0) 3733 2112, 08 1761 9414 Bungkhe Homestay – Ban Bungkhe, Nongsaeng Sub-district, Pakphli, Nakhon Nayok. Activities include cultural exchanges and dessert making. Tel. +66 (0) 8 1984 9520



Get away from the busy life and crowded society and let go of stress by learning how the local people live their life. Different ways of life, unfamiliar greetings, local accents, etc. will make your holiday memorable. Homestays in Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri and Sa Kaeo are famous and unique for its agricultural environment. Here we follow the king's sufficiency lifestyle by applying organic agriculture in our farmland. Visitors can participate in local activities like making utensils from natural materials or enjoy themselves by riding bicycles on the nature trails or picking up fresh fruits from the groves.

Tha Dan Homestay – Ban Nang Rong, Hin Tang Sub-district, Muang, Nakhon Nayok. Comprising nine families. Camping areas available. Activities include seasonal fruit picking and learning agricultural ways of life. Tel. +66 (0) 3738 5015, 08 1804 4503

Tha Chai Homestay – Ban Tha Chai, Hin Tang
Sub-district, Muang, Nakhon Nayok. Comprising five
families with 14 houses and camping areas.
Activities include the study of plants from Thai
literatures and local cooking. Tel. +66
(0) 3738 4086, 08 8889 2978

Maikhet Homestay — Mu 2, Maikhet Sub-district, Muang, Prachin Buri. Activities include organic fruit farming and rice-mill and organic herb workshops. Tel. +66 (0) 8 1454 4148, 08 1458 9531 Dong bang Homestay — Mu 6, Dongkhilek Sub-district, Muang, Prachin Buri. Comprising four houses, each can accommodate 10 people. Activities include herbal studies which are handed down for over 80 years, organic agriculture, saunas and traditional massages with heated medicinal herbs. Tel. +66 (0) 8 7087 5039, 08 9269 2643, 08 7600 8842 Thap Lan Homestay — Km.31, Mu 1, Ban Thap Lan, Buphram Sub-district, Nadi, Prachin Buri. Comprising six families, which can accommodate 40 people. Activities include weaving palm leave products and relaxing amidst some fresh air of the world's 7th ozone ranking. Tel. +66 (0) 8 1781 8857

Lalu Homestay – Mu 12, Ban Khlong Yang, Thap Rat Sub-district, Ta Phraya, Sa Kaeo. Comprising ten houses, each can accommodate 10-20 people. Activities include morning and evening Lalu tours by local three-wheeled vehicles to see a natural phenomenon caused by rainwater erosion as well as trekking in Pang Sida and Ta Phraya National Parks. 12, 166-10) 8 9098 0772

20 Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr Hospital is a hospital pilot project in Thai traditional medicine. Its "Health Tour" project, which promotes the use of herbal therapies such as massages, saunas and acupunctures as well as the herbal processing, received the outstanding award for tourism development and promotion project in the 4th Thailand Tourism Awards 2003.



Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr Building is located in Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr Hospital on Prachin Anuson Rd. It is a two-storey building constructed in the European Renaissance architectural style with a porch in front of the central dome. The external walls and door facades are decorated with flower- patterned stucco. The internal structure of the building is in the western style. This building was constructed in 1909 with Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr's personal budget. His objective was to present it to King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) as a royal residence in Prachin Buri Province. But the king, who died in 1910, never visited this building. Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr himself too never used the building as his private residence. However, the ground floor of the building used to serve as medical examination rooms, drug rooms and operation rooms until 1990.

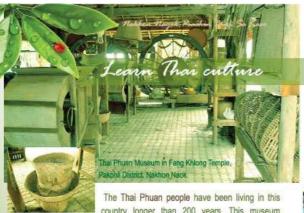
On 24 June 1996, the Fine Arts Department registered the building as a historic site. Since then, it has officially been open as a museum collecting antiques and books about Thai traditional medicine. The museum is open every day from 8.30-17.00 hrs.



Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr Hospital has disseminated knowledge about herbal usage to Dongbang Herbal Group so that they can develop early wisdom to reach the standard and to become sustainable organic agriculture. And by doing so, people in the Dongbang Herbal Group can produce quality medicinal herbs. This somehow helps preserving a form of alternative medicine.

How to get these: From Prachin Buri's downtown, take Highway 3069 to Sri Mahabho District for 2 kilometres. Chao Phya Abhaibhubejhr Building is on your right.

22_Nakhon Nayok,Prachin Buri,Sa Kaeo



country longer than 200 years. This museum

displays the Thai Phuan's everyday objects from the past to present such as sarongs, stone grinders, coffee boilers, farming utensils, looms and many other tools. In addition, groups of people in the community gather in the temple area to weave and make special preserved eggs with pandanus leaves.

Thai culture, Thai identity Inherit and sow the seeds of happiness and joy of living by the river



Nakhon Nayok and Prachin Buri Traditional Long-boat Races - The traditional long-boat races are held annually to entertain people as well as to bring unity within the communities. Prachin Buri holds Princess Sirindhorn's royal trophy races on the second week of September each year on the Prachin Buri River. One of its highlights is a magnificent decorated boat procession carrying the trophy. In October, Nakhon Nayok Province holds its annual boat races at Thawiphun Rangsan Temple in Ongkharak District. The races are usually accompanied by the Krayasat Candy Rice Festival.









Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy is situated in Phrommani Sub-district, Nakhon Nayok (about 14 km. from the provincial town), adjacent to Khao Cha Ngok. It was established to educate commissioned officers for the Royal Thai Army. On 7,716 acres of land, the academy consists of complexes and the Office of Cadet Regiment

the King's Guard. It also helps promote tourism in the area. by opening as a tourist attraction and providing a wide range of sporting activities such as canoeing, bicycling, trekking, rock climbing, abseiling and walk and bicycle rallies. Besides, it is a sports centre providing a golf course, snooker club, shooting field and a youth camp. Accommodations with karaoke rooms, conference rooms, a restaurant are also available. For more information, contact the tourist service centre on tel. +66 (0) 3739 3010 ext. 62960-3. 100 Year Royal Military Academy Museum is where the lifelike fibreglass statue of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) is enshrined. The museum also features exhibitions of the Royal Thai Army, weapons used in the past wars, Thai soldier's uniforms and a multimedia room with multi-vision slides explaining history of the place.



24_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Appreciate and learn about the Ancient Civilization of Dvaravati,

The root of the nation. The Dvaravati civilization covers almost all areas of Thailand. Several archeological sites found in many provinces, including the areas of Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri and Sa Keao, provide ample evidence about the early empire. In the three provinces, visitors can see the ruins left from the ancient kingdom of Dvaravati which tell us the history, religious, culture and ways of life of the people living in the former time. Each location where ancient objects were found is not far from one another; therefore it can be assumed that in the past it might have racial segregation in the region. From what have been left, it indicates that in Thailand there are so many places full of mysteries awaiting us to discover.



The replicas of the Buddha's footprints on Khao Nang Buat are significant evidence to indicate the length of time Buddhism have been thriving in Suvarnabhumi Region. The replicas of the Buddha's footprints on this 100-metres high mountain were constructed in 1858 in Salika District (9 km. from Nakhon Nayok Provincial Town). It is reachable by 227 concrete staircases. In the middle of the 5th month of every year during the Dhevorohana Festival, people will walk up the mountain to pay homage to the footprints.





Located 9 km. to the south of Nakhon Nayok Provincial Town, Donglakhon Archaeological Site or formerly known as Lap Lae, is an ancient city existed in the ancient Khmer era. On 8 March 1935, The Fine Arts Department registered Donglakhon as the National Archaeological Site. City walls and moats are similar to other Dvaravati cities found in central Thailand. According to convincing evidence, the Dvaravati culture had flourished in this area during the period of time between the 14th and 16th Buddhist Centuries, but during the period of time between the 17th and 19th Buddhist Centuries the Donglakhon was dominated by the Khmer and pre-Ayutthaya culture. And around the 19th Buddhist Century, people living in this area moved to settle down by the Nakhon Nayok River. This is somewhat related to the assumption of Simahosot City, located 55 km. away. There is a story about the name of the place. The legend had it that this area belonged to the ancient Khmer Queen and it was given the name "Donglakhon", meaning that drama grove because of the orchestral music.

Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



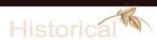
Simahosot City



Simahabho Tree Dvaravati Buddha image

The twin Buddha's footprint

archaeological Site



Simahosot City Archaeological Site is located in Ban Khokwat, Khokpip Sub-district, Simahosot. From Prachin Buri Provincial Town, take highway no. 319 for 20 km., turn left to highway no. 3070 for 1 km. Then, Simahosot Archaeological Site is on the right. Located on the 280 acres of land, Simahosot is a large ancient city in an oval-like shape. Altogether there are over 100 of small hills, ponds and wells dotted around the city area.

Simahosot City is believed to be built in the Dvaravati period; a large amount of evidence found here, e.g. religious places, idols and phallic symbols, is related to Brahmanism or Hindu. Significant ancient remains in the city consist of groups of ruins in the heart of the city, an o-shaped Dvaravati golden mount, square laterite idols, Sa Kaeo ancient pond with 41 animal bas-relief on its edges. It is assumed that Sa Kaeo pond was the venue for royal ceremonies in Simahosot City.

In Simahosot Building, where artefacts found in the city areas are exhibited, there are also exhibitions about primeval objects d'art and history of Samorakot Archaeological Site





Samorakot Archaeological Site is groups of large Buddhist ancient remains that were built on top of each other from the 14th Buddhist Century onwards. Thailand's oldest replicas of the Buddha's footprints were found here. And it was suggested that the hospital building in Samorakot was established later in the 18th Buddhist Century.

Based on evidence from history and religious, groups of the ancient remains can be estimated with not less than 1,000 years of age. The first one is the Simahabho Tree in Simahabho Temple which is believed to sprout from the bho tree under which the Lord Buddha enlightened in India. In the past, when people travelled to this area, they could notice the Simahabho tree because of its large limbs. Therefore, they called the area "Dongsimahabho".

The next one is "Sa Morakot" or the jade pond located 200 metres to the east of the footprints. Although during the penetration of Khmer civilization in the 18th Buddhist Century the pond became part of the hospital, today it still has some evidence to support that it used to be a large water supply, which are hypothetically related to an ancient Sri Lankan ritual.

khon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Every Buddhist is faithfulness to their 2,500-year old religious. Belief, legend and faith in the religious from the past to present are represented in many forms, for instance, mural paintings telling the stories of the Lord Buddha and various kinds of religious places including the replicas of the Buddha's footprints which are holy symbols of the Lord. It is believed that paying homage to the sacred footmarks only once in a lifetime is of great merit.

At Samorakot Temple in Simahosot District, the stories about the origin of Buddhism and the supreme sacrifice of ancestors who protected the land are told through the splendid light and sound performances on Maghapurami Siprachin Festival.

The festival is held on Magha Pucha Day every year at Samorakot Temple. At the festival, activities such as Dharma practicing and meditation are prepared for both monks and Buddhists. The highlight of this festival is the "Wian Thian" ceremony which people walk around the Thailand's oldest and biggest replicas of the Lord Buddha's footmarks three times as a way of paying homage.





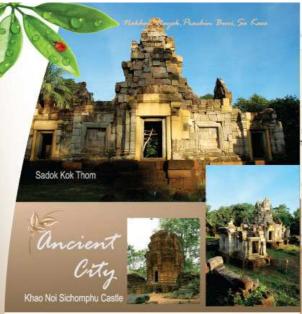


Prachin Buri National Museum is the national museum of the eastern region. It displays ancient objects discovered in the eastern provinces dating from prehistoric to the Rattanakosin periods and houses exhibitions of underwater archeology taken from the sea near the Khram Island of Chonburi Province. The museum is situated behind the old Provincial Administration Hall and open from Wednesdays to Sundays and on public holidays. Visiting hours are from 9.00-16.00 hrs. Admission fees: 10 baht for Thais and 30 baht for foreigners. Tel. +66 (0) 3721 1586

Yusuksuwan Museum located on Prachantakhram Rd. In Dongkhilek Sub-district, keeps daily household utensils used in former times. The highlight is the greatest numbers of oil and gas lamps collected by the owner. In addition to lamps, the museum displays a great collection of appliances and interesting old banknotes. Open 9.00-18.00 hrs. Admission fees: Adults 60 baht/Children 30 baht Tel. +66 (0) 3746 5300, 3746 5333



30_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Sadok Kok Thom is another important historic site in Sa Kaeo Province. Situated in Ban Nong Samet, Khok Sung Sub-district, this Khmer style sandstone castle was established to house idols and to be the site for conducting Hindu's rituals. The castle comprises three towers. Two stone inscriptions inscribed with ancient Khmer letters were found here. One indicates the construction period of the castle, whilst the other was erected in honour of King Athitayaworaman when the renovation work was completed in 1052. "Sadok Kok Thom" means a city that has plenty of reeds in its large swamp.

Khao Noi Sichomphu Castle is located in Khao Noi Sichomphu
Temple, Khlong Namsai Sub-district, about 12 kms. to the south of the
Khlong Namsai District. Established in the 12nd Buddhist
Century, the castle consists of three towers. Only the
middle one is in good condition. In 1935, the Fine Arts
national archeological site.

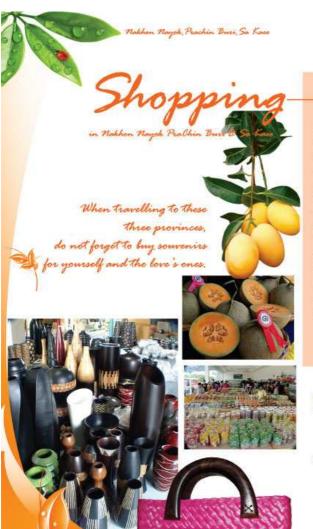


CHANTHA SURI

After travelling in the areas of Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Burl and Sa Kaeo, if you are interested in the wonderful "Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom", the ancient Khmer civilization, the trip can be easily arranged. Just cross the border at Aranyaprathet immigration Checkpoint, Sa Kaeo province, with the distance only 150 km. and taking only 2 hours. Interested travelers can get information and use the service of travel agents in Sa Kaeo.

Ancient Khmer civilization

Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Don't Miss



Khlong Luek Border Market or widely known as Rong Klua Market is the largest of its kinds in this country. Located at Ban Khlong Luek, Tha Kham Sub-district, about 6 kms. to the east of Aranyaprathet Town, the market is on the border between Thailand and Cambodia. To get there, use Highway No. 33 Sa Kaeo-Aranyaprathet. Rong Klua Market, in Sa Kaeo Province of Thailand, is a significant trading centre in this region. In the market, there are rows of shops selling various kinds of merchandises; most of them are from Cambodia, e.g. brass ware, porcelain, ceramics, crockery, clothes, curtains, shoes, electric appliances from Russia, wickerwork, dried fish, etc. About 500 metres from Khlong Luek Market is the Khlong Luk Checkpoint where visitors can cross the border to Poipet Market in Cambodia. Or, visitors can hire a van or pickup truck from tour agents in Ban Khlong Luek Border Market to Poipet Market in Siem Reap. Likewise, vehicles can also be hired from the market to the famous Angkor Wat in Siem Reap. From Rong Klua Market, it is only 150 km. to the Angkor Wat (about 2 hours' drive).







Required documents for Crossing Thai/Cambodia Border

- Passport Citizens of Thailand, Cambodia and other Third World Countries can enter to and depart from the countries as well as connecting to the third country.
 Poipet Immigration provides Visa for the citizens of the above mentioned countries at Poipet Market, opposite to Aranyaprathet Immigration.
- 2. How to get Cambodia Visas
 - a. Official Visa Government officers must have proof identity issued from their office, one 1x1.5" photo ID and passport. Exemption of Visa fee. Length of stay: 30 days
 - Tourist Visa Visa fee 20 USD/person (1,000 Thai Baht), Two 1x1.5"photo ID. Length of stay: 30 days. A visa extension is allowed for a permission to stay for another 30 days.
- 3. To apply for a Cambodia Visa, please contact
 - a. Cambodian Embassy in Thailand: Tel. +66 (0) 2253 7967
 - b. Cambodian Consulate in Sa Kaeo Province: Tel. +66 (0) 3742 5430
 - c. Poipet Immigration, Cambodia
 - d. Aranyaprathet Immigration: Tel. +66 (0) 3723 1131

34_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Colourful plants are available all year round at Flower and Ornamental Plant Market in Ongkharak.

Flower and Ornamental Plant Centre Ongkharak, Khlong 15

is Thailand's largest nursery for flowers and ornamental plants, including Bonsai and twining plants. Plants of various species have been distributed from the centre throughout Thailand and many foreign countries. Visit the centre and shop for products at wholesale prices at Marketing Demonstration Centre Mu 11.

Nong Cha-om Fruit Market in Muang District of Prachin Buri is a centre selling quality fruits and other agricultural products, e.g. durians, rambutants, pomelos, santols, mangosteens, marian plums, rambai lutqua and bamboo shoots, one of famous products of Prachin Buri. It can be said that





Fruit

Thailand is a paradise full of tasty fruits. All year round, we have seasonal fruits of different kinds, depending on weather conditions. At the beginning of the year, low sugar fruits like rose apples are abundant. Khlong Hat's rose apples grown in Sa Kaeo are famous for its firm and sweet flesh. When the weather is hotter, very sweet fruits such as a palm-sized juicy marian plums of Nakhon Nayok or Sa Kaeo's cantaloupes which has gone through selective breeding programmes in order to produce fruits that mostly suit customer satisfaction, are the best.

When the rainy season begins, usually around August, you should try Nakhon Nayok's sweet pomelos. Throughout the year Prachin Buri's Bangmot orange trees bear its sweet, bright orange coloured fruits, which is absolutely an undeniable souvenir for anyone. Try Sa Keao's rose apples in January and buy Nakhon Nayok's marian plums in February. In April, let's try cantaloupes of Sa Kaeo. And Nakhon Nayok's sweet pomelos are in season in August.





36_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Nakhon Nayok's best products are marble of Muang District (Cho Po Lo Intersection), low-priced bamboo products of Muang District, mango wood products of Sai Mun Sub-district in Ongkharak (Tel. +66 (0) 3739 1706-8) as well as hand woven clothes and pandanus preserved eggs of Fang Khlong Temple in Pakphli District (Tel. +66 (0) 3739 9833, 08 1458 8200). However, snacks can be purchased from many souvenir shops in the region.

Prachin Buri is famous for its bamboo products like bamboo furniture of Ban Ngong and Ban Pho in Prachantakham District, broomsticks produced from Prachantakham District, quality silk at Nanthawan Thai Silk in Kabinburi District (Tel. +66 (0) 3745 1238 or Khun Samruai's chilli paste of Kabinburi District (Tel. +66 (0) 3728 1294, For brandname products, let's go to Saha Group Factory Outlet in Kabinburi District. Merchandises from various brands are at very low prices. (Tel. +66 (0) 3720 5131, 3720 5138).

When in Sa Kaeo, ceramic basketwork at Chaiphatthana Village in Wangnamyen District (Tel. +66 (0) 8 9936 9715) and hand woven fabrics with ancient patterns at Ban Han Sai Thai Silk in Aranyaprathet District (Tel. +66 (0) 3742 6014, 08 9831 4738) are recommended.

Nakhon Nayok

- Royal Hills Golf Course
 Salika Sub-district, Muang District
 Tel. +66 (0) 3732 8407-9, 3738 5090-4, 3738 5210-5
- 2. Cascata Golf Course Tel. +66 (0) 3730 2777-8
- Golf Course in Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy Muang District Tel. +66 (0) 3739 3010-4 ext. 62681, 3739 3154
- Watermill Golf Course Khlong 14 Phothan Sub-district, Ongkharak District Tel. +66 (0) 2905 8938, 2905 9036
- Prime City Golf Club Khlong 15 Bangplakot Sub-district, Ongkharak District Tel. +66 (0) 3733 2243, 08 9200 4115
- Athittaya Royal Country Club Ongkharak District
 Tel. +66 (0) 2633 8118-9, 2569 1387-8

Prachin Bur

- Hillside Country Home Krabinburi District Tel. +66 (0) 3721 5492-6, 08 1734 5915
- 2. Kabin Buri Sport Club Tel. +66(0) 3729 0345, 08 8486 3633
- Phrommayothi Quarter Golf Course Muang District
 Tel. +66 (0) 3721 1439 ext. 63315

Sa Kaeo

- Burapha Golf Course 12th Infantry Regiment (the King's Guard),
 Phairilayodet Quarter Thakasem Sub-district, Muang District
 Tel. +66 (0) 3724 1383
- Burapha Golf Course 3 Suwannason Rd., Aranyaprathet Tel. +66 (0) 3723 1172





38_Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo



Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri and Sa Kaeo are three provinces in the central of Thailand which have recently emerged as fascinating tourist destinations. The main reason is they are not far from Bangkok and feature all types of holiday attractions from natural resources and historical sites to customs and traditions.

Nakhon Nayok is an interesting tourist province located just 106 kilometres from Bangkok. Its attractions can be visited as a day trip, making it a fine stopover spot for travellers. Nakhon Nayok is famous for its refreshing natural beauty consisting of parks and waterfalls, renowned historical sites, soft adventure activities, and its variety of fruits.



Prachin Buri province, located about 135 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, is a province near the border. It was once a prosperous town in the Dvaravati period, dating back 800 years ago, which is proven by traces of several small ancient towns. Discoveries of historical sites used for religious purposes and other artefacts such as Buddha images, statues of delities, pottery, and bronze ware were found scattered in many areas.

Sa Kaeo is an eastern boundary province, located 245 kilometers from Bangkok. It borders Cambodia in Aranyaprathet District, the gateway that links Thailand and its neighbour. It is an old town that can date back as far as 4,000 years to the New Stone Age and Bronze Age. The archaeological sites of Khmer art and ancient artefacts have been discovered in many areas of this province, bearing testimony to its rich civilization. At present, it is well-known as a trading centre due to its large border market.

