

Slow Travel Thailand

Taking time to enjoy what travel offers





Slow Travel

Taking time to enjoy
what travel offers

Once we step outside Bangkok and the modern speed of city life, we experience the real Thailand, the land of smiles. The Thai way of life is slow in origin; we live slowly in accordance with the time and with the seasons, the true speed of life.

The local community and its rich heritage is what creates values in slow visit. Slow travel tunes the time of human action and the ecology with the rhythm of nature, where eco-resorts and local homestays play a major role in creating slow destinations. Thailand has the potential in being one of the main players in slow destination, where people from all over the world come and slow down, having a chance to enjoy life's wonder in a slow and magical way. In order to appreciate life itself, it is necessary to slow down and take your time.



Contents

Take your time to travel and
find the real Thailand.



46 Central

Find peace and
tranquility within touching
distance of the capital city.

6 North

Home to the historic city
of the north and traditional
Karen communities.



Copywriting and production by Tourism Authority of Thailand
1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan, Ratchathewi, Bangkok
10400 Thailand, www.tourismthailand.org

Art Director Special Project : Nakorn Sangsawang
Senior Graphic Designers : Patipan Pimcharoen
Graphic Designer : Ornchamai Pleumjai
Writers : James Goyder, Siwaporn Wongma, Kuhn Sucharitakul
Production : Laddawan Kiewklangkoksong

Special thanks : Buffalo Village and Ban Bang Mae Mai
Homestay, Suphan Buri

66 East

Some of Thailand's best
kept secrets could be
closer than you think.



36 South

Discover some of Thailand's
most beautiful untouched
beaches.



74 Northeast

Experience an old fashioned
way of life in Thailand's rural
heartland.



Slow Travel

North:

Home to the historic city and traditional Karen communities.

“A sustainable lifestyle”



Hamlets
In the Hills

Chiang Mai

Mae Kampong Ecotourism Village

A picturesque village, with teak-wood homes raised on stilts bordering a rushing stream, Mae Kampong has won several awards for its eco-friendly homestay tourism program. Mae Kampong village is an ideal destination for anyone seeking both greater cultural and environmental awareness of Northern Thailand as well as the chance to relax and enjoy the unspoiled beautiful countryside.

Accommodation

- Homestay and nearby resorts

Activities

- Flight of the Gibbon, Thai massage, visiting local herb garden, touring nearby attractions – Mae Kampong Waterfall, Mae Mon Waterfall

Best time

For cold climates, visit from November to January, or to experience the festive Songkran festival, visit in mid-April.

Getting there

Located approximately 50 kms from Chiang Mai, about one hour's drive east on Highway 1317 past Sankampaeng.

Contact

78/1 Moo 3, Huay Kaew, Mae On District, Chiang Mai, 66 (0) 5331 5111, 66 (0) 8 9559 4797, www.maekampong.com





“Home of the
Hmong hill tribe”

Harlets
In the Hills

Chiang Mai Ban Doi Pui

Ban Doi Pui is a hill tribe village where the Hmong have made their home. The Hmong are best known for their magnificent embroidery and silver jewelry. Hmong handicrafts and other souvenirs are sold here. The village also has a pleasant terraced flower garden where opium poppies as well as other flowering plants are grown purely for display. A hill tribe museum can also be visited.

Accommodation

- Homestay and nearby resorts

Activities

- Browse the market stalls looking for traditional Hmong souvenirs, watch Hmong craftsmen at work creating musical instruments and crossbows.

Best time

December to February when the weather is at its best. The average daytime temperatures are warm, and the nights are nice and cool.

Getting there

Ban Doi Pui is located in a valley just northwest of Doi Pui on Doi Suthep-Pui National Park. Automobiles can reach this spot via Highway 1004. It is approximately 20 kilometers from central Chiang Mai. From Phu Ping Palace the journey should only take less than ten minutes to get to the village on a bike or car.

Contact

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park
P.O.Box 99, Amphur Muang Chiang Mai,
Chiang Mai Thailand 50200
Doisuthep_pui@hotmail.com

Harlets
In the Hills

Chiang Mai Ban Sob Gai Village

“Adventure awaits you”

Nestled atop a hillside characterized by the untouched beauty of its rivers and mountains, Ban Sob Gai is a small village where adventure awaits you. Rafting in either inflatable boats or traditional bamboo rafts will give you access to unprecedented views of stunning scenery with a rocky and curving shoreline along the Mae Tang River.

Accommodation

- Homestay and nearby resorts

Activities

- Enjoy a tour of the area atop a noble beast with an elephant trek, hit the rapids in a raft for a white knuckle ride which is fun for all the family.

Best time

The best months for tourists with no rafting experiences are between January and March when the rafting level is 2+. These early months of the year are ideal for family trips when children can enjoy rafting. For a more adventurous rafting experience, June to September offer level 3 - 5+ rafting.

Getting there

Using Highway 1095, Ban Sob Gai Village is located about 18 kilometers after taking a turn towards Ban Kued Chang Sub-district.

Contact

Kued Chang Sub-district Administrative Organization Mae Taeng District, Chiang Mai
66 (0) 5331 7404-5



Hamlets In the Hills

Chiang Mai Ban Mae Taman

Ban Mae Taman is located up in the mountains of Chiang Dao, Thailand's third highest peaks. Picture extensive caves and exciting treks through stunning natural scenery and formations. Doi Mae Taman ('doi' meaning mountain) is also known as Pa Kia. The morning mist almost entirely shrouds the mountains and photographers in particular will enjoy the surrounding scenery.

Accommodation

- Rooms are available for tourists, but trips should be planned in advance, with accommodation requested from the Watershed Conservation agency.



Activities

- Trekking through rolling green hills and mountains, birdwatching, enjoying the spectacular scenery.

Best time

Wrap up in winter clothes and see frost on the ground in the early morning from November to February, or catch the warmer weather the rest of the year round.

Getting there

Some of the road conditions can be quite challenging and require a 4x4, but follow the 107 from Chiang Mai to Chiang Dao in the direction of Fang, stopping for supplies along the way, as options are limited once up in the mountains.

Contact

Pa Kia Watershed Conservation Agency
124 Moo 6, Chiang Dao, Chiang Mai Prov-
ince 50170
66 (0) 5322 2014, 66 (0) 5394 4052,
66 (0) 8 1289 4139

Hamlets In the Hills

Chiang Mai Ban Pha Mon Community Based Tourism Centre

Ban Pha Mon Community Based Tourism Centre provides an excellent opportunity to appreciate and discover the Karen hill tribe's traditional way of life. Take a tour through the natural beauty of the landscape including paddy fields on terraced hillsides and through local villages to observe and immerse yourself in the local customs and culture.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Nature tours, hiking through the hills, learning about the local way of life

Best time

September to November for rice terraces,
December to February for the wild flower
blooming season.

Getting there

From Chiang Mai take the Chiang Mai - Hod Highway until the km 58 and then turn right onto Chomthong-Inthanon. Turn into Ban Pha Mon at the road sign and continue for km 7.

Contact

Moo 17, Jom Thong-Doi Intanon Road, Tambon Ban Luang, Amphur Jom Thong, Chiang Mai
66 (0) 8 6185 0788
surasitd@hotmail.com



"Surrounded by fertile plains of rice paddies"

Harlets In the Hills Mae Hong Son Ban Huai Hee

Huai Hee is an indigenous word for the type of long bamboo used to weave cottage walls. Ban Huai Hee opened its doors to tourists in 1996 to give the outside world a glimpse of life in the forest and the things, such as rotating crops, which they were doing to preserve it.

Accommodation

- Homestay to accommodate up to 52 tourists.

Activities

- Forest trekking, birdwatching, hot springs

Best time

The peak season is between October and March.

Getting there

Ban Huai Hee can be reached by 4WD, via a gravel road which climbs up through forest-covered mountains to the village.

Contact

34/1 Moo 8, Huai Poo Long Sub-district, Mueang District, Mae Hong Son
Pranot Prakhongsap 66 (0) 8 1289 0128

Harlets In the Hills Mae Hong Son Ban Mae Lana

The village consists of traditional wooden homes and a few small shops hidden in a sunken valley below steep limestone karsts and lush mountain peaks. It was once a collection point for the opium trade but today it is an entrancing cooperative for a simple, sustainable lifestyle surrounded by fertile plains of rice paddies.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Rice planting and harvesting with villagers, visit the Diamond Cave, trekking, birdwatching

Best time

November through January are the cooler months which virtually guarantee cloudless days. After June the wet season begins but occasional rainfall is small price to pay for verdant landscape.

Getting there

After traveling 10 kilometers from Pang Mapha district on Highway 1095, which links Mae Hong Son to Pai and Chiang Mai, take Highway 1226 seven kilometers to reach Ban Mae Lana.

Contact

15 Moo 1, Pang Mapha Sub-district, Pang Mapha District, Mae Hong Son
66 (0) 8 5708 8817

Harlets In the Hills

Chiang Rai Mae Salong Chinese Community

Mae Salong won the 2007 Thailand Tourism Award as an outstanding tourism-based community for tour guides and homestays. It is an exotic mountainside location embraced by nature. This is an ideal destination for rest, relaxation and fresh air, where they serve organic produce and organize activities to keep you entertained, with 20% of profits going to the local hill tribe student project.

Accommodation

- Homestay accommodation is either in shared or private rooms, with basic amenities, or tents are available for outdoor camping.

Activities

- There is an abundance of mountain activities at this homestay, including horseriding, archery, massage, trekking, cultural dance and hill tribe visits. You can hire a licensed tour guide to accompany you and embark on one- and two-day activity programs organized by the homestay.

Best time

To see the flowers in full bloom
December and January are great months to

visit, otherwise if you need warmer weather then February through May really heat up.

Getting there

Travel from Chiang Rai on Highway 1 towards Mae Chan and at the Mae Chan and Pa Sang junction, follow the sign to Doi Mae Salong. The homestay is located on Mae Salong Nok road in Mae Fa Luang in Chiang Rai.

Contact

97/7 Doi Hang, Chiang Rai
66 (0) 8 9997 5505, 66 (0) 5391 8442
www.maesalonghomestay.com

"Enjoy the real Thailand away from the bright lights of the big cities"





Hamlets
In the Hills

Mae Hong Son Pang Ung

Pang Ung Lake is a Royal Initiative Project by HM Queen Sirikit for highland development. The irrigation reservoir is surrounded by green pine forest with a camping area. The beautiful lake offers superb views all year round. Around the lake there are paths which are perfect for jogging or just walking. The best time of day for photography is in the early morning when you can expect to see some spectacular sunrises. Pang Ung is an area of untouched beauty which has been described as one of the most romantic destinations in Thailand.

Accommodation

- Camping and guest house

Activities

- Boating on the lake, taking photographs of the spectacular sunrise and sunset, trekking or jogging around the lake, mule rides

Best time

Pang Ung is enjoyable all year round but make sure to wear suitable clothing if camping during the wet season.

Getting there

Pang Ung Lake is 44 km from Mae Hong Son. The drive is a slow one but the scenery is fantastic.

Contact

66 (0) 5361 1244, 66 (0) 8 5618 3303
Ruam Thai Guesthouse: 66 (0) 5361 1244
Pang Tong 2: 66 (0) 8 0847 8456, 66 (0) 8 7661 8594
Lung Pala: 66 (0) 5369 2144, 66 (0) 8 6916 8967, 66 (0) 8 4141 2636

Hamlets
In the Hills

Mae Hong Son Pai

“Explore on horseback”

This small riverside town in the Mae Hong Son province is a popular escape from the city, close to the border with Myanmar. For the seasoned motorbike traveler, this makes for a picturesque journey. Motorcycles and bicycles can be rented locally, although Pai is explorable on foot or from the back of an elephant too. Pass by waterfalls and dense flora and fauna for a truly memorable northern experience.

Accommodation

- With everything from luxury resorts to cheap guest houses, Pai offers a lot more these days than just backpacker haunts of the past. Check out the website to choose your favorite resorts for some breathtaking views.

Activities

- Spas, elephant camps, shops and restaurants are in abundance in and around Pai, as well as regular music festivals. Be sure to visit the hill tribes and the popular weekly Wednesday market, and rent a bicycle and take an eco-tour around the countryside, such as Chan's Nature Walks. The more adventurous can try white water rafting.

Best time

November through March is considered high season and offers the most ambient temperatures which draws the throngs, so book the accommodation in advance.

Getting there

Head northwest from Chiang Mai on the 107, turning left for highway 1095, which passes through the town, or fly directly into Pai airport.

Contact

www.maehongsontravel.com



Natural
adoration

Chiang Mai Chiang Dao Homestay and Nature Trails

Chiang Dao National Park covers an area of some eleven hundred square kilometres, close to the border with neighbouring Myanmar. The park contains Chiang Dao Forest, the Mae Fang Watershed, and the districts of Wiang Haeng and Chaiprakan. With walks varying from a gentle stroll to a hardcore hike the area around Chiang Dao has something for every enthusiastic nature lover. Treks can last for anything from a couple of hours up to a couple of days with homestay accommodations.

Accommodation & Activities

- Homestay
- hiking, waterfalls, spotting wildlife, birdwatching, trekking, cave visiting

Contact

Chiang Dao National Park, Mueang Nga Sub-district, Chiang Dao, Chiang Mai, 66 (0) 5326 1466
Wildlife Reserve Division, Royal Forest Department, 66 (0) 2561 2947

Natural
adoration

Chiang Mai Pong Dued - Pa Pae Hot Spring and Nature Trails

The hot springs are renowned throughout Thailand but are never busy and remain something of a hidden gem for tourists. Downstream from the springs are naturally formed pools rock which are ideal for bathing.

Accommodation & Activities

- Guest house and camping
- Bathing in the hot springs, elephant riding, rafting

Contact

Huai Nam Dang National Park, Moo 5, Kued Chang, Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai 66 (0) 5324 8491, 66 (0) 5326 3910, www.dnp.go.th

Natural
adoration

Chiang Mai Doi Inthanon Nature Trails

Doi Inthanon is the highest peak in Thailand and rises to a height of 2565 metres above sea level. Temperatures are subsequently cool and it is worth packing some warm clothing if you are planning on ascending. The natural park itself also contains tropical forests with rivers and waterfalls.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and guest house
- birdwatching, trekking

Contact

Doi Inthanon National Park, 119 Ban Luang, Chomthong District, Chiang Mai 66 (0) 5328 6728-9, 66 (0) 5328 6730 www.dnp.go.th


Natural
adoration

Chiang Mai Royal Projects at Doi Inthanon, Ang Khang, Khun Wang

About 30 years ago, H.M. King Bhumibol embarked on a personal fact finding mission to see what could be done to improve conditions for people living in hill tribe villages.

Accommodation & Activities

- Homestay and camping
- Tour the research stations and gardens, see traditional hill tribe performances

Contact

"36 Royal Projects in 365 days"
66 (0) 5327 7094, 66 (0) 5327 8332, 66 (0) 5327 8204

Natural
adoration

Chiang Mai Dokmai Botanic Flower Garden

Dokmai is a private botanical garden in Chiang Mai. Dokmai means flower and there are over 1,000 species as well as birds, fish and butterflies and mushrooms.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and homestay
- Observe the flora and fauna

Getting There

Dokmai Garden is located near the Nampree Village, 17, 5 km. From The Chiang Mai Airport. Drive along the canal road (not the Hang Dong road) and there are signs along the road will help you.

Contact

Customer Service: 66 (0) 8 9433 9045, www.dokmaigarden.co.th

“Take your time and enjoy your trip”

Unique way of life | Chiang Mai Ban Ton Lung Lisu Village

Ban Ton Lung is a resettlement village for hill tribe villagers who were formally scattered across isolated villages on the mountains of Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai. The village is well laid out, with a separate area for each of the different hill tribes. A visit to Baan Ton Lung is certainly a colorful experience with all the hill tribe women dressed in their traditional costumes as they demonstrate their considerable skills in weaving and spinning as well as old methods of rice production. The road in the village is lined on both sides with thatched-roof wooden huts displaying for sale a wide variety of hill tribe embroidery, clothes, jewelry and many other authentic items.

Accommodation

- Homestay and resort

Activities

- Village tour, bicycle and oxcart ride, whitewater and bamboo rafting

Best time

For the best weather, it is preferable to go visit the hill tribe villages between November and January when the cool temperature will soothe your authentic shopping trip.

Getting there

Located just off the Mae Rim - Samoeng Road, an area containing many and varied Chiang Mai attractions.

Contact

www.asian-oasis.com



“A natural shelter made of mountains”



Unique way of life | Phetchabun Lom Kao

Phu Tub Berg, located in Lom Kao district at the highest point of Phetchabun, is surrounded by a natural shelter made of mountains. With a cool climate all year long thanks to a stream of cool breezes from the Himalayan Mountains, it is a place with an awe-inspiring scenery. In the morning, the sight of a sea of clouds and fog will take your breath away. Along with beautiful scenery, local agriculture such as cabbage fields can be appreciated in the village. The sight of Phaya Sua Krong flowers blooming between December and January is also a fantastic spectacle.

Accommodation

- Guest house, resort and camping

Activities

- Observe the Phaya Sua Krong Thai Sakura in blossom.

Best time

The climate is cool all year long due to a stream of cool breezes coming from the Himalayas. Traveling between December and January, visitors can witness the blooming of Phaya Sua Krong Thai Sakura.

Getting there

From Phetchabun take highway number 2372 for 13 kilometers. Then make a left turn to highway number 2331. Follow the road for around 18 kilometers. At the three-way intersection make a right turn and follow the sign Phu Tub Berg. It will get you to the viewpoint of Phu Tub Berg.

Contact

66 (0) 5681 0737, 66 (0) 8 5733 9737
www.phutubberg.com,
<http://buglatravel.blogspot.com>





“Home to breathtaking caves”

Unique way of life

Nan Wiang Sa District

Located in the central part of Nan province, Wiang Sa is not to be confused with the district of the same name in the southern province of Surat Thani. Home to some breathtaking caves, the stalactite and stalagmite formations are worth a closer look. The surrounding countryside, mountains and nature are ideal for a quiet contemplative trip, but be sure to explore further afield to visit temples and take in the scenic riverside spots for picnics and allow yourself a quick dip to cool off and play in waterfalls.

Accommodation

- Homestay and resort

Activities

- Take a boat trip along the river to the Sirikit Dam, check out the local way of life in fishing villages, go hiking through hilly terrain and buy local wares from small villages. Discover the ancient local way of life in the Tong Lueang tribe at Ban Huay Yak, and stop by for a blessing and admire the architecture at the Sukhothai-styled Boon Yuen temple.

Best time

The Nan Provincial Boat Race takes place annually around the end of October, while the colourful Golden Orange and Red Cross Fair is in mid December. Temperatures are warmer from February onwards.

Getting there

Domestic flights leave Bangkok daily to Nan, while bus and car options travel the nearly 700 km road route across scenic highways. From Nan to Wiang Sa District is about 25 km.

Contact

Khon Hug Wiang Sa Group
66 (0) 8 5864 8920, 66 (0) 8 9020 2309
www.nanthailand.com

Unique way of life

Phayao Ban Rong Hai

Ban Rong Hai is a large ancient settlement situated on the banks of Kwan Phayao Lake. Based on the evidence discovered; sandstone Buddha images and inscription fragments, the site is believed to be around 500 years old. It is a place to learn about the historic relationship the local community has with Kwan Phayao and also the interesting past of the people of this region.

Accommodation

- Hotel and guest house

Activities

- Visit Watanatham Nithat Museum

Best time

All year round

Getting there

7 km from Phayao city and 2 km from Phayao Municipality. There is also the Phayao - Mae Na Rua - Mae Jai bus line from Phayao fresh market.

Contact

31 Moo 11, Mae Sai, Mueang District, Phayao, 66 (0) 8 9556 0192



"Immerse yourself in the culture of the country"



Green Village Travel

Chiang Mai

Ban Pong Ecotourism Community

Green Village Travel

Chiang Mai

Mae Klang Luang Ecotourism Community

Mae Klang Luang is an ethnic ecotourism community located at the foot of the fourth highest peak of Doi Inthanon. The forest landscapes in the area are coniferous forests alternating with evergreen hill forests. The magnificent rice terraces here illustrate the knowledge of water management which the Karen people possess. As well as the view of lush green forests, the beautiful 360-degree vista at the peak is magnificent.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Try your hand in the terraced paddy fields or help catch freshwater prawns from the rice fields.

Best time

The rainy season lasts from September to October, and provides visitors with the most beautiful scenery of the rice terraces. At the end of the season, from October to November, the weather cools down and the rice fields turn captivatingly golden.

Getting there

Mae Klang Luang is situated in Chomthong district and is within the Doi Inthanon National Park boundary. On the way to Doi Inthanon, this community is located just before reaching the mountain's peak. From central Chiang Mai, take Highway 108 for about 50 kilometers then take Highway 1009 for another 26 kilometers before turning left towards Ban Mae Klang.

Contact

Mr. Somsak Kerephumtong
66 (0) 8 1960 8856



"Discover a long lost rural way of life"

Ban Pong is a community where tourists can learn about Lanna culture as well as rural development and agriculture in an authentic, relaxed environment.

Accommodation

- Homestay and camping

Activities

- Birdwatching, bicycling, nature trail

Best time

Between the months of October and April. This is the time when the rainy season comes to an end, and the cool season is knocking on the door. For those who do not mind the odd thunderstorm Chiang Mai is an attractive destination all year round.

Getting there

Ban Pong is located in San Sai District off Highway 100. Getting off Highway 100 after about 10 kilometers, drive behind Mae Joe University for another 4 kilometers to reach Ban Pong.

Contact

Mr. Mingkoun Daengsuwan
66 (0) 8 1882 9522, 66 (0) 8 1024 0571, 66 (0) 5387 3073
<http://thavillagehomestay.com>



Bo Kluea Village
(Rock Salt)

"In the village life
moves more slowly"

Nan is an increasingly popular province for those who like to slow down and get off the beaten track. With rich culture and mountainous setting, Nan is as yet untouched by mass tourism. Bo Kluea, a small district in Nan is another unspoiled location where one can really spend time getting familiar with the local culture and nature. With its proximity to a beautiful national park, Nan is perfect for hiking trips. The village is a wonderful place to rest, read, and relaxes while one enjoys the timeless tranquility of Nan province.

Accommodation

- Homestay, guest house and resort

Activities

- Take a hiking trip to truly appreciate the beauty of the Thai countryside

Best time

All year round

Getting there

You can reach Nan from Bangkok by plane, bus. If you decide to drive, Bo Kluea is located deep in the mountain, at the bottom of a valley where Highway 1256 and 1081 intersect.

Contact

www.nanthailand.com



Ban Had Pha Khon

Ban Had Pha Khon is a community based tourism village which is nearly a century old. The villagers settled on the banks of the Nan River to do farming due to the rich water sources and fertile land here. People from other villages moved into the area and embraced the resource preservation activities which include protecting the community forests and food sources such as fish.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Baisi ceremony and Thai music performance, rafting in the Nan River and visit Had Pha Khon Beach, trekking through the community forest, boat rowing in the river, swimming in the river at Kaeng Luang.

Best time

November to April.

Getting there

Ban Had Pha Khon is only 14 km from Nan and is accessible by car.

Contact

66 (0) 8 6921 7795, 66 (0) 8 5183 4975
<http://thaivillagehomestay.com>

Ban Tha Pa Pao



Located in the Mae Tha watershed area, Ban Tha Pa Pao is a model village where villagers harmoniously and equitably coexist with nature. The village is open for other communities to observe and exchange information, especially regarding conservation of the Huai Sai Khao Community Forest. There is also an accomplished community forest committee established.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Camping, cultural study, trekking, arts and crafts, cultural performance

Best time

During the end of the Buddhist Lent, when visitors can observe the customs and traditions that the locals practice.

Getting there

Ban Tha Pa Pao is only 2.5 kilometers from the Asian Highway, about 60 kilometers from the city of Chiang Mai.

Contact

66 (0) 5300 6222, 66 (0) 8 9265 2714
www.wikalenda.com



"Be a responsible,
environmentally
friendly tourist"

26

Slow Travel Thailand

Green
Village Travel

Mae Hong Son

Ban Cha Bo Ecotourism Group

Ban Cha Bo Ecotourism Group is a Lahu village nestled on a mountain ridge. Behind the village, there is a limestone cliff containing many caves that are recognized as important prehistoric, archaeological sites. Ban Cha Bo Ecotourism Group was formed in 2001 to create better understanding of the Lahu people's livelihoods, traditions and culture. The Cha Bo community demonstrates that the Lahu people are able to live harmoniously with the forest by not implementing destructive farming practices.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Hike up to the mountain near the village and explore the mystical Pi Man cave, learn about agriculture and farming from the villagers, observe the magnificent landscapes made of small plots of rice fields embanked among limestone mountains, trekking in the surrounding forests.

Best time

During the Lahu New Year, or other important festivals, when visitors have the

chance to learn traditional dances from community members, in the 'Raan Jakhu' sacred dancing circle (February).

Getting there

From Mae Hong Son city, take the Highway No. 1095, the village's main entrance is located right on the road.

Contact

9 Khun Lum Praphat Road, Chong Kham, Mueang, Mae Hong Son
Panot Prakhongsap, 66 (0) 5361 1979, 66 (0) 8 1289 0128, Thanom Sukrueanthong, 66 (0) 5307 0090-2, 66 (0) 8 1035 9608
<http://thaiavillagehomestay.com>

Green
Village Travel

Mae Hong Son

Ban Huai Tong Ko Ecotourism Group

Ban Huai Tong Ko Village, as it is called by the Pakakoyor people, is home to a type of palm which northern Thais call "Tong Ko". This type of palm is often found in the mountain forests. Huai Tong Ko has been a tourist attraction since 2002 as locals look to demonstrate their way of living harmoniously with the forest. This is a beautiful and simple village located near the Huai Pu Ling Waterfall.

"A beautiful and
simple village"

Accommodation

- Homestay (Homestay Standard Thailand, Certified in 2007 and 2009)

Activities

- Crop rotation fields, Fabric weaving and knife smithy, trekking, Huai Pu Ling Waterfall

Best time

October to January, when the temperature is cooler.

Getting there

We do not recommend you to drive there by yourself especially during the rainy season because it needs skill and experience. Please contact the numbers that we provided.

Contact

9 Moo 7, Huai Pu Ling, Mueang, Mae Hong Son,
66 (0) 8 3079 4759, 66 (0) 8 5718 7943,
<http://thaiavillagehomestay.com>





Green
Village Travel

Lampang Chae Son Hotspring and Nature Trails

The forest and mountains provide an important water source for the surrounding area. The Park has many interesting features including, waterfalls, caves and its famous hot springs as well as many species of fauna and flora.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and guest house
- Swimming in the waterfalls or hot springs, exploring the caves, admiring the rare and unusual plants and bird.

Getting there

The Park is located about 66 km from Lampang city.

Contact

66 (0) 5438 0000, 66 (0) 8 9851 3355
Email: chaeson2007@hotmail.com

Green
Village Travel

Lampang Lampang Herb Conservation Club

The Lampang Herb Conservation Club provides a one-stop service that includes herbal spa, medicine, cosmetic products, and seedlings for sale. They grow many types of plant and are a vast wealth of information for anyone with an interest in ancient knowledge about plants and herbs, passed down from generation to generation.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and guest house
- Walk on a 500 metre stone paved path which massages the feet, mud skin treatment and oil massage

Getting there

Take Highway 1030 from the Mueang district of Lampang.

Contact

66 (0) 5431 3918

Green
Village Travel

Lampang Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC)

Elephants no longer play the same role in society they once did. In the transition from agriculture times to industrial times elephants have been left behind but there are still many of them in Thailand who require care.

Accommodation & Activities

- Homestay
- Elephant ride, elephant shows and also mahout training course

Getting there

The center is located 70 kms, an easy hour's drive, from Chiang Mai on Highway 11.

"Treat your tastebuds
to some rare Thai
delicacies"

Green
Village Travel

Lampang Ban Pa Miang Ecotourism Village

Ban Pa Miang is a mountainous community surrounded by "miang" (tea plant) forests with year-round cool weather, situated near Chae Son Forest Garden. Ban Pa Miang has been established for 200 years and the main occupation of the villagers is picking tea leaves and planting coffee and shitake mushroom farms.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Sample local food, Miang (tea plant) harvest season (May to August) and the Tan Miang Festival held in September, Khao Chi (roasting rice) Festival and Boon Khao Mai (newly harvested rice) Festival in January, blooming Dok Siao white orchid tree festival in February, Honey harvest, "Ti Lua and Chak Tok" Festivals in March, Doi Phra Baht nature tours in February.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

The village is 36 kilometers from Mueang Pan district, or 80 kilometers from Lampang city. From Lampang take highway 1157 then make a left turn to Highway number 4026. Follow the road to Baan Pa Miang. It is just 16 kilometers to Chae Son National Park. It takes approximately 2 hours to reach the village from Lampang.

Contact

4 Moo 7, Ban Pa Miang, Chae Son Sub-district, Mueang Pan District, Lampang
66 (0) 8 6024 0306, 66 (0) 8 6024 0306,
<http://homestaythai.tourism.go.th>



Feel
the Cultural Senses

Chiang Rai Ban Huai Kee Lek

At Ban Huai Kee Lek, you can get to know more about the Akha people, one of the hill tribes in Thailand. Here is a chance to observe their unique culture and traditions through their year-round festivals, which cannot be seen elsewhere. Walk around the village to view their traditional way of life and you will appreciate the charms of this simple existence.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Experience traditional Akha culture in a mountaintop hut, explore a self-sufficient life, witness ancient ceremonies and support community to preserve Akha culture

Best time

During indigenous village festivals such as the swinging festival in August, or New Year in December. March is the month to avoid visiting the village due to heavy rain.

Getting there

Located in the Wawee sub-district, approximately 25 km from Mae Souay. The village can be reached by a 3.5 km dirt and concrete road.

Contact

Mr. Vuthikrai Mawpaa
9 Moo 9, Wawee, Mae Souay, Chiang Rai
66 (0) 8 9955 9872
www.cbtnetwork.org

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Chiang Rai Ban Ja Boo See

Ban Ja Boo Si is a small village consisting of 30 families, which belong to the Lahu ethnic group. They still wear their colorful traditional clothes and practice rice farming using traditional methods. Daily life in the village revolves around the rice paddies and crop fields, where corn, maize, cucumber and pumpkin are grown and Baan Ja Boo See is a fantastic example of a place where people continue to live the same, traditional way of life virtually unaffected by modernization. The village is also a living workshop of traditional arts and crafts. Herbal remedies are available here for those who seek alternatives to Western medicines.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Undergo alternative treatments for your ailments by relying on ancient Eastern knowledge

Best time

The weather is clement practically all year round. November to February is the most ideal period to plan a trip as it is slightly cooler.

Getting there

The village is located approximately two hours from the provincial capital of Chiang Rai, and seven kilometers on an unsealed road from Doi Mae Salong, an ethnic Chinese hill settlement. It is also possible to travel to the village by 4WD along an adventurous back-country route which links Doi Tung and Doi Mae Salong mountains. The distance of 70 kilometers can be completed in around two hours.

Contact

61 Moo 5, Baan Ja Boo See, Mae Salong
Nok, Mae Fah Luang, Chiang Rai
Amornrat Ratanachai 66 (0) 8 1021 3992
www.cbtnetwork.org

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Lampang Wat Pong Sanuk

Dating back over 1,300 years, this ancient, yet pristine temple which was awarded the 2008 UNESCO cultural heritage conservation award, represents a fusion of traditional Lanna, Burmese and Chinese styles. Cherished and preserved by locals, this provincially important temple is the centre of festivities for residents.

Accommodation

- Nearby homestay

Activities

- Admire the architecture, make merit

Best time

Songkran festival, November to March

Getting there

The temple is only 6 km away from Lampang and can be easily reached by car.

Contact

Wieng Nuea Sub-district, Mueang District, Lampang
66 (0) 5422 8763
<http://province.m-culture.go.th>

Ban Roi An Phan Yang Wood Carving and Museum

Ban Roi An Phan Yang Museum is an exhibition center of antiques and woodcarving masterpieces. It features some unique examples of arts and craft from the Lanna era.

Accommodation & Activities

- Only a short drive from Chiang Mai.
- Take a tour, buy a souvenir

Getting there

15 km southwest of Chiang Mai on Highway

108. on the left side of the highway (between km markers 19 and 20)

Contact

Chiang Mai-Sanpatong Road, Hang Dong District, Chiang Mai
66 (0) 5344 1214, 66 (0) 5382 2664

Ban Chang Nak

Ban Chang Nak preserves ancient Lanna woodcarvings. Here, you will find the revered elephant meticulously carved in all sizes and postures in golden teak and other native woods.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and guesthouse
- Buy woodcarving pieces

Getting there

Follow the Chiang Mai-Sankamphaeng Road until you reach the bridge crossing the river. After crossing the bridge turn right and continue straight.



Contact

56/1 Moo 2, Buak Khang Sub-district, Sankamphaeng District, Chiang Mai
66 (0) 5344 6891, www.thaitravelhealth.com

Middle Way Meditation Retreat

The meditation course is designed to provide a balanced mind and body relaxation experience. As you breathe in the fresh air of the mountains and hear the birds sing in the morning, you will feel you are one with nature, peaceful, refreshed and ready to take on life's challenges.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort
- Meditation

Contact

66 (0) 8 2333 3082
www.meditationthai.org
www.mdwmeditation.org

Nong Mae Na Community

Nong Mae Na community is located inside the beautiful Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, in Petchabun province. The Community Tourism Management and Conservation Area of Nong Mae Na has become well known for balancing tourism and conservation. Nong Mae Na offers visitors an intriguing insight to their history, culture and wildlife. The area was also once an important base for the Thai Communist Party, who established a camp in the forest.

Best time

March and April, nature enthusiasts come to see one of the world's rarest species of jellyfish, found in only two places in Asia.

Getting there

Take Highway No. 21 to Lom Sak District for 13 kilometers until Ban Na Ngua and turn left. Go further along Highway 2258 to Khao Kho, pass the Ban Sado Phong Intersection and Khao Kho Palace, and go on to Ban Thang Tawan, turn right until reaching Office 1 of the National Park, Thung Salaeng Luang.

Contact

Khon Rak Pa Nong Mae Na Community Group 58 Moo 6, Nong Mae Na Sub-district, Khao Kho District, Phetchabun
Mr. Sompong Toomkham 66 (0) 8 1046 2166
www.cbtnetwork.org

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Boat riding, wildlife watching, camping, observing local culture and traditions, exploring the site where members of the Communist Party of Thailand once lived, including rice fields, abandoned barracks, and look-out posts.

Khaokho Talaypu Natural Farm

For over two decades this farm has given guests a sense of harmonization with what has been cultivated into a lush and nourishing haven. A fusion of Thai spirituality and modern agricultural sustainability, the farm enriches its guests' mind, body and soul through health and balance treatments and activities.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Khaokho Talaypu is located opposite the Ban Na Yao Health Station. It is approximately 346 km. from Phetchabun by taking the highway no.21. It can be easily reached by car.

Accommodation

- Farmhouse and resort

Activities

- Organic kitchen, observing natural farming and gathering fruit, traditional Thai therapeutic exercises, walking and yoga, receiving scrubs, soaking, steam baths, and compress massage treatments from head to foot, meditation, practice of the arts, merit making, bird watching, hiking, boating, observing the local ways of life

Contact

137 Moo 5, Thung Samo Sub-district, Khao Kho District, Phetchabun
66 (0) 5675 0061-2
www.khaokhonaturalfarm.com



Feel
the Cultural Senses

Sri Satchanalai, Sukhothai Ban Na Ton Chan

Ban Na Ton Chan is a small lovely village residing in the charming Sri Satchanalai area. Staying in the village homestay, the visitor can indulge in learning about local culture not just by being with the villagers, but by seeing how locals live in a sustainable way.

One can visit the village furniture making site where local left over woods are used to create a piece of art for your home. Local textiles and traditional methods are still intact and one can witness the wisdom that has passed on for generations. A walk to see seasonal fruits orchard is a perfect way to finish off the afternoon, testing and learning about exotic fruits is another Eden experience in Thailand.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Elephant Care Centre, fruit picking

Best time

The cold season (November-January)

Getting there

Buses leave from Bangkok to Had Siao market in Sri Satchanalai district, then take a motor taxi to Baan Na Ton Chan.

Contact

Sa-ngiam Sawaenglap 66 (0) 8 9885 1639

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Uthai Thani Biking Exploration at Ko Tepo

Enjoy the landscape of a bamboo forest, corn and rice fields, local markets and canals. Soak up the peaceful atmosphere of the idyllic surroundings while you pass by locals planting Manoranom and Khao Taeng Kwa pomelo, and Mafai.

Accommodation & Activities

- Hotel and homestay
- Cycling, visit Ubosatharam and Phum Tham temples

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Uthai Thani Sakaekrang River Cruise

A cruise along the River Sakaekrang is to travel through Thailand's past when the traditional way of life was connected to the river. View the local people living on house boats and rafts.

Accommodation & Activities

- Resort and homestay
- River cruise

Getting there

Cruises are available at Wat Ubosatharam Bridge in the centre of Uthai Thani City.

Contact

Pan House Travel 66 (0) 2933 0577,
66 (0) 2538 0335, 66 (0) 2538 3705

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Uthai Thani Riverside market

This market perfectly encapsulates the charm and beauty of the local population and their traditions. Floating rafts sell all manner of interesting and unique products.

Accommodation & Activities

- Hotel and guest house
- Riverside and views, local food, floating houses

Contact

Uthai Thani Cycling for Health Club
(Charoern Chakayan Shop) 66 (0) 5651 1991

Feel
the Cultural Senses

Uthai Thani Orchard Plantations

Uthai Thani is known to have large areas of pomelo orchards, particularly the 'Khao Taeng Kwa' variety as well as banana and papaya plantations.

Accommodation & Activities

- Hotel and guest house
- Fruit picking

Contact

Uthai Thani Cycling for Health Club
(Charoern Chakayan Shop) 66 (0) 5651 1991



Slow Travel South:

Discover some of Thailand's most beautiful untouched beaches.



"All the comforts of home"

Green
Village Travel

Krabi Ko Klang Ecotourism Village

Ko Klang is a small, calming island perfectly suited to those who seek utter relaxation or to really get back to nature. Its name is literally translated as 'Middle Island,' is home to one of Krabi's sizable communities. The local people seek ways to best harmonize with the island's abundant resources and natural charm. They joined forces to designate Ko Klang as an ecotourism destination. Discover their lifestyles through hands-on activities such as replanting mangrove trees, kayaking, or bird watching.

Accommodation

- Homestay and only resort on the island: Islanda Village Resort

Activities

- Visit the sea gypsy village, learn about batik painting, or take a kayak trip through the mangroves, take a longtail boat to four islands, visit Fish Box Farms.

Best time

November to April

Getting there

Take a longtail boat from the Krabi town pier to Ko Klang.

Contact

195 Moo 1, Klongprasong Sub-district, Mueang District, Krabi, 66 (0) 7562 1596
www.islandakrabi.com



"Beaches but no crowds"

Green
Village Travel

Phang Naa Ko Yao Noi Ecotourism

The smaller of two islands, within Phang Nga Bay, is a place where the islanders have managed to preserve a traditional way of life, which is important to respect. Here, you can learn about traditional rice processing methods, go sea kayaking, watch local mat production, learn how to cook and eat local island food. You can even learn how to make tiger balm or take a trek through the jungle. There are also white sandy beaches to laze on and ancient caves to explore, all in enchanting surrounds.

Accommodation

- Eco homestay programs and resort

Activities

- Floating farm visits, making chilli paste, cooking, pig-tailed macaque coconut harvesting, learning Thai boxing, trekking, kayaking

Best time

Winter or the cold season is best.

Getting there

The island is considered part of Phang Nga, it is easier to reach from Phuket. Take a song thaeo from the central market to Ao Paw public pier and catch a boat to the island.

Contact

66 (0) 7659 7244, 66 (0) 8 1968 0877
Andaman Adventures: 66 (0) 8 4627 6779

Green
Village Travel

Krabi Klong Tom Hot Spring

Klong Tom Hot Spring is a wonder not to be missed on a trip to Krabi. The waterfall gently cascaded down into spring water which bubbles up from the earth at a temperature of more than 50 degrees. By the time it reaches the cascade it has cooled down sufficiently to be pleasant and the stream below is even suitable for swimming. A walkway leads through to the forest where there are changing facilities.

Accommodation

- Hotel & resort, guest house in Krabi town

Activities

- Bath in the hot spring, swim in the cool water and in the waterfall itself

Best time

June to September

Getting there

Take a taxi or tuk tuk from Krabi Town.

Contact

www.yourkrabi.com

Green
Village Travel

Surat Thani Li-Let Community

Li-Let Community Guides Group was set up and developed into an eco-tourism attraction. The area comprises 7,000 rai of land and over 100 canals. There is also a variety of historic sites in the community to visit. The local product here are the Thai sweetmeat made of flour coconut and sugar and the seafood.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Boating amidst the mangrove forests and canals to study the eco-system, watch cultural presentations such as Li-Let Pa play and historical sites, visit the community's local occupation groups such as the Nipa Palm Products Group and shrimp paste making group, observe the local fishermen's way of life

Best time

Around June - July, to participate in the "Suad Khlong" tradition of making merits to the spirits of the canals. Another suggested time to visit this community is

around August-September, to watch the welcoming ritual for the locals' ancestral spirits, followed by a farewell ritual 15 days later.

Getting there

Surat Thani is connected to Bangkok by road, air and train.

Contact

109 Moo 5, Li-Let Sub-district, Phunphin District, Surat Thani, Prasert Chanchukorn 66 (0) 8 1271 0017, 66 (0) 7749 1081, <http://homestaythai.tourism.go.th>



Green
Village Travel

Surat Thani Ban Klong Noi

Klong Noi sub-district is a riverbank plain with natural water resources and many canals in the Northwestern part of Surat Thani. In Ban Klong Noi there are plenty of Nipa Palms and mangroves, which are home to a multitude of beautiful fireflies. The community has been promoting its ecotourism since 2006 and presents the local lifestyle, traditions, cleanliness, and cultural exchange of the region.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Canal cruises, local fisherman lifestyle, local handicrafts, firefly cruises, boat making, visit monkey school

Best time

July to February

Getting there

9 km from Mueang District office

Contact

9 Moo 3, Klong Noi Sub-district, Mueang District, Surat Thani, 66 (0) 8 9728 2810, 66 (0) 8 2411 6357, www.banklongnoi.com



Green
Village Travel

Chumphon Ban Ko Pitak

"Life on the island
is simple."



"A sanctuary for
nature lovers"

Green
Village Travel

Chumphon Ban Pha Toh

Ban Pha Toh is a sanctuary for nature lovers. The rich environment of the area makes a visit a truly tropical Thailand experience. Learn how the local community manages their water resources and the agricultural techniques they employ.

Accommodation

- Homestay at Klong Rua Village

Activities

- Cooking rice in bamboo, water rafting, a swim in the beautiful waterfall, and jungle walks are just some samples for the touch of slow travel in this wonderful area.

Best time

February to April

Getting there

Ban Pha Toh is in Pak Song sub-district in Chumphon province. Frequent buses run from Bangkok to Chumphon town daily.

Contact

Pha Toh Watershed Conservation and Management Unit, Moo 6 Pak Song Sub-district, Pha Toh District, Chumphon, 66 (0) 7752 0055, 66 (0) 8 7881 1098, 66 (0) 8 1894 1973
Klong Rua Village Coordinator: Mr. Manit Molee, 66 (0) 8 7895 0501, Mr. Sitthisak Kaewraksa (Kru Chik), 66 (0) 8 7266 2131, www.klongrua.com



Ban Ko Pitak is a village where the culture of traditional island life is still intact. Life on the island is simple and revolves around fishing and coconut farming. With its small population of 38 families, Ko Pitak is a perfect place to observe how traditional island life organizes itself when living in a small community. How people live as a community where everyone is treated like a part of a big family will make one understand how wonderful and simple life can be when a society live in harmony.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Enjoy a swim in the crystal clear water or try your hand at fishing along with the locals.

Best time

November - May

Getting there

Ko Pitak is a small island on the Gulf of Thailand. With its close proximity to the land (1 km), it takes only 10 minutes on the longtail boat to get there. During April to May when the water is low, a walk from the land to the island is possible. Train serves Bangkok to Chumphon province daily.

Contact

www.chumphontravel.com



Green
Village Travel

Nakhon Si Thammarat Ban Kiriwong

At the foot of the mountains in this southern province lies an idyllic ecotourism village. Highly organized homestays are available, with 39 registered ecotourism association family homes which are strictly regulated to assure accommodation is clean, comfortable and safe accommodation, with locks, a fan and mosquito net.

"In the shadow
of the mountains"

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Cultural tours, local handicrafts, observing the local way of life, environmental education and massage are just a few of the benefits of a Kiriwong homestay. Treks with local guides are available, but numbers are limited.

Best time

November to February, but advance bookings are recommended.

Getting there

From Nakhon Si Thammarat (26 km, Route 4015), take a local song theao from Talat Yao, to the CBT Centre.

Contact

Moo 10, Ban Kiriwong, Nakhon Si Thammarat
66 (0) 7553 3202, 66 (0) 8 9589 6998

Green
Village Travel

Ranong Muang Kluang Ecotourism Community

Muang Kluang village sets a fine example for a community based tourism model. This Muslim village offers an insight into a unique way of life on the Andaman coast, well away from the beaten path. The villagers recently began opening their homes and lives to guests as a way to preserve their cultural heritage. Visitors will experience an authentic Thailand at first hand during the visit.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Bird watching, bay tours, observing sustainable agriculture

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Buses run regularly to Ranong from Bangkok.

Contact

Muang Kluang Ecotourism Club Office
4/5 Moo 3, Muang Kluang, Kapoe District,
Ranong
www.andamancommunitytourism.com

Green
Village Travel

Satun Ban Bo Chet Luk

Enjoy the ocean without the tourists. Whether you are collecting shellfish or eating fresh delicious seafood you are bound to fall in love with this sleepy seaside village. Sleep to the sound of the waves, and admire the beauty of the sea with its many islands. Learn fishery and get accustomed to the Muslim culture. Find out how simple happiness can be achieved from the various little things around us.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Visit the 7 wells historical site or the Hin Yai rocks. Take a field trip to the Coastal Fisheries Development Center.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Both buses and trains make the 940 km journey to Satun from Bangkok.

Contact

180 Moo 1, Pak Nam, La-ngu, Satun
Yuna Longsaman (Group Leader)
66 (0) 8 1542 0071



Chiewlan Lake in Khao Sok

The Chiew Lan Dam was built in 1982 for the generation of hydro electric power. The lake covers an area of 165 sq. km. and as it was filled over 100 islands were formed. Sharp limestone cliffs rise from the water and early morning mist provides excellent photographic opportunities. There is park accommodation at the Rajjaphapa Dam and treks into the forest can be arranged with park rangers.

Accommodation

- Raft houses.

Activities

- Exploring the lake and the caves, including the bat cave, swimming, kayaking.

Best time

All year round.

Getting there

Chiew Lan Lake is about two hours drive from Phuket and an hour and a half from Surat Thani.

Contact

66 (0) 7784 3117, 66 (0) 8 9287 0471



Koh Talu Sustainable Project

Koh Talu is a small and private island in the Gulf of Thailand consisting of about 1,500 Rai. There are three bays Big Bay, Pearl Bay and Thien Bay, all with pristine white beaches. The coral reef attracts a diverse range of marine life and offers excellent snorkelling opportunities.

Accommodation

- Resort and homestay

Activities

- Kayaking, yachting, scuba diving, snorkeling

Best time

All year round

Getting there

The boat leaves twice a day and there is a minibus service from Hua Hin and Cha-am.

Contact

66 (0) 3244 2636, 66 (0) 8 9744 5639
www.talusland.com



Pak Meng

Most tourists just use Pak Meng as a stop off point to take a boat to the islands but this sleepy seaside town is definitely worthy of a more lengthy stay. It is a perfect base from which to explore some of Thailand's most beautiful yet desolate coastline. Further inland there are waterfalls and even a gibbon sanctuary situated by the entrance to Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya Trang Campus. The beach at the university is one of the most picturesque in Thailand.

Accommodation

- Resort and guest house

Activities

- Explore deserted beaches and inland waterfalls, observe the gibbons at Gibbon Point.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Buses leave from Trang regularly, the journey takes about 45 minutes.

Contact

www.pakmeng.net

Slow Central:

Travel

Find peace and tranquility within touching distance of the capital city.



Unique
Way of Life

Suphan Buri
Samchuk Market

“A century old market gets a new lease of life.”

Known to already be a century old, Samchuk Market in Suphan Buri was formerly a popular centre of trade and commerce, located on the banks of the Thachin River. The 100 year old structure was suffering the effects of time and dwindling numbers, but a rehabilitation program has revitalized it and restored it to a bustling centre for tourists and Bangkok traffic. Samchuk Market won a UNESCO heritage award in 2009.

Accommodation

- Hotel and guest house

Activities

- Browse the shops, buy local wares and visit the community museum for insight into this historic place. Try one of the many food stalls, especially the egg noodles and do not forget to take home some of the local Thai sweets that the market is also famous for.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Take highway 4 northwards out of Bangkok and join the 340, to follow the sign to Sam Chuk district.

Contact

www.thailand-guide.org



Unique
Way of Life

Suphan Buri Sriprachan Market

Over 100 years old, Sriprachan Market is at the heart of the community, just a short 90 minute drive north from Bangkok, set alongside the river.

Accommodation

- Hotel, guest house and homestay

“At the heart of
the community”

Activities

- Visit the market museum, browse the shops and food stalls and indulge in local cuisine, which is both cheap and delicious. A short drive away is the famous Sam Chuk market and Don Chedi Memorial.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Follow the signs out of Bangkok towards Nonthaburi and travel on the 340 through to Suphan Buri, until you reach the food market which is signposted.

Contact

66 (0) 3554 8722, 66 (0) 8 1017 0777
www.taladsriprachan.com



“Established over
a century ago”



Unique
Way of Life

Suphan Buri Kao Hong Market

The Tha Chine River is the setting for this market, established by a Chinese merchant over a century ago, with a five storey surveillance tower of historical significance. The market comprises of mainly two storey wooden structures, and is also a heritage museum.

Accommodation

- Kao Hong is close enough to Bangkok, to allow for a day trip.

Activities

- Visit the museum, circulate through the stalls and sample the local delicacies.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Take highway 3351 out of Bangkok, and approximately 6km before Suphan Buri, Kao Hong market is signposted, taking you across a bridge over the Tha Chine River.

Contact

66 (0) 8 1704 2183

Suphan Buri Ban Bang Mae Mai

“Built with raised houses”



Ban Bang Mae Mai is an ancient Thai community which has lived and worked in the area for many generations. It is built with raised houses which are constructed using specialist carpentry techniques which are unique to this area. They also make brooms from coconut leaf midrib which have brought some fame to the community.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Boat tours, sightseeing boats, touring around the sugar plains, viewing local shows or performances.

Best time

The tourism season is January to October.

Getting there

Ask a taxi driver in Suphan Buri to take you to Ban Bang Mae Mai.

Contact

Songpon Thabtimthong 66 (0) 8 1309 2075



Ang Thong Ban Bang Chao Cha

Famed for its wickerwork, Ban Bang Chao Cha in Ang Thong allows visitors to view and get involved in the art of bending and shaping rattan and bamboo into functional and decorative everyday items. Much of the creativity takes place in the grounds of local temples, which makes for both a cultural and educational experiences.

Accommodation

- Try one of the ecotourism homestays and get involved in preparing meals with local families and assisting with daily activities of the community and its schools.

Activities

- Learn about and purchase local arts and crafts, by visiting a wickerwork village, or checking out the local gem cutting industry and the craftsmen and women at work in-laying mother of pearl onto decorative items. There are also plenty of temples and other archaeological sites.

Best time

The mildest temperatures for touring are from November to February.

Getting there

Follow highway 31 north from Bangkok to the Pho Thong district of Ang Thong.

Contact

www.thaihomestay.org

Ayutthaya Ban Rang Jorakae

Ban Bang Jorakae offers guests the chance to experience an overnight homestay in a traditional Teak house. Teak houses are normally very old and built according to the traditional Thai architectural-style, raised off the ground by stilts.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Take a walk around the historic ancient city of Ayutthaya, experience life with a Thai family, enjoy real home cooking

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Ayutthaya is an hour away from Bangkok by bus or car.

Contact

26/1 Moo 10, Sena District, Ayutthaya 13110
66 (0) 8 9881 1042, 66 (0) 8 1251 8058
www.thaihomestay.org

Train ride and boat trip to Mahachai Seaport Market

The Mae Klong - Mahachai railway runs between Wong Wian Yai in Thonburi, West Bangkok, and Samut Songkhram on the Gulf of Thailand. It was originally constructed as a private line to take sea produce from the fishing ports of Samut Sakhon and Samut Songkhram to the markets of Bangkok. The Seaport market is notable because it is actually on the train tracks and whenever a train passed through traders have to move out of the way.

Accommodation

- Samut Songkhram has a wide range of accommodation options and the train ride only takes around an hour so a day trip from Bangkok is easy to arrange.

Activities

- Sample the produce at one of the largest seafood markets in Thailand, visit one of the many Chinese temples, watch the vendors scatter as the train runs through the market.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

The train leaves from Wong Wian Yai Station in Thonburi which is accessible by BTS.

Contact

Wong Wian Yai Railway Station 66 (0) 2465 2017

Kanchanaburi Sangklaburi

Sangklaburi borders Myanmar at the famous Three Pagodas Pass in Phya Tong Sue. The area is home to a number of natural attractions including caves and waterfalls as well as several significant temples. The district is also home to a number of Karen and Mon people and there is a Mon tribal village which is open to tourists.

Accommodation

- Resort and guest house

Activities

- Learn about the ways of the Mon people at the tribal village, swim in the waterfall, explore the caves, admire the Mon bridge.

Best time

The mildest temperatures for touring are to be found from November to February.

Getting there

Buses leave regularly from Kanchanaburi

Contact

www.kanchanaburi.com



Nakhon Si Thammarat Hat Sichon and Hat Hin Ngam

Few foreigners turn up at these beaches but anyone looking for a low-key local scene is unlikely to be disappointed. Head to the harbour and check out the large, colourful fishing boats lined up along spindly wooden piers, and the old one-storey weathered shophouses made from the same rough wood.

Accommodation

- There are a small selection of guest houses.

Activities

- Swim in the sea, observe the fisherman's way of life

Best time

All year round, but it can get wet between April and November.

Getting there

Get a bus for Sichon from the Nakhon Si Thammarat bus terminal or take a share taxi. From Sichon, you can take a motorcycle taxi to Hat Sichon, Hat Hin Ngam or Hat Piti.

Contact

www.tourismthailand.org



Bangkok Klong Lat Mayom



Established as recently as November 2004, Klong Lat Mayom Floating Market has rapidly become very popular in Bangkok City. If you like street hopping for handcrafts and handmade gifts, then this is the place for you. Products are open for visitors to buy along the two sides of the canal. There is also a plantation program where tourists can learn about water soaking fertilizer production. Hidden among the Arts and Crafts stores is a "miniature maritime museum" where you see model boats and get an idea of the Thai cultural river life.

Alongside the river, you can row a boat to see gardens; the service charge fee is only THB 10 but a charter service with a fixed route is approximately THB 300-400.

Accommodation

- Bangkok has accommodation to suit absolutely every budget.

Activities

- Sample weird and wonderful Thai food and shop for souvenirs at the floating Market

Best time

All year round. Opening hours: Weekends and public holidays from 09.30AM - 04.00PM.

Getting there

Take No. 146 to Kanchanaphisek Road until the offices of Samakom Chao Pak Tai (Association of People from the South). Then take a 15-minute song theao (Rod Fai - Wat Pu Theun route) to Bang Ramat Road.

Contact

<http://khlonglatmayom.com>

Bangkok Nong Jork Homestay

For slow travel in the heart of the capital city, Nong Jork provides a farming and agricultural way of life in contrast to the hurried life of Bangkok. Nong Jork district is home to the Islamic Koiruttatwa Golden Land Community where the locals still grow rice, fruit, fish and raise goats. The quiet atmosphere offers visitors relaxation and also time to learn about a different culture.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Agricultural Technology and Service Centre, rice planting, cultural exchange with Muslim villagers, black swan farm

Best time

All year round

Getting there

From Ramkamhaeng Road take Route 304 and turn left at Chuem Sampan Road. Then, turn left into Lamsai Road at the Training Center Institute of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Human Resource Development.

Contact

66 (0) 8 7145 0557, 66 (0) 2543 2126

Samut Songkhram Tha Kha Floating Market



Tha Kha is particularly popular among local people and offers an authentically Thai market experience. The surroundings are much more rural than other markets with plants and trees providing some natural shade. The market is only open six days a month in accordance with the lunar calendar so it is worth asking around locally and planning your visit in advance.

Accommodation

- Samut Songkhram is only an hour drive from Bangkok and minibuses leave regularly so most people prefer to stay in the capital.

Activities

- Shop for souvenirs and observe the local people doing their own shopping by way of boat, alms giving to monks by river in the early morning.

Best time

Check the weather forecasts and calendar to ensure you choose the best day.

Getting there

A direct taxi from Bangkok should cost in the region of 500 Baht, although air conditioned minibuses leave regularly and cost a fraction of the price. Another minibus connects Samut Songkhram Bus Station with the floating market.

Contact

<http://floatingmarket-inthailand.blogspot.com>

Ratchaburi Suan Phueng Village & Bo Klung Hot Spring

These springs are situated in the Suan Phueng area, a recently approved accessible area of Ratchaburi province quite near the Burmese border. The area is increasingly popular due to the enchanting natural surroundings and close proximity to Bangkok.

Accommodation

- Resort and guest house

Activities

- Bathe in the hot springs or lower the temperature in a waterfall. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Best time

All year round although the waterfalls can dry up between November and April.

Getting there

Suan Phueng is a two hour drive from Bangkok, the hot springs are just 15 km away.

Contact

www.thai-tour.com



Unique
Way of Life

Kanchanaburi

Raft House on Srinakarin Dam

Srinakarin Dam was constructed to provide a natural water and power source for the surrounding area. The damming of the River Kwai Yai resulted in the formation of a gigantic natural reservoir of thousands of acres in size, and created a natural haven for wildlife containing numerous species of tropical plants and animals. Floating fishing lodges are positioned at various parts of the lake and serve as basic accommodation and as a base from which to mount trips or fishing expeditions.

Accommodation

- Raft hotels

Activities

- Fishing for giant snakeheads.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

The Srinakarin Dam is 65 km north of Kanchanaburi. Check in advance as access can be affected by weather conditions.

Contact

www.orientalescape.com

Unique
Way of Life

Kanchanaburi

Lake Heaven

Lake Heaven is particularly popular with people from Bangkok who are looking to find some peace and serenity and an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. The more adventurous can rent ATVs and it is also located close to a number of temples and waterfalls which makes Lake Heaven an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding area.

Accommodation

- Bungalows and camping

Activities

- Water skiing, banana boating, cycling, horse riding

Best time

Lake Heaven is open all year round.

Getting there

Buses leave from Bangkok to Kanchanaburi regularly and the journey takes about four hours. Lake Heaven is 60 km from Kanchanaburi.

Contact

66 (0) 8 4387 6773

Unique
Way of Life

Petchaburi

Kanghanthong Sea Salt Occupational Group

Kanghanthong occupational group utilises its local knowledge of the sea to produce and use sea salt in a variety of ways. The group do not just use the sea salt as a healthy food ingredient but also in the local spa to give minerals such as calcium, fluoride and iodine.

Accommodation

- Hotel and guest house

Activities

- Sea salt spa, local salt production

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Located in the big Thai house on the way from Ratchaburi to Samran Beach.

Contact

90 Moo 7, Ban Rong Yai, Bangkeaw, Banlam, Petchaburi, 66 (0) 3240 5100

Unique
Way of Life

Petchaburi

Ban Thamrong Agro Village

Ban Thamrong is a small, rural agricultural village in Petchaburi Province that is very famous throughout Thailand for its traditional desserts. The village is surrounded by sugar palm trees and plantations along with many rice paddies. Experience the locals living and working in their houses producing a wide variety of goods including; sugar juice, toddy palm cake, palm leaf hats and even ice cream.

Accommodation

- Homestay, guest house

Activities

- Sugar palm tree plantation, market, field and village tours, occupational groups.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Use Highway number 4 until Petchaburi City. Ban Thamrong is in Ban Lat District, 8 km from the city.

Contact

Thamrong Tambon Office, Moo 3, Thamrong, Ban Lat, Petchaburi, 66 (0) 3249 1467

Unique
Way of Life

Cha-Am

Wattana Garden

Wattana Garden is owned by a retired professor who is an expert in products made from herbal plants, flowers and fruit. Almost all the plants in the garden can be eaten and are used in the production of foods, medicines and herbal and fruit drinks.

Accommodation

- resort and guest house

Activities

- Sample herbs which can be beneficial to your health as well as surprisingly tasty.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Wattana Garden is just on the outskirts of Cha-Am on the road to Hua Hin.

Contact

66 (0) 3259 3199
www.wattanagarden.com



Unique
Way of Life

Bangkok

Flower Market and Museum Siam

Located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River just a few hundred metres away from the Grand Palace. It tries to answer the question, "Who are the people of Siam?" Through a series of chronological exhibitions of Thai history. Most of the exhibits are interactive using modern technology such as touch screen monitors.

Accommodation



Contact



- Resort and guest house

4 Sanam Chai Road, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200
66 (0) 2225 2777
<http://museumsiam.com>

Unique
Way of Life

Bangkok

Chao Phraya Express River Boat Cruise

The Chao Phraya tourist cruise leaves every 30 minutes from Sathorn. The Chao Phraya Tourist Boat provides service to nine piers, which in turn give access to Bangkok's most famous attractions. The journey starts from the Central pier adjacent to BTS Saphan Taksin Station s6 and proceeds up the river, stopping at nine pier and returns back to Central Pier on the same route.

Accommodation



Contact



- Resort and guest house

www.chaophrayaexpressboat.com

Unique
Way of Life

Bangkok

Patravadi Theatre

Patravadi Theatre is situated in one of the most charming settings in Bangkok, next to the Chao Phraya River bank, across from the Royal Grand Palace. The Theatre is particularly known for its works which are rooted in Thai traditions which embrace international elements and has grown to become a prominent home for the performing arts in Thailand.

Accommodation



Contact



- Resort and guest house

69/1 Soi Wat Rakhang, Arun Amarin Road, Siriraj, Bangkok 10700
66 (0) 2412 7287-8
www.patravadi theatre.com

Unique
Way of Life

Samut Songkhram

Ban Plai Pong Pang

Here life remains much like it was in bygone Bangkok. Vast swaths of palm plantations and gabled timber houses are accessible only by water, with wooden boats trading wares, ferrying monks on alms rounds and vending kwetiao reua (boat noodles), with not so much as asouvenir in sight.

Accommodation



- Homestay

Activities



- Present merit-making offerings to Buddhist

monks, see the local way of life in this riverine community.

Best time

Observe the monks collecting alms by boat.

Getting there

There is a daily bus service between Bangkok and Samut Songkhram.

Contact

66 (0) 3475 7333, 66 (0) 3471 7510

Unique
Way of Life

Nonthaburi

Ko Kret Pottery Community

Koh Kret is a tiny island in the Chao Phraya River, accessible by boat from Pak Kret's Wat Sanam Neua Pier. Ko Kret is renowned above all as a center for kwan aman, a style of Mon pottery, which is fundamentally just baked unglazed red clay carved with intricate patterns. There are some 20 pottery workshops on the island and you will see many kilns as you walk around.

Accommodation



- Resort and guest house

Contact



www.bangkokbikerides.com



Unique
Way of Life

Samut Songkhram Ban Bang Plub



Enjoy the cozy atmosphere of the only evening floating market in Thailand and watch 'Lamphu' trees along the canal, filled with the light of the blissful fireflies at night. Sample the slow pace of life in the orchards.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Learn orchardist easy lifestyle, trek to the pomelo orchards

Best time

All year round

Getting there

By car: Take Highway 35 to Km 63. Go through Samut Songkhram to the King Rama II Memorial Park. By bus: No.996 departs daily from So Samut Songkhram

Contact

www.wikalenda.com

Unique
Way of Life

Saraburi Ban Ton Tan

“ Experience a traditional Thai market”



Opened in 2007 by members of the local community, Baan Ton Tan is a traditional Thai market, on the riverside of the picturesque Pasak River. Situated in the Sai Hai District of Saraburi, there is an array of local foods that are hard to find in other areas and also a range of weavings and cultural dances.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Raft dining, market stalls, visiting Ton Tan temple

Best time

The market is open every Sunday from 09.00 to 16.00.

Getting there

From Bangkok, follow Highway 1 in the direction of Saraburi Province. Near the province, take the Saraburi bypass and turn left onto Route 3225. Continue on Route 3225 until you see the market entrance located on the left.

Contact

66 (0) 3633 3516



Jed Samien Art and Cultural Village



Jed Samien Art and Cultural Village is an historical village with a mixture of many cultures from Thai, Khmer, Surin, Lao Ti and Chinese. The Village is on Mae Klong Riverbank and was an important trading market.

Accommodation

- Resort and homestay

Activities

119 year old market, old Bodhi tree, Suan Silp Baan Din Art Centre and Clay Homestay, cycling.

Best time

The Local Arts Fair takes place every last weekend of the month.

Getting there

Take the train from Hualampong to Ratchaburi and disembark at Jed Samien station.

Contact

66 (0) 3239 7032, 66 (0) 3239 7668



Ban Khu Bua

Ban Khu Bua is an archaeological site of an ancient city in Ratchaburi Province that is a must for any visitor interested in Thai history. The site shows that the region used to be a bustling port city during the Dvaravati period. The many pagodas, monuments and other buildings also show that Buddhism has been prevalent in Thailand for over 1000 years.

Accommodation

- Homestay and resort

Activities

- Ratchaburi National Museum, Boran Sathan Wat Khlong

Best time

The museum and ancient city are open daily from 09.00 - 16.00.

Getting there

The ancient city is located 12km southeast of Ratchaburi town.

Contact

Moo 6, Khu Bua, Mueang, Ratchaburi, 66 (0) 3232 3197, 66 (0) 8 1763 1989



Biking to Soi Fah Village

Soi Fah village in Photharam, Ratchaburi is famous for its well preserved traditional grand shadow play or Nang Yai which plays an active role in safeguarding what the UN terms "intangible cultural heritage".

Accommodation

- Resort and homestay

Activities

Biking around and through Soi Fah Village, folklore museum, Nangyai show.

Best time

11.00 am every Saturday and Sunday for Nang Yai Show at Wat Khanon.

Getting there

Use Highway 4 through Nakhon Pathom to Ratchaburi.

Contact

66 (0) 3223 3535



"Sample a simple,
agricultural society"

Unique
Way of Life

Kanchanaburi Ban Nong Khao

Ban Nong Khao is a small village in Kanchanaburi where visitors can sample the traditional Thai way of life. The villagers live in a simple, agricultural society and you can observe the inhabitants from the back of a farm truck or bicycle as they show Thailand's ancient cultures and traditions.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Rice pounding, Thai dessert tasting, molded sugar production, tonsuring ceremony, rice-growing, and folk singing.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

From Kanchanaburi, follow Route 324 to Baan Nong Khao.

Contact

Kanchanaburi Office of Public Relation, 66 (0) 3451 2410

Unique
Way of Life

Nakhon Pathom

Maha Sawasdi Ecotourism Community

This historical canal was constructed during the reign King Rama III to shorten the distance to Phra Pathom Chedi. The people in this community live an easy and simple life with most of them being farmers growing fruits. They are Thai-Chinese and live on the canal bank and despite the fact there is now a road through the village they still travel predominantly using boats.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Take a boat to see the serenity on the two sides of the canal, boats leave from Moo 1, Salaya and Phuttha Monthon in Nakhon Pathom. Have fun picking the fruit of the season from the trees. See flower plantations such as roses, orchids, and enjoy rowing your own boat and picking up the beautiful lotus. Visit the farmer's wives association exhibition and see how they weave their products such as handbaskets.

Best time

June - September is when the fruit plantation primarily takes place but Nakhon Pathom is a truly year round destination.

Getting there

From Bangkok take the Pinklao - Nakornchaisri road until Phuttha Monthon 4 and turn right into Phuttha Monthon. The community is 2 km from the city municipality with road signs all along the way.

Contact

66 (0) 8 1495 9091

"Leave the busy
roads behind and travel
by canal"



Slow Travel | East:

Some of Thailand's best kept secrets could be closer to places like Bangkok and Pattaya than you think.



"A sustainable seaside resort"



Unique
Way of Life

Trat

Ban Salak Khok, Ko Chang, Trat

Much of Ko Chang, Thailand's second largest island, has been developed into seaside resorts and all the shops, restaurants and services that tourists require. Still, one village retains its ageless and natural charm, Baan Salak Khok. To help preserve this marine environment, Baan Salak Khok established the Salak Khok Tourism Club. They work at promoting eco-tourism on the island and its shores to establish sustainable tourist activity and prevent irreparable damage. All proceeds from their tours are deposited into an account dedicated to Ko Chang environmental protection.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Kayaking, Nature trails, Environment awareness activities for locals and visitors.

Best time

From the beginning of the cool season in November, following the end of the monsoons, until June when the rains start once more. The winter months, December – February are best for weather, but this is also the peak tourist season, and it can be harder to find accommodation.

Getting there

By car: Take the Bangkok - Chonburi Motorway to the Ban Bueng, Klaeng exit and then follow Route 344 to Klaeng where you follow National Highway Route 3 to Trat and Laem Ngob. **By Bus:** Buses leave regularly from the Eastern Bus Terminal at Ekamai station. There are song thao and taxi for hire to take you to Baan Nam Chiao and the Ko Chang ferries. Once you complete your 20-minute trip, there are song thao lined at the landing, which you can hire to get to your resort or Baan Salak Khok.

Contact

22/1 Moo 3, Ko Chang, Phithaya Homkrait
(Community Leader) 66 (0) 8 1149 5901



Unique
Way of Life

Trat

Huai Raeng Ecotourism Group

“Living together in harmony”

Unique
Way of Life

Trat

Ban Nam Chieo

Ban Nam Chieo has long been known for its unique Ngob Nam Chieo hats, woven from a local palm frond collected in the nearby mangroves. Light and comfortable, they provide great protection from the sun. More recently, the village's popularity has been growing since it began organizing annual boat races and an environmental festival just after the New Year. The principal purpose of the festival is to increase awareness of the importance of keeping the canal, which is vital to the villager's livelihoods, clean. What also makes this area so interesting is the sight of Muslims and Buddhists live so congenially together, united in a desire to preserve their homes and cultures.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Boat trips can be easily arranged to explore the mangrove forests and nearby coastal coral reefs. Others choose to visit the flourishing fruit orchards.

Best time

From the beginning of the cool season in November, following the end of the monsoons, until June when the rains start once more. The winter months, December - February are best for weather, but this is also

the peak tourist season, and it can be harder to find accommodation. The annual Baan Nam Chieo festival is held just after the New Year and is always an interesting village to visit.

Getting there

By car: Take the Bangkok - Chonburi Motorway to the Ban Bueng, Klaeng exit and then follow Route 344 to Klaeng where you then follow National Highway Route 3 to Trat and Laem Ngob.

Contact

68/6 Moo 1, Nam Chieo, Lam Ngob ferries, Tombol Administration 66 (0) 3953 2959



“A charming community unlike any other”

Huai Raeng is charming community unlike any other in Thailand. This small village has many lovely streams that flow into the sea, green tropical forest plantations, magnificent nature and 18 islets with wild flowers. Enjoy the lifestyle of local people in their genuine community and taste the local style seafood. Visit waterfalls, a fish spa, make your own “rice bag” and witness the community togetherness.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- White water rafting, cruising, nature walks, rice bag making, shrimp fishing at night in the style of the villagers.

Best time

March - May for white water rafting and wild flower blooming but the village is open all year round.

Getting there

From Bangkok, take Highway No. 34 toward Trat. 10 km from Trat turn left and follow Chanklua for a further 10 km.

Contact

66 (0) 8 9247 9648

Unique
Way of Life

Chanthaburi Fisherman Village at Welu Wetland

The Welu Wetland is an intriguing mangrove forest spread over a large area covering parts of Chanthaburi and Trat Provinces. The local fisherman village is the perfect base to explore the area and discover the natural balance of flowers, birds and insects. Observe thousands of red hawks, fire flies, and crabs in this unique forest region.

Accommodation

- Homestay and guest house

Activities

- Eco-trekking, mangrove boat trips, Red Hawk watching, fishing, enjoy fireflies from November to June.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Take Sukhumvit Road for 18km from Chanthaburi, Welu Wetland is between 374th-275th km marker.

Contact

Mangrove Conservation Bureau 2,
66 (0) 3942 4186, 66 (0) 8 9245 3509

Unique
Way of Life

Chonburi Ko Sichang, Fisherman Community and Historic Island

Ko Sichang is a small fishing community situated on an island approximately 12km off of the coast of Si Racha. The island makes a refreshing change for travellers looking for a more peaceful retreat and wishing to get away from the glaring sights and sounds of Pattaya and Bangkok. The landscape is rugged and mostly deserted with some sandy beaches.

Accommodation

- Resort and guest house

Activities

- Market and beach visit, Vimarn Mek Palace.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

There is a ferry that departs every hour from 07.00 - 20.00 from Ko Loy Pier.

Contact

66 (0) 8 1330 3652, 66 (0) 3832 3107, 66 (0) 8 1781 3018



Unique
Way of Life

Chonburi Mab Aung Agri-Nature Learning Center

This foundation seeks to give visitors a better understanding of self sufficiency and agriculture. Offering guests the opportunity to better understand traditional theologies and how to apply them in the contemporary agricultural era, this agri-nature centre acts as a forum for learning and discussion.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Open discussions, training in modern agricultural technologies.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Easily reach by car, 30 mins from Pattaya.

Contact

66 (0) 3826 3078, 66 (0) 8 1863 9703



Unique Way of Life | Rayong Prasae Homestay

Prasae Homestay was set up by the municipality of Prasae after a public hearing into fishing related problems and is an eco-tourist attraction supporting and including the local fishermen and population. The community lies on the estuary of the Prasae River in a lowland coastal area that attracts many fish and fireflies and offers a wide range of activities.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Fishery cultivation station, Mun Nai Island and turtle breeding, boating in Samae Canal, oyster cultivation, fishing, diving and coral viewing, ship monument.

Best time

August - April

Getting there

Turn off Highway No.3 on to Route 3162 and follow for 8km to Prasae Homestay.

Contact

Municipal Office Moo 2, Pak Nam Prasae, Klaeng, Rayong, 66 (0) 8 1459 9346



Unique Way of Life | Chanthaburi Orchard Farm Stay at Suan Suaysudjai

Situated in Lamsingha, Chanthaburi, Suan Saosudjai is one of the leading agricultural farms which have developed to be an agricultural farmstay promoting tourism. The orchard is a paradise of tropical fruit, supplying and displaying durian, rambutan, mango-steen, langsat and santol.

Accommodation

- Farmstay

Activities

- Fruit buffets, fruit harvesting demonstrations.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Use the bypass to Klung, turn right after Plew Waterfall and continue for five km.

Contact

Moo 1, Plew, Laem Singh, Chanthaburi, 66 (0) 8 1377 3190, 66 (0) 8 7514 4949, 66 (0) 3943 4092



Unique Way of Life | Chanthaburi Marine Sustainability activity at Kung Krabane Bay Royal Project

Kung Krabane Bay Royal Development Study Centre has been a Royal Project since 1981. It was set up to research and study about local marine and fish farm sustainability along the coastline, and to be the centre of information for local fishermen for technology and knowledge. The centre also supports ecotourism with agricultural trekking, informative tours and cultural tours.

Accommodation

- Hotel and guest house

Activities

- Community based learning, trekking and biking along the coastline, kayaking and camping.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Take the Sukhumvit Road from Rayong and turn right at the 301st km marker. Follow the signs to the Royal Project for 26.7 km.

Contact

Tha Mai District, Chanthaburi, 66 (0) 3936 9216 - 8

Slow Travel | Northeast:

Experience an old fashioned way of life in Thailand's rural heartland.



Feel
The Cultural Sense

Nakhon Phanom

Ban Na Jork (Uncle Ho)

"A throwback to more traditional times"

Ban Na Jork is a beautiful Thai-Vietnamese friendship village in the western region of Nakhon Phanom. The village is famous for being the residence of Ho Chi Minh back in the 1920's. It is a throwback to traditional times with magnificent buildings and farmhouses well preserved for you to explore.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Bike riding, fishing, Ho Chi Minh's house, information centre.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

The village lies around 15-20 minutes outside of the city centre and is located on the Sakon Nakhon highway.

Contact

66 (0) 4252 2430



Feel
The Cultural Sense

Mukdahan Ban Phu Homestay

“Cultural performances and traditional folk dances”



Ban Phu is an excellent Homestay village in the district of Nong Soong. Founded by Phu - Thai immigrants who were fleeing a malaria plague and the loss of agricultural land in 1881, this beautiful village offers cultural performances and traditional folk dances.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Folk dances, cultural performances

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Take Highway 212 heading towards Mukdahan but before the city turn left onto Route 2370.

Contact

Ban Phu, Pa Pao, Nong Sung, Mukdahan,
66 (0) 8 9942 4378, 66 (0) 8 7230 1599

Feel
The Cultural Sense

Mukdahan Ban Nong Lom

“Discover the fascinating culture of the tribe”

Ban Nong Lom was established around 1739 by descendants of the Phu - Thai tribe who migrated from, Laos. It is an excellent place to relax and to learn, through performances and tours, about the fascinating culture of the tribe, who have kept their local traditions throughout the centuries.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Mekong River tours, cultural learning, performances, folk museum.

Best time

All year.

Getting there

From Mukdahan City take Highway 2034 for 20km and turn left and follow the signs for approximately 1 km.

Contact

Sawaeng Yuenyong, 66 (0) 4264 0646





Feel
The Cultural Sense

Loei Ban Doen Village

The mountains of Loei are some of the most remote and unspoiled in Thailand. The northeast, I-san, culture is among the country's richest and still least explored by foreign visitors.

Accommodation

- Resort and homestay

Activities

- Trekking, sightseeing, bird watching

Best time

Towards the end or just after the rains and winter descends as the rivers will be higher, the terrain will be greener and the air clear and crisp.

Getting there

You can take a songthaew from Loei. They depart about every 15 minutes. There are also buses leaving regularly from Loei.

Contact

461 Moo 3 Ban Doen, Dansai, Loei
66 (0) 4289 2005-6
www.phunacomeresort.com

Feel
The Cultural Sense

Loei Chiang Khan



"So sleepy
it virtually
grinds to a
halt at night"



Chiang Khan is hugely popular with Thai tourists who make the trip from Bangkok every weekend. A bicycle is the perfect way to navigate the narrow streets and many homestays provide them free of charge.

Laos is barely a stones throw away and it is possible to enjoy a drink on the banks of the Mekong River while overlooking North East Thailand's nearest neighbour.

There are no bars nor any nightlife to speak of and Chiang Khan is so sleepy that it virtually grounds to a halt at night.

Accommodation

- Traditional timber houses line the streets and riverbank, the latter now converted into quaint guest houses and homestay.

Activities

- Some interesting walks, particularly the pathway between Ban Paben and Ban Umong where you will see a Buddha footprint, an ageless village and mammoth cave all under the commanding gaze of the majestic mountains. If you need a little added energy, be sure to try the robust local coffee.

Best time

Towards the end or just after the rains and winter descends as the rivers will be higher, the terrain will be greener and the air clear and crisp.

Getting there

There are buses leaving regularly from Loei. Or you can take a local bus from Nong Khai and make the trip in reverse. If you decide to travel to Chiang Khan, follow Route 2013 north and be sure you stop first at the Kaeng Song Khon Waterfall.

Contact

www.chiangkhan.com

Feel
The Cultural Sense

Nakhon Ratchasima Ban Busai

Ban Busai is a lovely rural village, three hours drive from Bangkok, which has opened its doors for visitors who wish to experience traditional agricultural life in Thailand. The locals are organic farmers who grow a variety of crops including, shitake mushrooms, vineyards and the wonderful chrysanthemum gardens.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Cultural Study, Dok Benchamat Ban Nai Man Mok (Chrysanthemum Flowers Blooming in the Fog) Festival, tractor tour.

Best time

January for the Dok Benchamat Ban Nai Man Mok Festival.

Getting there

From Bangkok follow Highway 7 and turn onto Highway 314 then head onto Highway 304.

Contact

In Munphimai (Group Leader)
66 (0) 4422 4880-9, 66 (0) 8 1068 6887, 66 (0) 8 5025 8447



Feel
The Cultural Sense

Kalasin Ban Khok Kong

Ban Khok Kong is a village in I-san that is populated by the Phi-Thai tribe who have their own culture and language. The villagers are excellent hosts who are willing to teach their local traditions to visitors as well as a wide range of other activities. The village is next to a beautiful forest park that is perfect for long walks through the trees and enjoying the waterfalls and streams.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Local folk dances, traditional monkey dance, nature walks, Tat Soong waterfall festival.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

From Mukdahan City use 2042 and turn right at Gudwha.

Contact

66 (0) 4381 9500, 66 (0) 8 1964 3772

Feel
The Cultural Sense

Ubon Ratchathani Ban Pha Chan Homestay

Pha Chan is a beautiful attraction in Ubon Ratchathani. The name is Thai for 'steep cliff' and these are usually found under the Mekong River and made by the erosion of the river's strong tide. In the dry season the tide goes low so you can see the high cliffs on both sides of the riverbank during your serene river cruise.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Mekong river cruise, cliff jumping, camping.

Best time

Dry Season to see the beauty of the natural tide-eroded cliffs, Rainy Season to witness the strength of Mae Khong's flow.

Getting there

From Ubon Ratchathani City take Route 2050 and turn right into Route 2337. Turn right again into 2112 and Ban Pha Chan is several kilometres from Samphan Bok.

Contact

www.thaivillagehomestay.com

Feel
The Cultural Sense

Nakhon Ratchasima Sab Sai Thong Community

The locals set up a homestay at Ban Sap Sai Thong with the help of the Administration, and outside organizations. This community is recognized as "Switzerland of the Northeast" and is famous for vineyards and Shitake mushroom plantations.

Accommodation

- Homestay

Activities

- Visit Chrysanthemum fields and observe organic vegetable farming.

Best time

All year round

Getting there

Buses leave from Bangkok for nearby Nakhon Ratchasima on a regular basis.

Contact

Toedsak Konsantia 66 (0) 8 1977 2856, 66 (0) 8 6253 1804





Overseas Offices

Tourism Authority of THAILAND

Asia & Pacific

THAILAND Bangkok

Website: www.tourismthailand.org

KUALA LUMPUR

E-mail Address: sawardi@po.jaring.my, tatku@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam

SINGAPORE

E-mail Address: tatsin@singnet.com.sg, tatsin@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Singapore, Indonesia and The Philippines

HO CHI MINH

E-mail Address: tathcm@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Vietnam, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia

SYDNEY

E-mail Address: info@thailand.net.au, tatsyd@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific

NEW DELHI

E-mail Address: tatdel@tat.or.th, tatdel@yahoo.com

Areas of Responsibility : India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal

TOKYO

E-mail Address: tattky@tattky.com, tattky@tat.or.th

Website: www.thailandtravel.or.jp

Areas of Responsibility : Northern Area of Honshu Island : Tohoku, Kanto and Hokkaido Island

OSAKA

E-mail Address: info@tatoso.com, tatoso@tat.or.th

Website: www.thailandtravel.or.jp

Areas of Responsibility : Southern Area of Honshu Island: Kinki, Chugoku and Chubu

FUKUOKA

E-mail Address: tatfuk@tatfuk.com, tatfuk@tat.or.th

Website: www.thailandtravel.or.jp

Areas of Responsibility : Kyushu Island, Shikoku Island and Okinawa

SEOUL

E-mail Address: info@tatsel.or.kr, tatsel@tat.or.th

Website: www.tatsel.or.kr

Areas of Responsibility : Republic of Korea

TAIPEI

E-mail Address: tattpe@ms3.hinet.net, tattpe@tat.or.th

Website: www.tattpe.org.tw

Areas of Responsibility : Taiwan

HONG KONG

E-mail Address: tathkg@pacific.net.hk, tathkg@tat.or.th

Website: www.amazingthailand.org.hk

Areas of Responsibility : Hong Kong and Macau

BEIJING

E-mail Address: tatbjs@tat.or.th, tatbjs@sohu.com

Website: www.tatbjs.org.cn

Areas of Responsibility : People's Republic of China (except Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan) and Mongolia

SHANGHAI

E-mail Address: tatshi@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Shanghai, Fujian, Hebei, Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Hunan

Europe, Africa and Middle East

LONDON

E-mail Address: tattuk@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : United Kingdom and Ireland

FRANKFURT

E-mail Address: info@thailandtourismus.de, tatfra@tat.or.th

Website: www.thailandtourismus.de

Areas of Responsibility : Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Macedonia, Albania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina

PARIS

E-mail Address: tatpar@wanadoo.fr, tatpar@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Morocco, Monaco, Tunisia and Algeria

ROME

E-mail Address: tatrome@iol.it, tatrome@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Israel, Egypt, Turkey and Cyprus

STOCKHOLM

E-mail Address: info@tourismthailand.se, tatsth@tat.or.th

Website: www.tourismthailand.se

Areas of Responsibility : Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

MOSCOW

E-mail Address: tatmoscow@tat.or.th, info@tourismthailand.ru

Areas of Responsibility : Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

DUBAI

E-mail Address: tatdubai@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : U.A.E., Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria and Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Yemen

The Americas

LOS ANGELES

E-mail Address: tatla@ix.netcom.com, tatla@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : West Coast of the US. and all Central and Southern America Countries

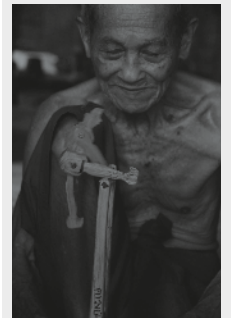
NEW YORK

E-mail Address: info@tatny.com, tatny@tat.or.th

Areas of Responsibility : East Coast of the US. and Canada

Your memory

Witness the local
wisdom





Where adventure
awaits you.

Open your mind

Your memory

Timeless culture and tradition





Open your mind

Your memory

Your memory

An act of religious virtue





Tradition stays
alive.

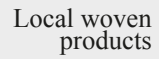
Open your mind

Your memory

Your memory

Keep you closer to
your home







Open your mind

Your memory

Indulge in local cuisine





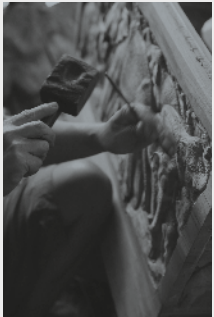
Open your mind

Your memory

The old time
classic wheels



Open your mind



Ancient Lanna
woodcarving



We make your Thailand trip **better**

HotelThailand.com
created by **MONO**
The Thailand Expert • all Hotels all Services all Thailand

Mono Travel Co., Ltd. (TAT No. 11/2976)
Jasmine International Tower, 16th Floor, 200 Moo 4
Chaengwattana Road, Pakkred, Nonthaburi, 11120, Thailand
Tel. +66 (0) 2100 8010 E-mail: services@Hotelthailand.com