

Love is a Journey



THAILAND'S ROMANTIC ROUTES

*'Together is our
favourite place to be'*



LOVE IS A JOURNEY THAILAND'S ROMANTIC ROUTES



It is said that love cannot be made to happen, but travelling with love can. This book has been written to cater to the individual preferences of lovers who enjoy travelling and want to be free to explore destinations and activities that suit them.

This travellers' guide book, *Love is a Journey: Thailand's Romantic Routes*, is published by Tourism Authority of Thailand, with the aim of providing information on tourist destinations for lovers of all ages and genders: youths, seniors, LGBTQ and lovers with young children, who are all looking for different things when they travel. Routes and activities suggested in this book focus on the romantic factor and cover 5 regions of Thailand. The five routes take you to romantic destinations and activities in 15 cities, under different themes that suit the character of each region. The content in this book shows clearly why Thailand is so popular with tourists, whether because of its natural attractions, culture, food, beautiful traditional festivals, or unique entertainment spots.

Travelling with one's dearest is always a special and happy trip and travelling in beautiful Thailand definitely doubles the happiness. Lovers will enjoy Thailand's natural beauty, its cultural heritage and the good nature of its people while following the romantic routes created for them in this book.





THAILAND'S ROMANTIC ROUTES



- 1** Romantic Routes Eastern Region
 - Rayong
 - Chanthaburi
 - Trat
- 2** Romantic Routes Northern Region
 - Chiang Rai
 - Phayao
 - Nan
- 3** Romantic Routes Northeastern Region
 - Udon Thani
 - Sakon Nakhon
 - Nakhon Phanom
- 4** Romantic Routes Southern Region
 - Satun
 - Phatthalung
 - Songkhla
- 5** Romantic Routes Central Region
 - Greater Bangkok
 - Ayutthaya



Best For

			
YOUNG COUPLE	LGBTQ	SENIOR COUPLE	COUPLE WITH KIDS



CONTENTS

08

01 FLAVOURFUL LOVE
Romantic Routes
in the Eastern Region

♥
Rayong
Chanthaburi
Trat

28

02 NATURAL LOVE
Romantic Routes
in the Northern Region

♥
Chiang Rai
Phayao
Nan

48

03 JOYFUL LOVE
Romantic Routes in
the Northeastern Region

♥
Udon Thani
Sakon Nakhon
Nakhon Phanom

68

04 ACTIVE LOVE
Romantic Routes
in the Southern Region

♥
Satun
Phatthalung
Songkhla

88

05 ENDLESS LOVE
Romantic Routes
in the Central Region

♥
Greater Bangkok
Ayutthaya



FLAVOURFUL LOVE



RAYONG
CHANTHABURI
TRAT



Romantic Routes
in the Eastern Region

Best For



YOUNG
COUPLE



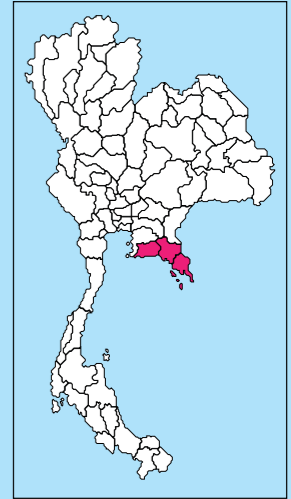
LGBTQ



SENIOR
COUPLE



COUPLE
WITH KIDS



Flavourful Love

Romantic Routes in the Eastern Region: Rayong • Chanthaburi • Trat

The romantic routes through Eastern Thailand's three coastal provinces lead to pristine mangrove forests, spectacular beaches and islands lapped by turquoise seas, a landscape full of gastronomic treats that include fresh seafood, tropical fruits and little-known local delicacies. It is a region that will give you and your sweetheart many unforgettable moments.



RAYONG



THE PARADISE ISLAND FOR LOVERS

>> The romantic atmosphere of Ko Samet has brought many lovers together and some say whoever goes to Samet will fall completely in love with it. With an area of about 5 km², it is not so big that you feel lonely, nor so small that you feel suffocated. Samet is truly a romantic island - the perfect place to surrender to love.



Ko Samet is a destination with a friendly welcome for all couples.



Photographs : Shutterstock.com

From the humble fishing village on the island's northern shore, Samet now has a wide variety of basic and up-market accommodation around much of its coastline. It is a destination with a friendly welcome for all LGBTQ couples, especially at Sai Kaew Beach, Ao Phai and Tubtim Beach.

The natural beauty and charm of Ko Samet have never faded, and still draw crowds, as they always have. What has improved on Samet are the accommodation and shops, and better roads that take lovers to every bay conveniently.

● *Best time to go for a romantic holiday: All year round, with the best weather being from October to April. The romantic spots to view the sunset are at Ao Kio Nai, Ao Phrao and Laem Ruea Taeh.*

Getting to Ho Samet: take a 40-minute ferry from Ban Phe, or hop on your accommodation's speedboat, which takes around 15 minutes. To get around on the island, take a pick-up taxi or rent a motorcycle. For more information, visit www.samedresorts.com.

ADD SWEETNESS WITH FRUITS

>> One thing that makes visitors from around the world fall in love with Thailand is the tropical fruits and their sweet, sour and juicy tastes. The Eastern region, especially Rayong, is one of the renowned orchard areas. Every year, from summer to rainy season, about 30 orchards join together in welcoming visitors to enjoy their all-you-can-eat fruit buffet, at prices around 400-600 Baht per person.

Orchards in Rayong can also be fun to visit; some have developed into full scale agro-tourism operations, while others still use traditional methods and captivate visitors with their timeless charm.



Visiting Rayong is definitely a full, fun and informative trip.

● *Best time to go savouring a fruit buffet: During fruit season, from April to July.*

DON'T MISS

● *Nok Hrajb, a must-eat native durian variety. Their taste is phenomenal.*

Recommended orchards:
Suan Lamai, Amphoe Wang Chan,
Tel. 09 8737 4983, 09 8737 4984
Suan Suphattra Land, Amphoe
Ban Khai, Tel. 08 1588 1519,
0 3889 2048-9
Suan Yai Da-Je Booncheun Orchard,
Amphoe Mueang, Tel. 08 9099 1297



DESIGN YOUR LOVE USING BATIK

>> This community enterprise is one of the area's great destinations for lovers. You can learn how to design and make your own tie-dye clothing, and also shop for colourful matching tops for you and your sweetheart.

The community started making batik fabric in 2008, before turning to making tie-dyed items in the last five years. Natural substances such as indigo and mangosteen peel are used to dye the fabrics, and other techniques such as screen printing and hand painting are also employed to enhance the patterns.



Visitors can join a one-hour workshop on making tie-dyed T-shirts and create their very own tie-dyed tops to take home. A special pattern of your own design can be prepared in advance so it can be screen printed onto your garment. Many couples choose heart patterns to tell the world that they are in love.

● *Best time for making your own tie-dyed garment: Open every day from 8.00 am – 7.00 pm for shopping and viewing production process. A workshop session requires advanced booking.*

Tessaban 42 Rd,
Amphoe Ban Chang,
Tel. 08 6140 6699



ROMANTIC TRIP TO PRIMEVAL PEAT SWAMP FOREST

>> Just five minutes on a raft will transport you to the midst of an enchanting peat swamp forest. The sights and sounds of the outside world fall away as you enter the eerie stillness under the trees. The only movements are of the indigenous birds - cormorants, Asian openbill storks and teals - that turn their heads left and right in tree tops and glide silently above the water.

Rayong's wetlands are the most fertile in the Eastern region, covering an area of more than 1,200 acres. Nature tours by boat, on foot or by bike are a major attraction for visitors, with the boat trip being the best way to see how the local flora, such as the salt-tolerant paperbark trees and the floating grass islands, has evolved to thrive in this marginal environment.

Drift peacefully with your sweetheart along the waterways of this lush ecosystem and forget the hustle and bustle of city life. The ancient wetland forest has stood the test of time because it adjusts to changes and challenges, just like a loving couple's fondness for each other.

◉ *Best time for a boat trip: Late morning or evening to avoid strong sunlight; mid-year during rainy season when there is plenty of water.*

DON'T MISS

◉ *A boat trip to Khi Pla Island; five hundred metres from Hat Mae Phim Beach. It is a small, uninhabited island with unique beauty.*

Rayong Botanic Garden, Amphoe Klaeng
Open: 8.30 am – 4.30 pm, every day,
Tel. 0 3863 8880-1
A boat for 10 people costs 600 Baht,
or 400 Baht for 2-4 people



A huge floating grass island in Rayong Botanic Garden



RELEASE CRABS WITH YOUR LOVE IN THE MANGROVE

>> The suspension bridge above Ta Boi Canal demonstrates the locals' love for their neighbourhood and its natural resources. Their concern for the endangered mangrove crabs that live nearby gave birth to their mangrove crab conservation project, for which they received a grant from the

private sector to build Raksamae Bridge and a walking trail through the mangroves, so that visitors can enjoy and learn about more than a hundred species of native fauna and flora.

The success of the conservation project has led to another adorable activity, mangrove crab weddings! Around St Valentine's Day, 'brides and grooms' (young mangrove crabs) are taken from different areas. A fleet of boats forms the Khan Mak procession and takes the young crabs to their 'crab condo'. The three-day festival is filled with plenty of other activities, too.

The idea of crab conservation has developed to link romantic love with a love for nature; lovers who release crabs here are seen as making merit together so they will always be together. They are also encouraged to cross the Raksamae

Bridge together to ensure their love will be long lasting.

◉ *Best time to release mangrove crabs and walk across Raksamae Bridge with your loved one: During high tide is best as it provides spectacular scenery, or around St Valentine's Day.*

Raksamae Bridge,
Tambon Noen Kho, Amphoe Klaeng
Info: Noen Kho Subdistrict Municipality
Tel. 0 3803 7611
or Head of Raksamae Project,
Tel. 08 9829 7325
For crab release activities, visitors
are required to book 3 days
in advance.



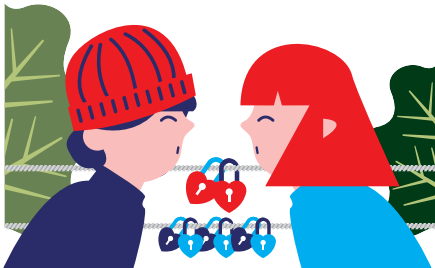
CHANTHABURI



ATTACH A LOVE PADLOCK ON THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROAD

>> The sign at Noen Nang Phaya viewpoint reads “This hill is the place where lovers unite; couples who wish for long lasting love should make a vow of eternal love.” This small hill on Chanthaburi’s coast is the destination where sweethearts can fix a padlock to symbolise their love.

The road that leads to Noen Nang Phaya, Chaloem Burapha Chonlathit Road is a scenic route dubbed the most beautiful road in



Noen Nang Phaya viewpoint,
Amphoe Na Yai Am

Thailand. The road covers over a hundred kilometres from Chon Buri, through Rayong and Chanthaburi, to Trat.

The prettiest part, however, is undoubtedly where the road passes Nang Phya Hill, standing majestically between Khung Kraben and Khung Wiman Bays. The long hillslope sweeps up from the

shore, with the coast road winding past at its foot, between the sea and the mountain.

● *Best time to attach love padlock: when the sun sets into the sea.*

ENHANCE YOUR LOVE LIFE WITH GIANT OYSTERS FROM THE EASTERN SEA

>> Being a seaside province, Chanthaburi certainly has plenty of great seafood to offer, especially the little known giant oysters.

Lung Thom (Uncle Thom) was a local fisherman before he started ‘Pa Lui Lung Thom Oyster Farm’. After drawing the first tourists to his farm, he drew the attention of a research project supported by the Thailand Research Fund and a local university. A research team helped him to



study the oysters and inspired him to use the knowledge he gained create a successful agrotourism venture run by community members.

Pa Lui and Lung Thom farm has three types of oyster for visitors to try; *Crassostrea belcheri* and *C. lugubris* are large varieties of oyster the size of your palm; and a smaller variety, *Saccostrea commercialis*. A five-minute boat trip to a raft in the sea will give you a chance to learn some of the secrets of oyster farming and savour fresh oysters straight from the sea with traditional accompaniments - fried shallots, jumbay leaves, chili paste, and seafood dip. If you prefer lemon, take some along.

According to research,

oysters, which are rich in zinc, are not only nutritious but are also aphrodisiac. If you visit the farm with your sweetheart, don't be shy to try some!

◉ **Best time to try oysters: Eat them during the day so you can test their properties at night!**

Pa Lui Lung Thom Farm, Amphoe Laem Sing Tel. 08 9803 0020

Advance booking only (recommended far in advance since the farm takes only one group per day; minimum 6 people per group, 900 Baht pp.). Price includes oysters and other seafood.

FRESHEN UP IN A NATURAL JACUZZI

>> A broad stream babbles lazily along its rocky channel, cascading into pools hedged on both sides with lush greenery. Visitors easily become enchanted by this natural beauty and it comes as no surprise to learn that this beauty spot acts like a magnet, drawing tourists to Ban Thung Phen Community. In the past, locals earned their living from the fertile orchards, watered by the stream flowing off nearby Mount Khitchakut. Many still do, but visitors easily become enchanted by the natural beauty of the area, which draws throngs of tourists to the new homestay and

resort accommodation.

The community manages twenty guest rooms for tourists along the banks of the stream, thus providing an incentive for locals to keep the water clean and the area beautiful. Both day visitors and overnight guests are welcome to enjoy themselves in the 'natural jacuzzi', while taking in the views of the magnificent mountains all around.

◉ **Best time to dip: Morning or late afternoon, during the rainy season the water flows quite strongly. In summer the cool water is especially refreshing.**

Recommended accommodation
 Baan Suan Rim Nam, Tel. 08 9093 0144
 Ban Pa Rim Than, Tel. 08 1858 1232
 Ban Than Rarin, Tel. 08 1795 2451
 Akantuka, Tel. 09 2712 0007
 Ban Suan Prueksa, Tel. 08 2202 1094



Pink Rock on the Beach,
The Wonder of Chanthaburi's Geology



WALKING WITH YOUR SWEETHEART ON PINK COAST

>> If the sweetness of love was a colour, it would surely be the soft, warm pink of the sandstone formations along the seashore in Khung Kraben Wildlife Reserve. Take a romantic walk together to

enjoy the natural wonder that is unique to the Reserve.

The pinkish purple sandstone spreads like a huge field of rocks and boulders, some standing up like low cliffs. This coastal landform is not only good for taking fantastic photos but also makes your walk along the beach a little adventurous and challenging. The distance is

not great, so it is perfect for lovers who want to have fun clambering along the shore without getting too tired.

The more energetic couples can follow a circular route, starting from the pink sandstone, along the beach, and then turning to climb the hillside and finish at Khao Bo Toei viewpoint. This is a superb spot

to bathe in the warm, pink rays of the setting sun.

● *Best time to walk on the rocks: Start around 4–5 pm to arrive in time for sunset at Khao Bo Toei viewpoint. For visitors who only want to walk on the sandstone, an umbrella or sunscreen is recommended. The pink colours of the landscape are at their best when the sun is bright.*

DON'T MISS

● *About 5 km from this point is Wat Pak Nam Khaem Nu, where the chapel is decorated with beautiful blue tiles.*

Khung Kraben Wildlife Reserve,
Amphoe Tha Mai,
Open: every day, 6.30 am – 6.00 pm
Tel. 0 3936 9216-8

COOK CHANTHABURI'S LOCAL DISHES TOGETHER

>> Rai Tam Farm Suk, a small-scale farm in Tambon Bang Kacha, has a shop that serves food and coffee to visitors to Wat Phlap, the old temple in the community. The farm also has a large reservoir and the Farm Suk Horse Riding

School offers lessons to visitors.

Another pleasant activity is the cooking class. Khrua Farm Suk, the farm's restaurant, offers a class in cooking local Chanthaburi dishes, which are well-known for their exciting flavours. You and your loved one can learn to prepare some simple dishes using fresh, local ingredients and enjoy eating them together.

Strengthen your love and work up an appetite at Khrua Farm Suk preparing simple but delicious dishes with your sweetheart.

The farm kitchen places great importance on using the finest locally sourced ingredients to create favourites such as mangosteen spicy salad, which uses organic mangosteens from a nearby orchard. The focus on seasonal ingredients means that



you may be cooking dishes like sweet-and-sour salacca soup, spicy durian salad, or duck curry with longan, depending on when you visit.

● *Best time for cooking classes: Before lunchtime or in the afternoon to avoid busy period.*

DON'T MISS

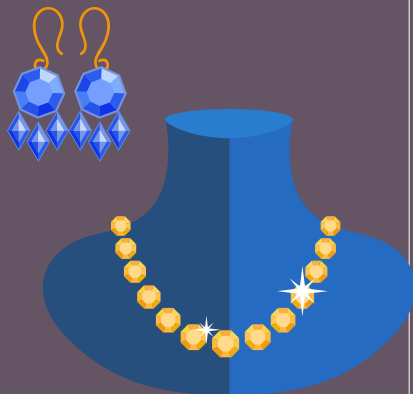
● *Toob Moh Market in Bang Kacha community each weekend. Near Wat Phlap, this is the place for plenty of scrumptious local treats.*

Khrua Farm Suk Restaurant,
Rai Tam Farm Suk, Amphoe Mueang
Open: 6.30 am – 5.00 pm
(closed on Mondays)
Prices vary according to the menu.
Information and advance booking:
Tel. 08 9110 3338, 09 4696 6263

SEARCH FOR GEMS OF LOVE

>> Chanthaburi is world renowned for its gemstones. It is said that the province was once so rich in gemstones that they would simply wash out of the soil when it rained. Even though the gem trading business in Chanthaburi is past its heyday, the province's expertise in cutting and polishing gems lives on.

In Thai folklore, gemstones symbolise different aspects of love. Rubies are for pure love and kindness, emeralds for eternal love, opals for love and hope, sapphires for true love and honesty and topaz for love and friendship. What better way



for lovers to reaffirm their love than to buy gems that embody their true feelings for one another?

Visit Bao Ploy Lek Phet Community Learning Centre where you can learn the traditional gemstone mining method from digging, sifting and spraying water to find precious stones at a real working mine. Try your hand at gemstone mining and then go shopping (or just window shopping) at the gemstone and jewellery centre in the city, where the gemstones are guaranteed to be of high quality.

● *Best time to acquire in-depth gemstone knowledge: Around mid-morning go to watch traditional gemstone mining method and enjoy panning for gemstones, then go shopping for beautiful gems in the afternoon.*

DON'T MISS

● *A Christian church in Chanthaburi houses a figure of the Virgin Mary decorated with gemstones. Take a quiet, romantic moment together in the cool interior to soak up the atmosphere.*



Chanthaburi Gems & Jewellery Centre,
Maharaj Rd, Amphoe Mueang
Tel. 0 3930 3118
Bao Ploy Lek Phet Community Learning
Centre, Tambon Si Phaya, Amphoe Tha Mai
Tel. 08 7822 9138, 08 6157 6655
Open: 10.30 am – 4.30 pm
(Closed on Wednesdays)

TRAT



DRIFTING AWAY IN A DUGOUT CANOE

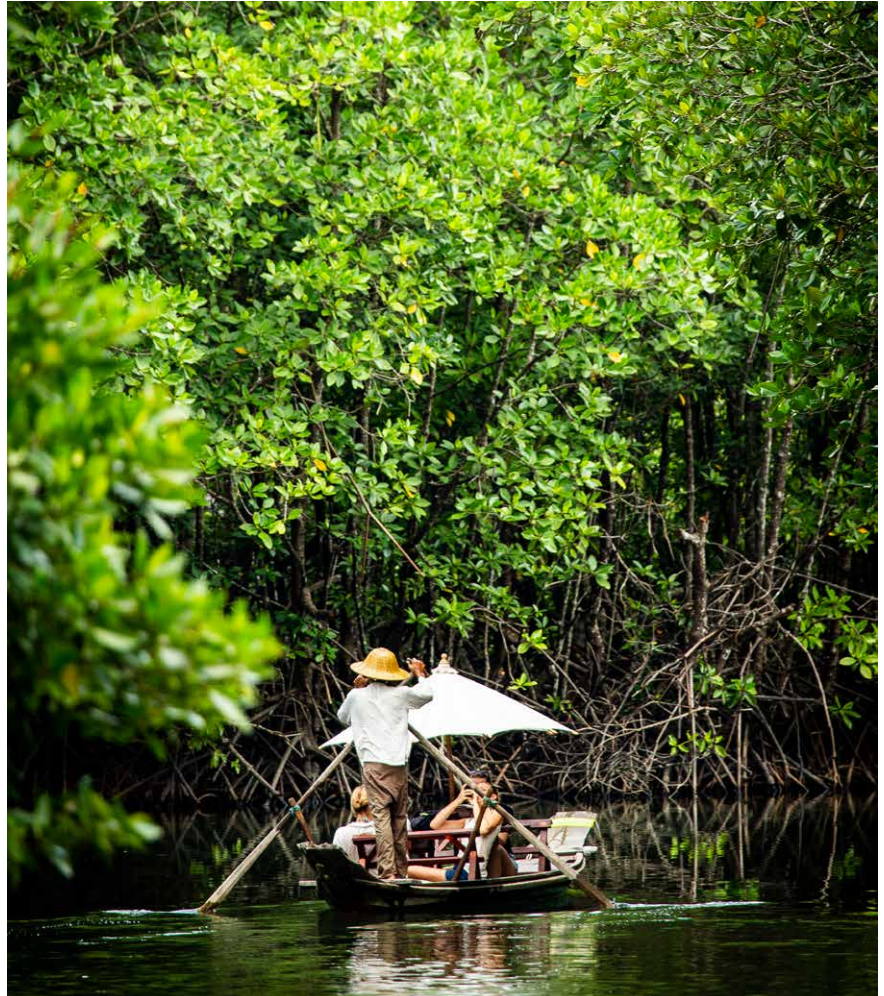
>> Ban Salak Khok is a small fishing village tucked away on the east coast of Ko Chang. The fertile mangrove forest here is the island's largest. It is so romantic drifting through the forest in a dugout canoe, or 'ruea mat' in Thai. A fisherman wearing 'ngop', head gear made from bamboo and palm leaves, rows visitors through canals overhung with trees, ferns and other plants. It is a great way to admire the natural environment. The trip lasts about 40 minutes.

🕒 *Best time for ruea mat trip: Any time between 8.30 am and 4 pm but when the tide is high the scenery is more beautiful.*

DON'T MISS

🕒 *The restaurant at the jetty serves fresh seafood bought straight from the fishermen.*

Drift away at Ban Salak Khok: 250 Baht pp.
Advance booking: Tel. 08 7748 9497



HAVE FUN SWIMMING WITH ELEPHANTS

>> To most people, Ko Chang, means white sandy beaches, clear blue seas and fresh seafood. But how about bathing with elephants next time you are there?

Ban Chang Thai, in Khlong Phrao village, is a small elephant camp that has been in business for more than ten years. The elephant camp does not put on a tourist show or train the animals to do anything that is not part of their natural behaviour; instead, the focus is on providing an opportunity for humans and elephants to learn from each other.

You can have plenty of fun bathing and splashing with the elephants. The natural swimming hole is a pond fed by a clear mountain stream. A bathing session lasts about half an hour and for those who cannot swim, life jackets are provided. Mahouts are present to supervise the activity.

📍 *Best time to go swimming with elephants: Rainy season is the best time to go because there is plenty of water.*

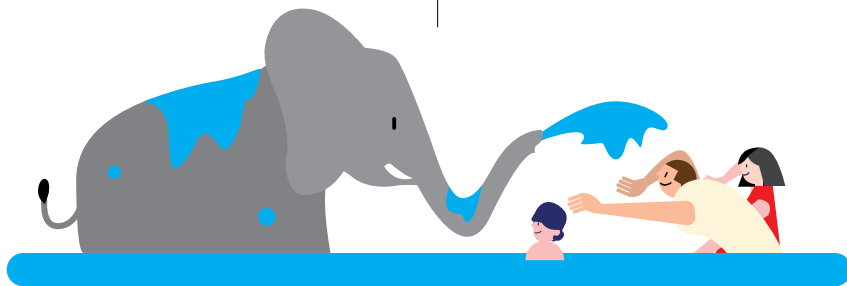
Ban Chang Thai, Ho Chang:
Tel. 08 1761 1554, 0 3951 0677
500 Baht per person, 300 Baht each for children aged 4-9 years old

CRUISE TO ANCIENT CANNONBALL MANGROVE

>> What makes the cruise at Tha Ranae village special is the unique vegetation in the area. The first part of the cruise takes you through an enchanting green tunnel created by dense mangrove forest and nipa palms that give cool shade along the canal, while the destination, dubbed 'the wonder of Trat's mangrove forests', is an old-growth cannonball mangrove. The intertwined roots of these trees are so beautiful and look like an abstract sculpture.



The canal was long used for transport and wood was collected to make charcoal until the Royal Forest Department launched a conservation project to manage the area. The community then developed the mangrove forest into a tourism destination. Their efforts have paid off, since the mangrove forest was declared Thailand's healthiest mangrove in 2013. The highlight of the cruise is at the Lan Tabun; a grove of cannonball mangrove trees, which are thought to be hundreds of years old. The forest here looks, and is, really primeval. Lovers can get off the boat, walk about on the huge tangled roots and pose for photos or enjoy the beautiful scene from



a swing that the villagers have built.

● *Best time to visit Lan Tabun: In summer, between early March and May, the water level is low and suitable for viewing the root formations. You can call to inquire about the water level before planning your trip.*

Ban Tha Ranae, Amphoe Mueang
A boat trip to Lan Tabun costs 300 Baht
(4–5 persons per boat)
Tel. 08 0014 0159, 08 1161 6694

WALK HAND IN HAND TO WATCH THE SUNSET IN THE EASTERNMOST PROVINCE OF THAILAND

>> Capture a truly romantic moment to treasure always: pose for a photo together in an intimate embrace, while basking in the golden rays of the sunset.

Trat, Thailand's easternmost province, is also the first to enjoy the splendour of the sunrise, and the province's clear air and fantastic coastal scenery make it especially breathtaking.

There are many spots where lovers can enjoy the last (or first) light of day, such as the easternmost strip of land at Laem Ngop pier, where the red and white lighthouse stands out among the natural scenery. This is also a great spot to enjoy a view of Ko Chang on the



Last light of the day at Laem Ngop pier, Trat

southern horizon. You can admire the beach that stretches away to the edge of sight, the island's mountainous spine and the fishing boats are sailing out on the sea. The Kai Bae viewpoint on Ko Chang Island is another superb spot to enjoy an enchanting sunset, overlooking small islands scattered in the calm sea that sparkles golden just before the sun slowly disappears. To witness sunset from Thailand's very easternmost territory, you can also head to the exquisite island of Ko Kut, dubbed 'the Andaman of the East'.

📍 *Best time for watching sunset with sweetheart: Every fine day. If you want to be there on time, check the sunset time of each day at the Thai Meteorological Department's website: www.tmd.go.th*

LEARN THE LOCAL WAY OF LIFE IN AN EASTERN FISHING VILLAGE

>> If your romantic getaway has time for more than just a brief stay at a beach resort, you can learn a bit about the charming local way of life at Amphoe Khlong Yai, an Eastern border district. The fishing village of Ban Mai Rut will surely give you a new perspective on life.

The emerald sea of Ko Mak always bewitches lovers



DON'T MISS

📍 *Around 30 km from Ban Mai Rut (a half-hour drive) is the narrowest spit of land in Thailand. Be sure to take a few photos for a keepsake.*

Ban Mai Rut Community,
Amphoe Khlong Yai
Info for ecotourism:
Tel. 0 3969 1095

This small village enjoys a great location; situated at an estuary beside a mangrove forest, and the canal is lined with the houses of the friendly fishermen, who greet you with smiling faces.

📍 *Best time to visit: You can visit Ban Mai Rut all year round. If you go around late October or early November, you might have a chance to witness the stunning multi-coloured jellyfish phenomenon.*





The emerald sea water that all couples are fascinated by Ko Mak

TRUE LOVE FOR NATURE, LOW-CARBON TOURISM

>> Many lovers travel to far-off Ko Mak, a tourist destination with such a unique character that most visitors find hard to leave. Part of the island's uniqueness is that it has its own charter - a sign that shows the islanders' determination to manage sustainable tourism and preserve the key elements of the identity of

Ko Mak: environment, peacefulness and amity. Accordingly, resorts and activities operate with respect for nature and the community.

Besides upholding the island's charter, the community members are keen to implement low carbon tourism strategies: reducing the use of plastic, waste management, and more.

● *Best time to be on the island: November to April is the time when the sea is most beautiful and the weather at its best.*

DON'T MISS

● *The old house near Ho Mak Seafood Restaurant serves as a museum where historic items and the story of Ho Mak's origin are preserved and displayed.*

There is a speedboat service from Laem Ngop pier to Ho Mak - about an hour's ride. There are only 6 round-trip boat services per day so advance booking is required; 900 Baht for 1 round-trip.



Scenic view from Kai Bae viewpoint



Along the canal in a sea canoe at Ban Salak Khok



A romantic timber bridge on Ko Mak



Activity for lovers who enjoy the eastern sea

How To

GET THERE

RAYONG • CHANTHABURI • TRAT



> There are air-conditioned buses and minibuses from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak) and from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Ekamai) to the three eastern seaboard provinces.

> Bangkok Airways operates direct flights from Bangkok to Trat.

> To travel around, there are air-conditioned minibuses from the bus terminal in each province.

4 Days 3 Nights Eastern Romantic Routes

DAY
1

Leave the capital early in the morning and make a stop in Rayong to refuel and refresh with a food and fruit buffet and a stroll in the orchards. After you have had your fill, head to Raksamae Bridge to release crabs, before crossing the bridge with your sweetheart to ensure your love is long-lasting. Alternatively, take a boat trip to the ancient cannonball mangrove in the Rayong Botanical Garden, before heading to Chanthaburi in time to view the beautiful sunset from Noen Nang Phaya viewpoint.

DAY
2

Get up early to take a walk on the pink sandstone rockfields at Khung Kraben Wildlife Reserve, then head back to town for a local cuisine cooking session at Khrua Farm Suk. In the afternoon, visit a traditional gemstone mine at Bao Ploy Lek Phet and learn more about precious stones at Chanthaburi Gems & Jewellery Centre, or buy a piece of jewellery for your sweetheart.

DAY
3

Head to the easternmost province, Trat, and choose the island that suits your preference the most. If you enjoy a lively day with lots of activities, then go to Ko Chang pier. Those who enjoy the tranquility of a smaller island can head for Ko Mak pier. Spend the rest of the day and evening unwinding on the island of your choice.

DAY
4

Get up early feeling fresh and choose an activity you would like to try for another half day, or return to the mainland to do other activities, such as visiting Lan Tabun ancient mangrove forest before heading to Trat Airport for a safe flight back to Bangkok.

CHECK-INS

RAYONG

HOTELS

1 RAYONG MARRIOTT RESORT AND SPA

A beach front, five-star resort in Rayong with Marriot standard and full-option facilities. Tel. 0 3899 8000, www.marriotttrayongresort.com, Ban Phe-Klaeng-Kram Rd, Tambon Chak Phong, Amphoe Klaeng



Beautiful swimming pool at Rayong Marriott Resort & Spa

2 KANTARY BAY

Comfort and convenience, spacious rooms and good food. The hotel is on Saeng Chan Beach. Tel. 0 3880 4844, www.kantarycollection.com/kantarybay-rayong, Beach Rd, Tambon Pak Nam, Amphoe Mueang

3 D VAREE DIVA CENTRAL RAYONG

A city hotel suitable for people on a business trip or for lovers as a stopover. Located on Sukhumvit Road, the hotel has a small club and a saltwater pool; conveniently central. Tel. 0 3899 7333, <http://ddcr.dvaree.com>, Sukhumvit Rd, Amphoe Mueang

4 BANDARA ON SEA

Bungalow accommodation on a white, sandy beach; offers many types of rooms; cottage, pool villa and family. Laid-back atmosphere, great for a relaxing holiday. Tel. 0 3864 8549, www.bandaragroup.com/th/hotel/bandara-rayong-resort, Phe-Klaeng Rd, Tambon Chak Phong, Amphoe Klaeng



A fantastic atmosphere at Baan Ploy Samet

5 HOLIDAY INN & SUITES RAYONG CITY CENTRE

A luxurious hotel on Sukhumvit Road in the heart of the city, with modern-style decoration and all facilities. Beautiful views from guest rooms. Remember to take your sweetheart to dine at the romantic Elementi Rooftop Grill & Bar on 30th floor. Tel. 0 3897 8789, www.holidayinnsuitesrayong.com, Sukhumvit Rd, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 LA CAPANNA

Laem Mae Phim Beach is lined with restaurants, but you should try this Thai-Italian fusion eatery where the chef uses selected local ingredients to prepare the signature dish, yam sampan ha sahai (five friends salad) - which consists of fern, fried durian, Chinese dates, pineapple core, and dried squid. If you prefer authentic Italian pizza, you will not be disappointed here either. Tel. 08 7402 7944, Laem Mae Phim Beach, Amphoe Klaeng



La Capanna's must-try yam sampan ha sahai

2 BAAN PLOY SAMET, KO SAMET

This seafood restaurant offers tasty food and a fantastic atmosphere. The timber-built restaurant is right next to a white sandy beach, with views of the fishing village and beautiful sea. Recommended dishes are nam prik kai pu, hae kuen and kaeng lueang pu. Inside Baan Ploy Sea Hotel. Tel. 0 3864 4188, Ao Noina, Ko Samet



The Buzz's piquant som tam

3 THE BUZZ, KO SAMET

This restaurant inside Le Vimarn Cottages & Spa is set romantically in Ao Phrao cove. The restaurant specialises in spicy northeastern cuisine like som tam with blue crab and fried chicken wings. The dishes may be commonplace but the flavours are extraordinary. Remember to order grilled banana with turmeric to round off your piquant meal. Tel. 0 3864 4104, Ao Phrao, Ko Samet

4 CAFÉ KANTARY

Café Kantary offers Thai and western dishes, desserts, cakes and pastries, and drinks. The food is outstanding, both in terms of flavour and presentation and the café has a pleasant atmosphere. Open every day, 7.00 am - 10.00 pm, Tel. 0 3862 1626, in front of Kameo Hotel, Sukhumvit, Amphoe Mueang

5 THE MANGO BAKERY CAFÉ, KO SAMET

Take a break from the bright sun in a cool air-conditioned café with a glass of refreshing Mango Smoothie. The Mango Bakery Café serves cool drinks and tasty baked goods. Open 8.00 am - 10.00 pm, Tel. 0 3864 4195. Situated inside Sai Kaew Beach Resort, Hat Sai Kaew, Ko Samet

CHANTHABURI

HOTELS

1 CHAANBURI BOUTIQUE RESORT

This new Sino-Portuguese colonial style resort looks classic and luxurious. It is located in a suburb of Chanthaburi, away from the town centre, suitable for lovers who prefer quiet and privacy. Tel. 09 2397 4156, or Line ID: chaanburi, Tha Chalaep Rd, Amphoe Mueang

2 MANEECHAN RESORT

Maneechan is suitable for health-conscious visitors who prefer a quiet getaway. Rooms are spacious and the swimming pool is huge. Tel. 08 1311 2952, www.maneechan.com, Sukhumvit Rd, Tambon Phlappha, Amphoe Mueang

3 BAAN LUANG RAJAMAITRI HISTORIC INN

The historic old home of a local aristocrat is situated in Chanthaburi's riverfront community. The house has been converted into a classical boutique hotel. The spacious porch is a superb spot to relax and watch life on the river. Tel. 08 8843 4516, 08 1915 8815, www.baanluangrajamaitri.com, Sukhaphiban Rd, Tambon Wat Mai, Amphoe Mueang



Riverfront room at Baan Luang Rajamaitri Historic Inn

CHECK-INS



Western-style Fishing Village at Peggy's Cove

4 PEGGY'S COVE RESORT

The resort is designed to look like an American Fishing Village on the North Atlantic coast. Timber planks line the walkways that lead to each bungalow and the whole place is very picturesque. Across the road is Khung Wiman Beach; one of the most beautiful in Chanthaburi. Tel. 0 3946 0345, <http://peggyscoversort.com>, Amphoe Na Yai Am

5 CHANCHAOLAO BEACH RESORT

A breezy resort on Chaolao Beach, another of Chanthaburi's beautiful seaside destinations. The resort property borders onto the beach, so the white sand is just a few steps away.



Mu chamuang cheese toast, a superb dish at Bunny Boom

How romantic it would be to watch the sun setting from the beach with your sweetheart. Accommodation is available both in the main resort building and in more private villas. Tel. 0 3943 3288, 08 7940 2888, www.chanchaolao.com, Tambon Khlong Khut, Amphoe Tha Mai

RESTAURANTS

1 CHANTHORN POCHANA

Chanthorn Pochana is a legendary Chanthaburi restaurant that serves Thai cuisine with a twist. The restaurant takes advantage of Chanthaburi's richness in local fruits by using them in many unique and appetising dishes. Try original dishes prepared with mangosteen, the queen of fruits, and durian, the king of fruits. Open every day, 10.00 am - 9.00 pm, Tel. 0 3932 7179, Maharaj Rd branch, Tambon Talat, Amphoe Mueang

2 BUNNY BOOM

Who would imagine that Chanthaburi's native dish, mu chamuang, has been transformed into savoury cheese toast? Desserts here are also superb; try Mahachanok Wonderful or Durian Cake. To drink, try a Cold Brew Som mapit. Open every day, 9.00 am - 8.00 pm, Tel. 09 6594 9788, Inside Blue Rabbit Hotel, Raksakhamun Rd, Tambon Tha Chang, Amphoe Mueang

3 PRIK RESTAURANT

The Thai fusion menu comprises dishes that use local ingredients, each dish is seasoned with natural flavourings and no MSG is used.

Recommended dishes are yam wun sen anchan thale and lon kung sot - with large, whole prawns. Open from 7.00 am - 10.00 pm, Tel. 09 2397 4156. In front of Chaanburi Hotel, Tha Chalaep Rd, Amphoe Mueang

4 KOFF HOUSE COFFEE BAR & EATERY

This western restaurant-bar with a vintage flair is decorated with gemstone mining tools. The menu offers western (Italian) and Thai dishes, rich coffee and alcoholic drinks. Open every day from morning to midnight, Tel. 08 3649 3995, On the riverfront at Trirat Bridge, Amphoe Mueang

5 SEA THRU RESTAURANT

Situated in Chaolao Tosang Beach Hotel, the restaurant possesses a romantic dining atmosphere, with its glass walls allowing great views of the beach. A good variety of Thai dishes is on the menu, and the seafood set is very fresh. BBQ-style dining is also available. Open every day from 7.00 am - 11.00 pm, Tel. 08 1996 9077, 09 2278 0410, Amphoe Tha Mai

TRAT



HOTELS

1 SEAVANA BEACH RESORT KOHMAK

Slender coconut palms line the white sandy beach of Ao Suan Yai, with the turquoise sea in the background. Either relax in a hammock or just enjoy a good book on a seaside sofa with a cool drink from the poolside bar. Tel. 09 0864 5646, www.seavanakohmak.com



The Cinnamon Art

2 LAN LAY RESORT

Lan Lay is built in industrial chic style, with cool, minimalist decor. It is comfortable and peaceful - perfect for those who want to get away from their busy city life. The resort is not far from the sea and set amid tranquil natural surroundings, close to Ban Chuen Beach and Mai Rut Fishing Village. Tel. 09 0592 5959, Tambon Mai Rut, Amphoe Khlong Yai

3 THE CINNAMON ART RESORT AND SPA, KO MAK

Situated on a low hill, the resort has panoramic views. Guest rooms face the sea, so are full of fresh air. Don't miss the most romantic spot of the resort; a wooden jetty that sticks far out into the sea. Tel. 09 9286 9714, 06 3289 5142, www.cinnamonkohmak.com



Luxurious Pool Villa at Sea View Resort and Spa

CHECK-INS

4 SEA VIEW RESORT AND SPA KOH CHANG

Sea View is a deluxe resort at Kai Bae Beach on Koh Chang. Lovers should book a splendid private Pool Villa and soak in the beautiful sea view from the pool. Tel. 0 3955 2888, 0 3955 2800, <https://seaviewkohchang.com>

5 BHU-TARN KOH CHANG RESORT & SPA

Although the resort is not located right on Phrao Beach, the Thai architecture, peaceful ambience and courteous smiles of the staff make this resort a lovely place to stay. Tel. 0 3951 0810, <https://bhutarnkohchang.com>



Cinnamon Restaurant in AANA Resort and Spa

RESTAURANTS

1 CINNAMON RESTAURANT, AANA RESORT AND SPA, KOH CHANG

This restaurant is located inside AANA Resort and Spa, with a view of the canal. Dining there is like sitting on the terrace of a traditional Thai canal-side house, with a sea view in the distance. Thai and western dishes are on the menu, all at reasonable prices. Open every day, 6.30 am - 10.00 pm, Tel. 0 3955 1138

2 SAFFRON ON THE SEA, KO CHANG

This is another popular restaurant among travellers; dining off a wooden table on Kai Muk Beach is simple, though very romantic, especially at sunset. Open 8.00 am to midnight, Tel. 0 3955 1253

3 RIM TALAY SEAFOOD, LAEM NGOP

Rim Talay is in the vicinity of Laem Ngop pier and can cater for big groups. The sunset scenery is impressive; the sea and Koh Chang can be seen in the distance. Open from 9.00 am - 10.00 pm, Tel. 0 3959 7084

4 COCO RESTAURANT, KOH MAK COCOCAPE RESORT

This Thai seafood restaurant is located in Koh Mak Cococape Resort, adjacent to an undisturbed, private beach. A few minutes' walk from the restaurant is a seaside bar promising romantic evening moments for



Romantic moment on the rooftop at Makathanee Resort Koh Mak

lovers. Open: 7.30 am - 8.30 pm, Tel. 08 1810 2679, 08 9819 4511

5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS : BAR & BISTRO KOH MAK

Head in the Clouds is a rooftop bar on the second floor of Makathanee Resort Koh Mak. It is a nice spot to sip cool cocktails with your sweetheart while watching the sun set behind the mountain range. Open: 11.00 am - 11.00 pm (Closed on Wednesdays), Tel. 09 5247 5914



ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ TRAVELLERS



Lovely atmosphere at The Emerald Cove Koh Chang

1 JUNGLE BAY RESORT

Jungle Bay is a small, beachside resort with a jungle-like setting; its leafy surroundings are like a lush grove on the beach. The swimming pool in the middle of the resort is shady, with birds chirping away. Pets are welcome. Tel. 08 0563 4399, 0 3943 3133, <http://junglebaychan.com>, Tambon Khlong Khut, Amphoe Tha Mai, Chanthaburi

2 THE EMERALD COVE KOH CHANG

This is one of the best hotels on Koh Chang, near Khlong Phrao Beach. Guest rooms are spacious, with full facilities of a five-star hotel, outdoor pool on the beach, pool bar and spa. Tel. 0 3955 2000, www.emeraldcovekohchang.com, Ko Chang, Trat

3 PARADEE SUNSET BAR, KO SAMET

Sunset Bar, inside Paradee Resort, is the most romantic spot to view sunsets on Koh Samet; enjoy the scenic sandy beach from your balcony or at a dedicated area for enjoying the sea view in a tranquil environment. Tel. 0 3864 4284-6

4 SAMED RESORTS GROUP

Samed Resorts Group consists of accommodation, bars and restaurants over a wide price range to suit various lifestyles, such as Sai Kaew Beach Resort, Paradee Resort, Baan Supparod, Le Vimarn Cottages and Spa and Baan Ploy Sea Resort. The group welcomes all lovers. For details, visit www.samedresorts.com

Truly romantic Sunset Bar at Paradee Resort



NATURAL LOVE







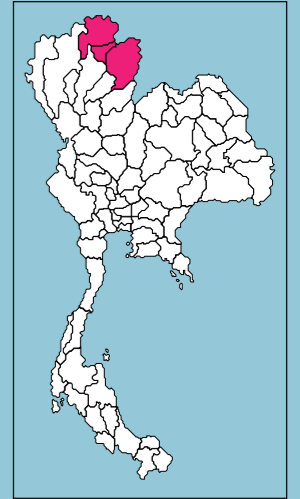
CHIANG RAI
PHAYAO
NAN



Romantic Routes
in the Northern Region

Best For

-  YOUNG COUPLE
-  LGBTQ
-  SENIOR COUPLE
-  COUPLE WITH KIDS



Natural Love

Romantic Routes in the Northern Region: Chiang Rai • Phayao • Nan

Love comes naturally as you follow enchanting roads that meander through the magnificent beauty of the Northern land of mountains and mist. Let your love bloom during your trip through the unique scenery of the eastern Lanna Kingdom.



Romantic night at Doi Samoe Dao's campsite

Photography: Shutterstock.com

CHIANG RAI



GAZE AT THE SKY, COUNT THE STARS AND BE EMBRACED BY COOL MIST ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

>> Amphoe Wiang Kaen, Thailand's easternmost district, rewards visitors with the astounding natural scenery of the mountain range that divides Thailand and Laos, especially at Phu Chi Dao. In winter, before dawn, tall grass bends in the crisp wind on the Phu Chi Dao ridge under the star-filled sky, before they flicker and fade in the first light of day. Spend the moment absorbing the magic of nature with your sweetheart on the 200-metre viewpoint at Phu Chi Dao and discover your tender love.

• *Best time to declare your love on the mountain top: Winter, when skies are clearest, is probably*

the most romantic time. In the rainy season, there is a chance to see a fabulous sea of mist all around. Make sure to reach the entrance to Phu Chi Dao before 5.00 am, take a 15-minute ride on a pick-up truck (500 Baht) and then walk up the mountain for another 30 minutes. You should reach the top before 6.00 am – in time to see the star-filled sky before first light. (Summer visitors should arrive earlier.)



Sea of mist in the morning on Phu Chi Dao

DON'T MISS

• *Don't underestimate Phu Chi Dao during low season. In May, morning temperatures on top of Phu Chi Dao are in the low twenties Celsius. If you book accommodation and pick-up service in advance, you might be the only couple up there.*

AROMATIC ROUTE TO COFFEE AND TEA PLANTATION





Restaurant in Choui Fong Tea Plantation

>> Chiang Rai is the home for tea and coffee in Thailand and a must-visit destination for travellers who are fond of a cuppa. Chiang Rai's plantations are also perfect for lovers; the province offers a variety of tea plantations with different characters.

You can choose a tea plantation in a remote and peaceful hill tribe village on Doi Mae Salong, where visitors can experience the local way of life and learn a part of Yunnan history and culture, or

Doi Wawi, which is reminiscent of a rural Chinese village and is where Thailand's Oolong tea is produced. For a modern and well organised establishment, head to Choui Fong Tea Plantation. It is convenient to go there and not very far from the city of Chiang Rai.

For couples who prefer coffee, Chiang Rai is also the place where high quality coffee beans are produced. Villages on many mountains have turned to coffee farming and produce high quality

coffee beans. Many of the coffee growing villages, such as Doi Chang, Pangkhon, Doi Pha Hi and Mae Chan Tai, also blend tourism with their coffee farming.

● *Best time for a trip to tea/coffee plantations: For tea plantations, any time of the year is convenient. Best time to visit coffee plantations is from October to January, when coffee trees are bearing fruit.*

PROVE YOUR LOVE IN THE TREETOPS

>> The Mae Fah Luang Garden on Doi Tung is the work of Doi Tung Development Project, and is known for its beautiful cool-climate plants. Recently, the Garden organised an adventurous 'Treetop Walk' along a 300-metre rope bridge which is 30 metres above the ground! Visitors get to know the variety of flora in the Garden as they walk along the shady bridge and enjoy an easy zipline with full safety precautions and well-trained staff.

The activity is suitable for couples with children aged between 8 and 12.



Suspension bridge at Mae Fah Luang Garden

● *Best time to walk in treetops: Any time of the year. A Treetop Walk after 4.00 pm is less hot (last walk is at 5.00 pm).*

Mae Fah Luang Garden, Amphoe Mae Fa Luang. Admission fee is 90 Baht and Treetop Walk is 150 Baht.



Make your own postcard using Sa paper

MAKE SA PAPER POSTCARD WITH YOUR SWEETHEART

>> Join an inexpensive workshop on making Sa paper (mulberry bark paper) and then turn it into a postcard, a book or a piece of art by yourself at Jinnaluck Miracle of Saa. The easy process is suitable for lovers who enjoy creating a memorable souvenir together.

All items required for your project are provided.

● *Best time for attending the workshop: Every day in the morning and especially on a fine day. Your creation will be placed in the sun to dry while you tour the factory and enjoy a snack. Once it is dry, you can take it home.*

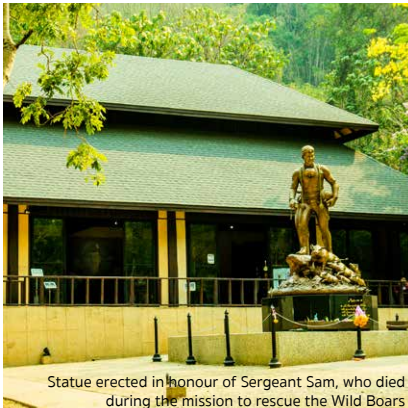
Jinnaluck Miracle of Saa opens every day from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Tel. 08 1883 9062

DON'T MISS

● *Visit Wat Hirunyawat, originally Wat Mueang Dang Noi, for a little-seen artefact: the biggest Buddha image made from woven bamboo strips (15 minutes from Jinnaluck Miracle of Saa).*

VISIT THE PLACE THAT COMMEMORATES THE GREAT LOVE OF HUMANITY

>> When the twelve young members of 'Wild Boars' football team and their coach became trapped in Tham Luang-Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in 2018, this sleepy backwoods place suddenly achieved international fame due to the arduous nature of the rescue mission. After the incident, the forest park in which the cave is situated received



Statue erected in honour of Sergeant Sam, who died during the mission to rescue the Wild Boars

improvement grants to help it meet international standards for tourism.

The cave itself is not yet open but visitors can visit a museum dedicated to the heroes involved in the rescue mission. It displays many pieces of art created by Chiang Rai's local artists related to the mission that has brought love and co-operation from all over the world to this remote place. It is also the site for Sergeant Sam's statue.



ALL-YEAR ROMANTIC ACTIVITIES AT SINGHA PARK

>> Lovers who enjoy fun activities in a romantic environment will love Singha Park for its range of exciting things to do throughout the year. Besides the beautiful vistas of colourful flowers and lush green trees, you can also enjoy the international balloon festival held each February, along with

the love song concert and local cultural performances.

A trolley tour is a good way to see what is going on in the huge farm without having to spend much energy. For a more physical option, you can cycle around (rent a bike or bring your own).

● **Best time to visit:** Any day throughout the year. Visit www.facebook.com/SinghaparkChiangrai/ for an updated activity schedule.

Singha Park, Tambon Mae Hon, Amphoe Mueang. Open: every day from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm



Biking trail in Singha Park

PHAYAO



LOVE ON KWAN PHAYAO

>> Kwan Phayao is a must-visit destination for lovers who come to Phayao. It is the biggest fresh-water lake in the northern region. This vast lake in the middle of Phayao town was a catchment for water from nearby mountains and was used for irrigation and fish farming until 1939, when the Department of Fisheries built a sluice gate to keep more water in the lake, leading to the inundation of nearby communities and temples.

Wat Tilok Aram was one of the temples affected. It was rediscovered by a local fisherman in 1983, and subsequently became a local attraction. Lovers who come to Kwan Phayao usually take a boat out onto the lake to visit the temple.

● *Best time to take a rowboat trip: Avoid hot sunny period by going in*

the morning or late afternoon (not later than 5.00 pm).

Fee for a rowboat: 30 Baht per person, or 150 baht to rent a whole boat (seats 5 passengers).

DON'T MISS

● *San Pa Muang village, on the edge of Kwan Phayao, is famous for good quality handbags made from water hyacinth. They come in many designs and are popular export products. Tel. 08 1672 8037, 08 1602 7771*

MESMERISED BY THE HEAVENLY SCENERY

>> Sipping a cup of coffee with your sweetheart beside you, at a viewpoint overlooking a huge limestone mountain standing cloaked

The viewpoint at Magic Mountain Café



in morning mist and surrounded by green fields is such a romantic moment. The limestone mountain is in Tham Sa Koen National Park in Nan Province. The viewpoint at Phu Langka Ban Suan, with its nearby shops, has been a popular spot to view the heavenly scenery and has turned Phu Langka into one of the must-go destinations in Nan.

● *Best time to sip coffee while enjoying the fantastic scenery: At dawn in the rainy season or in winter the scenery is at its best. For scaling Phu Langha, only winter is suitable.*

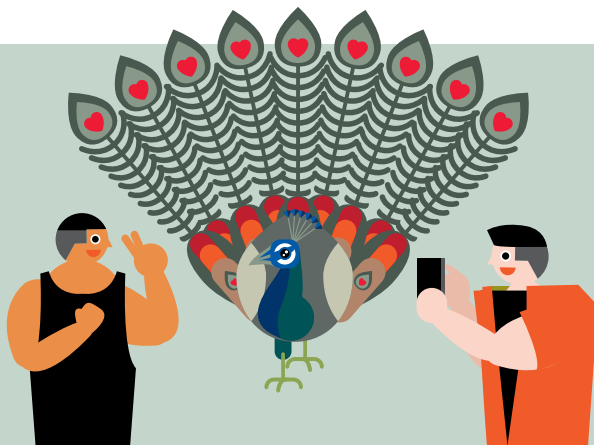
For more information, contact Phu Langha Ban Suan at Tel. 08 6191 0291



A hidden waterfall near Phu Langka Ban Suan

DON'T MISS

● *Guests staying at Phu Langha Ban Suan should ask for the newly discovered waterfall hidden in the area. It was discovered by villagers and is so new, it has not received an official name yet. The waterfall is on gently sloping ground and so is safe to visit; it is a wonderful spot for a leisurely walk.*



SEE SYMBOL OF LOVE AT DOI PHU NANG

>> Peacocks are used as a symbol for many good things in Chinese belief, while Hindus believe that the peacock represents love. Isn't that a good reason to go to Phu Nang National Park in Phayao, to be wowed by stunning scenery and watch peacocks roaming there? Phu Nang has the highest peacock population in Thailand and is home to the last flock of Thai peacocks (or green peacocks). There is also an exhibition building that gives information about Thai peacocks.

The National Park is rich with natural attractions, such as Than Sawan Waterfall, which has water all year round.

● *Best time to go to watch peacocks: During mating season, between November and March. There is a better chance of spotting them in the morning or evening.*

Doi Phu Nang National Park,
Amphoe Chiang Muan,
Tel. 0 5447 6302, 09 5690 0605



Than Sawan Waterfall in Doi Phu Nang National Park



MAKE A ONE-OF-A-KIND CERAMIC TOGETHER

>> Ceramic figurines and utensils of all sizes and shapes fill the shelves of Huenpatima Ceramics, some pieces as small as the tip of your little finger. Huenpatima Ceramics is a small ceramic factory open for visitors to shop for souvenirs or join a ceramic-making workshop for a small fee. The one of a kind ceramic piece that you and your sweetheart have made will be sent to you by postal service.

● *Best time to make a ceramic together: Any day but booking is required 2 days in advance.*

Huenpatima Ceramics, Phahonyothin Rd,
20 km before Phayao City,
Tel. 08 1960 9859 (for advance
booking contact Khun Uthen)



Ceramic-making workshop is good fun for everybody



Take a close look at the carved golden teak panel behind the Buddha image and you will see a cupid figure.



Photographs: Shutterstock.com

Believe
in love
Legends of
belief & love

LOOK FOR CUPID AT WAT NANTARAM



>> Inside the timber Vihara built in Tai Yai architectural style is a golden Buddha image that worshippers come to pay homage to regularly. Take a close look at the carved golden teak panel behind the Buddha image (you will need to use binoculars or the zoom on your camera for this purpose) and you will see a cupid figure appear on the panel. It is believed that the cupid is a British influence, since the temple was built with the influence of many cultures.

The Cupid at Wat Nantaram is the reason why many lovers come to ask for blessings and make merit together.

● *Best time to ask for a blessing: All day, before the Vihara is closed.*

Wat Nantaram, Ban Don Chai,
Tambon Yuan, Amphoe Chiang Kham

DON'T MISS

● *There is an ancient Buddha image in sitting position placed directly on the ground. Traditionally, these statues are supposed to be placed on a pedestal. This unusual scene is about 4 km from Wat Nantaram. The Buddha image is called 'Phra Nang Din' or Buddha Sitting on Soil.*



NAN



Believe
in love

Legends of
belief & love



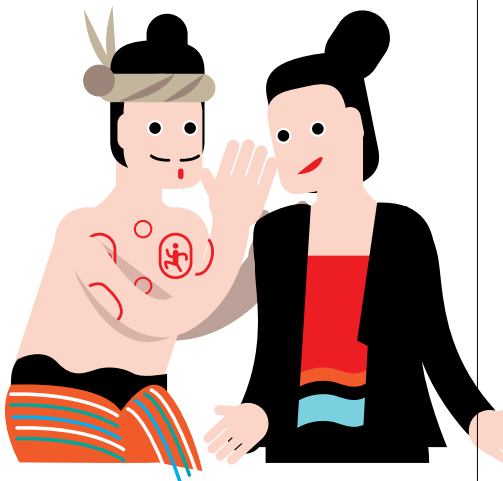
Romantic whispers in front of the well-known painting inside the chapel of Wat Phumin

REVEAL YOUR LOVE IN FRONT OF PU MAN, YA MAN

>> The image of a couple whispering to each other forms part of the mural inside the chapel of Wat Phumin is a famous picture called 'Pu Man, Ya Man' (Grandpa Man and Grandma Man) or 'whispering lovers'. The mural is the work of Nan Bua Phan, a renowned local artist of Tai Lue descent, and is regarded as one of the nation's masterpieces.

Being an ancient temple with intricate murals in the heart of Nan City, Wat Phumin draws lovers to ask for everlasting love by walking anticlockwise - through an arch under the two nagas in front of the chapel - 3 times and then ask for a blessing from 'Pu Man, Ya Man'.

🔴 *Best time to walk through the arches: Go during the day, especially on weekends when there are local*



guides to provide information inside the chapel. It is less crowded in the evening, just before the chapel is closed.

DON'T MISS

● *Buying a replica one-baht note used during the reign of King Rama VII, on which the chapel of Wat Phumin is featured. Original one-baht notes are also available.*



MAKE MERIT TOGETHER BY MAKING A MAH TAO LANTERN FOR A TEMPLE



Workshop on making Mah Tao lantern at Muang Tuet village

>> Mah Tao lanterns are part of Nan's Buddhist cultural heritage, but non-Buddhist couples can still enjoy making a Mah Tao lantern and at the same time learn a local craft. Head to Muang Tuet village for this hands-on traditional craft experience. You can donate your finished lantern to a local temple, or take it home to use as a decorative souvenir.

● *Best time to make a lantern: Any day, but appointment is required. For those who wish to offer the lantern to a temple, the morning session is better so that the finished lantern can be offered to the temple in the afternoon.*

Mah Tao Lantern Group,
Amphoe Phu Phiang, Tel. 08 9854 0387
(workshop costs 350 Baht)

SWEETEN YOUR LOVE AT COCOA VALLEY

>> Get to know the plant that is the source of the world's favourite sweet, learn how rich chocolate is made at Cocoa Valley and get some to take back home, too.

Cocoa Valley's founders began with a love of cocoa, the desire to create job opportunities for the rural people and an ambition to make quality Thai cocoa well-known. Cocoa Valley offers more than just somewhere for visitors to stay and a café where its products can be enjoyed; it runs an informative workshop that starts with a tour of the cacao plantation and then gives hands-on experience making chocolate, which participants can take back home. It is a wonderful activity for couples who love chocolate.

● **Best time to attend the workshop:** All year round but in the rainy season and in winter, the weather is less hot and there is a high chance to see the cacao fruit.

Cocoa Valley, Amphoe Pua,
Tel./Line: 06 3791 1619,
www.facebook.com/cocoaalleyresort
One and a half hour workshop costs
350 Baht per person and runs twice
a day (9.30 am and 1.30 pm).



Chocolate can make your love even sweeter



A workshop that covers harvesting cacao beans and making delicious chocolate

ROADS OF ROMANCE NAN'S SKY ROADS

>> Nan is known for its many mountaintop roads - or 'sky roads' - such as the road from Amphoe Pua-Bo Kluea to Chaloeam Phra Kiat. Take route 1256 for about 40 km: the road gradually winds higher and higher up the mountain,

with scenic terrain on both sides. More breathtaking scenery can be found along route 1081, from Bo Kluea to Chaloeam Phra Kiat (the road from Amphoe Tha Wang Pha to Amphoe Chiang Kham in Phayao.) Route 1148 is dubbed 'Romantic Road' by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. Winding along mountain ridges, the road gives you a magical feeling of

travelling through clouds high up in the sky, with tiny maize farms and villages dotted far below.

● *Best time for a road trip: Best views are during rainy season and winter. Be extra careful on rainy days because the roads are steep and winding.*



GO ORGANIC AMONG THE PADDY FIELDS AND MOUNTAINS OF PUA

>> One month after the first rain, the paddy fields of Amphoe

Pua turn lush, emerald green. The Farmer School in Tambon Sila Phet, which trains farmers in safe farming techniques also provides simple accommodation in the middle of the green paddy fields. Visiting couples can participate in every process of rice farming or just drop by to see



Tambon Sila Phet Farmer School

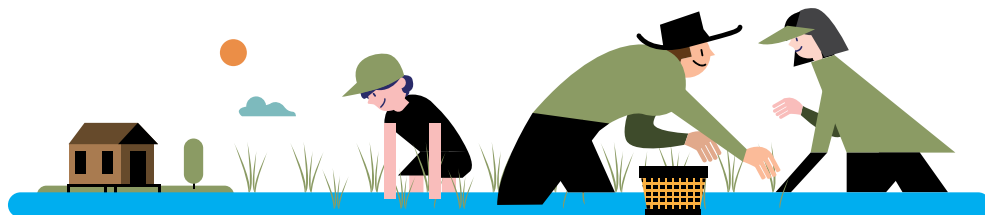
organic agriculture practised and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful paddy fields of Pua.

● *Best time to visit the Farmer School: July to September is when the fields are all green; from October to November the fields start turning gold.*

Tambon Sila Phet Farmer School:
contact in advance at
Tel. 08 9999 7737,
www.facebook.com/homestayfarmerschool



Agricultural scenery and mountains of Pua





At sunset, a romantic moment on Doi Samoe Dao

Photographs: Shutterstock.com

CAMP OUT, COUNT THE STARS AND ADMIRE THE SEA OF CLOUDS AT DOI SAMOE DAO

>> Doi Samoe Dao is always on the list of romantic destinations in Nan. This small mountain in Si Nan National Park is popular with visitors, since its big camping site allows campers to experience three magical natural phenomena in one place; watching the sun set

behind the mountains, admiring the star-filled night sky and being enchanted by a sea of clouds in the morning.

Doi Samoe Dao is easy to reach by car, without extra trekking. Just book a tent with the National Park in advance and prepare your supplies.

🕒 **Best time to count the stars:** The weather up on the mountain is best from October to February. Choose a night with little or no moon to see millions of stars. Weekdays will give you more privacy than weekends

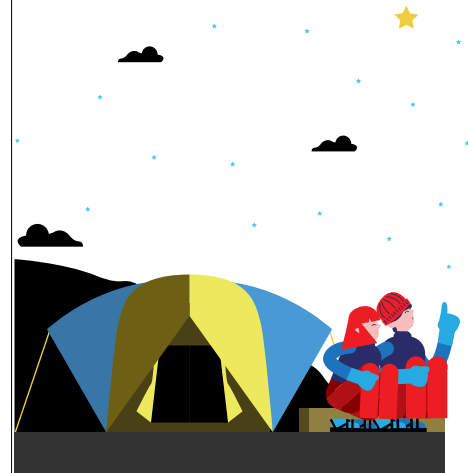
Say Yes!
WHERE TO DECLARE YOUR LOVE

or long weekends, when there are lots of campers.

Doi Samoe Dao, Amphoe Na Noi. Advanced booking for tents starts from October until before summer. Tel. 09 3242 2914, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm, every day (a tent for 2 costs 345 Baht)

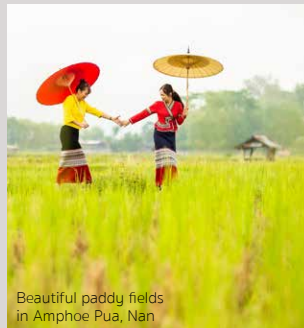
DON'T MISS

🕒 **If you drive there, continue past the Park Office for another 5–10 km for a scenic drive. The road is surrounded by lush forest and runs over a bridge across Nan River. The area is used for farming buffaloes.**





Stunning view from mountaintop in Amphoe Wiang Kaen, Chiang Rai



Beautiful paddy fields in Amphoe Pua, Nan



Having a good time at Chivit Thamma Da, Chiang Rai

How To

GET THERE

CHIANG RAI • PHAYAO • NAN



> Chiang Rai. There are many direct domestic flights from Bangkok to Chiang Rai. Air-conditioned bus service is available at Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak).

> Nan. Thai AirAsia flies from Bangkok to Nan and also air-conditioned bus service is available at Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak).

> Phayao. There is a bus service from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak), or save time by flying to Chiang Rai and then taking a bus from Chiang Rai Bus Terminal to Phayao.

4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS

Northern Romantic Routes

DAY
1

Leave Bangkok for Nan and visit Wat Phumin to walk through the arches under the two Serpents. Then whisper to your love with Pu Man, Ya Man before making a Mah Tao lantern to be offered at Wat Phra That Chae Haeng. In the afternoon, head to Pua and attend a workshop at Cocoa Valley. End the day soaking up the golden afternoon light among beautiful paddy fields before heading back to town, to your hotel.

DAY
2

Take off in the morning to Phayao. After a sumptuous lunch, go to Kwan Phayao for a rowboat trip to see the temple in the water. Then head to Amphoe Pong for a night and be mesmerised by the beauty of Phu Langka.

DAY
3

Get up early and admire the dreamy sea of clouds. Later, go to Wat Nantaram to look for the Cupid before heading to Amphoe Mae Sai (with a possible stop at The Golden Triangle) to attend a sa paper workshop at Jinnaluck Miracle of Saa. Visit Tham Luang Cave before spending the night in Chiang Rai city.

DAY
4

Either visit Choui Fong Tea Plantation or join romantic activities at Singha Park. Come back to Chiang Rai city for delicious northern cuisine and shop for souvenirs before flying back to Bangkok.

CHECK-INS

CHIANG RAI

HOTELS

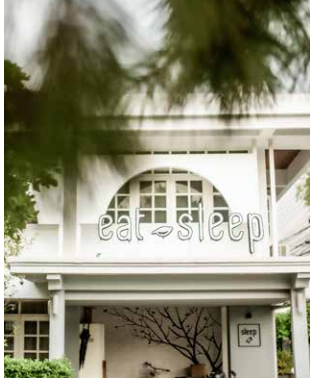
1 FOUR SEASONS TENTED CAMP GOLDEN TRIANGLE

This five-star hotel in Safari theme in Chiang Saen offers exotic activities, such as a boat trip to the Golden Triangle and a bath with elephants. Tel. 0 5391 0200, www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle, Golden Triangle, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Chiang Saen

2 ANANTARA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ELEPHANT CAMP & RESORT

This five-star hotel on a mountain ridge set amidst the jungle commands an impressive view of the Mekong River, Myanmar and Laos. The hotel has an elephant conservation camp and offers boat trips to enjoy the riverside and see the local way of life. Tel. 0 5378 4084, www.anantara.com/th/golden-triangle-chiang-rai, Amphoe Chiang Saen

Eat Sleep Cafe & Bed



3 THE RIVERIE BY KATATHANI

This five-star hotel on the bank of Kok River has a contemporary-classic design and a large pool. Tel. 0 5360 7999, www.theriverie.com, Kraisorasit Rd, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

4 THE LEGEND BOUTIQUE RESORT & SPA

This resort on the bank of Kok River uses Lanna architectural style to create an exotic atmosphere. It is peaceful and shaded, with plenty of trees. 0 5391 0400, www.thelegend-chiangrai.com, Ko Loi Rd, Tambon Rop Wiang, Amphoe Mueang



Relax in privacy at Four Seasons Tented Camp

5 PHU CHAISAI MOUNTAIN RESORT

Phu Chaisai is an extravagant mountain resort with natural surroundings and plenty of fresh air. Tel. 0 5391 0500, www.phu-chaisai.com, Amphoe Mae Chan

6 EAT SLEEP CAFE & BED

A small house, was turned into EAT SLEEP CAFE & BED, a hotel with a cosy and romantic atmosphere. There is also a café. Tel. 09 1067 8272, Tambon Rop Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 CHIVIT THAMMA DA

The food at this romantic café is as tasty as it is beautiful. Recommended dishes are khao pat sapparot phu lae, apple salad with yoghurt and spaghetti tom yam kung. Tel. 08 1984 2925, 0 5316 6967, www.chivitthammada.com, Tambon Rim Kok, Amphoe Mueang

Irresistible banoffee at Chivit Thamma Da



2 HACIENDA COFFEE HOUSE

This café has the ambience of a warm, classical European home. The menu consists of western dishes, fusion food, homemade baked goods and lovely tea. Tel. 08 9686 3354, www.haciendacoffeehouse.com, Tambon Tha Sut, Amphoe Mueang

3 SAWAN BON DIN FARM

This is a place for herbal tea aficionados who enjoy a garden setting. Special blends are 'Namaskar' and 'Bhavana' - choose either, accompanied by Wichianmas cookies. Tel. 08 1205 3554, www.facebook.com/SawanbondinFarm, Tambon Rim Kok, Amphoe Mueang

4 MELT IN YOUR MOUTH

This western-style restaurant is located in a riverside garden. It is a nice spot to watch the sunset. The menu consists of central and northern Thai, Italian and fusion dishes. Tel. 0 5202 0549



Pleasant garden setting at Melt in Your Mouth

5 THA NAM PHU LAE

Tha Nam Phu Lae on the riverside offers native northern dishes, such as nam prik ong, nam prik num, lap kua and nam mok. Tel. 0 5316 6888, www.phulaerestaurant.com, Phahonyothin Rd

PHAYAO

HOTELS

1 PHUGLONG HOTEL

Phuglong Hotel enjoys a great location, where guests can see the city scenery and the vast Kwan Phayao lake. The views from its Deluxe, Suite and Family Rooms are very romantic. Tel. 0 5448 1915, 06 3789 1999, www.phuglong.com, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

2 ZEN HOME RESORT AND GARDEN PHAYAO

Inspired by Zen and Japan, the resort was built in Japanese architectural style. The minimalist decoration follows Zen principles but still provides comfort to guests. Tel. 09 8750 1040, www.facebook.com/zenresortphayao/, Ban Mo Kaeng Thong, Tambon Mae Ka, Amphoe Mueang



Guest room at Zen Home

CHECK-INS



Cool accommodation at Mongsamkien

3 MONSAMKIEN FARMSTAY

Hidden in a small community away from the bustle of city life, Mongsamkien is artsy and rustic. It is very atmospheric and romantic during the rainy season and in winter. Tel. 09 9619 5992, www.facebook.com/mongsamkien, Phahonyothin Rd, Amphoe Mueang

4 DD GARDEN HOME

DD Garden Home lies a short way out of the city, so it has the advantages of being quiet and having more privacy. This budget hotel is near Ing River. Tel. 09 3130 3111, Phahonyothin Rd, Ban Tha Ruea, Tambon Ban Tam, Amphoe Mueang

5 CHAYKWAN HOTEL

This budget hotel next to Kwan Phayao is fairly new. The hotel has a hall overlooking the city. Tel. 0 5407 3991, Thakwan Rd, Amphoe Mueang



Chaykwan Hotel



Mocktails at Krua Aurora

RESTAURANTS

1 KRUA AURORA

Krua Aurora serves tasty northern dishes. Grab an outdoor table to dine while watching the sunset. Tel. 09 3136 6655, Phahonyothin Rd, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang



Coffee Chaykwan is set in an award-winning, renovated old house

2 COFFEE CHAYKWAN

Coffee Chaykwan is a restaurant-café set in a charmingly renovated old house. The renovations were done by the husband-and-wife-owners, who are retired teachers, and their students. Tel. 08 9192 1534, Thakwan Rd, Amphoe Mueang (next door to Chaykwan Hotel)

3 CHIDLOM CHOMKWAN

This is a big restaurant on the shore of Kwan Phayao, with outdoor and indoor dining areas. The restaurant serves central Thai cuisine. Tel. 08 4483 1274, www.facebook.com/chidlomchomkwan, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

4 THE LAKE CAFE PHAYAO

The Lake Café is a restaurant, coffee shop and bakery located next to Kwan Phayao. There is an outdoor terrace for guests to enjoy sipping aromatic coffee while admiring the scenic Kwan Phayao. Tel. 09 3237 7907, www.facebook.com/TheLakeCoffeeshop, Phahonyothin Rd, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang



Enjoy good coffee together at The Lake Café

5 SO GOOD PHAYAO

This is another pleasant Thai food restaurant along Kwan Phayao, for lunch or dinner. So Good Phayao also serves coffee, cakes and pastries. Tel. 08 2190 9009, Phahonyothin Rd, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

NAN

HOTELS

1 PHUKA NANFA

Phuka Nanfa is Nan's most famous hotel; it started out as a three-storey teak hotel before major renovation that has turned it into a chic, boutique hotel with eastern Lanna flare that conjours up old Nan. Tel. 0 5477 1111, www.pukhananfahotel.co.th, Sumondevaraj Rd, Tambon Nai Wiang, Amphoe Mueang

2 NAN BOUTIQUE RESORT

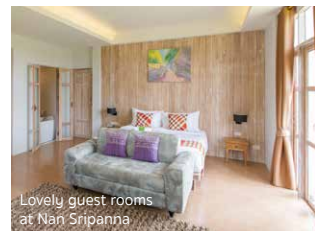
Nan Boutique Resort is about 10 minutes from the city, with an impressive view. Guest rooms are charmingly decorated. The outdoor pool has a fantastic view. Tel. 0 5405 9691, 09 3139 0737, www.facebook.com/nanboutiqueresort, Amphoe Phu Phiang



Khum Muang Min Boutique Hotel

3 KHUM MUANG MIN BOUTIQUE HOTEL

The Colonial-Lanna architectural style of Khum Muang Min really stands out. It is like staying in an old house with all the luxurious comforts you could wish for. Tel. 0 5477 4166, www.nanhotels.com, Achitawong Rd, Tambon Nai Wiang, Amphoe Mueang



Lovely guest rooms at Nan Sripanna

4 NAN SRIPANNA

The white building stands out from the green lawn and paddy fields. Nan Sri Panna is a modern, boutique hotel suitable for lovers who prefer the peace and tranquillity of nature. Tel. 0 5471 8556, 09 5681 5656, www.facebook.com/NanSripannaResort, Tambon Chai Sathan, Amphoe Mueang



Phuka Nanfa Hotel

CHECK-INS



Nan Green Lake View

5 NAN GREEN LAKE VIEW

With 10 hectares of land, a lake and a forest view in a distance, Nan Green Lake View is just right for a relaxing holiday away from the hassle of city life. Bikes are available to explore the surrounding countryside. Tel. 09 6745 9911, www.nangreenlakeview.com, Tambon Chai Sathan, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 CAFÉ SOODGONGDEE

Café Soodgongdee is decorated with artwork. The café is built in a tree, with a balcony overlooking the river. It serves food, cakes, pastries and coffee. Tel. 08 6995 6545, www.facebook.com/CafeSoodgongdee

2 BAN TAI LUE CAFÉ

Sipping a cup of coffee at Ban Tai Lue Café and chatting away with your sweetheart in a thatched hut in the middle of paddy fields is a different experience from the usual coffee house. Tel. 08 9264 6058, 0 5479 2371, Tambon Sila Laeng, Amphoe Pua

Sipping a cup of coffee at Ban Tai Lue Café



3 PONG ZA, BO KLUA VIEW RESORT

Makwaen fried chicken, Nan's famous dish, was invented at Pong Za by local chef Thuan. The restaurant serves many dishes prepared with local ingredients complementing the wonderful view of Mang River. It is inside Boklua View Resort. Tel. 0 5477 8140, 08 1809 6392

4 HUAN PUKA

Huan Puka serves generous portions of native northern as well as seasonal dishes. The servings are generous. Tel. 09 5962



Makwaen fried chicken, PONG ZA

9663, Kha Luang Rd, Amphoe Mueang

5 HUEAN CHAONANG

Huean Chaonang is well-known for its spectacular view and serves both central Thai and native northern dishes. Tel. 06 1879 1626, 09 3362 3241, www.hueanchaonang.com, Tambon Tha Lo, Amphoe Phu Phiang

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ TRAVELLERS



Extravagant Le Meridian Chiang Rai

1 LE MÉRIDIAN RESORT CHIANG RAI

Le Méridien Resort Chiang Rai is a luxurious and romantic resort with contemporary Lanna flare. It is on Kok River bank, where two raintrees stand with their roots entwined; it is believed that they symbolise the true love of Ma Mia and Prince Sukklasem in Lanna history. Tel. 0 5360 3333, Khwae Wai Rd, Tambon Rop Wieng, Amphoe Mueang, Chiang Rai

2 KATILIYA MOUNTAIN RESORT & SPA

This mountain resort is known for its natural surroundings and varieties of trees planted in the resort area, perfect for lovers who prefer a tranquil environment. There is an outdoor pool and a Jacuzzi. Tel. 0 5360 3000, www.katiliya.com/chiangrai, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai





3 THE A-STAR PHULARE VALLEY

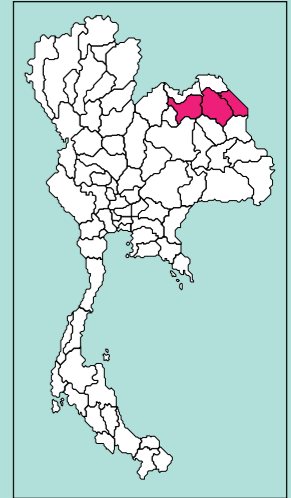
Set among shady trees and overlooking a long mountain ridge, A-Star Phulare Valley has luxurious pool villas and is the place for lovers who enjoy a private holiday. Tel. 0 5202 9924, www.a-star-phularevalley.com, Thanalai Rd, Tambon Wiang, Amphoe Mueang, Chiang Rai



Swimming pool at A-Star Phulare Valley

Best For

- 
 YOUNG
COUPLE
- 
 LGBTQ
- 
 SENIOR
COUPLE
- 
 COUPLE
WITH KIDS



Joyful Love

Romantic Routes in the Northeastern Region: Udon Thani • Sakon Nakhon • Nakhon Phanom

The highways and byways that join these three Northeastern provinces will bring you joy and fun and a chance to learn various valuable and cool aspects of native culture passed down through generations and applied to chic crafts - just as the joy of love often lies in learning from and getting to know our sweetheart better.



Romance in lush green at Khao Khun Mae Farm, Nakhon Phanom

UDON THANI



ENJOY 'YELLOW DUCK' PADDLE BOATS OF NONG PRACHAK

>> Previously known as Nong Na Kluea, the water park of Udon Thani, Nong Prachak Sinlapakhom Park was not an attraction until six years ago, when the Mayor had the idea of adding 'yellow ducks' to the water park. Ever since, Nong Prachak has been a magnet for fun-seekers. The idea was inspired by the yellow duck created by the Dutch artist, Florentijn Hofman. The yellow duck is consequently the symbol of Udon Thani and represents peace and unity.

A couple of years ago, yellow duck paddle boats were added to the water park. Lovers can enjoy riding one together.

Paddle boats are available for rent every day

from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, for 60 Baht per hour, Nong Prachak Sinlapakhom Park, Tambon Mak Khaeng, Amphoe Mueang

• *Best time to go paddling with your love: In the morning or evening, or in winter, when the weather is cooler.*





LOVE IN BLOOM AT RED LOTUS LAKE

>> Nong Han is a freshwater lake in Amphoe Kumphawapi that covers more than three thousand hectares. Contributing not only to the local ecosystem but also to the

natural beauty of the area, Nong Han is famous for its red lotuses. When in bloom, the whole lake is covered with attractive, sweet, bright pink lotus flowers. Imagine you and your sweetheart rowing a boat on the lake, surrounded by thousands of lotus flowers. How spectacular it would be!

Nong Han is also home to a great variety of birds and is a local freshwater fishing area. You can

spend a whole day on a boat trip there.

● *Best time for a boat trip to see red lotus flowers: Lotus flowers are in full bloom from December to February. Make sure you go in the morning, lotus flowers are most beautiful before 11.00 am*

Bua Daeng Sea, Amphoe Kumphawapi, a small boat for 2-3 people costs 150 Baht/trip, or 500 Baht for a group of 10.





Workshop for Ban Chiang style painting

PAINTING ANCIENT PATTERNS AT A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

>> Ban Chiang Archaeological Site is a famous world heritage site, considered the most important prehistoric site in Southeast Asia. While the site and its famous pottery are exciting enough, lovers may find painting the Ban Chiang designs even more fun.

At the cultural activity mall are shops and an open space for



visitors who want to paint the ancient decorative motifs on small pottery jars, starting from the simple spiral pattern which is the trademark of Ban Chiang pottery. It takes less than an hour to paint the Ban Chiang pattern - or any other pattern you prefer - and wrap it up, ready to take home.

● *Best time to paint Ban Chiang pottery: Every day, during weekends and long weekends there are more shops open and the mall is livelier.*

Ban Chiang Archaeological Site, Amphoe Nong Han; The painting activity costs 20 Baht per piece, a painting package is 50 Baht each. Tel. 09 0025 4844

DON'T MISS

● *About 8.5 km from Ban Chiang Archaeological Site is Thailand's only chapel built in the shape of a white lotus, in the middle of a big pond at Wat Santi Wanaram.*

LOVE IN FLOWER-NURSERIES OF BAN HUAI SAMRAN

>> Ban Huai Samran has long been the biggest flower growing area in Udon Thani but it was only last year that the village was developed to cater for agricultural tourism. Many kinds of flowers, such as chrysanthemum, marigold, cape gardenia, goldenrod and



jasmine are grown here. Enjoy a Tuk Tuk Skylab ride among the numerous flower fields in the village; there are also demonstration plots for a closer encounter and lots of beautiful spots for photo taking. It is such a pretty place for an excursion.

If you go there during off-season period, you might be able to ask a farmer to visit his/her plantation; they are willing to show you around.

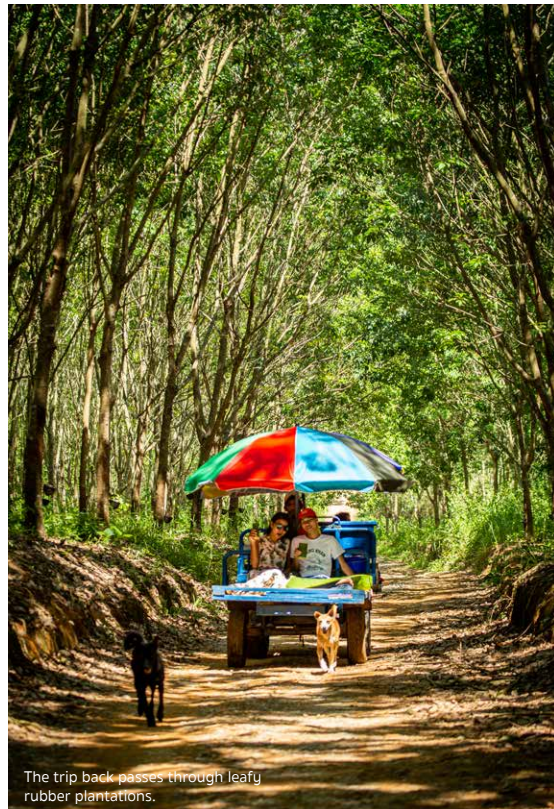
● *Best time to go for a stroll in the flower fields: Winter, from November to February, is when there are the most flowers blooming.*

Ban Huai Samran, Tambon Nong Hai, Amphoe Mueang (about 10 km from the city). Tourist Information Centre is at Huai Samran School. For information call 09 1230 1439, 06 5416 5160



AMPHIBIOUS TRIP ON E-TAK TRUCK AT KHIRI WONGKOT VILLAGE

>> The usual rafting trip is not half as romantic and fun as an amphibious trip on an e-tak truck. This cultivator turned truck is a product of Northeastern farmers' creativity. It is such fun riding along bumpy creek bed beside the mountain, through shady forest and fields to a waterfall in a village. Once you reach the village, an exotic tasty native meal served in bamboo tubes is ready, waiting for you.



The trip back passes through leafy rubber plantations.

The trip back is through a leafy rubber plantation with charming rustic scenery.

● *Best time to take an amphibious trip: Any time of the year, since the village is in a fertile watershed forest so there is always water in the creek. Make a trip in mid-morning and reach the village in time for lunch at the waterfall.*

Khiri Wongkot Village, Tambon Na Yung, a one-day trip with lunch costs 1,500 Baht (an e-tak truck carries 4 people). Contact village headman at Tel. 08 3147 9004

SAKON NAKHON



BOAT TRIP TO ISLAND IN NONG HAN LAKE

>> Nong Han is the second biggest freshwater lake in Thailand, rich in natural beauty and central to locals' way of life.

A motorised long-tail boat takes visitors through the vast lake, scattered with small islands and scenes of local fishermen using traditional means to catch fish. In the middle of the lake is the biggest island, Don Sawan, with an ancient chapel well worth visiting.

● *Best time for a boat trip: All year round, with evening being the most romantic time, as well as cooler.*

Nong Han Lake, Amphoe Mueang.
Ferry is located on the lake shore at Sa Phang Thong Park: 500 baht for 10 people
Business hours: 8.00 am to 6.00 pm,
Tel. 09 1679 2587, 08 1717 9744



Panoramic view of Nong Han

KRAM SAKON'S INDIGO DYE WORKSHOP

>> Sakon Nakhon's indigo dye fabric or 'pha kram' is well-known for its high quality. The biggest pha kram market is organised every weekend and sells all sorts of hard-to-resist pha kram products.

Couples who want to learn more about the craft should check out Kram Sakon, which holds workshops to teach about the techniques involved in making a variety of cool and hip kram products.

The workshop begins with a detailed talk about kram, before participants get to try their hand at making a kram product. The fee is



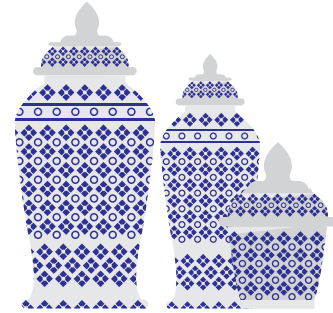
Atmosphere at Kram Sakon workshop area.

around 300 Baht (depending on the type of fabric chosen). The workshops are popular, so it is best to book a couple of days in advance. Tel. 08 0582 6655.

● *Best time to attend workshop: Any morning. Kram Sakon, Tambon Huai Yang, Amphoe Mueang*

PAINT ON CERAMICS TOGETHER AT BAN KUT NA KHAM SUPPORT FOUNDATION

>> After the SUPPORT Foundation was set up by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in 1983, the once impoverished village of Ban Kut Na Kham has become a busy centre that brings together craftsmen of various disciplines. Three decades since its inception, the SUPPORT Foundation provides not only a multi-craft training centre for villagers but also a place for visitors to come and try out their artistic skills in pottery or ceramic painting.



It is a wonderful activity for lovers.

● *Best time to try ceramic painting: Tuesday to Saturday.*

Ban Kut Na Kham SUPPORT Foundation, Amphoe Charoen Sin (about 20 km from the Amphoe offices). Open: Tuesday to Saturday, 8.00 am to 4.30 pm. Prices are subject to the size of ceramic (mostly inexpensive). Tel. 0 4270 9162



Ceramic products at the SUPPORT Foundation



Sheep House at Farm Hug

SWEET MOMENT AT FARM HUG

>> Farm Hug is a destination that offers food and fun times for everybody, especially lovers and families with children. At this restaurant, patrons can enjoy the famous Sakon Nakhon's Phon Yang Kham beef and the atmosphere of a western farm blended with a typical Northeastern Thai farm. There is plenty of wonderful scenery for taking photos and children can enjoy feeding lambs at the Sheep House zone.

🕒 *Best time to go to Farm Hug: All day in winter. In summer, evening is best.*

Farm Hug, Sakon Nakhon-Na Hae Rd, Tambon Non Hom, Amphoe Mueang.
 Farm: open every day, 8.30 am to 6.00 pm.
 Restaurant: also open for dinner.
 Tel. 09 8929 3565



VISIT CLASSIC THA RAE COMMUNITY

>> Tha Rae is a century-old Christian community that is lively and romantic. Take a stroll along the streets of Tha Rae with your sweetheart and admire the beautiful, well-maintained old buildings of French-Vietnamese style, such as Sorin and Udomdetwat Mansions. Visitors can also visit St Michael's

(left-right) Old Colonial-style buildings are popular photo spots in Tha Rae



Cathedral, built in the shape of a ship as a reminder of how the first settlers arrived here.

DON'T MISS

◉ *Best time to enjoy atmospheric Tha Rae: The most romantic time is at Christmas, when visitors can enjoy the cool weather and the dazzling Christmas Star Parade.*

Tha Rae Community, Amphoe Mueang



Photograph: Shutterstock.com

THE FERTILE LAND OF ISAN - PHU PHAN NATIONAL PARK

>> The very fact that this national park is less popular than others is an excellent reason to pay it a visit.

Walking through tranquil, verdant forest, with tall trees lining the path from the entrance to the camping area makes you feel as if you are entering a secret world. The park has a trail that takes you past the mixed deciduous forest, limestone pavements, cliffs and meadows

filled with flowers in the rainy season. When night falls you can take your sweetheart out to count the stars together.

◉ *Best time to go trekking: Any time of the year, with each season offering different attractions; summer for butterfly spotting, rainy season for flowers and plants, winter has cool weather and beautiful starry skies.*

Phu Phan National Park, Tambon Huai Yang, Amphoe Mueang; for camping, advanced booking is required, Tel. 08 6459 5600, 08 1263 5029

DON'T MISS

◉ *On the way to the National Park is a small waterfall frequented by locals (there is water only in the rainy season).*



NAKHON PHANOM



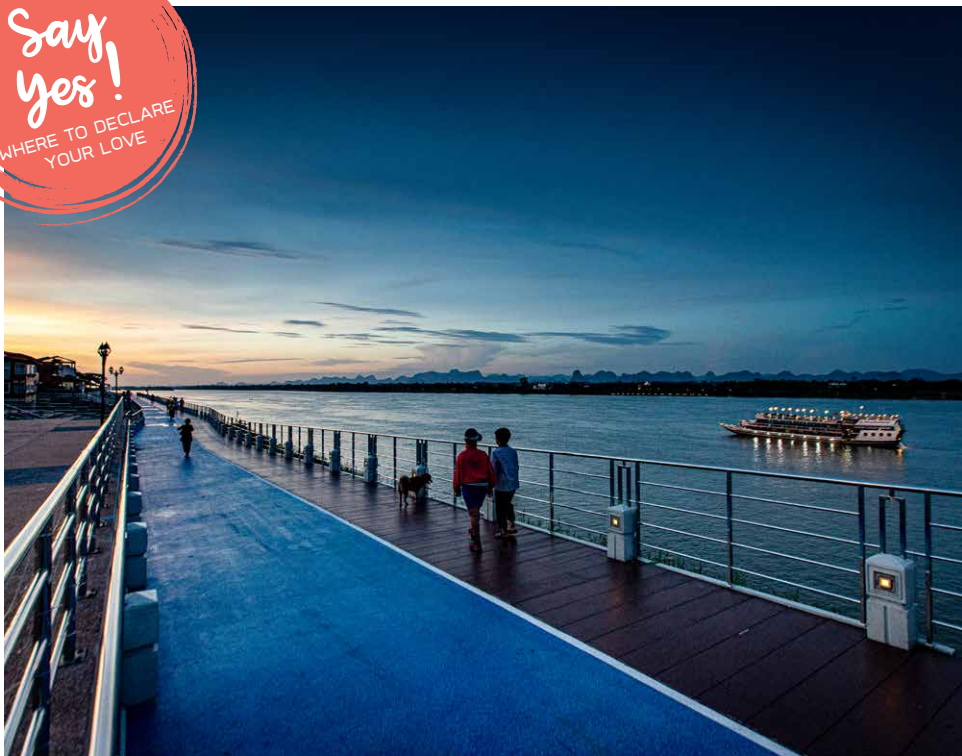
SHOW YOUR LOVE ON THE BANK OF THE MEKONG

>> The scenery along the bank of the Mekong River has changed drastically in recent years, with the new cycle lane next to a clearly marked walkway and street lamps.

This ongoing development along 5 km of the riverbank is encouraging businesses along the river bank to improve the landscape and make the area a very pleasant and romantic spot to enjoy the mountain views on the far side of this majestic river.

● *Best time to declare your love on the bank of the Mekong: At dawn to watch sunrise and soak up the tranquil atmosphere, or during the livelier period at sunset.*

Mekong Esplanade, Sunthon Wichit Rd,
Amphoe Mueang





Chaloe Phra Kiat Library in Nakhon Phanom City

Saint Anna Nong Saeng Church

LOVERS' OLD CITY TOUR ON TUK TUK SKYLAB

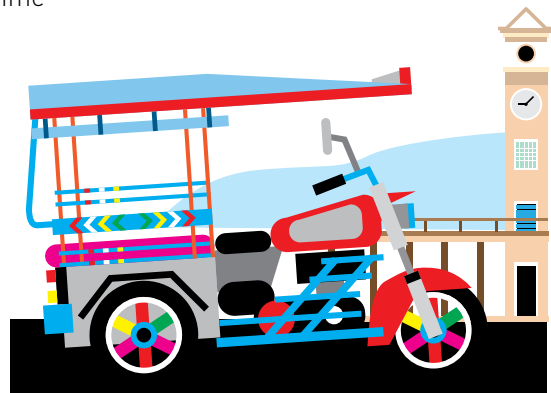
>> One thing in Nakhon Phanom that has never lost its charm is the Western-Vietnamese architecture that was the dominant style during the colonial period.

The best guide for an expedition to explore the old cityscape must surely be the drivers of Tuk Tuk Skylabs. They can be found waiting for patrons along roadsides, so grab one and let them show you the gothic-style Saint Anna Church, the old Governor's residence which

is now an important museum, the yellow colonial-style Chaloe Phra Kiat Library and the Naga Monument.

Prices for a tour on Tuk Tuk Skylab are subject to the number of places to be visited and time taken.

🕒 *Best time to take a Tuk Tuk Skylab tour: During weekends, in the morning or evening for cooler weather and less traffic.*





Mekong cruise runs every evening.

SPEND TIME TOGETHER ON A CRUISE ALONG THE MEKONG

>> Large double-deck vessels cruise along the Mekong in late afternoon, taking their passengers past riverside scenery; fishermen

at work in the middle of the river and villagers of neighbouring Laos attending their daily chores.

The cruise is made lively by the humorous local guide and the good-tempered passengers.

● *Best time to enjoy a Mekong Cruise: Every day, but not on rainy days, so you can enjoy the scenery from on deck.*

Tessaban Ferry, Sunthon Wichit Rd, Amphoe Mueang.

The vessel leaves at 5.00 pm every day and costs 50 Baht per person (food and drink are not included but can be purchased). Charter trips to suit your schedule can be arranged at Bt1,000 an hour. Tel. 08 6230 5560, 08 1392 1251

ENJOY PHU THAI CULTURE AND FESTIVAL

>> Get to know native Isan culture, traditions, recreational activities and cuisine that are this region's magnet.

Originally, the Phu Thai ethnic group in Renu Nakhon were native to Xishuangbanna in China. They then migrated to Laos before moving further south to Thailand. Phu Thai people have their own traditions, costumes and food and drink. Phu Thai dance is always performed at festivals or to welcome dignitaries who visit Nakhon Phanom and have 'pha laeng' dinner, a communal buffet-style meal.

● *Best time to experience Phu Thai Culture: Go there during important festivals, such as World Phu Thai Day, the Celebration of Phra That Renu Nakhon in mid-February, or Phu Thai Songkran festival during Songkran holiday, for a romantic and fun trip.*

For more information, contact Renu Nakhon Subdistrict Municipality at Tel. 0 4257 9239



Youths in Phu Thai costume



A BLESSING FOR EVERLASTING LOVE

>> Phra That Phanom is one of the many sacred sites in the Northeastern region. People who come to pay homage at this ancient pagoda also ask for a blessing for everlasting love.

The relics of Lord Buddha's ribs that are supposedly placed inside the pagoda. This is the reason for the long established belief that paying homage here will strengthen your love life and also bless couples who wish to have a child.

● *Best time to pay homage and ask for blessing: Very early in the morning or evening, because there are fewer worshippers.*

Wat Phra That Phanom Woramahawihan,
Amphoe That Phanom

DON'T MISS

● *On Road 2033, from Amphoe Mueang to Amphoe That Phanom, at Wat Chom Si in Tambon Na Makhuea, there is a beautiful rain tree more than 200 years old.*





Making salted eggs
at Khao Khun Mae Farm



Rural atmosphere at the Farm

ENHANCE YOUR RELATIONSHIP AT KHAO KHUN MAE FARM

>> Khao Khun Mae Farm opens its door for lovers and others to try their hand at being farmers: tending paddy fields, making compost fertiliser, growing organic vegetables, making salted eggs using eggs from the farm, and traditional sweets (khao tom mat).

There is also a café/shop where you can have a cup of coffee and shop for processed rice products.

Open from Friday to Sunday,
9.00 am to 6.00 pm.
Tel. 09 2493 0464 (advanced booking for
workshop on making desserts required).
Khao Khun Mae Farm, Amphoe That Phanom

● *Best time to visit the farm: from July to November is best if you want to see the rice growing process. Other activities can be done all year round.*

DON'T MISS

● *Not far from the farm is a rafting spot in a pond where you can swim or just laze around. It is in Fang Daeng Village and you can ask locals how to get there.*





Khao Khun Mae Farm, Nakhon Phanom



Kram Sakon products



A fun amphibious E-tak ride at Khiri Wongkot, Udon Thani

How To GET THERE

UDON THANI • SAKON NAKHON •
NAKHON PHANOM



> There are many direct domestic flights to Udon Thani; air-conditioned buses from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak) and trains from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong)

> Nok Air and Thai AirAsia fly to Nakhon Phanom and air-conditioned buses run from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak).

> Nok Air flies to Sakon Nakhon and air-conditioned buses run from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak).

3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS

Northeastern Romantic Routes

DAY
1

Take a morning flight to Udon Thani to enjoy the red lotus lake before noon, and then go to Ban Chiang World Heritage Site to try painting the Ban Chiang pattern. In the evening, ride a paddle boat among yellow ducks at Nong Prachak Sinlapakhom Park.

DAY
2

Set out for Sakon Nakhon to enjoy a boat trip in Nong Han, followed by a workshop at Kram Sakon, before departing to Nakhon Phanom for a 5pm cruise on the Mekong.

DAY
3

Start the day early and admire colonial-style buildings from a Tuk Tuk skybar; pay homage at Phra That Phanom, before making a stop at Khao Khun Mae Farm to enjoy a workshop, then back to Nakhon Phanom Airport for your flight back to Bangkok.

CHECK-INS

UDON THANI

HOTELS

1 BROWN HOUSE HOTEL

This modern style hotel with Isan flair is equipped with a romantic swimming pool overlooking the reservoir. Tel. 0 4222 2668, www.brownhousehotel.com, Soi Rim Nong Bua 6, Amphoe Mueang



2 DE PRINCESS HOTEL

This luxurious boutique hotel will make ladies feel like princesses, especially the Sapphire Suite, which is truly lavish. Tel. 0 4220 4444, www.deprincesshotel.com, Amphoe Mueang

3 WHEREDER POSHTEL

Whereder Poshtel is a level up from the usual hostel, with its chic design and private rooms for lovers. There is a nice view of Udon Thani from its rooftop at night. Tel. 08 8214 2555, www.whereder.com, Amphoe Mueang



4 AMMAN UNIQUE HOTEL

This posh Moorish style hotel is suitable for lovers who enjoy things colourful. Tel. 0 4221 9199, www.ammanuniquehotel.com, Soi Non Phibun, Amphoe Mueang

5 HAUS HOTEL

This eight-storey hotel might look plain from the outside but it provides good service and a comfortable stay, with a rooftop pool. Tel. 09 4798 9824, 0 4221 1189, www.hausoteludon.com, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 UNDER THE TREE

A western style tearoom; it is cosy and shady, suitable for lovers to drop in for a cup of tea or other drinks and homemade baked goods. Open every day from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm. Tel. 08 5456 1199, www.facebook.com/cafeunderthetree, Pracharaksa Rd, Amphoe Mueang

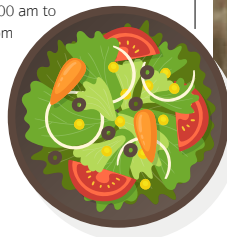


2 BANNA CAFÉ

With its décor a blend of Western and rural Isan influences, this café serves tasty baked goods, especially tarts and low meat savoury items. Open every day between 9.00 am and 6.30 pm. Tel. 09 5426 4624, www.facebook.com/barnnaacafe, Amphoe Mueang

3 BAN MAI KHAO

This restaurant serves Thai and western dishes in a stylish setting, with prices that won't break the bank. Open 11.00 am to 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Tel. 06 2220 7882, Amphoe Mueang



4 GOOD EVERYTHING

Good Everything specialises in French and Italian cuisine; its selection of Thai desserts go nicely with western dishes. Open 11.00 am to 10.00 pm. Updated menu at instagram.com/goodeverything.ud, Tel. 0 4224 5544, Amphoe Mueang (near Nong Prachak)

5 SAMUAY & SONS

This is one of the best restaurants in Udon Thani, serving fusion Central Isan dishes with impressive presentation. Open 11.00 am to 2.30 pm and 5.00 pm to 9.30 pm (closed on Mondays) Tel. 08 6309 6685, Amphoe Mueang



SAKON NAKHON



HOTELS

1 @SAKON HOTEL

@Sakon is a clean, modern hotel with the playful idea of placing a teddy bear dressed in check pattern pha kram on each bed. You can purchase some if you like. Tel. 0 4271 3234, 08 0422 5929, www.atsakonhotel.com, Amphoe Mueang

2 ESAN COUNTRY HOUSE RESORT

A secluded place away from busier parts of town provides peace and quiet at a budget price. The namesake Ban Esan hotel is like a rural wooden house, with lots of shady trees. Simple sightseeing trips are available. Tel. 08 8571 9373, Amphoe Mueang



3 KHUM TEWA RESORT

Khum Tewa offers budget accommodation in small, separate traditional Thai-style cottages - popular with foreign travellers. The cottages are equipped with modern facilities and air-conditioning. Tel. 08 1449 2544, Hwy 22, Amphoe Mueang

4 COLOR VILLE RESORT

This resort is definitely colourful. It is like a small village and a bit out of the city so it is quite peaceful and low priced. Tel. 0 4217 1262, Na Weng-Na Kham Rd, (Rural Road 3137), Amphoe Mueang

CHECK-INS



Room at Hug Sakon Nakhon

5 HUG SAKON NAKHON

This new hotel nicely blends modern simplicity with Isan culture. It is just outside the city and so gives privacy. Tel. 06 1031 0427, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 WARA'S CAFÉ

This is a small café beside two colonial-style buildings in Sakon Nakhon's Tha Rae community. Open between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm (closed on Wednesdays). Tel. 08 7763 1112, Amphoe Mueang (Tha Rae Community)

2 CAFE DE BON

Tasty savoury dishes and baked goods in a down-to-earth setting. Open from Tuesday to Friday, 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. (until 7.00 pm at weekends.) Tns. 08 7794 6696, Rat Phatthana Rd, Amphoe Mueang



Sweet dessert and drink at Cafe de Bon

3 SWEET COTTAGE BAKERY & TEA ROOM

A British-style tearoom with an attractive front garden; there are many romantic corners to snuggle in and enjoy your drink and cakes. Garden tables are also available. Open every day between 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Tel. 08 9842 8666



Drink and cake at Sweet Cottage Bakery & Tea Room

4 BAN FA PRONG COFFEE & BAKERY

Ban Fa Prong offers Thai food and pastries in a cosy atmosphere, suitable for lovers and families. Open between 7.00 am and 9.00 pm. (closed on Sundays). Tel. 0 4271 5729, Rop Mueang Rd, Amphoe Mueang



Ban Fa Prong Coffee & Bakery

5 SONATA SIBERIAN CAFE

Any one who loves Siberian huskies will definitely like it here; all the dogs are well looked after, regularly health checked and participate in dog shows. The café serves savoury dishes and desserts. Open 10.30 am to 8.00 pm (closed on Mondays). Tel. 08 4957 7722, www.facebook.com/sonatasiberiancafe, Serithai Rd, Amphoe Mueang

NAKHON PHANOM

Landmark Nakhonphanom Hotel



HOTELS

1 LANDMARK NAKHONPHANOM HOTEL

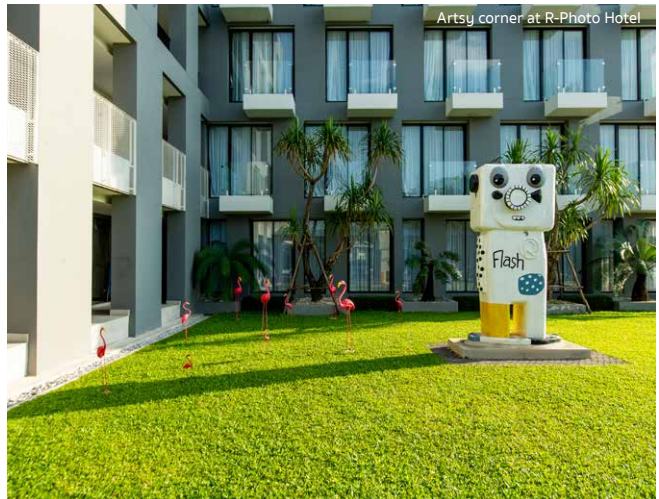
This new hotel is on the riverfront road so you get views across to Laos. Tel. 09 1740 3001, Nittayo Rd, Amphoe Mueang

Beautiful corner at R-Photo Hotel



2 R-PHOTO HOTEL

R-Photo Hotel has striking architecture, a pleasant atmosphere and superb food at the hotel's restaurant. This budget hotel uses photography as a theme of decoration, so beautiful photos can be seen throughout. Tel. 0 4219 9999, Nakhon Phanom-That Phanom Rd, Amphoe Mueang



Artsy corner at R-Photo Hotel

CHECK-INS

3 Fortune River View Hotel

This is a big hotel on the bank of the Mekong, so the romantic river view rooms are best for lovers. Another romantic spot is the swimming pool that has a nice view of the Mekong and distant Laos. Tel. 08 6458 3093, 0 4252 2334-40, www.fortunehotelgroup.com, Nakhon Phanom -That Phanom Rd, Amphoe Mueang

4 THE RIVER

This modern hotel employs an eye-catching use of blue and white, while the hotel's restaurant is in 'New York' style. Nearby is a quiet, private spot at the Si Khotrabun Golden Beach on the Mekong. Tel. 08 3669 2999, 0 4252 2999 <http://therivernakhonphanom.com>, Nakhon Phanom-That Phanom Rd, Amphoe Mueang

5 BLU HOTEL

Another modern hotel, only 5 minutes out of Nakhon Phanom city. There is a restaurant on the river front; the fitness centre upstairs overlooks the surrounding countryside scenery. Tel. 06 3958 4403, www.bluhotelnkp.com, Nakhon Phanom-That Phanom Rd, Amphoe Mueang

RESTAURANTS

1 RUEN RIM NAM

Ruen Rim Nam serves Thai food and specialises in river-fish dishes. The restaurant's riverside ambience is quite special, particularly in the evening when the sky changes colour.



76A The Space's classic building

Advanced booking is required for river front tables. Tel. 0 4251 4787, 08 2107 7241, Sunthon Wichit Road, Amphoe Mueang

2 76A THE SPACE, 76A THE CLUB

76A The Space sits in an old building that has been remodelled to include an art exhibition space. 76A The Club is similar and has an artsy modernist-minimalist design concept. Both cafés serve coffee and cakes, and have added to the art scene of Nakhon Phanom. Sunthon Wichit Rd, Amphoe Mueang

3 SABADEE@NAKHONPHANOM

This is a restaurant near the Mekong. It has a pleasant atmosphere and serves delicious food and desserts, including Vietnamese dishes. Tel. 0 4206 4200, 09 1569 9662, Sunthon Wichit Rd, Amphoe Mueang

4 CHOMCHAN

Chomchan has a pleasant atmosphere and is situated at the back of the old governor's residence, in the old town. The large menu consists of Thai dishes. The restaurant is suitable for couples and families. Open every day, 11.00 am to 11.00 pm, Tel. 08 3111 4140

5 CAFE' DE KONG by MRU 2561

Bikers will find this café easily, only bike along the Mekong River towards Naga Tunnel, CAFE' DE KONG by MRU 2561 is at the end of the bike lane. Seats on the second floor are recommended at this lovely and peaceful café. Open between 9.00 am - 6.00 pm, Tel. 09 1864 0294 (The café is located in Mekong Riverine Unit), Sunthon Wichit Rd, Amphoe Mueang



ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ TRAVELLERS



1 THE PANNARAI

Located in the heart of Udon Thani city, this hotel is luxurious and suitable for any couple. There is a big, outdoor pool and an international restaurant, well-known for its superb service. Tel. 0 4234 5111, www.thepannaraihotel.com, Sampantthamit Rd, Amphoe Mueang, Udon Thani



2 CENTARA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE UDON THANI

This is a big hotel of Centara standard; its suites are 42-128 m² - suitable for lovers who want to have a very special time together. Tel. 0 4234 3555, www.centarahotelsresorts.com, Prachak Sinlapakhom Rd, Amphoe Mueang, Udon Thani



3 PARADISE HOTEL

Paradise offers 9 types of brightly decorated rooms suitable for everybody. It also has a fitness centre, a spa and a restaurant. Tel. 0 4223 7490-3, 08 0183 5193, www.paradiseudon.com, Pho Si Rd, Amphoe Mueang, Udon Thani

ACTIVE LOVE



SATUN
PHATTHALUNG
SONGKHLA



Romantic Routes
in the Southern Region

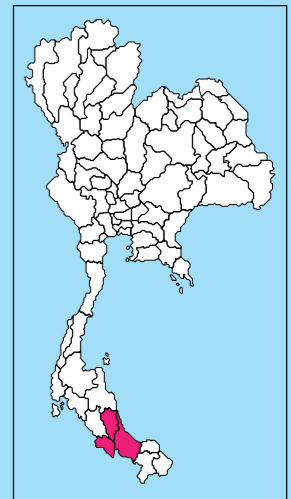
Best For

YOUNG COUPLE

LGBTQ

SENIOR COUPLE

COUPLE WITH KIDS



Active Love

Romantic Routes in the Southern Region: Satun • Phatthalung • Songkhla

Romantic routes connect three provinces filled with exciting, energetic activities in the South of Thailand - dream destinations for adventurous couples. Island hopping in the Andaman, cruising on lakes, adrenaline rush white-water rafting, visiting charming old cities and much more await active lovers.



Tourists enjoy the beauty of Ko Adang-Rawi area.

SATUN



ROMANTIC LIPE

>> Spend time with your sweetheart on the remote Andaman island of Lipe, 75 km from the mainland. On this lovers' paradise, mesmerising sunrises and sunsets invite strolls along fine, white sands kissed by the turquoise sea. Take a swim amongst corals of all shapes and colours and enjoy serene natural surroundings that provide a relaxed and private atmosphere. The island is under the supervision of Tarutao National Park.

● *Best time to visit: November to May.*

DON'T MISS

● *Take a boat trip to Ho Adang to swim in the crystal clear water. You may be the only two people on the beach! Walk up to the view point on Pha Krathing for a fantastic view of Lipe.*



Romantic atmosphere in the morning at Lipe





STUNNING BEAUTY OF THE UNDERWATER WORLD

>> Couples who love the beauty of the tropical sea should not miss the wonders of the marine life that lives in the famous Tarutao National Park. Experienced operators will take you on a scuba/surface diving trip to stunning areas, either around Lipe or further out to sea. The areas are renowned for their abundance of beautiful corals and schools of friendly fishes.

● *Best time for a trip:*
November 15 – May 15.

Tarutao National Park: Tel. 0 7478 3485,
0 7478 3597



KAYAKING TO THE 500 MILLION- YEAR GEOPARK

>> Take a sea kayak and enjoy nature's wonders at Satun UNESCO Geopark, well-known for its Palaeozoic fossils. The many exciting activities on offer at the Geopark - from rafting and scuba diving to climbing and caving – make this the perfect destination for adventurous couples. The geopark is home to many natural wonders reachable only by sea kayak and just waiting for you to explore!

Satun Geopark Information Center: www.satun-geopark.com, Tel. 09 8046 3785



DECLARE YOUR LOVE ON THE DRAGON SPINE

>> What could be more romantic than walking hand in hand with your special someone along the longest sand bar in the Andaman? The ridge of sand appears at low tide, serving as a bridge joining Ko Hua Man and Ko Sam. The shells, which have accumulated over millions of years, glitter in the sun like dragon scales, giving rise to the sand bar's name. It is a romantic place to declare - or reaffirm - your love, with the blue sky and sea as your witnesses.

● *Long-tailed boats are available for the 20-minute trip at Ban Ba Kan Khoei, Tambon Tanyong Po, Amphoe Mueang.*

DON'T MISS

● *A boat trip to Ho Kwang, located in the same area, and a chance to experience the way of life of a sea gypsy clan at Pulau Ubee.*

Take your special someone for a walk along Tanyong Po's Dragon Spine - a 3 km long sand bar.



Mysterious Tham Le Stegodon awaits adventurous couples.

SYMBOL OF LOVE AT THE END OF THE CAVE

>> Take your sweetheart on a trip to the land before time. This limestone cave harbours fossils of Stegodon elephants and rhinos. A local guide will take you on a boat through the 4 km of caverns to admire the majestic stalactites and stalagmites as the boat moves deeper into the pitch black darkness. When you reach the other end, an opening in the cave pierces the gloom with a ray of light in the shape of a heart.

• *Tham Le Stegodon, Ban Khiri Wong, Tambon Thung Wa, Amphoe Thung Wa.*

For safety reasons and as a measure to control visitor numbers, contact Thung Wa Subdistrict Administrative Organization beforehand if you wish to make the cave trip.



TIE-DYE BATIK WITH FOSSIL PATTERNS

>> At Panya Batik Community Enterprise, try your hand at making tie-dye batik with your sweetheart, using natural pigments from minerals and plants to create patterns of 450 million-year-old fossils.

• *Advanced booking is recommended at Tel. 08 1093 4222, Tambon La-ngu, Amphoe La-ngu.*



Batik with fossil-inspired pattern

PHATTHALUNG



SAIL OUT IN THALE NOI FOR BIRD WATCHING AND ADMIRE LOTUS IN FULL BLOOM

>> Under the warm sun of an early morning, a boat trip operated by the local community takes visitors out on the vast 30 km² freshwater lake - one of the world's most important wetlands - in Thale Noi Waterfowl Reserve. This 'little sea' is home to many permanent and migratory birds, so it is a perfect destination for birdwatchers. Amongst the bright pink lotus blossoms that cover the surface of the lake, you can see the herd of water buffaloes that the villagers allow to roam free in the lake.

◉ *Best time for a perfect trip: From January to March is the time when migrating birds gather at Thale Noi. February to April is the time when the lotus are at their most beautiful.*



Lotus blossoms and flocks of birds looking for breakfast at Thale Noi



Long-tailed boat can accommodate up to 7 people. Prices vary, according to distance and length of time, Tel. 0 7468 5230, Visitor Centre, Thale Noi Waterfowl Reserve, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.

TAKE PLEASURE IN THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAY

>> Stay in some cosy accommodation along Pak Pra Canal and get up early for a boat trip to enjoy the first light of day on Songkhla Lake. Pak Pra Canal is widely regarded as the best spot in Thailand to enjoy the beauty of sunrise and witness as nature comes to life each morning. The charming and unique scenery, pride of Phatthalung, is well worth a visit.

◉ *Most lodgings can arrange a boat trip in advance or call Pak Pra pier, Baan Tonlamphu at 09 9121 8942.*



DO AS THE LOCALS DO: SHOP AT A LOCAL MARKET

>> Mingle with the locals and enjoy the country market atmosphere at one of the many interesting markets in Phatthalung, such as Tai Nod Market where fresh produce from nearby farms is all around. Local savoury dishes and desserts wait for you to try and local arts and handicrafts, such as basketry and shadow puppet shows, vie for your attention. The Tai Nod Market is a community-led environmental and cultural conservation market; as is Pa Phai Sang Suk Market.



Children in Nora costumes at Tai Nod Market



Wooden walkway across the paddy field at Na Po Kae

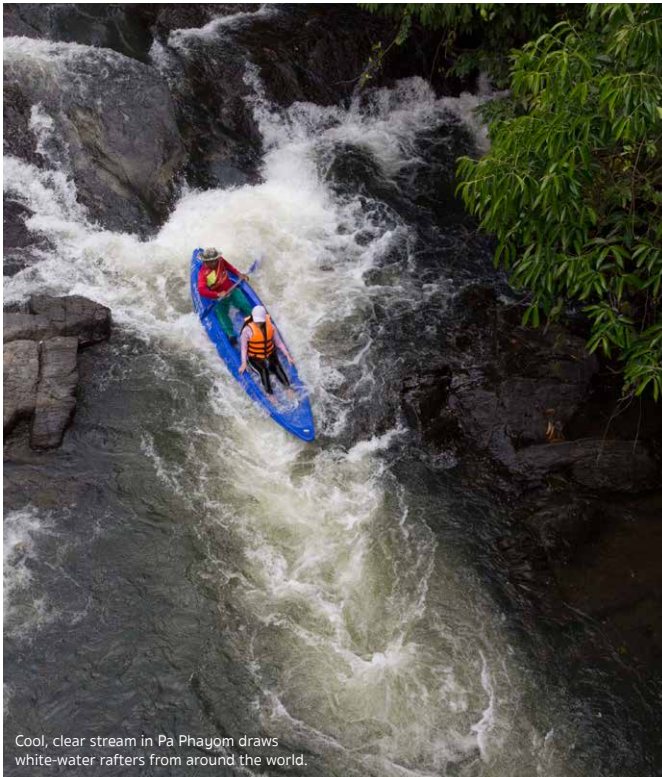
LEARN THE LOCAL WAY OF LIFE AT NA PO KAE

>> Spend a night or two in a thatched hut and learn about the rustic way of life of Phatthalung's farmers at Na Po Kae or 'Grandpa's paddy field'. Breathe fresh air and be captivated by picturesque, lush green fields. Besides having fun with rice growing activities, you can also get to try 'Sang Yot' an important Thai rice variety.

● *Free admission, Open Mon-Fri from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Sat-Sun from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm.*

Advanced booking for accommodation is recommended at www.facebook.com/napokae/, Tel. 06 2591 6632, Tambon Makok Nuea, Amphoe Kuan Khanun.





Cool, clear stream in Pa Phayom draws white-water rafters from around the world.



◉ *Pa Phai Sang Suk Market opens every Saturday from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm at Tambon Chamuang, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.*

◉ *Tai Nod Market opens every Sunday from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm at Tambon Don Sai, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.*



RAFTING IN PA PHAYOM

>> Take your sweetheart out on the stream of Pa Phayom. This well-known rafting stream flows from a reservoir in the mountains upstream, so rafting can be done all year round. The 2-hour fun-filled rafting trip covers 6.5 km and includes different grades of rapids.

◉ *Open Mon–Fri, 8.30 am to 4.00 pm, Tel. 08 9873 1464, 08 1370 2123, Tambon Lan Khoi, Amphoe Pa Phayom.*

SONGKHLA



BIKE THROUGH OLD TOWN TO SEE STREET ART

>> The old town of Songkhla has changed from a sleepy, forgotten corner into a charming and lively neighbourhood where you and your sweetheart can enjoy the delightful Chinese and Sino-Portuguese style architecture that line the streets. There are plenty of chic cafes dotted along Nang Ngam Rd, Nakhon Nai Rd and Nakhon Nok Rd. Grab a bike and treasure hunt for street art in the old town.

DON'T MISS

● *The Fabrics Museum on Nakhon Nai Rd has an amazing collection of traditional southern woven fabrics and clothing. Open on weekends, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm. Advance booking is recommended: Tel. 09 4598 1299*



Hub Ho Hin Rice Mill or Rong Si Daeng (Red Rice Mill)



Street art hidden in various corners of the old town.





ห้ามจอด
รถจักรยาน

Biking couple is enjoying the architecture and street art in Songkhla Old Town.

SAY THE WORDS AT KHAO KAO SENG

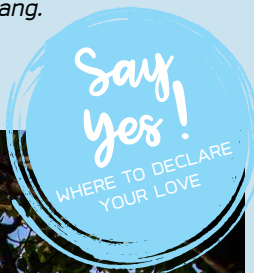
>> Legend has it that on top of a mountain by the sea, a devout Buddhist called Rang put a big rock on top of his treasure of nine hundred thousand Baht (kao saen), waiting for his heir to come and lift the rock. Nowadays, the place of 'Kao Seng' is a popular look out with a wide sea view. Many people come here and make a wish

that they could lift the legendary rock. There is a footpath on the mountain and across the rockfield along the beach. It is a wonderful spot to take your darling out in the morning to watch the sunrise and declare your love.

● *Tambon Khao Rup Chang,
Amphoe Mueang.*



Scenic view at Kao Seng



SECURE YOUR LOVE ON KHAO TANG KUAN

>> Make sure you have a padlock when you take your sweetie up Khao Tang Kuan in the middle of Songkhla City. Lock it to the railings there and throw the key away as a sign of your enduring love. The ancient pagoda on Khao Tang Kuan is one of the province's important historic sites and also a perfect spot for a 360-degree view of the city.

● *Open 10.00 am – 7.00 pm,
Sat and Sun 8.00 am – 7.00 pm,
Tambon Bo Yang, Amphoe Mueang.*

You can walk up Khao Tang Kuan or take a lift (30 Baht for a round trip).

Panoramic view of
Songkhla City from Khao Tang Kuan



Believe
in love

Legends of
belief & love



Golden Mermaid at Samila Beach

GOLDEN MERMAID AT SAMILA BEACH

>> The Golden Mermaid has been sitting on a rock at Samila Beach for more than five decades. Local legend tells of a fisherman who found a mermaid on the rock, combing her hair. Startled, she quickly swam away and left her golden comb behind, leaving the fisherman to yearn for her return. Songkhla natives also have a local myth that if a young man touches the Mermaid's bosom, he will be married to a Songkhla woman.



CAMPING AT KHUAN KHAN LAO

>> Go wild with your sweetheart and camp out in a sea of clouds at Khuan Khan Lao. Only 20 km from Songkhla City, the campsite is high on a mountain. It is a magical place to watch sunset, count the stars in the night sky, and gaze out at the far-off twinkling lights of Hat Yai with your sweetheart. Get up early in the morning to catch the enchanting spectacle of a sea of clouds at your feet. The road

is rather steep so a 4x4 vehicle is recommended. Accommodation is also available.

● *For more information about accommodation and pick-up service contact: Camp Khan Lao, Tambon Phichit, Amphoe Na Mom, Tel. 08 4199 0079, Khuan Khan Lao Talaymoh Resort, Tel. 08 1957 5001, Phu Khan Lao Tel. 08 6969 2212.*

Visit Hat Yai Park on Kho Hong Mountain, right in the middle of Hat Yai town, and get a glimpse of the impressive sunset scenery from Thailand's first cable car.



AMAZING FLOWER PLANTATION AND STRAWBERRY FARM

>> Seasonal flowers await you and your darling to come and take photos at Suan Nai Jor, which is also Songkhla's first strawberry farm. If you go there at the beginning of the year, you will have a chance to taste the farm's fresh, juicy strawberries and strawberry products.

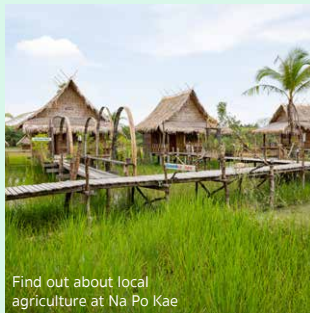
Open 7.00 am – 6.30 pm, Tel. 09 5713 8860, www.facebook.com/saunnaijor/, Tambon Chalung, Amphoe Bang Klam.

● *Best time for strawberry tasting: January – February.*





Tour Songkhla on a bike



Find out about local agriculture at Na Po Kae



Rafting at Pa Phayom



Snorkelling around Ko Adang-Rang

How To

GET THERE

SATUN • PHATTHALUNG • SONGKHLA



> To Satun, there is an air-conditioned bus service from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal (Talingchan). Another faster option is to catch a flight to Hat Yai, then take a minibus to Satun, (or Pakbara pier if you are heading to Ko Lipe).

> To Phatthalung, you can take an air-conditioned bus from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal (Talingchan) or take a train from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong).

> To Songkhla, there are many direct domestic flights to Hat Yai International Airport or take an air-conditioned bus from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal (Talingchan) to either Hat Yai or Songkhla. There are also trains to Hat Yai from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong).

4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS

Romantic Routes in the South

DAY
1

From Bangkok, get an early flight to Hat Yai Airport. Then head to Pakbara pier for a speedboat trip to Ko Lipe, with a brief stop to admire Ko Khai's picturesque scenery. Once at Lipe, enjoy a variety of activities: kayaking, coral spotting, visiting walking street and sipping a cool drink while waiting to view the sun set on the Andaman Sea. End your first day with a romantic dinner on the beach.

DAY
2

Watch the sunrise and get ready for a diving session. On the way back, come ashore at Ko Adang to go up to Pha Krathing viewpoint for the fantastic views, before taking a boat trip back to Pakbara. In the afternoon, visit Panya Batik and choose either a trip to Prasat Hin Pan Yod or a thrilling rafting session at Nhan Mod Daeng. Spend the night at Klong Pak Pra in Phatthalung and dine on sumptuous local cuisine.

DAY
3

Greet the romantic first light of the day at Pak Pra. Get a boat to Thale Noi to enjoy watching lotus blossoms and birds and have a close encounter with a herd of water buffaloes. Visit the local market before heading to Songkhla Old Town, then go up Khao Tang Kuan and Kao Seng. In the evening visit the Golden Mermaid and Samila Beach and enjoy a fresh seafood dinner on the beach.

DAY
4

Get up early for a bicycle trip around Songkhla Old Town and savour southern cuisine at a traditional restaurant or chic café. Go hunting for street art hidden on the district's street corners and later head to Hat Yai for the famous dim sum lunch. Visit Suan Nai Jor in the afternoon, before checking in at Hat Yai Airport for the trip back to Bangkok.

CHECK-INS

SATUN

HOTELS

1 IDYLIC CONCEPT RESORT KO LIPE

In a prime position on Lipe, Idyllic Resort is perfect for lovers and family groups. It is right on the beach and offers many room types, 2 swimming pools, superb food at The Cove Bistro and also many water activities. Tel. 0 7475 0399, 08 8227 5389, www.idyllicresort.com, Ko Lipe, Tambon Ko Sarai, Amphoe Mueang.

Idyllic Resort Ko Lipe



2 THE CLIFF

This chic accommodation with a romantic atmosphere is suitable for lovers who prefer privacy. It is on a cliff on Ko Lipe's west side. Rooms have spacious balconies and villas have private pool and jacuzzi with a panoramic sea view. Tel. 0 7474 0118, www.theclifflipe.com, Ko Lipe, Tambon Ko Sarai, Amphoe Mueang.

3 AKIRA LIPE RESORT

Akira Lipe, on Pattaya Beach, offers garden villas and the Bistro restaurant on the beach front serves international dishes and a good selection of drinks. Tel. 0 7478 3498, www.akiralipe.com, Ko Lipe, Tambon Ko Sarai, Amphoe Mueang.

4 MOUNTAIN RESORT KOH LIPE

Mountain Resort offers many types of rooms at various prices. At the front of the resort is a broad sand dune; a popular location among lovers to come and enjoy sunset. Tel. 0 7475 0917, www.mountainresortlipe.com, Ko Lipe, Tambon Ko Sarai, Amphoe Mueang.



Room at the beach front Idyllic Resort

5 ROYAL HILL

This is a comfortable hotel for visitors who want to visit national parks in Satun, situated on a mountain on the Andaman coast. Tel. 09 2746 7999, Tambon Pak Nam, Amphoe La-ngu (five minutes from Pakbara pier).

RESTAURANTS

1 ON THE ROCKS

This restaurant is well-known not just for its tasty and well presented food but also for having the best view on Lipe. It is a perfect place for dinner with that special someone, or for partying with friends. The menu covers Thai and western dishes and there is a comprehensive cocktail menu. Open every day from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm Tel. 08 5080 7197

Phad Thai with whole crab at On the Rocks



Full sea view at On The Rocks



2 THE COVE BISTRO

The Cove Bistro, inside Idyllic Resort, serves delicious Thai and western dishes. The restaurant can also arrange a special occasion, romantic dinner for you. Open every day from 9.00 am to 9.30 pm. Tel. 08 8227 5389



3 THE STEAK HOUSE

This restaurant/café on Lipe's Pattaya Beach serves good quality steak, burgers and pasta dishes, and also coffee and other drinks. Open every day from 11.00 am to 9.30 pm. Tel. 09 0713 7133

4 THE CLIFF LIPE

Being a hotel restaurant, The Cliff Lipe has a pleasant and private ambience. It is perfect for a private dinner, serving Thai and western dishes. Open every day from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm. Tel. 08 5898 8899

5 THE BISTRO RESTAURANT

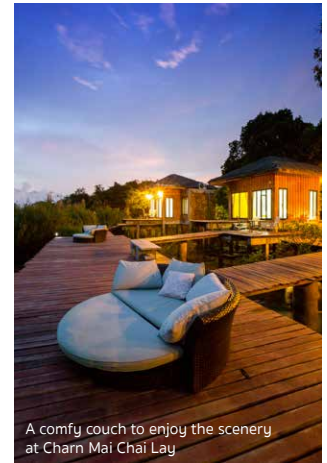
This beachfront restaurant in Akira Lipe Resort serves Thai and western items and a good variety of drinks. Don't miss Happy Hours. Tel. 0 7478 3498

PHATTHALUNG

HOTELS

1 CHARN MAI CHAI LAY LAKE HOUSE

This 4 bungalow accommodation by Thale Noi Lake is very romantic. A full view of the lake and giant dip nets can be seen from each bungalow. The balcony at the front of each bungalow allows you to enjoy the tranquillity of the lake environment and the big blue sky to the full. Tel. 08 1638 5966, Ban Pak Pra, Tambon Phanang Tung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.



A comfy couch to enjoy the scenery at Charn Mai Chai Lay

2 WETLAND CAMP

Wetland Camp is a guesthouse on Pak Pra Canal with an ecotourism concept. You can experience the way of life of the locals and the natural beauty of the canal. The four rooms are equipped with all facilities and the Camp serves local breakfast and provides a boat trip to enjoy Pak Pra and Thale Noi. Tel. 08 6953 9914, www.facebook.com/wetlandcamp, Ban Pak Pra, Tambon Phanang Tung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.

3 LONG KANG CHOM DAW

This colourful place set amidst the natural surroundings of a stream is very convenient if you want to go rafting in Amphoe Pa Phayom. The hotel offers many sizes of rooms, from ones fit for a couple to bigger ones for families. Tel. 08 0867 7619, www.facebook.com/longkangchomdaw/, Tambon Lan Khoi, Amphoe Pa Phayom.

CHECK-INS

4 SRIPAKPRA ANDACURA BOUTIQUE RESORT

This resort with a cool design and well equipped facilities on Pak Pra Canal offers many types of rooms, a swimming pool and a restaurant that cooks local cuisine. Tel. 06 1149 9494, 0 7632 4128, www.facebook.com/SriPakPra, Ban Pak Pra, Tambon Phanang Tung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.

5 BAAN TONLAMPHU, PAK PRA PIER

This is a new resort with a design that blends in with the surroundings; thatched huts equipped with all facilities. Traditional Thai massage and a boat trip service to watch the sunrise are also available. Tel. 09 9121 8942, www.facebook.com/BaanTonlaphu, Ban Pak Pra, Tambon Phanang Tung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.

RESTAURANTS

1 BANG CHARM

This famous restaurant on the side of Pak Pra Canal serves food prepared with seasonal ingredients from the area. Recommended dishes are Pla Luk Bre Tod Khamin, Kaeng Som Pla Huamong and Yam Rakbua. Tel. 09 1848 8599, www.facebook.com/บังกะจัง-พัทลุง-1622677004704488/, Tambon Lampam, Amphoe Mueang.

Local dish at Bang Charm



2 VIEW YO

This restaurant inside Sripakpra Andacura Resort has a very nice atmosphere with a view of Yo (dip nets) and pleasant music. Recommended dishes are Grilled fresh water prawns and Yam Pla Luk Bre. Tel. 06 2232 5201, Ban Pak Pra, Tambon Phanang Tung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun.

3 CAKE LAK MUANG

This restaurant serves both savoury dishes and homemade cakes; it is also well-known for its coffee brewed from beans from around the world. Tel. 08 6566 8544, www.facebook.com/cakelakmung, Menorah Rd, Amphoe Mueang.



Cake Lak Muang

4 DADDY STEAK HOUSE & GRILL

This restaurant serves high quality steak, including Australian beef, pork and fish steaks. Italian dishes and homemade fusion food are also on the menu. Tel. 09 0919 4969, Tambon Prang Mu, Amphoe Mueang.

5 THE CAPE KHAO CHAISON

This restaurant-pub is gaining in popularity. It is near Songkhla Lake and has outdoor and indoor dining areas and a bar. Tel. 09 4741 5901, Tambon Chong Thanon, Amphoe Khao Chaison.



The Cape Khao Chaison



Thap Pala Cottage

SONGKHLA

HOTELS

1 BAAN NAI NAKHON BOUTIQUE HOTEL SONGKHLA

A century-old house has been renovated and turned into Baan Nai Nakhon, a hotel on an old street in the heart of Songkhla Old Town. The hotel has successfully kept the ambience of old-time Songkhla and the decoration is certainly romantic. From the hotel, you can go exploring the old town and look for good food. Tel. 09 5438 9323 www.facebook.com/baannainakhon, Nang Ngam Rd, Amphoe Mueang.



A bedroom at Baan Nai Nakhon

2 THAP PALA COTTAGE

This small resort hidden in Songkhla City is a perfect hide away for lovers who prefer privacy and a peaceful ambience. The villa-style accommodation is on the edge of Suan Tun Reservoir and is well equipped. Tel. 08 5080 5995, <https://thap-pala-cottage-th.book.direct/en-gb>, Tambon Khao Rup Chang, Amphoe Mueang.



A List Hotel

3 A LIST HOTEL

This modern hotel about 2 km from Samila Beach has spacious and clean rooms with a bath tub. Tel. 0 7437 0312, www.a-listhotel.com, Na San Rd, Tambon Bo Yang, Amphoe Mueang.

4 CLUB TREE HOTEL

This colonial-style hotel is near Samila Beach and other attractions in Songkhla. Tel. 0 7431 3888, www.clubtreehotel.com, Thale Luang Rd, Tambon Bo Yang, Amphoe Mueang, Songkhla

CHECK-INS

5 KHUM SAI-NGAM HOTEL & RESORT

This hotel is on Ko Yo in Songkhla Lake, away from the bustling city, and has an rustic, laid back atmosphere. It offers many types of room and a swimming pool next to the lake. Tel. 0 7459 1669, www.facebook.com/khumsaingam, Tambon Ko Yo, Amphoe Mueang.

RESTAURANTS

1 LYN'S THE SHANGHAI CAFÉ

This is a pleasant café located in a building more than a hundred years old on Nakhon Nai Rd in the old town. It serves mainly drinks, ice-cream, assorted desserts and simple dishes. Open from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm and closed on Tuesdays. Tel. 08 3243 9977.



Nakhon Nai Rd, Tambon Bo Yang, Amphoe Mueang.

2 THE BASIL RESTAURANT & WINE

The Basil is Hat Yai's top Italian restaurant, serving many Italian dishes with good wines. It is a romantic restaurant suitable for lovers and families. Tel. 08 1891 9321, Punnakan Rd, Tambon Hat Yai, Amphoe Hat Yai.

3 PADDINGTON STEAK & DESSERTS

A café-style restaurant decorated like an English country home serves Thai and western fusion dishes, steaks and desserts. Tel. 09 9169 9892, Kanjanavanich Rd, Tambon Ban Phru, Amphoe Hat Yai.



Appetising dessert at The Secret Garden



Lyn's The Shanghai Café

4 THE HABITA ROOFTOP

The rooftop restaurant of Habitat Hotel, with its romantic view, is a perfect place to celebrate a special occasion. It serves Thai and European fusion food with a good selection of drinks. Open from 5.00 pm to midnight. Tel. 08 4312 7700, Sangsri Rd, Amphoe Hat Yai.

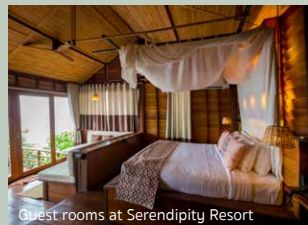
5 WINE VILLAGE

This restaurant and wine bar is decorated in a fairy tale theme. It serves Thai and fusion European dishes in both indoor and outdoor

dining areas. Open from 4.00 pm to midnight. Tel. 0 7480 0157, <http://winevillagehatyai.com>, Prachayindee Rd, Amphoe Hat Yai.



ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ TRAVELLERS



Guest rooms at Serendipity Resort



On the Rocks Restaurant at Serendipity Resort

1 SERENDIPITY BEACH RESORT

An exclusive, villa-style resort on the beach front of Lipe is a terrific hideaway for any couple looking for a place that will enhance their relationship. The villas are under shady trees with a private pool overlooking the blue sea. Breakfast is served in the room so you can have breakfast in bed before checking out the water activities arranged by the hotel. Tel. 08 8395 5158, <http://serendipityresort-kohlpe.com>, Ko Lipe, Tambon Ko Sarai, Satun.

2 ART BEACH CLUB KOH LIPE

This beach club is for fun-loving couples, with music that will give your island trip a different atmosphere. There is also a pool-side party with professional DJs on some nights. Open every day, Tel. 09 0713 7133

3 THE SECRET GARDEN

The Secret Garden is in Songkhla Old Town. It has a homey ambience and is open for any couples to come and enjoy drinks, food and freshly baked cakes. Tel. 0 7489 2504, www.facebook.com/TheSecretGardenSongkhla, Raman Rd, Amphoe Mueang, Songkhla



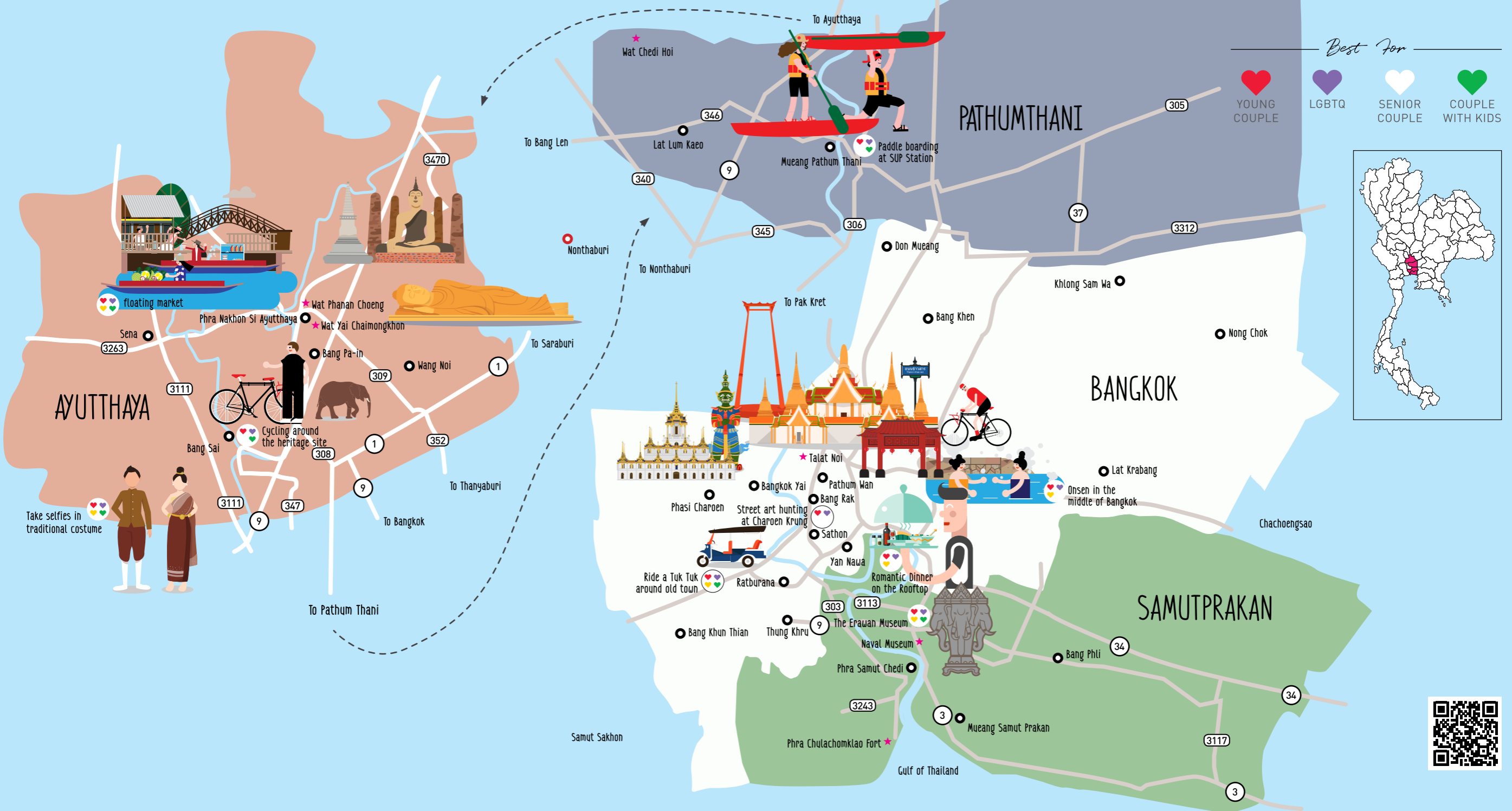
ENDLESS LOVE







GREATER
BANGKOK
AYUTTHAYA

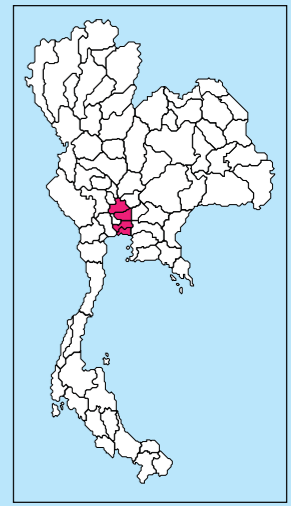


Romantic Routes
in the Central Region



Best For

- 
 YOUNG COUPLE
- 
 LGBTQ
- 
 SENIOR COUPLE
- 
 COUPLE WITH KIDS



Endless Love



Romantic Routes in Greater Bangkok • Ayutthaya

Take your loved one to explore these capitals of the kingdom and the surrounding countryside, a region rich in history and cultural sites. Here the past is interwoven with the present to create a timeless heritage, like undying and endless love.

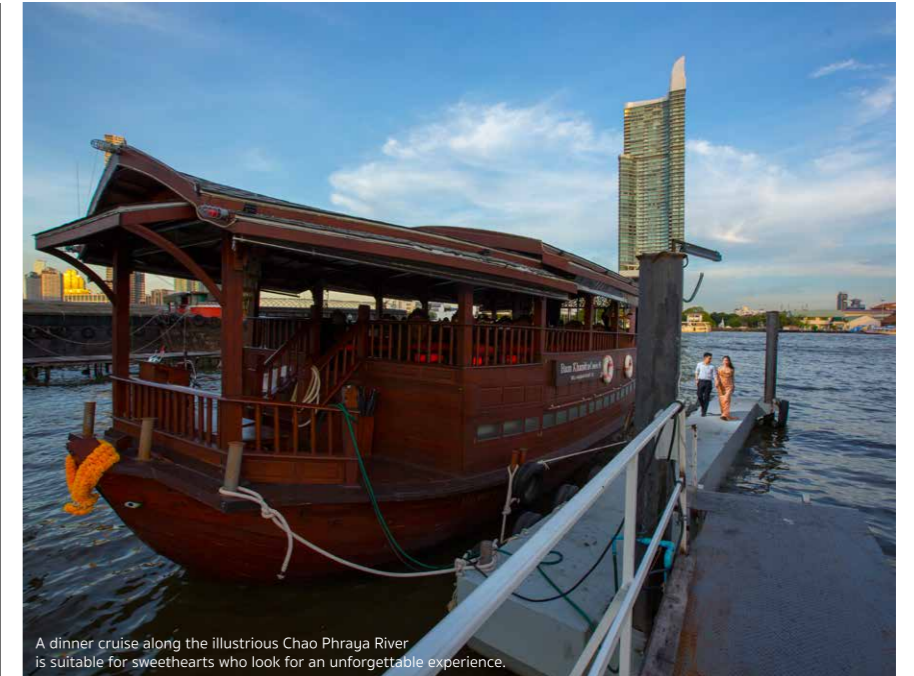
The Grand Palace at night from Baan Khanitha Cruise

BANGKOK



TENDER LOVE ALONG THE CHAO PHRAYA RIVER

>> The Chao Phraya River is Thailand's main artery; four rivers flow down from the Northern mountains to meet on the central plain, forming the Chao Phraya that flows through Ayutthaya and Bangkok. Dinner on the Chao Phraya, under the sunset sky and kissed by cool river breezes, is so romantic. There are many operators offering dinner on board a river cruiser, with different cuisines and prices. One of the most romantic dinner cruises is Baan Khanitha Cruise, which serves authentic, five-star Thai cuisine on an old rice barge, decorated with wood in the Thai-colonial style of the King Rama V era. The barge drifts with the current of the Chao Phraya at dusk, passing the old town area and beautiful landmarks such as



A dinner cruise along the illustrious Chao Phraya River is suitable for sweethearts who look for an unforgettable experience.

Wat Pho, Wat Arun, The Grand Palace and The Temple of the Emerald Buddha, until it reaches Rama VIII Bridge.

The cruise operates from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.
For details and menu, log on at
www.baan-khanitha.com



TAKE YOUR LOVE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN BANGKOK



>> It is thrilling enough to be told you are the love of someone's life, but to hear the words while at the highest point of the city must surely be the height of excitement. Say "I love you" on Mahanakhon Skywalk at King Power Mahanakhon, the highest observation deck in Thailand. The excitement starts in the multimedia lift, which whizzes you up to Level 74, an indoor observation deck, in just 50 seconds to enjoy the panoramic view of Bangkok. You will be entertained with augmented reality technology to give you a 360-degree view of Bangkok. Level 78 is Thailand's highest outdoor observation area, at a height of 314 metres. More adventurous lovers can walk on the world's biggest glass floor, gazing down on the city 310 metres beneath their feet!

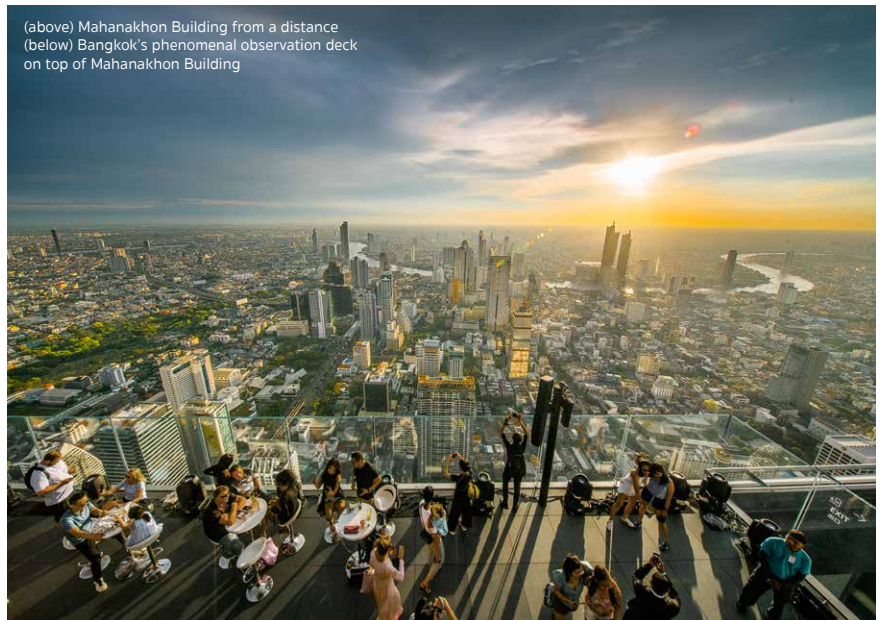
www.kingpowermahanakhon.co.th,
Open: 10.00 am to midnight,
114 Narathiwat-Rajanagarindra Rd,
Khwaeng Silom, Khet Bang Rak,
Tickets for Level 74: 250 Baht for children and senior citizens, 850 Baht for adults;
Level 74-78: 450 Baht for children and senior citizens, 1,050 Baht for adults.

DON'T MISS

📍 *Send a postcard from the highest post office in Thailand.*



(above) Mahanakhon Building from a distance
(below) Bangkok's phenomenal observation deck on top of Mahanakhon Building



Photographs: Shutterstock.com

STREET ART ON THE OLD NEW ROAD

>> New Road, or Charoen Krung Road, was the first in Thailand to be built with modern construction methods. It is now the road for street art that draws people from around the world. Thailand Creative & Design Centre (TCDC), organised BUKRUK Urban Arts Festival, which sees many local and international artists participate in creating artwork on fences and walls and in public places. The BUKRUK Urban Arts Festival covers the area from Bang Rak, Charoen Krung, Talat Noi to Song Wat. The first art piece is in Soi Charoen Krung 32 or Bang Rak - next to the Grand Postal Building. As you enter Soi Charoen Krung 32, many pieces of art reveal themselves. In Soi Charoen Krung 30, (Trok Captain Bush, near Portuguese Embassy) the works of two Italian artists, Sten and Lex, present themselves. Continue walking to Song Wat and you will find two elephants painted by Belgian street artist ROA and nearby is the work of the Spanish artist Aryz.

● *Find out more about activities in the Charoen Krung area at www.facebook.com/pg/CharoenkrungCD*



Cooking class that will make lovers fall in love with Thai food.

LEARN THE ART OF THAI COOKING

>> To cook popular Thai dishes for your dinner parties would be a lovely surprise for your family and friends back home. There are lots of cooking schools holding short classes for travellers in small groups. Market Experience teaches the

basics, like choosing the right ingredients, as well as how to prepare and cook them. Dishes taught during the courses are Thai snacks like miang kham and som tam; the famous phad thai, green curry, red curry and others are also on the list.

● *For details visit www.marketexperiences.com*



A work of Sofia Castellanos, Mexican Artist at Soi Charoen Krung 32



There are many spots to take photos of street art along Charoen Krung-Talat Noi area.

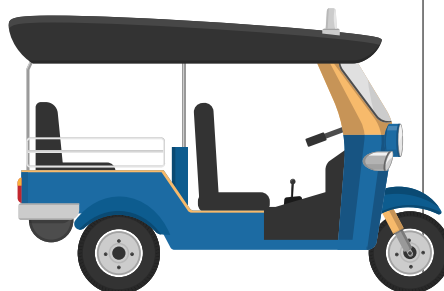


Photographs: Shutterstock.com

the old town blends with the modern lifestyle. There are many interesting historical sites and significant temples scattered around Rattanakosin Island, including Pipit Banglamphu Museum, Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall, Bangkok City Library, Wat Bowon Niwet Wihan, Wat Ratchabophit and the Giant Swing. The inner part of Rattanakosin is more popular, being home to the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Bangkok City Pillar Shrine and National Museum. This area is better to tour in the evening.

RIDE A TUK TUK AROUND RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND

>> The Tuk Tuk is an iconic Thai thing, so a Tuk Tuk ride is a must-do for most visitors. It is fun to ride a Tuk Tuk around Rattanakosin Island, to see how



DON'T MISS

● Stop to visit the many historical temples. Proper clothing required for visitors to temples; shorts, short skirts, cropped tank tops and flip-flops are regarded as disrespectful at places of worship.



SPA IN A CULTURAL HOUSE

>> After a busy time visiting the numerous attractions, a relaxing Thai massage and spa will refresh both of you. Take your beloved to a spa at Divana Scentuara, in Sukhumvit area, and enjoy a traditional Thai health massage matched to your element to boost the well-being of your body and mind. Divana Scentuara is set in a white, colonial style residence in the middle of a rose garden.

Divana Scentuara Spa: 16/15 Soi Somkid, (adjacent to the old British Embassy), Ploenchit Rd, Khet Pathum Wan, Tel. 0 2661 6784-85, www.divanaspa.com



Traditional Thai puppet show at Ban Silapin, Khlong Bang Luang

DON'T MISS

● *Signature spa program 'The Romance of Siamese Rose' whole body treatment, finished with Cleopatra's beauty secret, a rose milk bath.*

OLD-TIME LIFE ALONG CANALS

>> Bangkok was once dubbed the 'Venice of the East' due to its

numerous canals or 'khlongs'. Over time, roads have replaced most of these old canals, but not all of them. A boat trip through the intertwining khlongs is worth taking. An old community on Khlong Bang Luang (Khlong Bangkok Yai) reflects the life of a bygone era with its old timber houses along both sides of the canal. There is an artist's house called Ban Silapin, which once belonged to an old goldsmith's family. Here artists meet, artwork is put on exhibition,



and traditional Thai puppet shows are performed regularly. There is also a café, and a shop selling fun souvenirs.

Ban Silapin: 309 Wat Thong Sala Ngam, Soi Phet Hasem 28, Phet Hasem Rd, Khwaeng Khuha Sawan, Khet Phasi Charoen. Open: Every day, 10.00 am to 6.00 pm www.facebook.com/Baansilapin

DON'T MISS

● *Free traditional Thai puppet show at 2.00 pm every day (no show on Wednesdays) For information, Tel. 0 2868 5279*

ROOFTOP DINNER WITH 360-DEGREE VIEW OF BANGKOK

>> Another must-do for sweethearts is rooftop dining at Vertigo and Moon Bar, on level 61 of the Banyan Tree Bangkok Hotel. At almost 200 metres above the city streets, the phenomenal views of Bangkok landmarks such as The Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the sweeping bend

of the Chao Phraya River have earned this restaurant international acclaim. It is no surprise that this is a popular place for lovers to propose or to celebrate their anniversary.

Banyan Tree Bangkok Hotel, South Sathon Rd, Khwaeng Thung Maha Mek, Khet Sathon. Open: 5.00 pm to 1.00 am, www.banyantree.com/en/thailand/bangkok



A table at Vertigo and Moon Bar overlooking Bangkok's central business district as far as you can see

Believe
in love
Legends of
belief & love

ONSEN IN THE MIDDLE OF BANGKOK

>> After a long, busy day touring Bangkok with your dearest, healing your tired bodies in privacy could be a refreshing and intimate moment for both of you. Kashikiri Onsen and Spa is the only place in Thailand that provides an onsen service to Japanese standards. A hot oil massage, combined with Thai-style massage, will refresh your tired muscles and the Shiatsu foot massage will soothe your feet and prepare them for your next expedition.

Soi Sukhumvit 49, Khwaeng Khlong Tan Nuea, Khet Vadhana

For details visit
www.hashikirionsenandspa.com



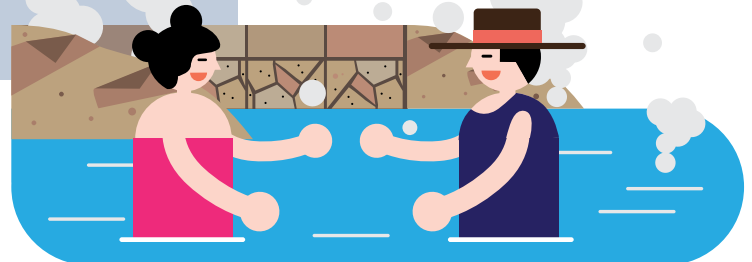
Worshippers pay homage to the Trimurti at the Shrine in front of Isetan Department Store (CentralWorld)

BE BLESSED FOR EVERLASTING LOVE

>> There are many shrines in Bangkok which the faithful visit to ask for blessings, but for affairs of the heart, the Trimurti Shrine is easily the most popular. The name Trimurti means “three forms”, referring to three Hindu gods: Brahma, Vishnu

and Shiva. It is believed that paying homage with offerings will bring success in your life, and especially in your love life. Nine red roses, red incense sticks and a pair of red candles are used as offerings.

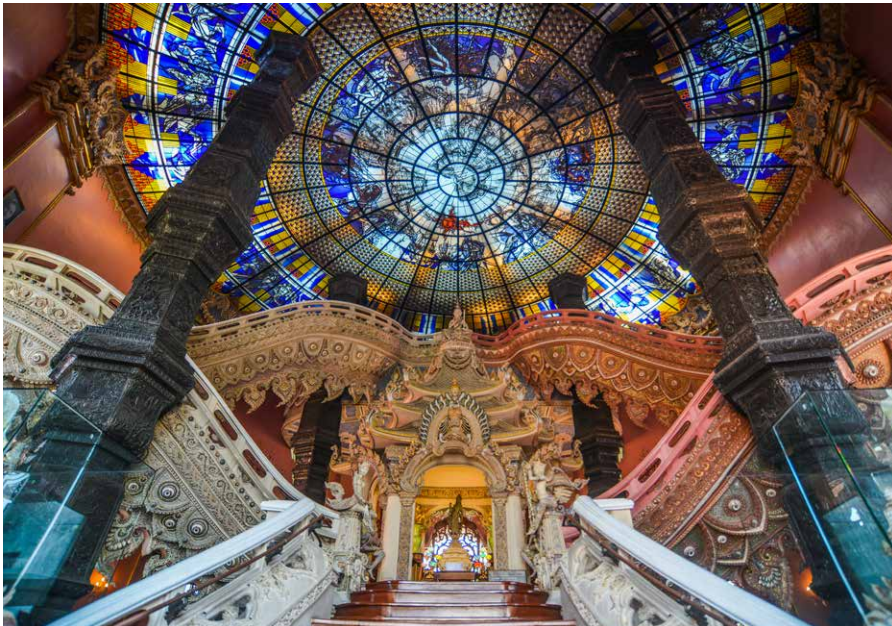
Location: In front of Isetan Department Store, Ratchaprasong Rd, near Ganesha Shrine



The Erawan sculpture stands on top of the Erawan Museum, which showcases artistic marvels and Buddhist beliefs.



Photographs: Shutterstock.com



EXPLORE THREE REALMS OF ART AND BELIEF

>> Stepping inside the Erawan Museum is otherworldly; it is the height of a 14-storey building with over a hundred thousand copper sheets covering the whole structure. The displays are divided into three sections, according to the belief that our world consists of three realms; the Underworld, the Earth, and Heaven. The Underworld section is dedicated to the history of the museum and many antique items are displayed. The Earth

section exhibits many antiquities and showcases their exquisite craftsmanship. In the last section, Heaven, Buddha relics and many Buddha images from various periods are enshrined.

Erawan Museum,
www.muangboranmuseum.com,
Open: Every day 9.00 am to 7.00 pm,
Tambon Bang Mueang Mai, Amphoe
Mueang, Samutprahan

DON'T MISS

● *The gardens around the museum are decorated with sculptures of Himmapan creatures, and filled with famous and rare Thai plants.*

CYCLING ON A LUSH GREEN ISLAND IN BANG KACHAO

>> Just a stone's throw away from modern Bangkok's busy streets is Bang Kachao, known locally as Bangkok's lungs. Time Asia called it the best urban oasis in Asia. With trees in abundance, it is a popular place with Bangkok residents for cycling, especially since it is connected to the 35 hectares of Sri Nakhon Khuean Khan Park and Botanical Garden. There is a walking trail, too, and



Bangkok's big lungs at Bang Kachao

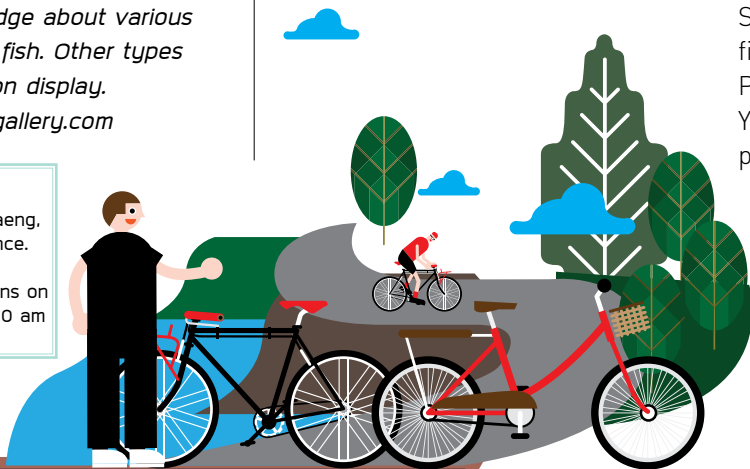
Photographs: Shutterstock.com

a market nearby where you can take a break to enjoy food and drinks.

DON'T MISS

● *Fighting Fish Museum, the brainchild of Bang Kachao's locals, provides knowledge about various kinds of fighting fish. Other types of fish are also on display.*
www.fightingfishgallery.com

Bang Kachao is in Amphoe Phra Pradaeng, Samutprahan Province. Bang Nam Phueng floating market opens on weekends, from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm.



CARE FOR WATER SPORT?

>> Stand up paddle boarding is fast gaining popularity and it is now possible to have fun doing SUP in Thailand at the country's first full-scale SUP station, in Pathumthani, just north of Bangkok. You can do other things while paddle boarding, too, such as fishing or yoga surfing, or you and your darling can just enjoy the sun disappearing below the horizon.

www.facebook.com/supstationthailand/
 Open: 8.00 am to 7.00 pm,
 23 Moo 3, Tambon Bang Luang,
 Amphoe Mueang, Pathumthani

AYUTTHAYA



OVERNIGHT BOAT TRIP ALONG THE RIVER OF TIME

>> Travelling to Ayutthaya by road or rail is quite common, due to its proximity to Bangkok. There is another, more leisurely and romantic, way to get there, though; by taking an overnight boat trip up the Chao Phraya River. The old junks that ply this route are refurbished and motorised and provide a comfortable service, with the added bonus of impressive views along the way and stops to visit temples and places of interest.

It is the only means of transport that allows you to experience the way of life along the river, as you cruise slowly back through time from the present capital to its predecessor.

Boat services of Anantara Hotel Group,
Tel. 0 2476 0022; Asian Oasis contact
info@asian-oasis.com

● *Best time to take a cruise:*
All year round but winter is best.



River view in Ayutthaya



Atmosphere and activity during the cruise offered by Anantara Hotel Group



TOURING THE OLD CAPITAL'S HISTORICAL SITES BY BIKE

>> One way that lovers can get a close look at this UNESCO World Heritage City is by renting bicycles. Ayutthaya is perfect for touring by bike, and with the help of a map, you can have fun and easily get to all the sites, spending as much time as you want at each one. You can contact local Tourism Authority Office before taking the trip. Bike rental shops can be found at the railway station, Tourist Police Office, and at accommodation in the city. 50-70 Baht for a whole day.

🕒 *Best time to go cycling: It takes a whole day to see the city; plan the afternoon trip well, with some temple visits where you can take a break from the burning sun.*

DON'T MISS

🕒 *Bike beyond the city's island to Wat Phra Ngam Khlong Sa Bua to see the 'door of time'. This is the roots of an ancient Bodhi (fig) tree that have grown onto the temple's wall. Be there around 4-5 pm and wait for the sunlight to shine magically through the door.*



Cycle lane weaves through Wat Ratchaburana and historical ruins in the city area



Door of time at Wat Phra Ngam Khlong Sa Bua

TAKE SELFIES IN TRADITIONAL THAI COSTUME

>> Among the photos you take in Ayutthaya, you should have one or two selfies of the two of you in traditional Thai costume. It is not a problem to find those costumes: just head to Wat Chaiwatthanaram, one of the old temples with spectacular architecture. There are shops in front of the temple renting out Thai costumes and accessories on a daily rate, meaning you can wear the costume and go to take photos anywhere.

● *Best time to take photos in traditional Thai costume: Any day but choose a fine day so you can get good shots.*

Daily rental at shops opposite the exit of Wat Chaiwatthanaram is 300 Baht.
Chao Wong Duean
Tel. 09 8850 2935,
Ayodhya Chut Thai,
Tel. 08 6566 2430
Wat Chaiwatthanaram,
Tambon Ban Pom,
Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

SHOP AT FLOATING MARKET AND ENJOY SUMPTUOUS CENTRAL THAI DISHES

>> Ayutthaya was once a major Asian trading port and the floating market reflects the importance of the river that brought foreign traders to the city. Unfortunately, the original floating market has long gone but there is a new, lively floating market called Ayodhya Floating Market, where you can



Young people in traditional Thai costume inside Wat Chaiwatthanaram



Boats take visitors on a cruise around Ayodhya Floating Market (Bottom) Traditionally cooked dessert at Ayodhya Floating Market

find more than 200 shops along waterways, with vendors dressed in traditional Thai clothing. Besides the delicious food selected from every district in Ayutthaya, there are souvenirs and cultural shows as well.

● *Best time to go shopping at floating market: Mid-morning on weekends; the food is still fresh and there are fewer tourists at this time.*

● *A boat trip around the floating market is also available for 30 Baht, the market opens every day, from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm*

Ayodhya Floating Market,
Tambon Phai Ling,
Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

EXPERIENCE COUNTRY LIFE AND LOCAL WISDOM

>> The charm of Ayutthaya lies not only in its historical sites, but also the communities that preserve the charm of an agricultural town and welcome visitors to their homestay accommodation. Spend a night or two with your dearest at Ko Koet Community, where there are plenty of activities for visitors, such as feeding chickens and ducks, visiting farms, getting a local-style massage, fishing for prawns, and many more.



Lovely rural lifestyle that visitors to Ban Ko Koet Homestay will experience.

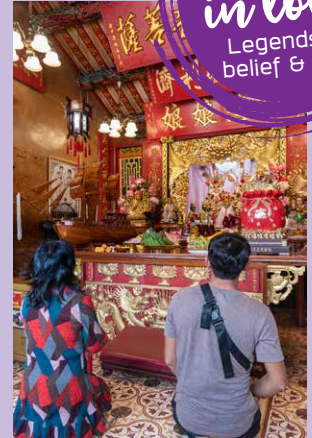
● *Best Time to enjoy homestay: Boarding and activities can be done all year round, but especially in the rainy season when the countryside is a lush green.*

Ko Koet Community, Amphoe Bang Pa-in;
advanced booking only,
Tel. 08 1930 0769

Believe
in love
Legends of
belief & love



Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak joss house in Wat Phanang Choeng (Right) The image of Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak is placed on the second floor of the joss house.



ASK FOR BLESSING AT CHAO MAE SOI DOK MAK JOSS HOUSE

>> Smoke from the incense that worshippers use for paying homage to Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak fills a red Chinese joss house. According to historical records, the story of Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak happened long before Ayutthaya was the capital. Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak was a daughter of a Chinese King, sent to marry a Siamese King. Once

her entourage reached Ayodhya, there was a tragic misunderstanding between her and the Siamese King, causing her to commit suicide. Her body was cremated at the place where Wat Phanang Choeng still stands today. Since her story reflects true love, local young people usually come to her shrine for blessing.

● *Best time to visit Chao Mae Soi Dok Mak joss house: Every day.*

The joss house is located in Wat Phanang Choeng, Tambon Khlong Suan Phlu, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya.



Intimate atmosphere at rooftop Vertigo



Evening at Wat Maha That, Ayutthaya



The Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha are must-visit sites in old Bangkok

Photographs: Shutterstock.com

How To GET THERE

Ayutthaya



- > There is a minivan service from Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chatuchak)
- > Take a train from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong)
- > You can also take a boat from Bangkok to Ayutthaya. Prices vary from company to company. Choose one that suits your budget.

GETTING AROUND

For touring within the city area, take a motorcycle taxi or Tuk Tuk, available at various tourist destinations. For greatest convenience and flexibility, rent a car at the airport from a reputable company (advanced online booking is recommended). Bicycles are also available for rent at most accommodation and at tourist destinations.

3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS

Romantic Routes in the Central Region

DAY
1

Start the trip at Trimurti Shrine with a blessing for long lasting love, before taking BTS to Saphan Taksin Station to view street art in Charoen Krung area. Then take a boat trip to Khlong Bang Luang to enjoy traditional canal lifestyle and watch a Thai puppet performance. In the evening, take an onsen bath before having an extravagant rooftop dinner while enjoying the views of Bangkok at night.

DAY
2

Start the day with a cooking class. After enjoying the lunch that you have cooked, head to Erawan Museum to view the precious displays. Then head back to Ploenchit Rd for a relaxing spa, before taking a Tuk Tuk ride to see Rattanakosin Island. End the day with a romantic dinner on a cruise along the Chao Phraya River, or take in Bangkok's night skyline from the top of Mahanakhon Building.

DAY
3

Go to the old capital, rent a bike and use a map to plan your sight-seeing trip around the World Heritage City. Stop for lunch at Ayodhya Floating Market, before continuing the expedition. Once you reach Wat Chaiwatthanaram, don't miss the opportunity to take selfies of you and your sweetheart in traditional Thai costume in the vintage atmosphere.

CHECK-INS

BANGKOK

HOTELS

1 PRAYA PALAZZO BOUTIQUE HOTEL BANGKOK

Praya Palazzo was an Italian mansion built during the reign of King Rama V, before it underwent refurbishment. It is now the romantic Praya Palazzo Boutique Hotel. Tel. 0 2883 2998, 08 1402 8118, www.prayapalazzo.com, Soi Somdet Phra Pin Klao 2, Khet Bang Phlat

Tel. 0 2079 7000, <https://137pillarsbangkok.com>, Soi Sukhumvit 39, Khet Vadhana

4 THE SIAM HOTEL

The five-star Siam Hotel is like a magnificent art museum, where artifacts of Thai history are well kept. Tel. 0 2206 6999, www.thesiamhotel.com, Khao Rd, Khet Dusit



Room at The Siam Hotel

2 AMDAENG RIVERSIDE HOTEL

Hidden in a small soi, this red, riverside hotel with a vintage contemporary atmosphere stands out in the neighbourhood. The name 'Amdaeng' is taken after the name of a lady who owned the block of land which is the current site of the hotel, during King Rama V period. Tel. 0 2162 0138, www.amdaeng.com, Chiang Mai Rd, Khet Khlong San

Amdaeng Riverside Hotel



3 137 PILLARS SUITES & RESIDENCES BANGKOK

Tucked away in the centre of Bangkok, this 34-room hotel on levels 23-30 of a city tower offers a luxurious stay with a personal butler service and a rooftop Sky Bar on Level 32.



Shanghai Mansion

5 SHANGHAI MANSION

Once a Chinese theatre and department store, Shanghai Mansion is a luxurious hotel in the heart of Bangkok's Chinatown, with the ambience of 1930s Shanghai; very suitable for lovers. Tel. 0 2221 2121, www.shanghai mansion.com, Yaowarat Rd, Khet Samphanthawong



Chann Bangkok Noi

6 CHANN BANGKOK NOI

Chann is a charming wooden house on Khlong Bangkok Noi, with terraces connecting guest rooms and other sections of the hotel under the concept 'Simply at Ease'. Tel. 0 2435 5997, www.channbangkoknoi.com, Somdet Phra Pin Klao Rd, Khet Bangkok Noi

7 RIVA ARUN

A boutique hotel in Bangkok's historical area with a full view of the Majestic Grand Palace on one side and a 180-degree view of the central prang of Wat Arun. The roadside guest rooms provide equally impressive views of old town and Wat Pho. Tel. 0 2221 1188, www.rivaarunbangkok.com, Maharaj Rd, Khet Phra Nakhon

8 SALA RATTANAKOSIN

A minimalist boutique hotel, with Wat Arun River View Suite and Wat Arun River View Deluxe, commands a full view of the central prang of Wat Arun. The roadside guest rooms provide equally impressive views of old town and Wat Pho. Tel. 0 2622 1388, www.salaresorts.com/rattanakosin, Maharaj Rd, Khet Phra Nakhon



Cuisine de Garden

RESTAURANTS

1 CUISINE DE GARDEN

This restaurant serves fusion food inspired by nature. The 10-course testing menu is presented as chapters in a book about rice, agriculture, and seasons in Thailand. Tel. 0 2053 3059, 06 1626 2816, www.cuisinedegarden.com, (closed on Sundays), Soi Ekamai 2, Khet Vadhana

(closed on Sundays), Soi Ekamai 2, Khet Vadhana

2 RIVER VIBE RESTAURANT AND BAR

This restaurant is like a hidden gem in Talat Noi area; the perfect height of Levels 8 and 9 commands a detailed view of what is going on in the buildings and dwellings that line the bend of the Chao Phraya River. The menu lists Thai and fusion dishes at reasonable prices. Tel. 0 2234 2078, www.facebook.com/rivervibe, Song Wat Rd, Khet Samphanthawong



Atmosphere at Spirit Jim Thompson and Khao Chae, a traditional Thai summer dish (below)



3 SPIRIT JIM THOMPSON

This Thai fine dining restaurant is inspired by Jim Thompson, an American businessman who helped bring Thai silk to life. Every dish is created by an experienced Thai chef, using raw ingredients from the Jim Thompson Farm. Tel. 0 2017 7268-9, Rama 1 Rd, Khet Pathum Wan

4 V'LACHA SIAM DESSERT & TEAROOM

Tea aficionados should head to V'Lacha; this tearoom stocks more than 40 varieties of tea from many countries. They are served with traditional Thai desserts. (closed on Mondays) Tel. 0 6308 7888, at the beginning of Soi Ari 1 (Ari BTS station, exit 3), Khet Phaya Thai



5 CHAKRABONGSE DINING

Enjoy fine dining on a riverside terrace in an old royal residence. Chakrabongse Dining is a part of the Chakrabongse Villa. Dining here is an intimate and romantic experience. Open between 6.00 pm and 10.00 pm (closed on Mondays), 3-5 days advanced booking only, Tel. 08 0045 7778, 08 9810 0498, www.chakrabongsedining.com, 2,300+ Baht per person, Maharaj Rd, (Tha Tian) Opposite Museum Siam

6 MEZZALUNA

This two-Michelin-star restaurant offers superb French cuisine with a Japanese flair and impressive service. The menu is seasonal. Tel. 0 2624 9555, reservations@lebua.com, Level 65, Lebua at State Tower Hotel, Silom Rd, Khet Bang Rak



Appetizing dish at Michelin-star Mezzaluna

AYUTTHAYA

HOTELS

1 SALA AYUTTHAYA

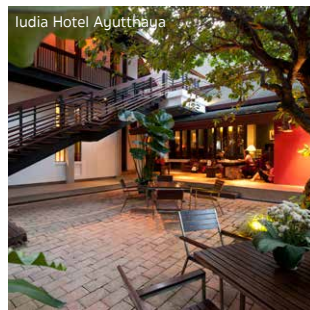
This minimalist style hotel has a pleasant atmosphere with artistic concepts in every corner. Guest rooms are splendid, with views of Wat Phuttthaisawan and the Chao Phraya River. The Pool Suite has a private swimming pool. Tel. 0 3524 2588, www.salahospitality.com/ayutthaya/, U-Thong Rd, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

2 BAAN TYE WANG

This leafy hotel transformed central-region wooden houses into a peaceful boutique hotel, suitable for lovers who prefer quiet. Tel. 0 3532 3001, Chumchon Rong Sura, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

3 SILP-PA

Silp-pa means art in Pali, and this hotel has artistic flair throughout, with a lobby that resembles an art gallery. Guest rooms are pleasant and beautifully decorated. There is a small café which serves food and drinks. Tel. 08 9668 4429, Chok Sethi Rd, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya



Iudia Hotel Ayutthaya

4 IUDIA HOTEL

IUDIA is an award winning boutique hotel which has named its rooms after foreigners who had important roles in Thai history. Guest rooms overlook Wat Phuttthaisawan, on the other side of the Chao Phraya River. Tel. 08 6080 1888, 0 3532 3208, www.iudia.com, U-Thong Rd, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya



5 THANN WELLNESS DESTINATION

From natural cosmetic products, Thann extended its business to Day Spas and the latest is an accommodation with the concept 'Wellness Destination' in the tranquility of Mae Nam Noi, amid lush green paddy fields. Tel. 0 3591 0910, www.thannwellness.com, Amphoe Bang Sai

RESTAURANTS

1 SALA AYUTTHAYA EATERY AND BAR

Sala Ayutthaya serves scrumptious food in a luxurious pavilion with a view of intricate Wat Phuttthaisawan on the opposite side of the river. Tel. 0 3524 2588, U-Thong Rd, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya



Guest rooms and restaurant at Sala Ayutthaya



2 BUSABA CAFE & MEAL

Busaba offers fusion savoury and dessert dishes. A recommended dish is phad thai spaghetti with fresh river prawns. Other noodle dishes also blend eastern and western cuisines perfectly. Tel. 06 1449 4282, www.busabacafeshop.com, U-Thong Rd, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,

3 DE RIVA AYOTHAYA

This is one of the very popular riverside Thai restaurants specialising in grilled river prawns. Live music is performed on some nights. Tel. 06 1545 8228, Tambon Pratu Chai, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

4 SUAN RIM NUM

Suan Rim Num is Krungsri River Hotel's restaurant, located on the bank of Pa Sak River. The menu consists of local cuisine with river fish and grilled river prawn as popular dishes. Open from 5.30 pm to 11.00 pm, Tel. 0 3524 4333, Tambon Kamang, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

5 AYUTTHAYA RETREAT

A group of traditional, central Thailand wooden houses surrounds a lotus pond, making this café very charming. Ayutthaya Retreat serves Thai and western dishes and baked goods. Tel. 08 0394 8133, www.facebook.com/ayutthayaretreteat, Tambon Ban Pom, Amphoe Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ TRAVELLERS

HOTELS

1 SO SOFITEL BANGKOK

So Sofitel is known for luxury and a fun design. Guest rooms are lively and comfortable. Whether you choose So Comfy, So Club or So Suite, all give a romantic experience to all guests. Tel. 0 2624 0000, www.sofitel-bangkok.com, North Sathon Rd, Khet Bang Rak



Chic guest room at So Sofitel

2 PULLMAN BANGKOK HOTEL G

Five-star Pullman is in a lively district of Bangkok. Guest rooms are from Level 18 up, so lovers can enjoy views of Bangkok both at night and at dawn. Scarlet Wine Bar and Restaurant on Level 37 is a good choice for a romantic dinner. Tel. 0 2352 4000, www.pullmanbangkokhotelg.com, Silom Rd, Khet Bang Rak

3 HAVEN'T MET SILOM

This new hotel, with postmodern and bright décor, is in the middle of the business area, has easy access to BTS and is near Thailand's best nightclubs; or visit Cloud 9 All Day on the rooftop. Tel. 0 2233 4442, www.hotel-hm.com, Soi Phiphat 2, Narathiwat-Rajanagarindra Rd



Vivid decor at W Hotel

4 W BANGKOK

The use of vivid colours and characteristic décor form the outstanding style of all W Hotels. Besides providing a luxurious and comfortable stay, W Bangkok blends past with present to create a new atmosphere for Sathon area. Tel. 0 2344 4000, www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bkkwb-w-bangkok/, North Sathon, Khet Bang Rak

5 HOTEL MUSE

This hotel, under MGallery Collection, has all the extravagance of Europe, and is suitable for lovers who prefer superior service. The Speakeasy is one of the best rooftop bars in Bangkok. Tel. 0 2630 4000, <https://hotelmusebangkok.com>, Langsuan Rd, Khet Pathum Wan



The extravagance of Hotel Muse

Silom Area

By day, Silom is a bustling business street; at night it transforms into a lively, vibrant and fun district much to the liking of LGBTQ visitors. Silom is the area where the first gay bar in Thailand opened its doors, and over time the number of gay bars has gradually increased. Most of them cluster in Soi Silom 2 and 4. Soi 2 is full of lively and boisterous bars, while Soi 4 has pubs, bars and good restaurants. During Songkran Silom is like a Pride festival, as LGBTQ people from all over the world gather here to make Songkran even jollier.

RESTAURANTS

1 EAT ME

This international food restaurant has been in business for 20 years and one of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants for six consecutive years. Its ground floor is a cocktail bar. Open 3.00 pm to 1.00 am, Tel. 0 2238 0931, www.eatmerestaurant.com, Soi Phiphat 2, Convent Rd, Khet Bang Rak



Seafood dish at Eat Me

2 KIKA KITCHEN & BAR

Kika serves Mediterranean dishes and Spanish Tapas with a cocktail menu and other drinks in a cosy atmosphere. Open Mon-Sat 4.00 pm to 1.00 am, Sun 5.00 pm to midnight, Tel. 09 5592 0510, www.facebook.com/KikaBangkok, Convent Rd, Khwaeng Silom, Khet Bang Rak

3 THE BALCONY BANGKOK

The Balcony is a very popular pub, with a wide porch at its front where patrons can watch people passing by. The Balcony features Thai and western dishes and there's a long list of cocktails on the menu. balconypub.com, Soi Silom 4, Khet Bang Rak

4 FORK & CORK BY SPHINX

This popular Thai, Asian and Western restaurant with a good collection of wines has been around for more than three decades. Friendly atmosphere. Soi Silom 4, Silom Rd, Khwaeng Suriyawong, Khet Bang Rak

5 TELEPHONE BAR

This is one of the legendary gay bars in Bangkok; it is a place where people meet and have a chat before starting the fun night ahead. Open 6.00 pm to 2.00 am, Soi Silom 4, Silom Rd, Khwaeng Suriyawong, Khet Bang Rak

6 WHITE RABBIT LOUNGE BAR

White Rabbit is a restaurant, café and bar in the heart of Silom's night life. It is the place where locals meet foreign tourists and is known for its cocktails and lively music. There are special shows and parties on some nights. Open 4.00 pm to 2.00 am, Tel. 09 1758 8999, www.facebook.com/White.Rabbit.on.silom/, Silom Rd, Khwaeng Silom, Khet Bang Rak



Maggie Choo's; Shanghai style Jazz Bar

7 MAGGIE CHOO'S

This is a Jazz bar inspired by the underground cabaret scene of 1930s Shanghai. Every Sunday night is a special event 'Sunday Gay Night'. Open 6.00 pm to 3.00 am, Tel. 09 1772 2144, maggiechoos.com, Silom Rd, Khwaeng Silom, Khet Bang Rak

8 SING SING THEATRE

This stylish bar, resembling 1930s Shanghai Theatre, features a long list of cocktails and excellent DJs. There are shows and cabarets with wonderful performers. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 9.00 pm to 2.00 am, Tel. 06 3225 1331, singsingbangkok.com, Soi Sukhumvit 45, Khet Vadhana



Old Shanghai vibes at Sing Sing Theatre

9 DJ STATION

DJ Station is a legendary dance club that is packed on most nights with Thai and foreign LGBTQ. The club features lip sync and cabaret shows at midnight. Entrance fee includes 2 drinks. Open 9.00 pm to 2.00 am, www.facebook.com/djstationbangkok, Soi Silom 2/1, Khet Bang Rak

Thailand's Romantic Routes



The
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