

# AMAZING NEW CHAPTERS



amazing  
THAILAND

## Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Nakhon Si Thammarat

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A historical town, the golden Phrathat, delightful nature, plentiful minerals, three-metal nielloware, numerous arts and temples, and abundant shrimp and crabs

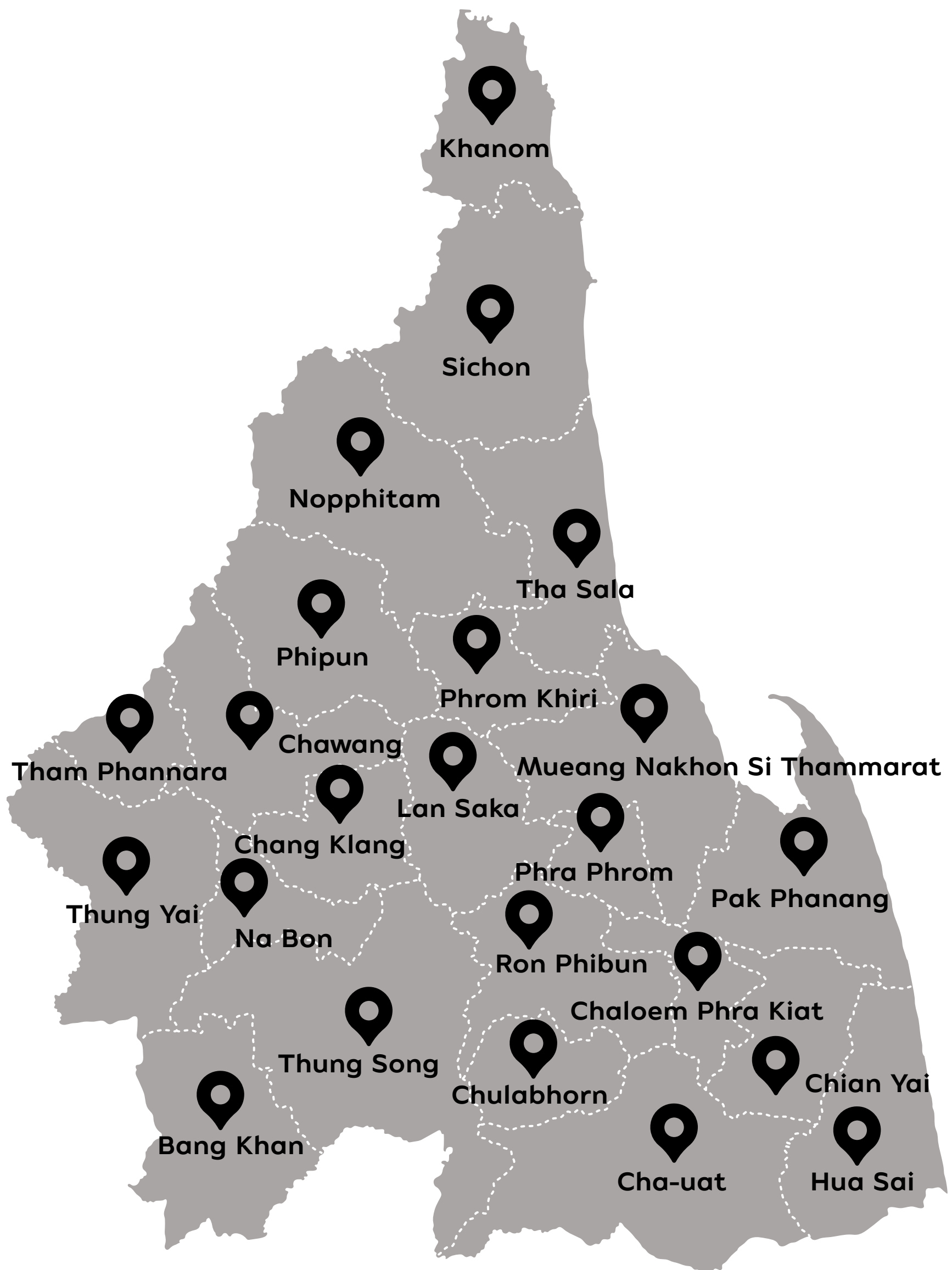
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Nakhon Si Thammarat's name is derived from the name of the first king who ruled Nakhon Si Thammarat in the past called "Phra Chao Si Thammasokarat" meaning "the majestic city of a righteous king" and the nature of this king was the "Dharma of Buddhism".

Nakhon Si Thammarat has been an ancient city that has been important in terms of the economy, society, and religion for a long time. It was also influenced by the Brahmin culture and religion from India. Furthermore, traces of ancient sites and important antiquities, especially from the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries, have been discovered. The era of the Sri Thammasokrat Dynasty was a period that Nakhon Si Thammarat was the most prosperous. This was because it was a centre of trade between the East and the West, and the establishment of the Lanka Family of Buddhism.

Later, in the early Rattanakosin era, King Rama II graciously appointed Chao Phraya Nakhon Si Thammarat (Noi Na Nakhon) to be the Governor of Nakhon Si Thammarat. He was considered as one of the important diplomats, especially in negotiating with the British in the reigns of Kings Rama II and III that made Nakhon Si Thammarat have an influence on the Malay provinces until the change of the administration system in 1932. This saw the dissolution of the monthon system and elevated Nakhon Si Thammarat to be a province as it is now.

# Nakhon Si Thammarat Map







# The City Pillar Shrine

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat  
Nakhon Si Thammarat





## The City Pillar Shrine

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located near Sanam Na Mueang between Na Mueang and Yomraj Roads. It comprises five buildings, and the central one houses the City Pillar Shrine. The design resembles Srivijaya art and is called Hem Chala. The Phra Phrom Mueang Shrine and Phon Bandan Mueang Shrine were completed in 1999.

The City Pillar is made from *Hopea odorata* and was obtained from Khao Luang in Nakhon Si Thammarat. The upper part of the pillar is Jatukam Ramathep (four faces), or deities protecting the city. At the northern end is a flame on top of Phra Ket, imaginative carved patterns from Mahayana Buddhism beliefs, which influenced the arts in the South and Nakhon Si Thammarat since ancient times



Open daily 07.30-17.00 hrs.





# Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat,  
Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located on Ratchadamnoen road, Nai Mueang subdistrict and is a first-class royal temple of the Woramahawihan class. Formerly known as Wat Phra Borommathat, it is one of the most important places in the South and Thailand. In 1176, Phra Chao Si Thammasokarat built the city of Nakhon Si Thammarat as well as built a new chedi in the Lanka style 55.78 metres high. (The Fine Arts Department restored the gold leaf in 1995.) The height from the lotus base to the golden top is 6.80 metres that is entirely covered in pure gold. Inside Wat Phra Mahathat, there are several important wihans enshrined as follows:

**Phra Borommathat Chedi** has gold, jewellery and many valuable items. These valuables were brought by Buddhists to dedicate to the Lord Buddha in order to attain Nirvana. There is a ceremony conducted at the Chedi, which is on Makha Bucha Day, in which there is a procession of cloth to be placed on the Chedi. It is believed that if someone brings the cloth to the Chedi, they will have all their wishes come true.



**Wihan Phra Maha Pinetkrom (Wihan Phra Song Ma)** is the principal wihan that is used to perform religious ceremonies to pay homage to Phra Mahathat Chedi. They are organised as a gateway to pay the highest worship to the Buddha's relics.

There are also other important buildings within the temple that should not be missed that visitors can walk and admire the beauty, e.g., Wihan Khian, Wihan Sam Chom, Wihan Pho Lanka, Wihan Khot, etc.



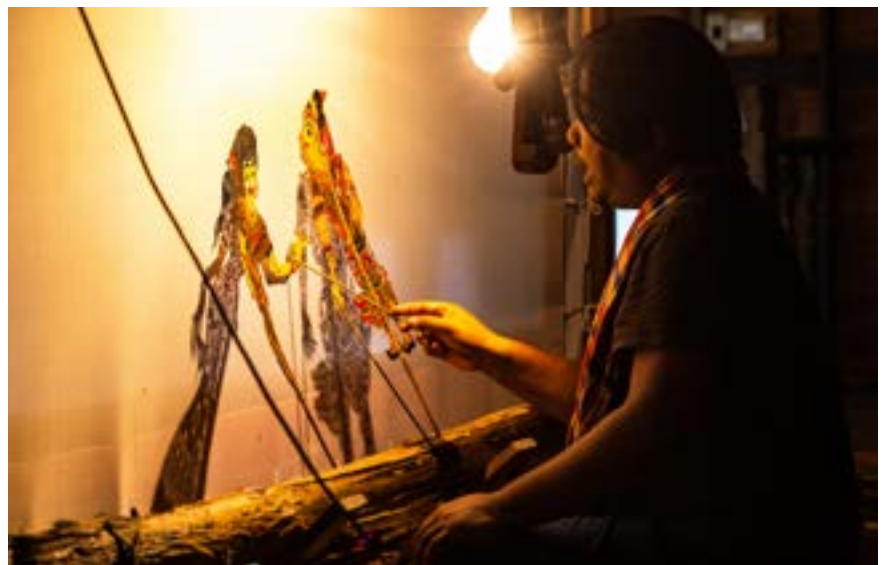




# Ban Nang Thalung Suchart Subsin (Shadow Play)

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat,  
Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Ban Nang Thalung Suchart Subsin (Shadow Play)

Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located on Sri Thammasok Road Soi 3. It was established by Mr. Suchart Subsin, a national artist of Performing Arts (Folk Performance) in 1996. The house is divided into a shadow puppet museum showcasing different types of shadow play, demonstrations of shadow puppet carving, and a comprehensive demonstration of shadow play.

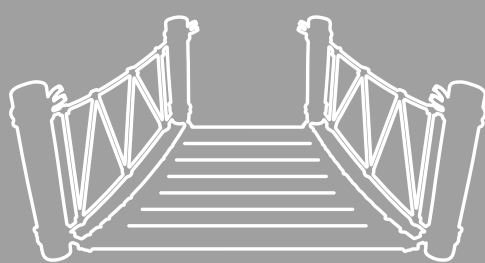
Ban Nang Thalung Suchart Subsin received an Award of Excellence of the Thailand Tourism Award in 2009.



Open daily 08.30-17.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 7534 6394





# Ao Talet Wooden Bridge

Khanom, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Ao Talet Wooden Bridge

Khanom, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located in Thong Nian and subdistrict connects to Don Sak district, Surat Thani province. It is a community-based tourist attraction in which most of the villagers in the area are engaged in fishing and rubber plantations. The distinctive identity of the community is a wooden bridge that juts out into the sea to serve as a fishing port and a tourist pier for viewing pink dolphins, the folding rock (Pancake Rock), freshwater pond in the middle of the sea at Ko Nui, and paying homage to the image of Luang Pu Thuat, who stepped on fresh water, that is enshrined on the island.



Motorboat tours are available by the local residents costing 1,200 baht/boat that can seat up to seven people.

**For further details contact**, the Ao Talet Ecotourism Community Enterprise Tel. 09 1204 3588, 09 1842 2316 and 09 8468 3842





# Hat Khanom-Muko Thale Tai National Park

Khanom, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Hat Khanom-Muko Thale Tai National Park

Khanom, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Covers Khanom district and Sichon district, Nakhon Si Thammarat province and Don Sak district and Ko Samui district, Surat Thani province. The Park office is located on Highway No. 4232 (Sichon-Khanom coastal route), Khanom subdistrict, Khanom district. Interesting places in the Park include:

**Hat Khanom** is located to the south and is a continuation of Hat Kho Khao. It is the centre of accommodation and restaurants on the beach in Amphoe Khanom.

**Ao Thong Yi** is to the south of Hat Nai Plao and has beautiful scenery. The water is not deep and is suitable for swimming. In the southern part of the bay, there are coral reefs, so fish are abundant.



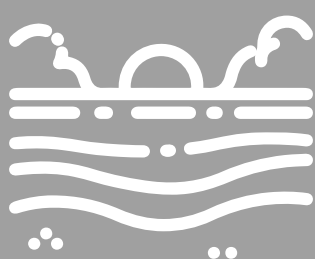


**Hat Phlai Dam** and **Khao Phlai Dam** are located to the south of Hat Thong Yang. At the foot of Khao Phlai Dam, there is accommodation and restaurants available. It is also the location of the Khao Phlai Dam Wildlife Development and Conservation Station.

**Khao Hin Phap Pha** is a geological phenomenon that can be seen on the rocky hills and islands in the Khanom Sea. For example, the Khao Hin area in front of Ao Talet that looks like it is a layered stone slab going upward. The top is covered with various types of trees. It is recommended to rent a motorboat from the Ao Tet Wooden Bridge.

**Ko Nui-freshwater Pond in the middle of the sea:** In the Khanom Sea, there is a freshwater pond that resembles human footprints. According to legend, Luang Pu Thuat stepped on fresh water. A pond can be seen when the sea water recedes, and on the island, there is a statue of Luang Pu Thuat that tourists can go to pay homage. It is recommended to rent a motorboat from the Ao Talet Wooden Bridge for sightseeing.





# Hat Sichon

Sichon, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Hat Sichon

Sichon, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Hat Sichon or as the villagers call it Hua Hin Sichon has been a famous tourist attraction for a long time. The beach is a rock formation suitable for swimming. There are also hotels and resorts, seafood restaurants, and stylishly decorated cafes.





# Wat Chedi Ai Khai

Sichon, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Wat Chedi Ai Khai

Sichon, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Mu 7, Chalong subdistrict. It has been passed down through the generations that in the past at the current location of the Chedi, Luang Pu Thuat, a Buddhist master of the Southern school, made a pilgrimage and came to that area. Ai Khai is believed to be the spirit of a child about 9-10 years old and a disciple of Luang Pu Thuat. When Luang Pu Thuat came to this place, he found that there were many important treasures and religious places. Therefore, he had Ai Khai guard the aforementioned property. As such, this spirit has been guarding the property of the land and has been at this temple ever since.

From the people's belief, it is believed that "request and pay respect", thus causing a large number of people to pay their respects to Ai Khai or Ta Khai for blessings and fortune. Additionally, it is popular to fulfil one's vow by placing a picture of a gamecock, military uniforms, slingshots, or various toys at this place.





# Community Enterprise of Mangrove Forest Conservation Group, Ban Laem Homestay

Tha Sala, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Community Enterprise of Mangrove Forest Conservation Group, Ban Laem Homestay

Tha Sala, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Tha Sala district. Most of the villagers in the community are Muslims. The main occupation is local fishery, and there are various tourism activities, e.g., Ban Laem Mud Spa, making Ban Laem curry paste, making natural tie dye from mangrove leaves, planting mangroves. There are also products from Ban Bang Tong's tail nets that are hard to find and are considered the most productive community in Thailand.



In addition, there are homestays in the community to serve tourists, bicycles for cycling to explore the atmosphere in the community, and small motorboats are available to take visitors to experience the way of life of the villagers doing coastal fishing. Visitors can also buy fresh seafood from the community's stalls.



**For further details contact,** the Community Enterprise of Mangrove Forest Conservation Group, Ban Laem Homestay (Ban Na Thap) Tel. 06 5513 7273 and 08 8768 9036, Ban Laem Homestay Tel. 08 2216 6306





# Khao Lek Viewpoint or Krung Ching Sea of Mist

Nopphitam, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Khao Lek Viewpoint or Krung Ching Sea of Mist

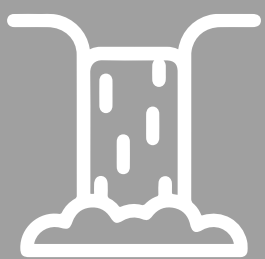
Nopphitam, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Ban Bang Nop, Krung Ching district. The words “Krung Ching” come from the name Ching tree, a plant in the palm family that is most common in this region. As for “Khao Lek”, this comes from the fact that this area used to be a mine.

Because it is adjacent to Khao Luang National Park and Khao Nan National Park, the sea of mist of Krung Ching is surrounded by unspoiled nature. This is suitable for tourists who love nature. This is also both a spot to watch the sea of mist and the sunrise in the morning. The community is open for tourism all-year round, and it is possible to drive up to park on the hill near the viewpoint. Then, walk a little further to reach the viewpoint.





# Krung Ching Waterfall

Nopphitam, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Krung Ching Waterfall

Nopphitam, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located in Krung Ching subdistrict in the Khao Luang National Park. It is a historical area because it used to be the site of the Communist Party in the past. Krung Ching is a plateau. Surrounded by mountains, the waterfall has seven levels descending downward: Nan Mat Phae, Nan Plio, Nan Chon, Nan Chone, Nan Ton To, Nan Wang Ruea Bin, and Nan Fon Saen Ha, which is the most beautiful level.

To visit Krung Ching Waterfall, requires walking on foot from the Visitors Centre along a nature trail through the abundant forest. Along the way, there are different plants and trees to see and study, e.g., tree fern, *Arenga pinnata*, *Intsia palembanica* Miq., white elephant palm, and *Borassodendron machadonis*. The distance is 4 kilometres, and there are signboards for directions and interesting items along the way. The path is steep and slightly rough.



**For further details contact,** the Khao Luang National Park  
Tel. 0 7530 0494-5



รพทพ



**Phromlok community**

Phrom Khiri, Nakhon Si Thammarat



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## Phromlok community

Phrom Khiri, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Mu 1, Phrom Lok subdistrict and is a small community amidst abundant nature. Khlong Plai Huai and Khlong Nok Tha flow through the village. The water source comes from Khao Luang National Park. The community is a learning centre that focuses on participation between people in the community and tourists. The villagers are engaged in agriculture, e.g., fruit orchards and rubber plantations.

In the community, there are various activities for tourists to choose, e.g., cycling to see the villager's way of life and the nature surrounding the community, trek to see the Phromlok Waterfall, learn to cut rubber, see the orchards, make batik, and make local dishes. There are also homestays provided by the locals to serve tourists.



**For further details contact,** the Phromlok community Tel. 08 1081 9150





# Phromlok Waterfall

Phrom Khiri, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Phromlok Waterfall

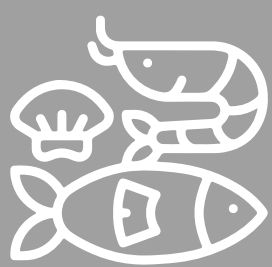
Phrom Khiri, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Mu 5, Phrom Lok subdistrict in the Khao Luang National Park. It is a large waterfall and has a wide and beautiful stone terrace. The Waterfall has approximately 50 levels, but only 4 levels are open for tourists: Nan Wang Nam Won, Nam Wang Mai Pak, Nan Wang Hua Bua, and Nan Wang Ai Le.

In 1959, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother visited this waterfall and inscribed their royal initials “Pho. Po. Ro.” and “So. Ko.” on the cliff at the Waterfall of Level 1 (Nan Wang Nam Won).





# Pak Phanang 100 Years Market

Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Pak Phanang 100 Years Market

Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at the Kham Fak Pier on the east bank of the Pak Phanang River. It is an ancient market that is more than 100 years old. Most of the houses are built of wood. As it is not a market, it is still old fashioned like many that are simple, and the nature of the way of life of the people is so magical that it is attractive to visit.

At the beginning of the Market, there are shops that look like a row of adjacent rooms. Most of them sell local desserts, e.g., Man Khi Nu (cassava), Heo (truffle), as well as fresh seafood at affordable prices that the fishermen take from the boats to the Market every day. There is also dried mullet, which is a famous item here plus dried shrimp, dried squid, and many other items that can be bought and taken home as a souvenir.



**Open daily** 15.00-18.00 hrs.



รพทพ



# Rafting on the Pak Phanang River

Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat



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## Rafting on the Pak Phanang River

Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Along the way, the way of life of the people of the Pak Phanang River Basin who live on the riverbank can be seen, as well as the old river that has an ancient mill chimney remaining that indicates the prosperity of Pak Phanang in the past. In the evening, numerous swallows can be seen flying home (bird condo). Also, visit the Utokawiphat Prasit Floodgate, which is part of the Pak Phanang River Basin Development Project, a royal initiative, visit Laem Talumphuk, Pak Phaya Estuary, Pak Nakhon Estuary, the sea navel, and abundant mangroves.



**For more information and boat reservations,** contact the Pak Phanang Municipal Office Tel. 0 7551 7266 and 0 7551 7630 (office hours).





# Khao Luang National Park

Lan Saka, Nakhon Si Thammarat





# Khao Luang National Park

Lan Saka, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Covers Lan Saka district, Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat, Chalong district, Phrom Khiri district, Chang Klang district, and Nopphitam district. The Park covers the central part of the Nakhon Si Thammarat mountain range consisting of undulating high mountains stretching in a north to south parallel to the eastern seaboard.

The highest mountain in the Park is Khao Luang, which is also the highest peak in the South at a height of 1,835 metres above sea level. It is also the origin of many waterways, e.g., the Tapi River, Pak Phang River, Khlong Krung Ching, and Khlong Khao Kaeo. It has rainfall all-year round and an evergreen forest. With both its biological and physical potential, the Park has been called the “lush green roof of the South”.



To get to the Park, can only be done on foot that takes at least 3 days 2 nights. Along the way, visitors will encounter all types of forest conditions. Rare and unusual plants, e.g., tree fern that is a predominant plant that grows in valleys with streams running through them, *Bulbophyllum smitinandii*, *Bulbophyllum retusiusculum* Rchb.f., *Azalea*, *Dipteris conjugata* Reinw, and *Cheiroplueria bicuspis*. The best season to conquer Khao Luang is during January-July. It is a route suitable for those who have some experience in trekking and need to be guided by Park officers.



**Entrance fee:** Adults 200 baht; children 100 baht. The Park has accommodation and a camping ground for tourists.

**For further details contact,** the Khao Luang National Park Tel. 0 7530 0494-95, website: [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)







# Ban Khiriwong Community

Lan Saka, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Ban Khiriwong Community

Lan Saka, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located in Kamlon subdistrict, Lan Saka district and is a community surrounded by mountains; one of which is Khao Luang, the highest mountain in Southern Thailand. It is also a watershed area, and Khlong Tha Di is the main canal that runs through the village. Ban Khiriwong lives a farmer's way of life together with nature. The main occupation is a mixed fruit orchard that is called "Suan Somrom", e.g., mangosteen, rambutan, durian, and bitter bean. It received a Thailand Tourism Award in 1998 for the Community Model Award in Ecotourism Business Management in the Category of City and Community. This was because Ban Khiriwong has many career promotion groups, e.g., tie-dyeing group, mangosteen soap making group, dried durian group, dried mangosteen group, antique bead jewellery making group, and has developed tourist services by organising trekking tours to the top of Khao Luang with porters, homestays, and the Ban Khiriwong Ecotourism Centre, Tourists can visit the way of life of Ban Khiriwong all-year round, especially in the fruit season of July-September.





In addition to various kinds of accommodation in Ban Khiriwong, most of them have bicycles for tourists and guests to cycle to explore the atmosphere and scenery around the village. In Ban Khiriwong, there is a main swimming spot in the area, “Nan Hin Tha Na Ha”. The area has a unique suspension bridge across the stream. There are also many restaurants.

A popular spot for tourists to take a commemorative photo when they arrive at Ban Khiriwong is the “Ban Khiriwong Bridge, Khlong Tha Di”. This is a concrete bridge located at the entrance to the village. It is the point to see a stream flowing through the middle of the village with a beautiful backdrop of large and small mountains.





# Wat That Noi

Chang Klang, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Wat That Noi

Chang Klang, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at Mu 1, Lak Chang subdistrict and established by faith in Phra Khru Phisit Atthakan or Pho Than Khelai, a Buddhist master that the people of Nakhon Si Thammarat and the general public respect and believe. Pho Than Khelai was trusted for the sanctity of speech and always blessed everyone “I hope you are happy. Be happy.”

In 1961, Pho Than Khelai built a chedi, Phrathat Noi, which was modelled on Phra Borommathat Chedi Nakhon Si Thammarat. Inside enshrines the Buddha’s relics. Then, in 1970, Pho Than Khelai passed away, and his body was enshrined in a glass coffin and enshrined in the Chedi Phrathat Noi as well. It is said that Pho Than Khelai’s body is as hard as a stone making it very revered. At present, a large statue of Pho Than Khelai has been built in the middle of the courtyard in front of the temple.





# Khao Sun Sea of Mist

Chawang, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Khao Sun Sea of Mist

Chawang, Nakhon Si Thammarat



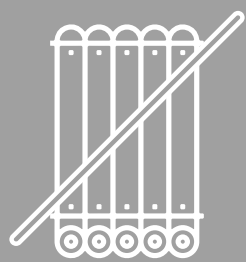
Located at Mai Riang subdistrict and is 510 metres above sea level. The topography of Khao Sun is a forest area where rubber trees have been planted all the way to the top of the mountain. Some are fruit-growing areas. Khao Sun has three other satellites: Noen Luk Krok, Khuan Fai Mai, and Khao Khwang.

On the top of the Khao Sun, it is possible to see the surrounding 360-degree scenery. It is both a spot to view the sea of mist and the sunrise in the morning. The viewpoint has a camping ground and tent equipment for rent, including shops and restrooms. Private vehicles can go up to the sea of mist viewpoint.



**For further details contact,** the Khao Sun Community Tourism Club Tel. 08 8619 6144; Phu Pha Mok Khao Sun Camp Tel. 09 6996 3631





# Rafting at Ban Wang Hon

Cha-uat, Nakhon Si Thammarat





## Rafting at Ban Wang Hon

Cha-uat, Nakhon Si Thammarat



Located at 284 Mu 5, Ban Wang Hon, Wang Ang subdistrict It is a bamboo rafting activity on Khlong Wang Hon, which is a natural water source that flows down from the mountain. The distance to and from for the rafting is approximately 1.5 kilometres that takes 45 minutes to 1 hour. The atmosphere on both sides of the canal is shady with fruit orchards and community forests. The water in the canal is clear and clean, and is suitable for swimming.



The rafting activity is open all-year round and is open daily 08.00-18.00 hrs. The fee is adults: 200 baht, children 7-12 years old: 120 baht, children under 7 years: 50 baht. If only swimming and not rafting, the fee is 50 baht per person. There are also homestays and local food available.

**For further details contact,** the Ban Wang Hon Watershed Community Enterprise Tel. 06 3191 6591





## TAT CONTACT CENTER

### TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (HEADQUARTERS)

1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan,  
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400  
Tel. 1672 and 0 2250 5500 Fax 0 2253 7440  
[www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org)  
email: [info@tat.or.th](mailto:info@tat.or.th)  
Open every day from 08.30 to 16.30 hrs.



### Suvarnabhumi Airport

Gate 3, Level 2, Arrivals Hall  
Tel. 0 2134 0040  
Open 24 hours daily

### Don Mueang Airport

Gate 2, Level 1, Arrivals Hall (Terminal 1)  
Tel. 0 2504 4301  
Open 24 hours daily.

## TAT Nakhon Si Thammarat Office

Sanam Na Mueang, Ratchadamnoen Road,  
Mueang Nakhon Si Thammarat  
Nakhon Si Thammarat 80000  
Tel. 0 7534 6515-6 Fax 0 7534 6517  
email Address: [tatnksri@tat.or.th](mailto:tatnksri@tat.or.th)  
Website: [www.nakhonsiawesome.com](http://www.nakhonsiawesome.com)  
Areas of Responsibility: Nakhon Si Thammarat  
and Phatthalung

