



Sukhothai

Uttarakant | Phitsanulok | Phetchabun





Sukhothai Historical Park

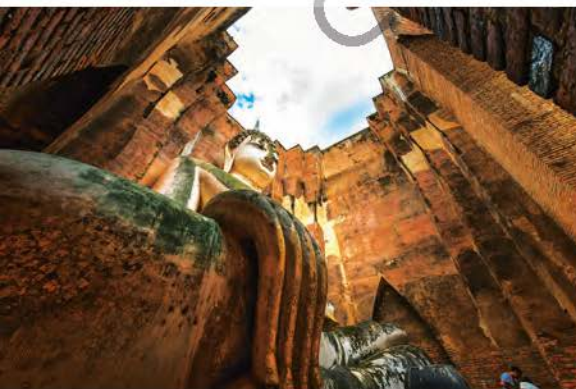
CONTENTS

SUKHOTHAI	8
<i>City Attractions</i>	9
<i>Special Events</i>	21
<i>Local Products</i>	22
<i>How to Get There</i>	22
UTTARADIT	24
<i>City Attractions</i>	25
<i>Out-Of-City Attractions</i>	25
<i>Special Events</i>	29
<i>Local Products</i>	29
<i>How to Get There</i>	29
PHITSANULOK	30
<i>City Attractions</i>	31
<i>Out-Of-City Attractions</i>	33
<i>Special Events</i>	36
<i>Local Products</i>	36
<i>How to Get There</i>	36
PHETCHABUN	38
<i>City Attractions</i>	39
<i>Out-Of-City Attractions</i>	39
<i>Special Events</i>	41
<i>Local Products</i>	43
<i>How to Get There</i>	43

Sukhothai

Sukhothai

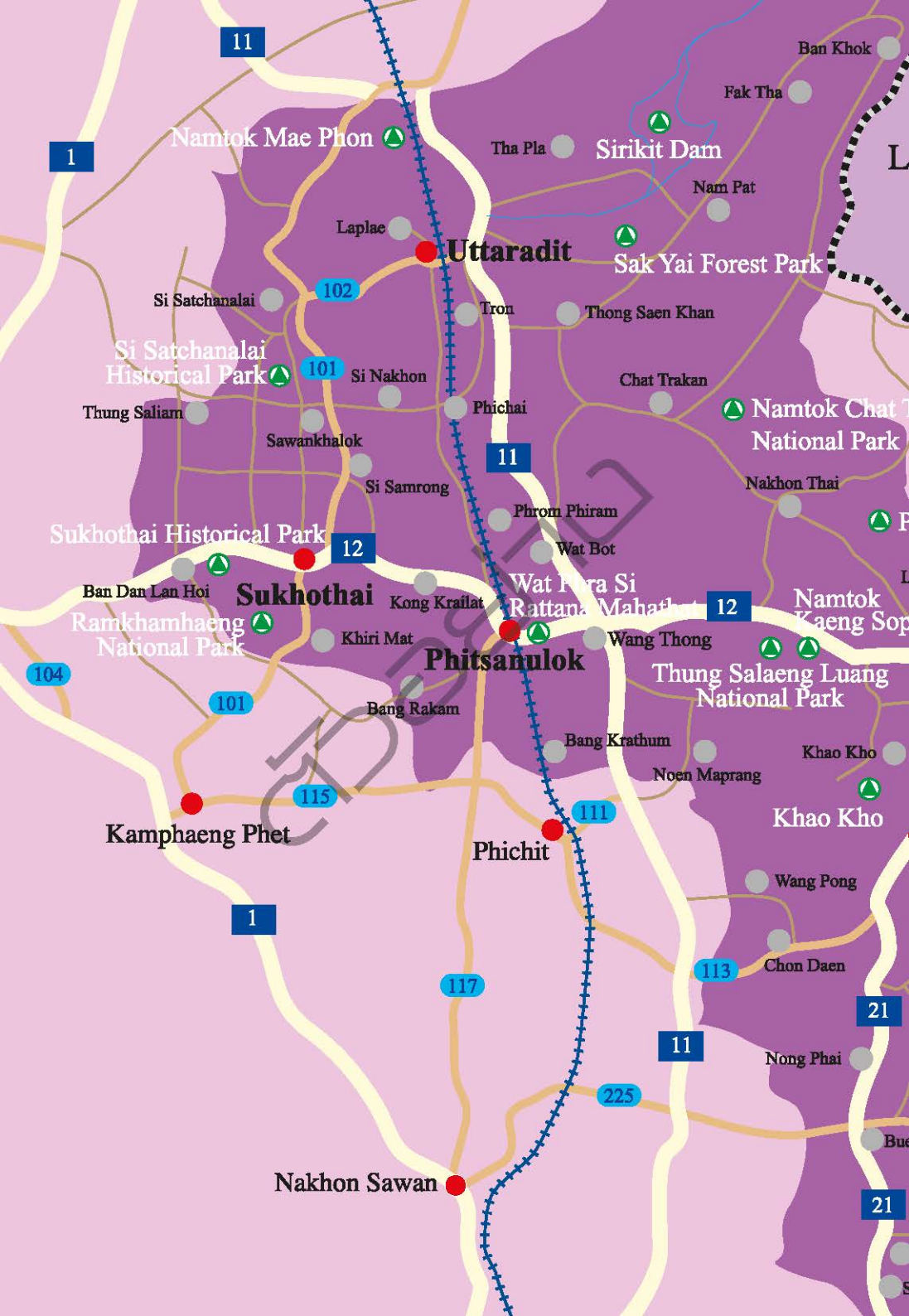
Uttaradit | Phitsanulok | Phetchabun





amazing
THAILAND





11

1

Namtok Mae Phon

Tha Pla

Sirikit Dam

Ban Khok

Fak Tha

Nam Pat

Laplao

Uttaradit

Sak Yai Forest Park

Si Satchanalai

102

Tron

Thong Saen Khan

Si Satchanalai
Historical Park

101

Si Nakhon

Chat Trakan

Thung Saliang

Sawankhalok

Phichai

Namtok Chat Trakan
National Park

Si Samrong

11

Sukhothai Historical Park

12

Phrom Phiram

Nakhon Thai

Ban Dan Lan Hoi

Sukhothai

Kong Kraiat

Wat Para Si Rattana Mahathani

12

Namtok Kaeng Sopit

Ramkhamhaeng
National Park

Khiri Mat

Bang Rakam

Wang Thong

Thung Salaeng Luang
National Park

104

101

115

Kamphaeng Phet

Phitsanulok

Phichit

111

Noen Maprang

Khao Kho

Khao Kho

1

Wang Pong

Chon Daen

21

117

113

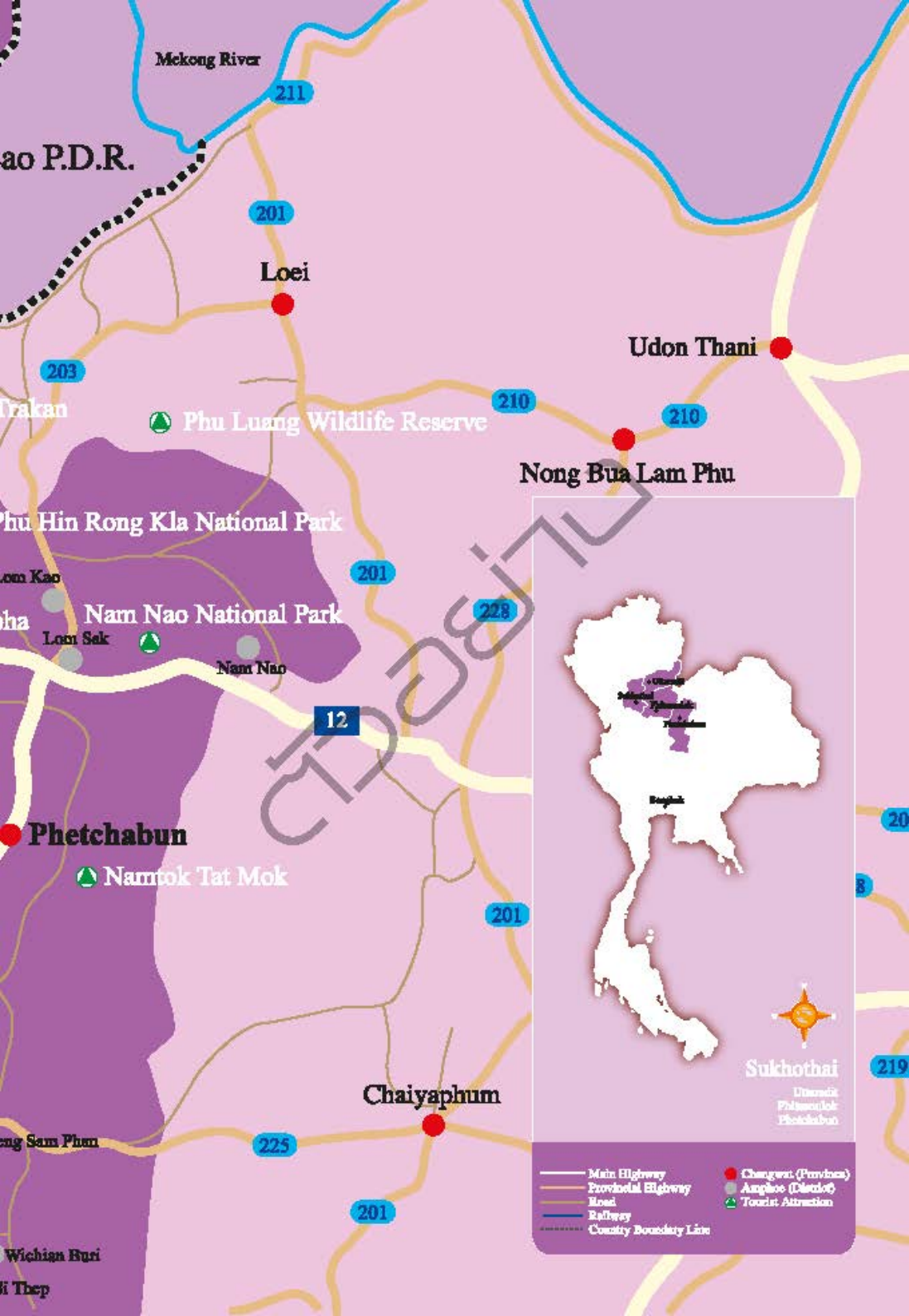
Nong Phai

11

Nakhon Sawan

225

21



Mekong River

211

ao P.D.R.

201

Loei

Udon Thani

203

Trakan

Phu Luang Wildlife Reserve

210

210

Nong Bua Lam Phu

Phu Hin Rong Kla National Park

Lom Kao

201

Nam Nao National Park

228

Lom Sak

Lom Sak

Nam Nao

12

Phetchabun

Namtok Tat Mok

201

ong Sam Phan

225

Chaiyaphum

201

Wichian Buri

ki Thep

20

8

219

- Main Highway
- Provincial Highway
- Road
- Railway
- Country Boundary Line
- Changwat (Province)
- Amploek (District)
- Tourist Attraction

Sukhothai
Districts:
Phitsanulok
Phetchabun



Phra Achana, Wat Si Chum

SUKHOTHAI

Sukhothai is located on the lower edge of the northern region, with the provincial capital situated some 450 kms. north of Bangkok and some 350 kms. south of Chiang Mai. The province covers an area of 6,596 sq. kms. and is above all noted as the centre of the legendary Kingdom of Sukhothai, with major historical remains at Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai. Its main natural attraction is Ramkhamhaeng National Park, which is also known as 'Khao Luang'. The provincial capital, sometimes called New Sukhothai, is a small town lying on the Yom River whose main business is serving tourists who visit the nearby Sukhothai Historical Park.



Sangkhalok Museum

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Phra Mae Ya Shrine

Situated in front of the City Hall, the Shrine houses the Phra Mae Ya figure, in ancient queen's dress, said to have been made by King Ramkhamhaeng as a dedication to his late mother Nang Sueang.

Sangkhalok Museum

The Museum displays Sangkhalok (Sawankhalok) ceramics, which are ceramics produced in old Sukhothai Kingdom and ceramics produced in the old Lanna Kingdom. Located 1 km. from town on the Phitsanulok Road; open everyday between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, please call +66 5561 4333.

Fish Museum

Located in Rama IV Park on Phitsanulok Road, the Museum displays a variety of freshwater fish mentioned in Thai literature. Open everyday between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. except Tuesdays, free admission.

Ramkhamhaeng National Park (Khao Luang)

Covering the area of Amphoe Ban Dan Lan Hoi, Amphoe Khiri Mat, and Amphoe Mueang of Sukhothai Province, this park is a natural park with historical significance. Amongst the abundance of natural beauty, Ramkhamhaeng National Park also features several ancient structures. The most prominent features of this park are Namtok Sai Rung and Khao Luang mountain range. Pha Na Rai, which is one of the peaks of Khao Luang, offers the most magnificent view of the sunrise and sunset. For more information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. +66 2561 0777 or visit portal.dnp.go.th.

Old Sukhothai

Founded in the 13th century, Sukhothai was the first truly independent Thai kingdom, and it enjoyed a golden age during the reign of the great King Ramkhamhaeng. Abandoned and overgrown for many centuries, the superb

temples and monuments of this splendid city have been restored in Sukhothai Historical Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A must-see for all travellers, Sukhothai is one of the most important historical sites in Southeast Asia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sukhothai, which means “Dawn of Happiness”, was the first kingdom of the Thais, formed after Thai forces drove the Khmers out of the city, a major frontier post of the Khmer Empire, and established it as their capital in 1238. The first king’s son, Ramkhamhaeng, ascended the throne in 1278 and reigned for forty years. A fine warrior, King Ramkhamhaeng the Great made Sukhothai a powerful and extensive kingdom which included many parts of what are today neighbouring countries. King Ramkhamhaeng the Great opened direct political relations with China and made two trips there, from which he brought back Chinese artisans who taught the pottery techniques to the Thais, resulting in the famous Sangkhalok ceramics. A major achievement of his reign was the revision of various forms of the Khmer alphabet into a system suitable for the writing of Thai. The alphabet that the king invented in 1283 is essentially the same that is used today.

The kingdom of Sukhothai during the reign of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great is noted for prosperity and happiness, as recorded in a stone inscription well-known to Thais. “This realm of Sukhothai is good. In the water there are fish; in the fields there is rice. The ruler does not levy a tax on the people who travel along the road together, leading their oxen on the way to trade and riding their horses on the way to sell. Whoever wants to

trade in elephants, so trades. Whoever wants to trade in horses, so trades. Whoever wants to trade in silver and gold, so trades.”

King Ramkhamhaeng the Great also promoted religion and culture, and through his efforts, Buddhism progressed among the people. Inspirational faith gave birth to classic forms of Thai religious art. Images of the Buddha sculpted during the Sukhothai era are cultural treasures which impart a feeling of peace and serenity. Eight kings ruled Sukhothai, whose gradual decline occurred during the last two reigns. The end of the first Thai kingdom came in 1365 when it was reduced to a vassal state by Ayutthaya, a young and rising Thai power to the south, which became the capital for four centuries, succeeded by Bangkok.

Sukhothai Historical Park

The Park is located 12 kms. from Sukhothai town on the Tak Highway; open daily between 6.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m. Bicycles can be rented for touring the ruins. The Park’s Tourist Service Centre Tel. +66 5569 7310 provides information and displays models of historical buildings and structures of the old Sukhothai. Lying over an extensive area, ruins of the royal palaces, Buddhist temples, city gates, walls, moats, dams, ditches, ponds, canals and the water dyke control system are preserved, with major restoration by the Fine Arts Department in cooperation with UNESCO.

Inside The City Walls

The core city was surrounded by walls and earthen ramparts; this forms the centre of the historical park. It was rectangular, measuring 1,300 m. by 1,800 m., with four gates. A stone inscription reveals that King Ramkhamhaeng the Great set up a bell at one of the gates. If his



Wat Mahathat

subjects needed help, they could ring the bell and the king would come out to settle disputes and dispense justice. Within the walls are the remains of 35 structures. The most notable are described as follows:

Royal Palace and Wat Mahathat

The Royal Palace lies in the centre of the city, surrounded by a moat and contains two main compounds – the royal residence and the royal sanctuary. Here, the famous

stone inscription of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great was found by King Mongkut (Rama IV) in the 19th century together with part of the stone throne called Manangkhasila-at. King Ramkhamhaeng the Great set up a throne in the midst of a sugar-palm grove where, at his request, a monk preached on Buddhist holy days and the king conducted the affairs of state on other days. This throne was later installed in Bangkok's Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

Lying west of the Royal Palace compound is Wat Mahathat, the royal sanctuary, which is Sukhothai's largest temple with a customary main chedi in a lotus-bud shape and ruined wihan (image hall). At the base of the chedi are Buddhist disciples sitting in adoration, and on the pedestal are sitting Buddha images. In front of this reliquary is a large hall formerly containing a remarkable sitting bronze Buddha image of the Sukhothai style, which was cast and installed by King Lithai of Sukhothai in 1362. In the late 18th century, the image was moved to the Wihan of Wat Suthat in Bangkok under the command of King Rama I and has since been named Phra Si Sakaya Muni. In front of the large hall is another smaller one which was probably built during the Ayutthaya period. Its main Buddha image (8 m. high) was installed inside a separate building. In front of the southern image, a sculpture called Khom Dam Din was found, now kept in the Mae Ya Shrine near the Sukhothai City Hall. To the south stands a pedestal of a large stepped chedi adorned with beautiful mural paintings, whose lowest platform is adorned with beautiful stucco figures of demons, elephants, and lions with angels riding on their backs.



King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Monument

King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Monument

Situated to the north of Wat Mahathat, the bronze statue of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great sits on a throne with a bas-relief at the base depicting the king's life.

Wat Si Sawai

Situated amid magnificent scenery southwest of Wat Mahathat is Wat Si Sawai, with three prangs surrounded by a laterite wall. Inside



Wat Mahathat

the wall, the wihan in the west, built of laterite, is separated from the main prang (Khmer-style pagoda) which was constructed in the Lop Buri or Hindu-style. A trace of the Hindu sculpture 'Sayomphu' was found here, indicating that this was originally a Hindu shrine, later converted into a Buddhist temple.

Wat Traphang Ngoen

Situated to the west of Wat Mahathat is Wat Traphang Ngoen with its square pedestal,



Wat Chana Songkhram

main sanctuary and stucco standing Buddha image measuring four niches. There is a wihan to the front, and to the east of the pond is an island with an ubosot (assembly hall). This edifice has crumbled and only its pedestal and laterite columns remain. Many monuments and magnificent scenery are visible from this location.

Wat Sa Si

Located to the northwest of Wat Mahathat, Wat Sa Si is a historical ancient site that is situated on an island in the middle of the pond called Traphang Trakuan. The most prominent feature of this temple is the Lankan-style bell-shaped chedi. Wat Sa Si regarded as one of the most scenic sites in Sukhothai.

Wat Chana Songkhram

Situated to the north of Wat Mahathat is Wat Chana Songkhram. Its main sanctuary is

a round Singhalese-style chedi. In front of the chedi is the base of a wihan and behind the chedi stands an ubosot. Bases of twelve small chedi are also visible. Near Charot Withithong Road is a strange chedi with three bases, one on top of the other.

San Ta Pha Daeng or Deity Shrine

Situated to the north of Wat Mahathat is San Ta Pha Daeng. This monument consists of a single laterite prang with a staircase in the front. Sandstone Hindu divine objects (Lop Buri-style) were found here.

Wat Mai

Situated to the north of Wat Mahathat is Wat Mai. The main sanctuary is an Ayutthaya-style brick wihan with its columns made of laterite. A bronze image of Buddha under a Naga (a Lop Buri-style image) was found here and is now preserved in the Ramkhamhaeng National Museum.



Wat Phra Phai Luang

Wat Traphang Thong

Situated to the east of Wat Mahathat is Wat Traphang Thong, which is located on an island in the middle of the large pond. There is a ruined laterite Singhalese-style chedi and a new mondop containing the Lord Buddha's Footprint slab that was created by King Lithai in 1390. An annual fair to worship this sacred footprint takes place during the Loi Krathong Festival.

Ramkhamhaeng National Museum

The museum offers an outstanding introduction to the arts and crafts of Sukhothai and its vassal cities, displaying objects unearthed or collected from Sukhothai and nearby provinces. Inside the spacious building are Khmer statues, Sukhothai-style Buddha statues, Sawankhalok ceramics and other archaeological artefacts gathered from the area.

Open everyday between 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
For more information, call +66 5569 7026.

Outside The City walls

The Sites to the North

Wat Phra Phai Luang

This temple lies 500 m. north of San Luang Gate (northern gate). This sanctuary, formerly a Khmer-Hindu Shrine but later converted into a Buddhist temple, is surrounded by a moat. It is second in importance to Wat Mahathat. Inside, there are three prangs like Wat Si Sawai, but the southern and the central ones have crumbled leaving only the northern one that shows the beautiful decoration of stucco figures. In front of these prangs are a wihan and a crumbled chedi; the latter has a pedestal decorated with stucco of sitting Buddha images. A mondop



Sukhothai Historical Park



Printed in Thailand by Promotional Material Production Division,
Marketing Services Department,
Tourism Authority of Thailand for free distribution.
www.tourismthailand.org E/MAR 2020
The contents of this publication are subject to change without notice.



www.tourismthailand.org