

## Chai Nat





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Wat Mahathat

Chai Nat

Chai Nat literally means a roaring victory. Originally this ancient town was located on the right bank of the Chao Phraya River at the mouth of Khlong Phraek Si Racha south of the old waterway. Established after the town of Phanthumwadi (Suphan Buri province), Chai Nat was Sukhothai's most important southern outpost built during the reign of King Phaya Loethai of Sukhothai during 1317-1336. This ancient community was called Mueang Phraek or Mueang San. When the Sukhothai Kingdom declined, Phraek became Ayutthaya's northern outpost town. Later, a new community was established not far from Phraek. Its ruler was Chao Sam Phraya, who later ruled Ayutthaya and became King Borom Rachathirarat II. This new community was a large town called Chai Nat. In the reign of King Rama V, the main settlement of the province in Laem Yang was moved to the left bank of the Chao Phraya River. Mueang San slowly declined because most of the people migrated to Chai Nat. The old town later became a district of Chai Nat. Chai Nat was an important military base to confront with the Burmese armies. As all these confrontations were successful, the city gained the name Chai Nat, which means a roaring victory.

Apart from its long history, Chai Nat is at present famous for handicraft, basketry, sculpture, weaving, as well as, the Benjarong pentachrome ceramics made in the finest and most sophisticated craftsmanship. These products also come with modern styles and are value for money. All of these famous products are made and sold domestically and internationally by different groups of locals.

Chai Nat occupies an area of 2,469.74 square kilometres and is administratively divided into 8 districts (Amphoe); namely, Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat, Amphoe Hankha, Amphoe Manorom, Amphoe Sankhaburi, Amphoe Sapphaya, Amphoe Wat Sing, Amphoe Nong Mamong, and Amphoe Noen Kham.

## Boundary

North	borders with Uthai Thani and Nakhon Sawan
South	borders with Sing Buri and Suphan Buri
East	borders with Nakhon Sawan and Sing Buri
West	borders with Uthai Thani and Suphan Buri

## How To Get There

**By Car:** Chai Nat is located some 194 kilometres from Bangkok. To get there, take Highway No.1 and at Km.50, change to Highway No.32 passing through Ang Thong and Sing Buri. Then, at Km.183, take a left turn onto Highway No.1. Proceed another 10 kilometres.

**By Bus:** Take the hourly air-conditioned bus (5.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m.) from the Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit 2) on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road to Chai Nat. It takes about two and a half hours to get there. For further information, contact the Chai Nat Tour Company Limited (Bangkok's office Tel. 0 2936 3608, and Chai Nat's office Tel. 0 5641 2264) or contact the Transport Company Limited, Tel. 0 2576 5599, 0 2936 2852-66 or visit [www.transport.co.th](http://www.transport.co.th).





Chai Nat Bird Park

### **Distances from Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat to other Districts**

Amphoe Manorom	15 kilometres.
Amphoe Sapphaya	15 kilometres.
Amphoe Sankhaburi	18 kilometres.
Amphoe Wat Sing	26 kilometres.
Amphoe Hankha	37 kilometres.
Amphoe Noen Kham	48 kilometres.
Amphoe Nong Mamong	50 kilometres.

### **Attractions**

#### **Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat Chai Nat Bird Park (สวนนกชัยนาท)**

Built in 1983, Chai Nat Bird Park is an important tourist attraction located near Khao Phlong, Mu 4, Tambon Khao Tha Phra, along Phahon Yothin Road (Highway No.1), which is 4 kilometres before arriving in Chai Nat. Occupying an area of 260 rai, this sanctuary has the biggest aviary in Asia (26 rai) allowing various bird species to live in their natural habitat. There are also another 63 cages in medium and small

sizes, man-made waterfall, garden, snake park, rabbit park, wild animal park (Eld's Deer, Mountain Goat, Chital Deer, and Hog Deer), a pavilion in the middle of a pond, and souvenir shops. The park also has an aquarium which has a collection of 63 species of freshwater fish found in the Chao Phraya River; namely, Siamese Tiger Fish, Blanc's Striped Featherback, Sumatran Tiger Barb, and Siamese Rock Catfish. The aquarium and the Chai Nat Bird Park open daily from 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. and 8.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m., respectively. Admission fees for adults and children are 100 and 50 Baht, respectively. For further information, Tel. 05647 6617, 0 5647 6624.

**To get there:** From Bangkok, travel along Highway No.32 to the Asian Highway Intersection on the Chai Nat-Takhli route. Turn left to use Highway No.1. Proceed another 7 kilometres and the Chai Nat Bird Park is on the right hand side.

### **Wat Thammamun Worawihan**

(วัดธรรมามูลวรวิหาร)

As the main temple of Chai Nat since Ayutthaya period, Wat Thammamun Worawihan is located on the Thammamun hill slope, on the bank of the Chao Phraya River, Tambon Thammamun, which is about 8 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat. It is situated along Highway No.1 at Km.288-289 and is entered via Thunmanukun School. The temple enshrines Luangpho Thammachak, a standing Buddha image in a posture of persuading relatives not to quarrel, with a lotus-shaped base. The Buddha image is a mixture of the late Chiang Saen period to early Sukhothai and Ayutthaya styles. At the centre of Luangpho Thammachak's right palm features



*Luangpho Thammachak, (Wat Thammamun Worawihan)*

Dharmachakra or Wheel of Doctrine. It is believed that the sculptor at that time intended to create a Buddha image with lak-khana Mahapurisa (The 32 marks of the Great Man, according to the Indian belief, such as wheel marks on the soles, netlike lines on the palms and soles, conch-like ankles, a chin like a lion's, etc). Another attraction is the boundary marker, which is made from red sandstone in the Ayutthayan style, around the ordination hall or Phra Ubosot. Two fairs to worship the image are held twice a year during the 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> day of the waxing moon of the sixth lunar month and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> day of the waning moon of the eleventh lunar month.





Wat Phra Borommathat Worawihan

### Wat Phra Borommathat Worawihan

(วัดพระบรมธาตุวรวิหาร)

Located at Ban Thai Mueang, Tambon Chai Nat, Wat Phra Borommathat Worawihan is a 2nd-class royal temple. It has been a national treasure since the early Ayutthaya period. There is an old pagoda in the U Thong style housing Lord Buddha's relics highly worshipped by people from Chai Nat and other neighbouring provinces. The annual fair to worship the Lord Buddha's relics are held during the full moon day of the sixth lunar month.

**To get there:** Located 4 kilometres from the provincial town of Chai Nat, it is accessible from Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat by Highway No.340 and switch to Highway No.3183 at the Intersection. Proceed another 1 kilometre.

It is also accessible by taking the Bangkok-Wat Sing bus.

### Chai Nat Muni National Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑสถานแห่งชาติ ชัยนาทมุนี)

Located within the temple grounds of Wat Phra Borommathat Worawihan, this archaeological museum is a 2-storey adapted Thai-style building. Downstairs displays celadon Buddha images, tools, and ornaments from the Dvaravati to Rattanakosin period. Most of these displayed artefacts were given by Venerable Phra Chai Nat Muni (Nuam) Suthat-to, former Ecclesiastical Provincial Governor of Chai Nat, who was the collector and had handed them over to the Fine Arts Department. While upstairs displays various Buddhist





*Wat Pak Khlong Makham Thao or Wat Luangpu Suk*

votive tablets from the Dvaravati to Rattanakosin period. The museum service hours are Wednesday-Sunday from 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Closed on Monday, Tuesday and national holidays. The admission fee is 50 Baht. More details are available at Tel. 0 5641 1467.

**To get there:** Proceed along the same route as Wat Phra Borommathat Worawihan.

### **Amphoe Wat Sing** **Wat Pak Khlong Makham Thao or** **Wat Luangpu Suk** (วัดปากคลองมะขามเฒ่า หรือ

วัดหลวงปู่ศุข)

Located at Mu 1, Tambon Makham Thao, this temple is at the mouth of the Makham Thao (Tha Chin River) waterway, where it branches off the Chao Phraya River. Legend has it that

there was an old tamarind (or Makham Thao tree in Thai) in front of the temple on the bank of the Chao Phraya River. That was how Wat Pak Khlong Makham Thao got its name. This shady temple offers pleasant scenery and is famous for Buddha amulets.

The highly revered senior Buddhist monk Luangpu Suk of this temple issued Buddha amulets known as the Luangpu Suk of Wat Makham Thao amulets. They are purchased and regarded as sacred objects by devotees. Other attractions are Luangpu Suk's traditional Thai style residence, as well as, the mural paintings depicting the story of the Lord Buddha made by HRH the Prince of Chumphon and his entourage. The lettering of the captions of the paintings is in ancient Khmer script.

The wall on the southern end sees paintings which stated that they were written in the year 1890.

**To get there:** It is located some 25 kilometres from the provincial town of Chai Nat. Proceed via the Amphoe Wat Sing route, through Highway No.3183 at Km.36-37.

### **Wasan Crocodile Farm** (ฟาร์มจระเข้วันสันต์)

It is located at No.121, Mu 3, Tambon Makham Thao. From Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat, proceed along the Chai Nat-Wat Sing route (Highway No.3183) at Km.24 and the crocodile farm is on the right hand side. There are different kinds of animals such as crocodiles, tigers, rays, and various bird species. It is free of charge. More details are available at Tel. 0 5646 1104.

### **Amphoe Sapphaya**

#### **Wat Intharam** (วัดอินทาราม (ตลิ่ง))

Located on the left bank of the Chao Phraya River, Tambon Taluk, this century-old temple features outstanding attractions like the twin belfries, century-old Chinese pavilion, and an 8x9-metre Thai-architectural scripture hall built in the middle of a pond. This hall has magnificent coloured glass-inlaid decorations on the wooden wall, eaves, hornlike finials on the roof ridge, and gables. The scripture hall houses a collection of the Tipitaka scriptures written in ancient Khmer script inscribed on palm leaves.

**To get there:** It is located some 12 kilometres from the provincial town of Chai Nat. Proceed along Highway No.311, turn left and keep driving parallel with Khlong Chon Prathan at Km.48.

### **Chao Phraya Dam** (เขื่อนเจ้าพระยา)

The nation's first large dam is located at the bend of the Bang Krabian River, Mu 3, Tambon



Wat Intharam

Bang Luang. With a total length of 237.5 metres and a height of 16.5 metres, this reinforced concrete dam is built across flowing water and consists of 16 spillways. There is a 14-metres-wide watergate, where small or big marine craft can pass through. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit presided over the opening ceremony on 7 February 1957. Chao Phraya Dam is beautiful and during January-February, the reservoir over the dam site is the habitat to thousands of waterfowl. Water is released from the Northern region to the Central lower basin and the Gulf of Thailand for the purposes of irrigation, agriculture, conservation of marine animals, and generating hydroelectric power for the province.



*Chao Phraya Dam*

Chao Phraya Dam provides accommodation of 19 rooms at a rate of 600 Baht. More details are available at Tel. 0 5640 5012-6 ext. 210.

**To get there:** From Amphoe Mueang Chai Nat, travel along Highway No.304. Turn left for Amphoe Sapphaya and proceed another 6 kilometres. It is also accessible via the Bangkok -Amphoe Wat Sing bus, which passes the Chao Phraya Dam, bus No.1061 (Chai Nat-Pho Nang Tam), and bus No.110 (Sing Buri-Chai Nat).

### **Wat Karuna (วัดกรุณา)**

Located near the Chao Phraya Dam, just opposite the accommodation, this temple houses Chai Nat's largest sandstone Buddha image named Phra Phutthamaha Sila or Luangpho Hin Yai , which is highly revered by the local people.





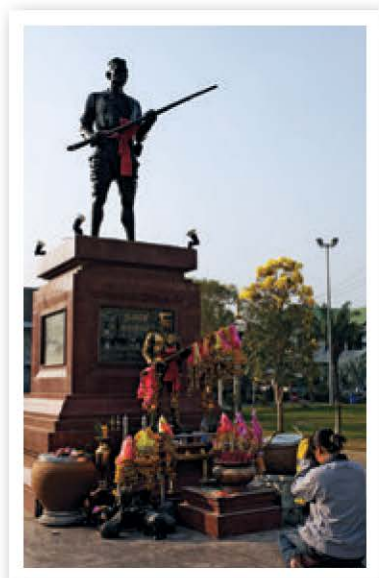
*Wat Phra Mahathat*

### **Amphoe Sankhaburi** **Khun San Statue** (อนุสาวรีย์ขุนสรศักดิ์)

Standing in front of the Sankhaburi District Office, Khun San or Hero of the Noi River is one of the Bang Rachan folk leaders who fought courageously 7 times against the Burmese. He was the first volunteer from Amphoe Sankhaburi dating back 223 years ago. The statue is 2.5 metres high. Since the opening, as well as, the celebration ceremonies were held on 19 January 1983, Amphoe Sankhaburi's authority has considered it the annual Khun San Statue's worshipping day.

### **Wat Phra Mahathat** (วัดพระมหาธาตุ)

It is located at Mu 8, Tambon Phraek Si Racha. Previously called Wat Phrathat or Wat Hua Mueang, Wat Phra Mahathat is the royal temple



*Khun San Statue*



Wat Mahathat

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