

Chiang Mai

Example





HOW TO GET THERE	5
ATTRACTIONS	6
<i>Amphoe Mueang Chiang Mai</i>	6
<i>Western Route (Highway No. 1004)</i>	9
<i>Southwestern Route (Highway No. 108)</i>	14
<i>Northern Route (Highway No. 107, Chiang Mai-Fang)</i>	25
<i>Mae Rim-Samoeng Route (Highway No. 1096 off Highway No. 107)</i>	34
<i>Northeastern Route (Highway No. 1001, Chiang Mai-Phrao)</i>	36
<i>Eastern Route</i>	37
<i>Chiang Mai-Doi Saket Route, Highway No. 118</i>	37
<i>Chiang Mai-San Kamphaeng Route, Highway No. 1006</i>	39
<i>Southern Route</i>	40
INTERESTING ACTIVITIES	41
<i>Elephant Show</i>	41
<i>Cruising along the Ping River</i>	42
<i>Khan Tok Dinner</i>	42
<i>Bamboo Rafting</i>	43
<i>Trekking</i>	43
<i>Artificial Rock Climbling</i>	43
<i>Sightseeing from the air</i>	44
<i>Tree Top Adventure</i>	44
<i>Homstay</i>	44
EVENT&FESTIVALS	44
LOCAL PRODUCTS	47
HANDICRAFT VILLAGES	48
SOUVENIR SHOPS	49
EXAMPLE OF TOUR PROGRAMMES	50
FACILITIES IN CHIANG MAI	51
<i>Accommodations</i>	51
<i>Spa</i>	65
<i>Golf</i>	65
<i>Restaurants</i>	66
USEFUL CALLS	68



Wat Phai Rong Wu

Chiang Mai

Popularly known as the Rose of the North, Chiang Mai is blessed with stunning natural beauty and unique indigenous cultural identity. Found by King Mengrai the Great as the capital of the Lanna Thai kingdom by merging the various city-states in the region in 1296. Today Chiang Mai is the economic, communications, cultural and tourism centre of Northern Thailand. About 700 kilometres from Bangkok, Chiang Mai is situated on the Mae Ping River basin some 310 metres above sea level. Surrounded by high mountain ranges, it covers an area of approximately 20,107 square kilometres. The terrain is mainly jungles and mountains, parts of which are within national parks which are still fertile and verdant with plentiful flora and fauna. There are many sites and locations where tourists prefer to visit to study the lifestyle of the tribal people who live on high hills.

HOW TO GET THERE

Car

a) From Bangkok drive on Highway No. 1 (Phahonyothin) to Highway No. 32 passing the provinces of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Ang Thong and Nakhon Sawan, then take Highway No. 117 to Phitsanulok and drive on to Highway No. 11 to Lampang, Lamphun and Chiang Mai. The route is 695 kilometres.

b) From Bangkok drive to Nakhon Sawan and then take Highway No. 1 passing Kamphaeng Phet, Tak, Lampang, and Chiang Mai. This route is 696 kilometres.

Bus

The 10-hour journey from Bangkok can be made on air-conditioned buses start from the Northern Bus Terminal, contact Tel. 1490, 0 2936 2852-66, 0 2936 3670 or www.transport.co.th for more information. Chiang Mai Arcade

Bus Station, Tel. 0 5324 1449, 0 5324 2664

The private coaches to Chiang Mai served daily such as Tanchit Tour Tel. 0 2936 3210-4, Cherdchai Tour Tel. 0 2936 0043 www.cherdchaitour.com, Nakhon Chai Air Tel. 1624, 0 2939 4999 ext. 1125, 1126 www.nca.co.th, Wiriya Tour Tel. 0 2936 2827, 0 5324 7007, New Wiriya Tour Tel. 0 2936 2205, Sombut Tour Tel. 0 2792 1444 www.sombattour.com, Rungprasert Tour Tel. 0 2936-3638 0 2941 8833, Siam First Tour Tel. 0 2954 3601 www.siamfirst.co.th, Indra Tour Tel. 0 2656 3451

There are services from Chiang Mai's Chang Phueak Bus Terminal to various districts in Chiang Mai. Buses ply along the northern route (Highway No. 107) passing through Mae Rim, Mae Taeng, Chiang Dao, Chaiprakan, Fang and Mae Ai. Some buses continue to Tha Ton. Local city buses ply between Chiang Mai and Lamphun on Highway No. 106. Chang Phueak Bus Station Tel. 0 5321 1586

Rail

The State Railways of Thailand operates daily services from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong). Trains leave for Chiang Mai daily from 8.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m. For more information, contact Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4444 www.railway.co.th, Chiang Mai Railway Station Tel. 0 5324 2094, 0 5324 5363-4

Air

The Bangkok-Chiang Mai daily flights are operated by:

-Thai Airways International Tel. 1566, 0 2628 2000, 0 2288 7000 www.thaiairways.com

-Thai Smile Airways Tel. 0 2308 8383 www.thaismileairways.net

-Bangkok Airways Tel. 1771, 0 2265 5678, 0 2265 5555 www.bangkokair.com

-Nok Air Tel. 1318, 02251 1812 www.nokair.co.th

-Air Asia Tel. 0 2515 9999 www.airasia.com
Chiang Mai Airport Tel. 0 5327 0222-3, 0 5392
2100

A Bangkok-Chiang Mai charter flight route
operated by Minor Aviation Limited Tel. 0 2792
9400 www.mjets.com

Getting Around

For relative short distance you can take a tricycle (Sam Lor). Short rides within the city cost between 30-50 Baht while longer rides will cost more.

Tuk-Tuks: (three-wheeled motorised taxis) are also popular for short and quick journeys. Fares must be bargained in advance.

Taxi Service: The metered fare is standardized, with the starting rate from 35 Baht and price is go up by distance and timing.

The most common means of transport is a "See Lor" (literally "four wheel") or "Song Theao". They all are red-coloured and look like pick-up trucks but with a roof over the back. They pick up as many passengers as they can and drop them off as the drivers reach their destinations. To go by "See Lor", simply tell the driver your destination. Fares range from 20-30 Baht according to the distance.

Distances from town to neighbouring districts

Mae Rim	8 kilometres
Saraphi	10 kilometres
San Sai	12 kilometres
San Kamphaeng	13 kilometres
Hang Dong	15 kilometres
Doi Saket	18 kilometres
San Pa Tong	22 kilometres
Mae On	29 kilometres
Doi Lo	34 kilometres

Mae Wang	35 kilometres
Mae Taeng	40 kilometres
Samoeng	54 kilometres
Chom Thong	58 kilometres
Chiang Dao	68 kilometres
Hot	88 kilometres
Phrao	103 kilometres
Doi Tao	121 kilometres
Chai Prakan	131 kilometres
Wiang Haeng	150 kilometres
Fang	154 kilometres
Mae Chaem	156 kilometres
Kalayaniwattana	167 kilometres
Mae Ai	174 kilometres
Omkoi	179 kilometres

Distances from Chiang Mai to other provinces

Lamphun	21 kilometres
Lampang	92 kilometres
Chiang Rai	182 kilometres
Phayao	222 kilometres
Mae Hong Son	349 kilometres

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Chiang Mai

Wat Ket Community (ชุมชนวัดเกต)

is an old community situated on the eastside of the Ping River. The community was a combination of many nationalities including Chinese, Westerners, and local people as apparent from the architectural patterns which have remained until now. A centre of the collection of historical evidence of the community is at Wat Ket Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์วัดเกต), located in Wat Ketukaram, where it exhibits the temple's original treasures; such as, Cho Fa, and Bai Raka which are crafted wood decorations from its original ordination hall, crockery, and other containers.

Khum Chao Burirat (Maha In)

(คุ้มเจ้าบุรีรัตน์ มหาอินทร์)

Phra Pok Klao Road across Ratthadamnoen Road, Tambon Si Phum. Chao Burirat is an official title. This royal residence was built approximately during 1889-1893. Nowadays, it belongs to the families of Kitibut and Thipmonthon, and was donated to Chiang Mai University to be established as a Lanna architectural centre under the management of the Faculty of Architecture with the purposes of data collection, study, and research for further appropriate conservation. Open Monday-Friday from 9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Contact Tel. 0 5327 7855

Chiang Mai City Arts and Cultural Center

(หอศิลปวัฒนธรรมเมืองเชียงใหม่)

Located on Prapoklao Road, Chiang Mai City Arts and Cultural Center stands on the location of the former royal hall. Built in 1924 with elegant architectural design, the building was first used as the central administrative offices of Monthon Phayap, later as the Provincial Hall of Chiang Mai until the municipality renovated it for the cultural center in 1997. The restoration of the center has earned the municipality the award from the Royal Society of Siamese Architects in 1999. The center is created to promote the understanding of Chiang Mai's roots, a sense of pride in local identity, and to preserve the beauty of local culture. The center

Example



Chiang Mai City Arts and Cultural Center



has been divided into 2 sections, front side and rare section. The front side is all for permanent exhibit showing the development of the region from the pre-history to its rise and decline as an independent capital until the present time through variety of media and presentation. And the rare side is the enclosed open-air courtyard reserved for cultural activities, temporary exhibition, a souvenir shop, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall for Lanna arts and an archive. It is open from Tuesday-Sunday, 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Contact Tel. 0 5321 7793, 0 5321 9833 www.cmody.com

Chiang Mai National Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติ เชียงใหม่)

is located on the Chiang Mai-Lampang Super Highway near Wat Chet Yot. The distinctive building was built in modern Lanna Thai architecture and features northern arts and culture.

The area is peaceful and refreshing. It is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and the national holidays. Admission fee is 100 Baht. Contact Tel. 0 5322 1308

Art in Paradise Chiang Mai

(พิพิธภัณฑ์ภาพวาดสามมิติ)

Located on Chang Khlan Road, this 3D art museum features award-winning illusion paintings of Korean artists. Opens daily from 9.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. The entrance fee is 300 and 200 Baht for adults and children, Contact Tel. 0 5327 4100, 0 5327 4291

Insect and Natural's Wonders Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑ์แมลง และสิ่งมหัศจรรย์ธรรมชาติ)

Located at 72 Nimmanhemini, Soi 12 (Sirimangklalathan Soi 3), Huai Kaeo, Mueang Chiang Mai. It has fascinating collection of domestic



Insect and Natural's Wonders Museum

and foreign insects including animal fossils. Opens daily from 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Contact Tel. 0 5321 1891, Fax 0 5341 0916

Chiangmai Ancient Car Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑ์รถโบราณ)

A collection of rare 50 up to a century year-old cars, some of which were owned by famous Thai celebrities. It is located at No. 12, Mu 3, Ban Pa Chi, and opens daily from 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. The entrance fee is 200 Baht, Contact Tel. 0 5311 6000, 08 1952 3483, Fax 0 5311 6182 www.cmcarmuseum.com

Roitawarabarn Baandhawalai *(ร้อยทวารบาล บ้านเทวาลัย)*

was built by art enthusiast Mr. Khem Maruekhaphithak at 79/7 Soi 2, Suthep Road. The prominent landmark includes the biggest hand-carved iron wood three-headed standing Ganesh or Trimukha Ganesha statue (approximately 60 metres in height and weighing 5 tons) that took over a year and a half to complete-the work of the outstanding Sala or artisans from Amphoe San Pa Tong Mr. O-Ros Lamul and 4 of his crew members. In addition, visitors will find a collection of 100 door panels, each carved and painted with colossal figures of Dvarapala guardians, as well as, a giant glass panel engraved with a Garuda clasping Naga figure. Opens daily from 8.00 a.m.-7.00 p.m., Contact Tel. 08 9433 5380

Talat Warorot or Kat Luang *(ตลาดวโรรส หรือกาดหลวง)*

This century-old market, the biggest of its kind in Chiang Mai, was set up on the former cremation ground and cemetery of the old northern rulers. Chao Dararatsami, a royal consort to King Rama V the Great, later relocated the cemetery

to the temple of Wat Suan Dok. The funding to develop the property into a trading venue was contributed by her and Chao Inthawarorot, the ruler of Chiang Mai at the time. Kat Luang is the local dialect for grand market, and Warorot is derived from the ruler's name. Enjoy local delicacies; such as, chilli paste, fried pork rind, pork sausage, fermented pork sausage, pickled garlic, pickled plums, mushrooms, carrots, red cabbage, chayote, pear, persimmon, apple, orange, strawberry, lychee, peach, as well as, temperate flowers like roses, carnation, lily, etc.

Walking Street *(ถนนคนเดินเชียงใหม่)*

is on Wualai Road every Saturday, and the other point starts from Tha Phae Gate through Rat-chadamnoen Road every Sunday from 7.00 p.m. until midnight. There are variety kinds of local products on a reasonable price along both side of the street where Thai and foreign tourists are enjoy walking & shopping without exhaustion.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Western Route (Highway No. 1004)

Chiang Mai Zoo *(สวนสัตว์เชียงใหม่)*

is located next to Huai Kaeo Arboretum. It is a well-managed large zoo, which occupies the lower forested slopes of Doi Suthep Mountain. The zoo contains more than 200 types of Asian and African mammals and birds. The most popular star here is panda, the friendship Chinese ambassador. The zoo provides mono-rail service within the area of 2 kilometres. Additional, the twilight zoo is open 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. The newly aquarium on its area 10 rai, which housed the longest underwater automatic tunnel of Asia with 133 metres, and will accommodate both sea and river fish and animal from various areas; such as the upper mountain ranges of Northern Region, Khong



Chiang Mai Zoo

River Basin, Amazon River Basin, the plain land of mangrove and from the underwater world. It is open everyday from 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Admission fee for adult is 100 Baht, and children fee is 20 Baht. Restaurants and a camping site are available. For more details or advance booking contact Tel. 0 5322 1179, 0 5322 22 83 www.chiangmaizoo.com

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep (วัดพระธาตุดอยสุเทพ)

is the most important and visible landmark, and overlooks the city from its forested mountain backdrop. This temple is 15 kilometres from town, 3,520 feet above sea level, and dates from 1383. The temple is approached on foot by climbing a steep Naga staircase comprising 290 steps. The less energetic may ascend by railcars. The temple's pagoda contains holy Buddha relics, and attracts Buddhist pilgrims



Walking Street



Wat Phra That Doi Suthep

from all over the world throughout the year. The temple compound offers an exhilarating view of Chiang Mai city and surrounding countryside, or take a cable car up to Doi Suthep which operates between 5.30 a.m.-8.00 p.m. Tourists without a car can travel by Song Thaeo mini bus from in front of Chiang Mai University (on Huai Kaeo Road side) operating during 5.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m., Contact Tel. 0 5329 5001-2

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติสุเทพ-ปุย),

the superb landscaped national park covers an area of 262 square kilometres of Amphoe

Mae Rim, Amphoe Hang Dong, and Amphoe Mueang Chiang Mai. The park consists of verdant forests and mountain ranges. Major mountains include Doi Suthep, Doi Buak Ha, and Doi Pui. This is a main source of tributaries and streams in Chiang Mai. Sacred places, religious attractions and historical sites are located in the park complex.

To get there: To the park office, drive from Chiang Mai town for 5 kilometres on the Huai Kaeo-Chiang Mai University-Chiang Mai Zoo route to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep en route to the intersection on the right, the Doi Suthep-Pui National Park road sign will be seen. Contact Tel. 0 5321 0244-6, 0 5329 5117-8

Attractions in the Doi Suthep-Pui National Park

Huai Kaeo Waterfall (น้ำตกห้วยแก้ว) is located 6 kilometres from Chiang Mai town. The 10-metre cascade provides a delightful ambience of scenic views and various plants.

Khru Ba Siwichai Monument (อนุสาวรีย์ครูบาศรีวิชัย) is situated at the foot of Doi Suthep Mountain. The monument honours the devoted Buddhist monk whose followers built the first 10 kilometres road to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep in 1935.

Bhubing Palace (พระตำหนักภูพิงคราชนิเวศน์) is located on the same road, 4 kilometres beyond Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, on Doi Buak Ha. The royal winter palace was built in 1961. The palace is also the royal guesthouse for prominent State visitors from abroad. The lavishly landscaped gardens and grounds are open to the general public everyday from 8.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m. Tickets are sold until 3.30 p.m. The palace is closed when the Royal Family is in residence, January to early March. Contact Tel. 0 5321 9932, 0 5321 9915 www.bhubingpalace.org



Khru Ba Siwichai Monument

Doi Pui Tribal Village (ดอยปู่พวยเผือกเผือก)

is a Hmong tribal village some 3 kilometres on an asphalt road from Bhubing Palace. The village presents the typical lifestyle of the Hmong as well as a scenic view of Doi Inthanon, the highest peak of Thailand. The trip takes only an hour from Chiang Mai town and the village is easily accessible.

Royal Park Ratchapruek (อุทยานหลวงราชพฤกษ์)

After the success of the Royal Flora Ratchapruek, a world-class horticulture expo to celebrate the auspicious occasions of HM King Bhumibol's 60th anniversary of his accession to the throne and his 80th birthday in 2006-2007, Thai Cabinet decided to maintain the condition of the park as the newest travel destination of Chiang Mai.



Royal Park Ratchapruek