

Lampang



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amazing
THAILAND



Horse-drawn Carriage at Ratsada Phiseli Bridge or Saphan Khao

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Songkran Festival at Wat Pratu Pong

Lampang

Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	: District
Ban	: Village
Chedi	: Stupa or Pagada
Khao or Doi or Phu	: Mountain
Khlom	: Canal
Mueang	: Town of City
Namtok	: Waterfall
Tambon	: Sub-district
Tham	: Cave
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple

Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help from a Thai for directions, point to the Thai spellings given after each place name.

Lampang is not second to any other provinces as a source of Lanna Thai civilisation. The people of Lampang possess a simple way of life with customs and traditions having been passed down from ancient times. It is a city of its own uniqueness, which comprises local architecture, temples, horse-drawn carriages, beautiful and pristine natural attractions, a former source of logging using elephants to haul logs; the elephant has become a symbol of the city, and famous kaolin pottery. All these things make Lampang be a destination attractive to travellers.

In the past, Lampang had many names: Si Don Chai, Lampha Kampa Nakhon, Khelang Nakhon, and Kukkuttanakhon (Nakhon Kai-city of rooster). The word 'Lampang' means Mai Pang. Legend has it that Mai Pang was a pole that Lua Ai Kon, a Lua hilltribe, used to carry a cylinder

of honey, coconuts, and bale fruits as offerings to the Lord Buddha who came to visit the area. Then, the top of the pole was planted in the ground and became a Khachao tree (*Holoptelea integrifolia* Planch.), which now can be seen next to the Wihan Luang (great image hall) at Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang. The Khachao tree is different from other trees because its branches turn down toward the earth. This auspicious tree of Lampang is over 2,500 years old. Khelang Nakhon comes from a Pali word existing in legend since the 18th century. The word Nakhon was changed from Lakhon. The name of Khelang Nakhon also appeared on inscription stones and in chronicles of the following periods. In speaking, the word Lakhon was pronounced Lakon and Mueang Lakhon had the same meaning as Wiang Lakon.

Another legend tells that when the Lord Buddha visited this city, God Indra transformed himself into a white rooster and cooed to wake up the people in time to give offerings to the Lord Buddha. Thus, Lampang got the name Kukkutta Nakhon, which means the city of the white rooster. The white rooster is, therefore, a symbol of the city commonly found on road signs, bridges, buildings, or even the famous rooster-branded bowls.

From archaeological evidence, it was found that a community had lived in the area of the city of Lampang for more than 3,000 years. The discovered things include paintings, ancient human skeletons, and pieces of pottery from the Hariphunchai period and shards of San Kamphaeng ceramics. Geographically, Lampang is a city in a wok-shaped valley, encompassed by a high and steep range of mountains. Some part of it emerges as a granite line on the Phi Pan Nam Range to the west. In the past, a severe

move of the Earth's crust caused a giant plain basin and a complex of mountains. Over a long period of time, the basin turned into a large lake. With soil sediment and deposit of animal and plant fossils, it has become a plain being a source of oil and lignite in Amphoe Mae Mo in the middle part of Lampang city.

HOW TO GET THERE

By car From Bangkok, take Highway 1 to Kilometres 52 and turn left to follow Highway 32. Drive past Sing Buri, Chai Nat, to Nakhon Sawan. Then, turn left to follow Highway 1. Go on past Kamphaeng Phet, Tak, and toward Lampang. The total distance is 599 kilometres, taking around 7 hours. From Phitsanulok, take a new road to Phrae's Amphoe Den Chai and head for Lampang.

By bus The Transport Company Limited has daily air-conditioned and non air-conditioned bus services to Lampang. For more information, call Tel. 1490 www.transport.co.th

There are private operators offering bus services between Bangkok and Lampang:

- New Wiriya Tour, Tel. 0 2936 2205, 0 5422 7106
- Sombat Tour, Tel. 0 2792 1456, 0 5432 5624 www.sombattour.com
- Phon Phiriya Tour, Tel. 0 2936 2939, 0 2936 3554, 0 5421 8199

By train The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has daily express, rapid, and ordinary train services between Bangkok and Lampang. For more information, call Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4444, the Nakhon Lampang Railway Station at Tel. 0 5421 7024, 0 5431 8648 www.railway.co.th

By Air There are many direct flights from Bangkok to Lampang every day by;

- Nok Air Tel. 1318 www.nokair.com
- Bangkok Airways Tel. 1771, 0 2265 5678 www.bangkokair.com

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Lampang to Other Districts

Ko Kha	13	kilometres
Hang Chat	18	kilometres
Mae Tha	26	kilometres
Soem Ngam	40	kilometres
Mae Mo	45	kilometres
Chae Hom	52	kilometres
Sop Prap	59	kilometres
Mueang Pan	69	kilometres
Ngao	83	kilometres
Thoen	96	kilometres
Wang Nuea	107	kilometres
Mae Phrik	125	kilometres

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Lampang City Pillar Shrine (ศาลหลักเมือง)

is located in front of the City Hall to the southwest. There are three city pillars made of teakwood. It was surmised that they were built more than 100 years ago; the first pillar in around 1857, the second in 1873, and the third in 1886. In 1897, the construction of the City Hall was completed and the city pillars were moved to the present location. Then, a mondop (spired square building) was built in 1968 to house the three city pillars.

Phra Phuttha Nirarokhantarai Chaiyawat Chaturathit (พระพุทธรูปนารอค์นครไชยวัฒน์จตุรทิศ)

is enshrined in the Thai-style mondop with four porches, located in front of the City Hall. The Buddha image of blackened alloy is in the posture of meditation and commonly called