

Nakhon Sawan

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Khao Nbo-Khao Kaeo

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Sawan Park

Nakhon Sawan

Nakhon Sawan has existed since before the Sukhothai era. The name of this city appears in Sukhothai's stone inscription and it was called "Phra Bang city" which was an important frontier city for the wars. It later changed to Chon Tawan city and finally to Nakhon Sawan, but normally it was called "Pak Nam Pho city". Historically, there is some archaeological evidence that indicated that Nakhon Sawan used to be an agricultural city since the beginning of the historical era, as a center of transportation and a location for Chinese traders.

Nakhon Sawan is located between the Central and Northern regions. The province, therefore, serves as a 'gateway to the Northern region,' as well as an important transportation center of the lower Northern region. It is also a place where four main rivers; namely Ping, Wang, Yom, and Nan, converge. The convergence has become an origin of the country's great river, the Chao Phraya River. Furthermore, Thailand's largest freshwater lake or Bueng Boraphet is located here. Bueng Boraphet is abundant with species of plants and birds, and it provides a habitat for a hundred species of fish, for being a rich source of food. The province covers an area of around 9,597 square kilometers.

ADMINISTRATION

Nakhon Sawan is administratively divided into 15 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Sawan, Amphoe Krok Phra, Amphoe Kao Liao, Amphoe Phayuha Khiri, Amphoe Chum Saeng, Amphoe Lat Yao, Amphoe Banphot Phisai, Amphoe Tha Tako, Amphoe Takhli, Amphoe Nong Bua, Amphoe Tak Fa, Amphoe Chum Ta Bong, Amphoe Mae Poen, Amphoe Phaisali and Amphoe Mae Wong.

BOUNDARIES

- North : borders Kamphaeng Phet and Phichit.
- East : borders Lop Buri and Phetchabun.
- South : borders Chai Nat, Lop Buri, Sing Buri, and Uthai Thani.
- West : borders Tak.

HOW TO GET THERE

By car: From Bangkok, take Highway 1 and switch to Highway 32, past Ayutthaya, Ang Thong, Sing Buri, Chai Nat, and Uthai Thani, to reach Nakhon Sawan, a total distance of around 240 kilometers.

By bus: The Transport Company Limited has a daily bus service from Bangkok to Nakhon Sawan departing from the Northern Bus Terminal (Chatuchak) on Kamphengphet 2 Road. The travel time is around 3 hours. For more information, contact the Northern Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road Tel: 1490 www.transport.co.th. Private bus service operators are Wiriya Tour Company, Tel. 0 2936 2827 and Tha Won Farm Company, Tel. 0 2936 2945, Than Chit Company Tel. 0 2936 3210.

By train: There is a daily train service from the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong). For more information, contact the Travel Service Unit Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4444 or www.railway.co.th and the Nakhon Sawan Railway Station Tel. 0 5625 5544.

To travel to other districts in Nakhon Sawan, a bus service is available at the Nakhon Sawan Provincial Bus Terminal in front of Phiman Hotel, Tel. 0 5622 2169.

Local Transportation

Tourists can use multiple ways of transportation according to the suitability.

- City minibuses: the local minibuses or Song Thaeo service the city of Nakhon Sawan with several routes. For example, white and orange minibuses for the Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University line, yellow minibuses for the Nakhon Sawan Bus Terminal line, and green minibuses for the Chiraprawat Camp line. The service charge is 8 Baht for all lines and distances. Tourists can hire a minibus and the charter rate depends on the distance and negotiation.
- Motorcycle services: motorcycles offer a widespread service in the city of Nakhon Sawan; such as the Bus Terminal area, Chao Phraya Riverside market, etc. The service charge depends on the distance.

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Sawan to Other Districts

Amphoe Krok Phra	16 kilometer
Amphoe Kao Liao	22 kilometer
Amphoe Phayuha Khiri	28 kilometer
Amphoe Chum Saeng	39 kilometer
Amphoe Lat Yao	40 kilometer
Amphoe Banphot Phisai	45 kilometer
Amphoe Tha Tako	48 kilometer
Amphoe Takhli	68 kilometer
Amphoe Nong Bua	70 kilometer
Amphoe Tak Fa	71 kilometer
Amphoe Chum Ta Bong	73 kilometer
Amphoe Mae Poen	75 kilometer
Amphoe Phaisali	76 kilometer
Amphoe Mae Wong	90 kilometer

Distances from Nakhon Sawan to Nearby Provinces

Uthaitхани	50 kilometer
Chainat	64 kilometer
Singburi	101 kilometer
Phichit	113 kilometer
Kamphaeng Phet	117 kilometer
Lopburi	130 kilometer
Phetchabun	184 kilometer
Tak	185 kilometer

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Sawan

Nakhon Sawan Tower (เขื่อนแม่เมืองนครสวรรค์)

is situated on the top of Khao Khiri Wong, Wat Khiri Wong. It is a tower 32 metres in height. Inside the tower consists of many facilities. The first floor is an area for public relations of

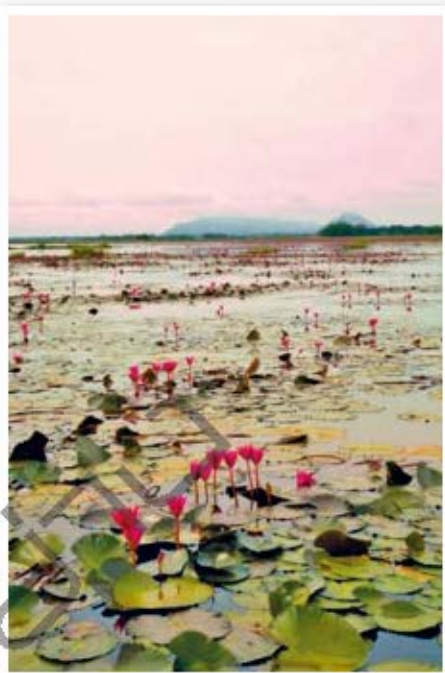


Nakhon Sawan Tower

tourism of Nakhon Sawan. The second and third floors are divided into 2 parts: the inside area for food and beverage and outside deck for night activities and telescope for visitors who are interested in astronomy. On the 10th floor is an area for a view of Nakhon Sawan with binoculars for a clearer view. Open daily for visitors (Mon.-Fri. 10.00 a.m.-04.30 p.m. / Sat.-Sun and national holidays 10.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.). The entrance fee is 20 Baht for adults and 10 Baht for children.

Bueng Boraphet (บึงบอระเพ็ด)

or Boraphet Marsh. It is the largest freshwater lake of Thailand, with a total area of around 132,737 rai covering three districts; namely, Mueang Nakhon Sawan, Tha Tako, and Chum Saeng. In the past, it was called the 'northern sea' or the 'great lake' because there was an abundance of animals and aquatic plants. According to a survey, 148 species of animals and 44 species of plants were found. Rare species ever found here were white-eyed river-martin and Siamese tiger fish. During November to March, a great number of grebes usually migrate to this lake. Local birds are purple swamphen, pheasant-winged Jacana, and Asian openbill which will lay eggs from July to March. Some part of the lake has been dedared a non-hunting area. The lake is under the supervision of the Wildlife Conservation Office. It also serves as a breeding ground of fish, with the Bueng Boraphet Freshwater Fishery Development Station established by the Fishery Department. The interesting point is Bueng Boraphet Freshwater Aquarium built to celebrate the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday, the only one



Bueng Boraphet

rice barge shaped building in Thailand that is 37 meters in width and 49 meters in length. There is a 24-meters-long tunnel with over 100 species of fresh-water fish and several species of sea fish. There is also a fish pool called "Touch Pool" for getting close to Brownbanded Bamboo Sharks and Sea Urchins. Open daily from 10.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m. Visitors can see a feeding show from Mon.-Fri. at 03.00 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. at 11.00 a.m. and 03.00 p.m. Furthermore, there is a crocodile show, monkey show, sightseeing boats, birdwatching in which visitors can hire a boat at Bueng Boraphet Pier. There are fake beaches, banana boats, jet skis, OTOP center, bungalows, and tent services. For more information, please contact the



Bueng Boraphet Freshwater Aquarium built

Bueng Boraphet Non-hunting Area or Bueng Boraphet Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, which is the birdwatching club of Nakhon Sawan. Tel. 0 5630 0040. Open daily from 08.30 a.m. to 04.30 p.m. or Bueng Boraphet Tourist Service Center. Tel. 0 5627 4524 www.buengboraphet.com.

To get there: From the town of Nakhon Sawan, there are several routes to reach Bueng Boraphet:-

By boat From the riverine municipal market of the Municipality of Mueang Nakhon Sawan, take a boat upstream for around 6 kilometer to Khlong Nong Duk which is the entrance canal to Bueng Boraphet. Then, go along under the rail bridge to reach the lake.

By car It is accessible from two directions:-

1. From the north of the lake. From the town of Nakhon Sawan, follow Highway 225 (Nakhon Sawan-Chum Saeng) for around 9 kilometers. Turn right for another 2 kilometers toward the Bueng Boraphet Freshwater Fishery Development Station (สถานีพัฒนาประมงน้ำจืด บึงบอระเพ็ด). Here, there is the Freshwater Fishery Research and Development Center (ศูนย์วิจัยและพัฒนาประมงน้ำจืด) with aquariums of various species of fish; such as, Siamese giant carp, white-edge freshwater whip ray, giant seaperch, black ear catfish, Jullien's golden-price carp, etc. It is open from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. every day except Wednesday Tel. 0 5623 0183. Furthermore, there is a breeding pond of crocodiles and a long-tailed boat service. A boat can accommodate 10 persons and costs



Wat Chom Khiri Nak Phrot

500 Baht. The boat cruises along the lake to Ko Lat. The return trip takes about one hour. The boat service is available from 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m. A morning cruise from 08.00 a.m.-09.00 a.m. has a good chance to see birds. For more information, contact the Bueng Boraphet Freshwater Fishery Development Station Tel: 0 5627 4501-3.

2. From the south of the lake. From the town of Nakhon Sawan, take Highway 3001 (Nakhon Sawan-Tha Tako) for around 20 kilometer and turn left to follow a direction sign for another 4 kilometer to reach the Waterfowl Park อุทยานนกน้ำ หรือ Bueng Boraphet Wildlife Sanctuary (เขตรักษาพันธุ์สัตว์น้ำบึงบอระเพ็ด). Here, nature trails are provided. A recreational park lies in the area of the wildlife sanctuary office. Many

birds can be seen

Wat Chom Khiri Nak Phrot or Wat Khao

วัดจอมคีรีนาคพรต หรือวัดเขาว

is located on top of Bust Nak Mountain, between the Dechatiwong Bridge and the Chiraprawat Camp. According to legend, following the second destruction of the Ayuttaya Kingdom, the Burmese army built this temple to show their respect for Buddhism. Interesting things of the temple are the Lord Buddha's footprint and the Ubosot (ordination hall) called by villagers as 'Bot Thewada Sang' (literally meaning the ordination hall built by a deity). In the twelfth lunar month of every year, a 'Wat Khao' (mountain temple) fair is held to pay homage to and cover the footprint with gold leaf. A part



Chao-pho-Chon-vai-Prix-Nam-Pho Procession



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