

Phetchaburi

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Wat Kuti

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Phra Ram Ratchaniwet or Ban Puen Palace

Phetchaburi

A province in Central Thailand, Phetchaburi is located 123 km. from Bangkok on the Gulf of Thailand. It is an old city with very long history, mentioned in the 1st stone inscription from the Sukhothai period. However, archaeological finds trace its existence back as far as the Ancient Khmer and Dvaravati periods. It used to be a border outpost town of a principality class in the Ayutthaya period, as well.

Phetchaburi covers an area of 6,255.138 sq.km. Its topography features undulating mountains in the West, with the Tenasserim Range forming a natural boundary between Thailand and Myanmar, and a coastal plain stretching to the seashore on the Gulf of Thailand in the East. There are 3 major rivers feeding the province; namely, the Phetchaburi, Bang Kloi, and Bang Tabun. Most of the province's population are farmers, earning their living from paddy farming, fruit orchards, Palmyra palm sugar production, animal raising, and fishery.

Phetchaburi is administratively divided into 8 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Phetchaburi, Amphoe Khao Yoi, Amphoe Nong Ya Plong, Amphoe Ban Laem, Amphoe Ban Lat, Amphoe Tha Yang, Amphoe Kaeng Krachan, and Amphoe Cha-am.

BOUNDARY

North	borders Amphoe Amphawa, Samut Songkhram province, and Amphoe Pak Tho, Ratchaburi province.
South	borders Amphoe Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan province.
East	borders the Gulf of Thailand.
West	borders the Union of Myanmar.

HOW TO GET THERE

By car, the nearest and most convenient route

is taking Highway 35 (Thon Buri – Pak Tho Road) from Bangkok via Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram, and Amphoe Pak Tho. Then, turn into Highway 4 to arrive in Phetchaburi, a total distance of 123 km. Otherwise, follow Highway 4 from Bangkok via Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi to reach Phetchaburi, a total distance of 166 km.

By bus, from Bangkok, there are air-conditioned buses leaving the Bangkok Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road. For further details, please call Tel. 0 2894 6122. There is also a private-run bus service provided by Phetchaburi Tour, Tel. 0 2894 6011. Travellers may also take any regular bus running on the southern routes via Phetchaburi; such as, the Bangkok–Chumphon (second class), Bangkok–Hua Hin–Pran Buri, Tel. 0 2894 6057 and so on. From Bangkok, visitors may travel to other districts of the province on the Bangkok–Cha-am, Bangkok–Tha Yang, and Bangkok–Ban Laem routes, as well.

In addition, there are local buses from Phetchaburi to Hua Hin, Pran Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, and Ratchaburi.

By train, there are daily trains leaving Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) to Phetchaburi and Cha-am. For more details, please contact the Travelling Service Unit at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, or visit www.railway.co.th. There are also trains leaving the Thon Buri Railway Station (Bangkok Noi) daily. For further information, please call Tel. 0 2411 3102.

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Phetchaburi to Other Districts and Nearby Provinces

Amphoe Ban Lat	8	km.
Amphoe Ban Laem	12	km.
Amphoe Tha Yang	18	km.

Amphoe Khao Yoi	23	km.
Amphoe Nong Ya Plong	34	km.
Amphoe Cha-am	40	km.
Amphoe Kaeng Krachan	57	km.

Prachuap Khiri Khan Province

Ratchaburi Province	54	km.
Amphoe Hua Hin	66	km.
Amphoe Mueang	158	km.
Prachuap Khiri Khan		

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Khao Yoi

***Wat Kuti* (วัดคูท)**

is located at Soi Bang Khem Phattana 1, Tambon Bang Khem, 6 km. before the entrance to the Khao Yoi District Office on Highway 4 between km. 129-130. This is one of the province's oldest temples containing a teakwood ordination hall of a 7-chambered size. Outside around the hall, there are 21 panels of woodcarvings depicting the ten birth-stories of the Buddha or Jatakas in the East, Vessantara Jataka or the Great Birth on the side walls, and the Journey to the West in the West. The eastern gable features a woodcarving of a coin with King Rama IV's royal seal—the Great Crown; whereas the western one depicts a 1-Baht coin in the reign of King Rama V the Great and his country arms. The door panels boast woodcarvings with an intertwined design of master craftsmanship.

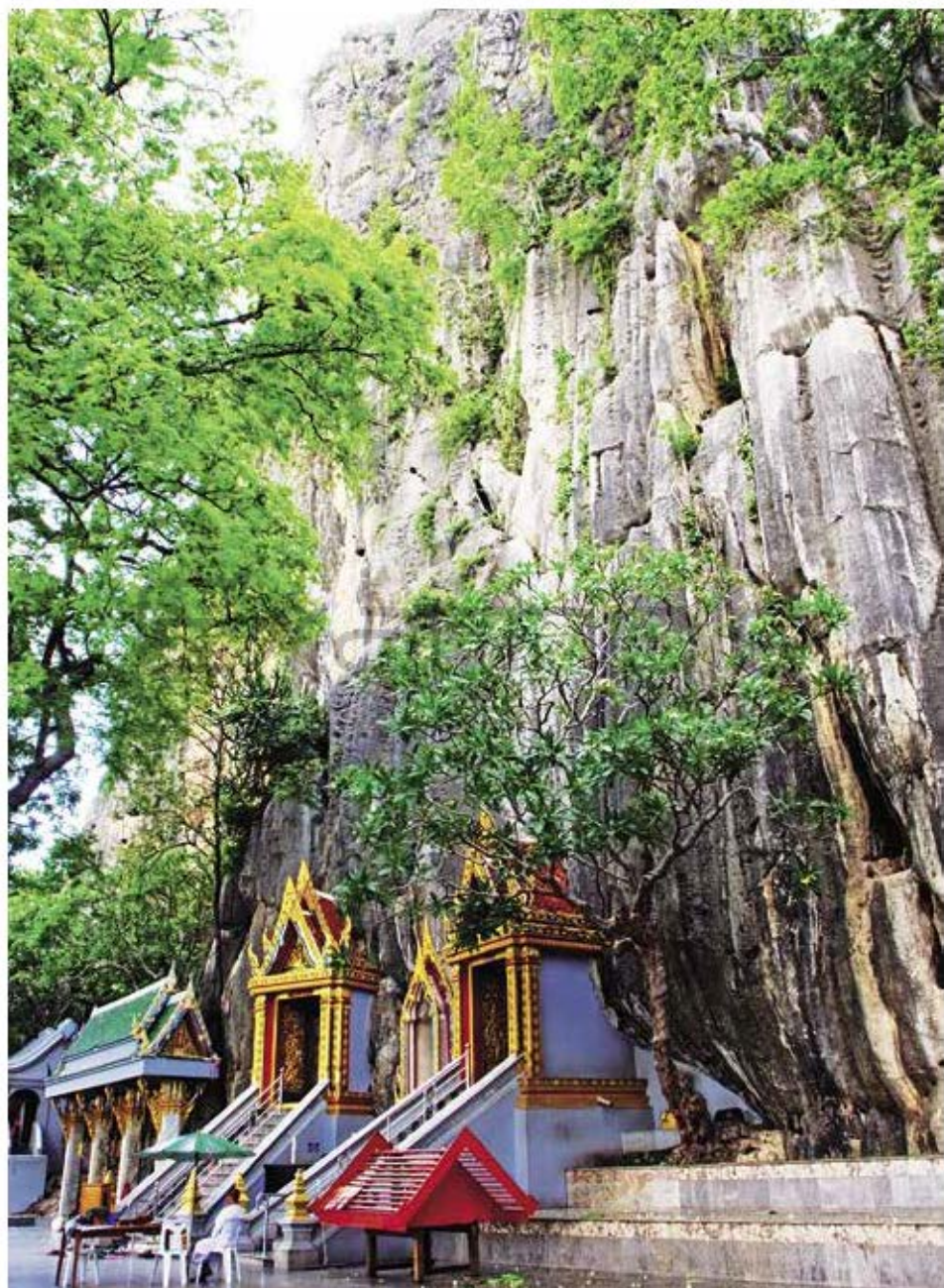
***Tham Khao Yoi* (ถ้ำเขาย้อย)**

is located to the east of Khao Yoi near the Khao Yoi District Office, some 22 km. before reaching Phetchaburi provincial town on Highway 4 between km. 136-137. Inside is enshrined an immense reclining Buddha image as well as several other Buddha images of various

sizes and in different postures, similar to Tham Khao Luang and Wat Tham Khao Bandai It in Amphoe Mueang Phetchaburi. History has it that these images have long existed and were later restored by Phrakhrui On of Wat Thai Talat. According to historical tales, when King Rama IV was still ordained and went on his Austere Practices, he came to stop for an insight development in front of Khao Yoi and moved to sit in meditation in Tham Khao Yoi for many nights.

***Thai Song Dam or Lao Song Cultural Centre* (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมไทยทรงดำหรือลาวโซ่ง)**

is located at Mu 5 Tambon Khao Yoi, approximately 1 km. beyond the Khao Yoi Intersection toward Phetchaburi provincial town, on Highway 4. Turn left at the entrance to Ban Wang School for 300 m. The Thai Song Dam or Lao Song is an ethnic minority whose origin was Dien Bien Phu in North Vietnam, bordering with Laos. They migrated to settle in Thailand over 200 years ago and have a unique culture. They wear black and have their own spoken and written languages. The Thai Song Dam people are skilled in weaving cloth and basketry. The majority of them live in Phetchaburi. In April every year, the Thai Song Dam Tradition will be held for their merriment in different villages on a rotary basis. The Cultural Centre exhibits the Lao Song way of life in the past for later generations to learn. It also puts on exhibition tools and utensils used in their daily life, models of their houses, original scripts, cloth weaving demonstration, and sales of souvenirs such as clothes, handbags, and ornaments. It is open daily during 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Admission is free. Visitors coming in groups or wishing to enjoy folk performances like a ceremony to make propitiatory offerings to home spirits and other folk games and performance may contact



Tham Khao Yai



Wat Ton Son

in advance with an extra charge. A accommodation within the Cultural Centre is available in the form of the Thai Song Dam Style. For further details, please contact the Thai Song Dam Cultural Centre, Khao Yoi Municipality, Tel. 03256 1200 or visit www.thaisongdamkhaoyoi.com.
To get there: By bus, take a bus on the Bangkok-Phetchaburi or Bangkok – Prachuap Khiri Khan route. Get off at the Khao Yoi Intersection and take a motorcycle for another 2 km.

Amphoe Ban Laem

Mangrove Ecological Conservation and Study Centre Bang Tabun Witthaya School ศูนย์อนุรักษ์และศึกษาระบบนิเวศน์ป่าชายเลน โรงเรียนบางตะบูนวิทยา
 is located inside Bang Tabun Witthaya School on the way to Ao Bang Tabun. The mangrove forest here covers a total area of approximately 40 rai

and is well-preserved to be in quite a perfect condition. The school had a partly wooden boardwalk and partly concrete walkway built to form a nature study route of about 150 m. long into the mangrove forest, where there is dense population of flora and fauna. Among them are Samae (Avicennia plants), Kongkang or mangroves (Rhizophora plants), Chakhrum (Suaeda maritima), and crab-eating macaques, crawling fish, crabs, etc. In the rainy season, the gleams of fireflies can be seen. Interested persons may contact the Bang Tabun Witthaya School in advance at Tel. 03248 9174 or Achan Chomphunut at Tel. 08 9238 3837. A boat ride to enjoy the way of life along the Phetchaburi River and shoreline fishery is available, with a local youth guide provided.