

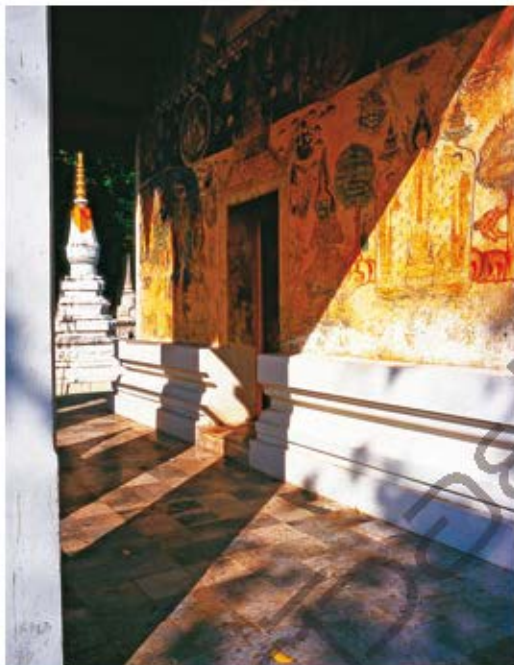
Ratchaburi

amazing
THAILAND



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Roating Market

Ratchaburi

Ratchaburi is the land of the Mae Klong Basin civilization with the foggy Tanao Si Mountains. It is one province in the west of central Thailand which is full of various geographical features; for example, the low-lying land along the fertile Mae Klong Basin, fields, and Tanao Si Mountains which lie in to east stretching to meet the Thailand-Myanmar border.

From legend and historical evidence, it is assumed that Ratchaburi used to be one of the civilized kingdoms of Suvarnabhumi in the past, from the reign of the Great King Asoka of India, who announced the Lord Buddha's teachings through this land around 325 B.C. The central town of ruling power of Suvarnabhumi was Nakhon Pathom which was called "Dvaravati" at that time. In addition, Ratchaburi was also the meeting point of ancient tradesmen and the gateway to Burma. Therefore, Ratchaburi is one of the most crowded cities with different races. Nowadays, Ratchaburi is full of many interesting things; history, ruins, ways of life, culture, hand-crafted and moulded works, basketry, tides and mountains, and beautiful nature waiting for us to visit.

Ratchaburi province has an area of 5,196 square kilometres. It is divided into 10 Amphoes are Amphoe Mueang Ratchaburi, Amphoe Photharam, Amphoe Damnoen Saduak, Amphoe Pak Tho, Amphoe Chom Bueng, Amphoe Bang Phae, Amphoe Wat Phleng, Amphoe Suan Phueng, Amphoe Ban Pong and Amphoe Ban Kha.

Boundary

North	borders with Kanchanaburi
South	borders with Phetchaburi
East	borders with Samut Sakhon,

Samut Songkhram, Nakhon Pathom
borders with Myanmar

West

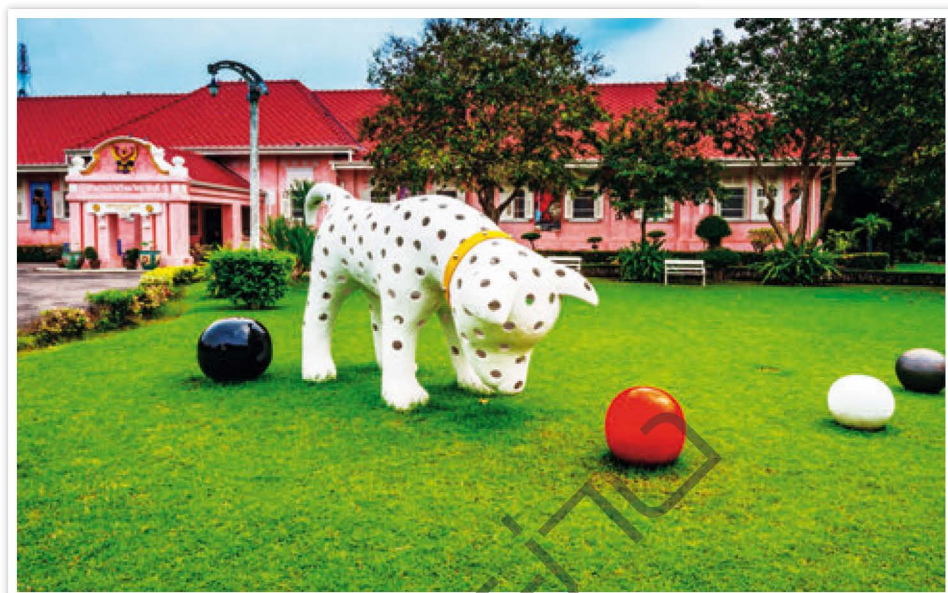
HOW TO GET THERE:

By Car:

- Old route: Take Phetchakasem Road or Highway 4, passing Bang Khae-Om Noi-Om Yai-Nakhon Chai Si-Nakhon Pathom-Ratchaburi.

- New route: Take Highway 338, from Bangkok-Phutthamonthon-Nakhon Chai Si and turn into Phetchakasem Road near Amphoe Nakhon Chai Si about 16 kilometres before arriving at the city of Nakhon Pathom. Then, drive along Phetchakasem Road and go straight to the city of Ratchaburi.

By Bus: The Transport Company Ltd., provides buses from the Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road to Ratchaburi everyday. The first-class and second-class air-conditioned buses depart many times a day, taking about 2 hours to get to the province. For more details, please contact the first-class air-conditioned bus (Ratchaburi), please call Tel. 0 3233 7787. Buses depart every 20 minutes. (The first trip from Bangkok leaves at 6.00 a.m. and last trip leaves at 10.30 p.m. The first trip from Ratchaburi leaves at 4.00 a.m. and last trip leaves at 8.30 p.m.) or the second class air conditioned bus of the Ratchaburi Group 76 (Ratchaburi) Company Limited at Tel. 0 3233 8439, 0 3232 2776, 0 3232 5152, 0 3233 8276 (The first trip from Bangkok leaves at 6.00 a.m. and the last trip leaves at 10.30 p.m. This bus take the old route passing Phetkasem Road and Nakhon Pathom City) or for visiting the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, contact air-conditioned bus (Bangkok-Damnoen



Ratchaburi National Museum

Saduak) at Tel. 0 2894 6355, the first bus departs at 5.50 a.m. (every 40 minutes) taking about 2 hours. Get off the bus at the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market. For more information, contact the Southern Bus Terminal at Tel. 0 2894 6122 or www.transport.co.th.

In addition, buses from Ratchaburi Bus Station to other neighbouring provinces, such as Nakhon Pathom, Kanchanaburi, Samut Songkhram and Phetchaburi, are available.

By Train: The State Railway of Thailand provides trains leaving Bangkok Railway Station Hua Lamphong and Thon Buri Railway Station (Bangkok Noi) everyday, which takes about 2 hours. For further details, please contact the Travelling Service Unit, Bangkok Railway Station at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444 or call Thon Buri Railway Station at Tel. 0 2411 3102,

0 2418 4310 and Ratchaburi Railway Station at Tel. 0 3233 7002 or www.railway.co.th.

Distance from Amphoe Mueang to other districts

Wat Phleng	12 kilometres.
Photharam	20 kilometres.
Pak Tho	26 kilometres.
Chom Bueng	27 kilometres.
Bang Phae	28 kilometres.
Damnoen Saduak	42 kilometres.
Ban Pong	43 kilometres.
Ban Kha	57 kilometres.
Suan Phueng	60 kilometres.

Distance from Ratchaburi to other neighbouring provinces

Samut Songkhram	40 kilometres.
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Nakhon Pathom	47 kilometres.
Petchaburi	58 kilometres.
Samut Sakhon	75 kilometres.
Kanchanaburi	87 kilometres.

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Ratchaburi

City Pillar Shrine (ศาลเจ้าพ่อหลักเมือง)

is situated near the lodging house of Phanurangsi Ratchaburi Engineering Military Camp, which is about 600 metres from the town. It is the old city pillar built in the reign of King Rama II. Within the Military Camp, visitors can inspect the Army Engineer Museum, situated at Tambon Khok Mo, which is a historical centre to collect sources regarding the army engineer's activities, tools, and ancient appliances. It is open on Mondays – Fridays at 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. For further information, please call Tel. 0 3233 7267

Ratchaburi National Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑสถานแห่งชาติ ราชบุรี)

is located on the Woradet roadside, Tambon Na Mueang, near the clock tower on the Mae Klong riverside. This building used to be the city hall, built in the reign of the King Rama VI in 1922. Later, it was changed to be the national museum in 1983 and was renovated many times. Until 1991, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the official opening ceremony of the museum. Visitors can see the exhibition highlighting Ratchaburi in many aspects; such as history, archaeology, ethnology, geology, traditional arts, fishery tools, culture of the Ratchaburi people in different groups such as Lao Song, Karen, and Thai Yuan, including many tourist attractions, prominent artefacts besides the royal sword Ratchasattra of Monthon Ratchaburi.

Also, we can see the Radiating Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara image with characteristics of Ancient Khmer art in Bayon style, which is one of five of its kind excavated in Thailand with the most complete and beautiful features. The museum opens daily at 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. It is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and public holidays. Admission is Bt 100. For more details, please call Tel. 0 3232 1513 Fax 0 3232 7235.

Luangpho Kaenchan (หลวงพ่อก้นจันทน์)

is situated at Wat Chong Lom near the old city, on Woradet roadside, in the centre of the town. It is a Buddha image in the gesture of holding an alms bowl in his arms calmly. This widely respected image is made of bronze and its base is sculptured from sandalwood, which has a sweet smell. The image is 2.26 metres high.

Wat Mahathat Worawihan (วัดมหาธาตุวรวิหาร)

which local people call Wat Na Phrathat or Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat is an old temple, situated on Khao Ngu Road, Tambon Na Mueang in Mueang Ratchaburi municipal area. It is believed that this temple was built in the Dvaravati Period, around the 10th–11th Century, nearly the same time as when the old city of Ratchaburi was built. Later, a Khmer or Lop Buri sanctuary was built over the temple around the 13th Century to be the centre of the town according to the Khmer belief regarding the universe. Then, for fear that the sanctuary might tumble down, a new Phra Prang was built at the beginning of the Ayutthaya era, around the 15th–16th Century. Therefore, we can see the overlapping style of architecture. Moreover, interesting things in the temple are Wihan Luang where Phra Mongkhon Buri is enshrined. It is a stucco Buddha image in



Wat Mahathat Worawihan

the gesture of subduing Mara, which has a lap width of 8 Sok 1 Khuep. Its characteristics are of the Pre-Ayutthaya art, with a Sukhothai style face. It has a long body but short knees. He turns his face to the east, and there is another Buddha image behind his back, turning its face to the opposite side or the west. This means we ask the Buddha's blessing to prevent danger from the front as well as the back. Thus, it is also called Phra Raksamueang – city's protective Buddha – along the belief of people in the Ayutthaya era. In front of the Wihan, there is a boundary wall made of laterite.

Prang อมราวาศ is a stupa with a height of 24 metres. The principal prang and other directional prangs in the south, the west and the north are situated on the same base. In the east, there is a porch with a staircase. The base, body

and superstructure are decorated with stucco relief. The principal prang is connected with an antechamber with murals inside. The murals on the top part of the wall depict a row of the past Buddhas sitting in niches. The paintings in the lower part depict the life of the Lord Buddha. It is assumed that these murals were painted and repaired at the same time when the Prang was built and restored around the 17th Century. There is a passage and doister around the Prang complex housing stone Buddha images built in the Dvaravati, Lop Buri, and Ayutthaya Periods. The Reclining Buddha image is situated in front of the Phra Prang. It is a cement Buddha image, built in the Ayutthaya Period, with a length of 127 Khuep 9 inches, and this temple also has a museum exhibiting different styles of jars.



Damnoen Saduak Floating Market



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