

PATTAYA

Situated on the east coast of the Gulf of Thailand about 150km south-east of Bangkok, or just over an hour's drive from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Pattaya is a lively beach town that draws visitors from around the world. With activities that include a wide range of water sports, golf, shopping, entertainment, zip-lining, Muay Thai and attractions such as waterparks, floating markets, zoos, cultural attractions and plenty of restaurants and bars, Pattaya definitely has something for everyone.

ATTRACTIONS

BEACHES AND ISLANDS

The 6km long Jomtien Beach is popular for windsurfers, kitesurfers and water sports enthusiasts. Hotels and other accommodation is available along the road that runs parallel to the shore.

The crescent-shaped Pattaya Beach is 4km long with Beach Road running along its full length. From the midpoint to the southern end, are plenty of restaurants, bars, department stores, souvenir stores and other sources of entertainment. The quieter atmosphere of the northern section is home to a variety of hotels and mini-resorts.

The quiet Ko Lan Island, 7.5km or 15 minutes by speedboat from Pattaya offers visitors a number of water and beach activities including scuba diving, snorkelling, kayaking and sun bathing. Ko Lan is easily visited as a day trip from Pattaya.

Ko Phai, a small island under the supervision of the Royal Thai Navy, about 14km from Pattaya, has a beautiful white sandy beach and the best scuba diving in the area.



Pattaya Beach

UNDERWATER WORLD PATTAYA

Believed to be the largest and most modern ocean aquarium in Asia, Underwater World Pattaya boasts a 100m long Perspex tunnel through an underwater environment filled with a rich variety of marine life. The aquarium houses more than 4,000 marine animals, with over 200 different species from the region as well as rare creatures from overseas. Top of the must-see list is the rare shovelnose ray, a hybrid between a shark and a stingray. www.underwaterworldpattaya.com beautiful Buddhist temple hosting a weekly market.

KHAO KHEOW OPEN ZOO

Khao Kheow Open Zoo features more than 200 species of wildlife living in their natural habitats. The Zoo is situated in the foothills of the only remaining forest left in the area. The environment is a mixture of dry and evergreen forests that are preserved in their original, natural state. Most of the animals live in large exhibits with appropriately designed environments, and visitors also experience the animals up close. There is also a Night Safari Tour by train: 5.30 to 8.30pm daily.

<http://kkopenzoo.com>

FLIGHT OF THE GIBBON

Experience the beauty, magic and educational adventure of Thailand's rainforest like never before on one of the world's largest canopy zip-line adventures. High in the treetops of a pristine forest and wildlife park, visitors glide through the jungle canopy on thrilling zip-lines, scenic sky bridges and adrenaline-inducing abseils. Along the way, guides share their knowledge of the local flora and fauna.

www.treetopasia.com



Sanctuary of Truth

SANCTUARY OF TRUTH

The Sanctuary of Truth is Pattaya's most iconic structure, featuring the awe-inspiring 105m tall hall built from carved teak. It was commissioned by a local business tycoon to act as a place of appreciation for philosophy, art, culture and faith, without being tied to a single religion.

www.sanctuaryoftruth.com

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ACTIVITIES

SHOPPING AND DINING

Pattaya, with its high number of expats, offers a wide selection of Thai and international dining options. Pattaya Walking Street is the main hotspot for restaurants, bars, entertainment and bargain shopping. Pattaya has several shopping complexes and a few outlet malls, such as Central Festival Pattaya Beach, The Avenue Pattaya and Premium Outlet.

Pattaya Floating Market, aka the Four Regions Floating Market, is a man-made floating market with over a hundred shops and water-side vendors selling food and specialties from different parts of Thailand. There are also art galleries and cultural performances.

www.pattayafloatingmarket.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Tiffany and Alcazar are among the world-class cabaret shows performed by talented transvestites wearing dazzling and elaborate costumes, from long sweeping ball-gowns and plumes of feathers, to elaborate headdresses and skimpy swimwear. The talented performers combined with state-of-the-art light and sound systems make the shows unforgettable.

www.tiffany-show.co.th and www.alcazarthailand.com

Alangkarn offers a new concept of presenting Thai culture in a state-of-the-art panoramic venue rather than the traditional dances found elsewhere.

WATERPARKS

Thailand's biggest and most exhilarating water park, Ramayana Water Park features the thrills and spills of 21 awesome water rides – varying from scream-inducing to gentle swings. With two dedicated kids' zones, a record-breaking double wave pool, and an amazing ride along the lazy river with mystical caves, geysers and bubbles, there's plenty for everyone to enjoy. www.ramayanawaterpark.com

Cartoon Network Amazone Waterpark is another large water park offering 30 water rides and slides. Disneyworld-style mascots, entertainment shows, and a food court provide all-round aquatic fun for the whole family. The park is split into sections catering for smaller children, teens and fully-grown children with families of their own. www.cartoonnetworkamazone.com



GOLFING

Pattaya is home to some of the world's best championship standard golf courses, designed by the very best golf architects and designers. Clubhouse facilities are excellent with restaurants, shower and locker rooms – some even with swimming pools and massage facilities.

www.pattayagolf.com

MUAY THAI

Pattaya is also home to several Muay Thai training camps featuring classes in English, for example, Fairtex Sports Club and Muay Thai Training Centre <http://fairtexpattaya.com>, Sityodthong Boxing Camp www.sityodthongmuaythai.com.

Some of the camps also offer accommodation.



www.tourismthailand.org/au f hugthailand



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