



# AMAZING NEW CHAPTERS



# Surat Thani





# Surat Thani

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The land of 100 islands,  
ripe rambutans, juicy oysters,  
preserved eggs and above all, dharma

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The area around the Ban Don Bay was previously the heart of the Si Wichai empire and a place where civilization began to emerge, grow and prosper in the distant past. This coastal region features a host of long-standing communities like the Mueang Chaiya, Mueang Wiangsra, Mueang Khiri Rat Nikhom and Mueang Tha Tong settlements. In 1915, during his progressive and influential reign, King Rama V collected these smaller communities together under the moniker of Chaiya. Following this, His Majesty, while on a royal visit, was particularly impressed by the gentle nature, impressive manners and devotion to Buddhist principles of the locals that he instantly saw fit to change the name of these collected communities to Surat Thani.

The province has the largest area of the entire southern region, most of which is covered by dense forest, and is renowned for its diverse ecosystems, idyllic islands like Ko Samui, Ko Pha-ngan, Ko Tao and Nang Yuan, as well as its golden sands and clear waters.

# Surat Thani Map







# Ecotourism in Bang Bai Mai sub-district

Mueang, Surat Thani





## Ecotourism in Bang Bai Mai sub-district

Mueang, Surat Thani



Located in Bang Bai Mai sub-district, or 'Nai Bang' as it is more commonly known by the locals, this verdant area is home to a natural network of hundreds of small canals which eventually meet the Tapi river. The small but long-standing community enjoys a simple, rural lifestyle in the shady glades beside the waterways and the locals have recently begun operating boat trips for visitors to enjoy the local flora and fauna, and float through the impressive tunnel of trees.

Visitors are also able to learn the local wisdom and see how natural products like orange juice and honey are made in the community. There's also a floating market here where local products are available for tourists to sample and purchase.



**The market is open every Sunday** from 09.00 – 16.00 hrs.  
**For further details contact** Tel. : 08 1607 4935, 0 7729 2903





# Ko Raet

Don Sak, Surat Thani





## Ko Raet

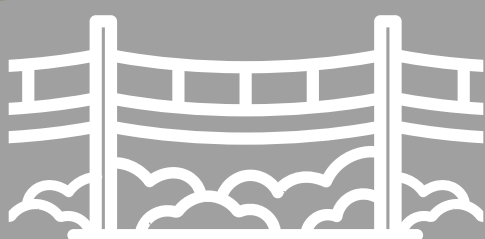
Don Sak, Surat Thani



Located in Don Sak sub-district, just 700 meters from the coastline, the island takes its name from the 'Ton Khi Raet' trees that line the island's beaches. Most of the islanders are of Hai-Lum Chinese descent and their families have called the island home for over two centuries. There's no mistaking the Chinese ancestry either when looking at the rows of wooden houses leading up the shrine.

The activities on offer here include a nature trail, boat trips and dolphin spotting in Don Sak Bay. There are several homestay accommodations on the island, all of which offer wonderfully fresh seafood.





# Rope bridge, heart-shaped mountain and Ban Thepphithak community

Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani





## Rope bridge, heart-shaped mountain and Ban Thepphithak community

Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani



Lying behind Wat Khao Phang temple in Khao Phang sub-district, this wooden-tiled suspension bridge spans around 120 meters between large concrete pillars and offers stunning views over the Pa Saeng canal and across to the heart-shaped Thepphithak Peak. On the other side visitors can also find the famous Ban Khlong Saeng durian farm whose 100-year-old trees and unmistakably fragrant fruit are open for tourists to view and taste during durian season. There is also an OTOP market on weekends at the Ban Khao Thepphithak community.



For further information contact Tel. : 08 4843 7924





# Rajjaprabha Dam Reservoir (Chiao Lan)

Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani





## Rajjaprabha Dam Reservoir (Chiao Lan)

Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani



This clay and stone dam, located in Khao Phang sub-district, is 95 meters high and 700 meters long with a 100-meter-high wall, and features over 100 small islands spread across its vast reservoir. The dam is the south's second multi-purpose dam and reservoir and doubles as a hydro-electric power station, as well as having agricultural and fishing purposes. Visitors can take a leisurely boat trip around the reservoir to enjoy some great views with the striking limestone peaks in the background and understand why the area is known as "Thailand's Guilin"

One of the most interesting points around the dam and reservoir is 'Khao Sam Gler' peak. Affectionately known as the 'three friends' by locals, this trio of limestone peaks emerges from the reservoir in a distinctive fashion and is surrounded by incredible views of the surrounding greenery and emerald waters.

The Pakarang Cave is located in the 500 Rai inlet and is maintained under the jurisdiction of the Forest Protection Unit, Khao Sok National Park. The name translates as 'cave of corals' and is so named due to the stalagmites and stalactites formed from eroded limestone which resemble an underwater coral reef. There have also been numerous fossils unearthed in the area, which have been dated back to a period between 250 and 400 million years ago.





There is plenty of accommodation around the dam and there are many boat trips and tours available, most of which depart from the Chiao Lan Thetsaban pier (Tel. : 0 7791 8036, 08 3300 1730). If you have booked private raft accommodation, most of the resorts offer a free ferry service.







# Khao Sok National Park

Phanom, Surat Thani





# Khao Sok National Park

Phanom, Surat Thani



A lofty peak in the heart of the dense jungle, Khao Sok sits at the center of the largest rainforest area in the entire southern region and covers a massive 738.74 square kilometers, including the area to the north of the Rajjaprabha Dam. The geographic features consist of earth and limestone peaks and surrounding forests and marshlands, which are the origin of the Tapi river. The ecosystem is also diverse, with numerous rare and endangered bird species including the hooded pitta and Malayan banded pitta and unusual plants like white backed palms, Maxburretia Furtado palms and rafflesia plants. Rafflesias, also known as corpse plants, are parasitic plants that resemble lotus flowers in bloom, can grow to up to 70-80cm in diameter and take 9 months to grow to their full size, blooming for just 4-5 days. These rare blooms can only be found in two places, Khao Sok and Ayutthaya, in the central region and they can flower any time between November and April.



**Entrance Charges** Adults 300 Baht/ Children 150 Baht  
There is accommodation and camping available as well as a convenience store located within the park

**For further information contact** Khao Sok National Park,  
Mu 6, Khlong Sok sub-district, Phanom, Surat Thani 84250.  
Tel. : 0 7739 5139, 0 7727 0905 or [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)





# Khlong Phanom National Park

Phanom, Surat Thani





# Khlong Phanom National Park

Phanom, Surat Thani



This park covers an area of 410.4 square kilometers and features craggy limestone peaks, forests teeming with wildlife and vital marshlands which feed the Tapi river. There are also tourist attractions within the park, the Tham Kaeo and Tham Nam Lot Khao Wong caves, Ton Sai waterfall and distinctive Rafflesia flowers being the most prominent. These incredible looking blooms can be found in abundance in the mountains behind Nam Phueng village and they flower any time between November and April, particularly when the weather is moist and humid.



## Entrance Charges for National Park

Adults 100 Baht/Children 50 Baht

There is accommodation and camping available in the park

**For information call** Tel. : 0 7727 0905 or [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)



รพทพ



**Ban Tham Phueng**

Phanom, Surat Thani



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## Ban Tham Phueng

Phanom, Surat Thani



This local community is named due to the fact that there is a cave at the base of one of the nearby mountains that was once home to a large colony of bees. The area is composed of sharp limestone peaks interspersed with pockets of dense, abundant forest. As far as attractions go, there is Tham Nam Lot cave, Bang Khui waterfall, Khuan Song Daen viewing point, Tham Somorabhumhi cave, hot springs, Hin Lat waterfall and a quicksand swamp.

Due to the unspoilt environment and abundance of natural resources, there is a great choice of ecotourism activities on offer here and the community previously received a series of awards at the Thailand Tourism Awards, including prizes for outstanding ecotourism and community enterprises.

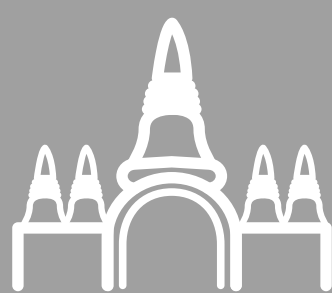


Both homestay accommodation and camping facilities are available in the community.

**For further details contact** Ban Tham Pueng Homestay,  
Tel. : 0 7739 9994, 08 9290 9420







# Khao Na Nai Luang Dharma Park

Phanom, Surat Thani





# Khao Na Nai Luang Dharma Park

Phanom, Surat Thani



Located at Mu 8, Ton Yuan subdistrict, this shaded, peaceful community surrounded by nature is perfect for those looking for a calming meditation retreat. The most important and sacred site contained in the community is Phra Phutta Silawadi, an elevated pagoda built on a 300-meter-high peak created from laterite imported from Kamphaeng Phet province. The inside of the pagoda houses sacred remains of the Buddha and there is also an ancient ‘Kao Yot’ styled gateway known as ‘Phutthawadi’ which makes for excellent photographs during the early hours when the sun’s rays burst through the opening.





# Ban Nam Rat Headwaters

Khiri Rat Nikhom, Surat Thani





## Ban Nam Rat Headwaters

Khiri Rat Nikhom, Surat Thani



Located in Ban Thamniap sub-district, this turquoise hued spring boasts beautifully clear waters which are shallow enough to bathe in. Aside from this, there are boats and rubber rings available to rent but it is imperative that all visitors strictly adhere to the regulations of the area in order to help maintain this area of stunning natural beauty. This includes not bringing food and beverages or soap and shampoo into the area and refraining from using plastic bags or other plastic goods.



**Open daily** from 08.00-17.00 hrs.

A 30 baht donation is required to enter and all proceeds go to the upkeep of the area. Car parking is available at 20 baht per vehicle.



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# Vibhavadi Waterfall

Vibhavadi, Surat Thani



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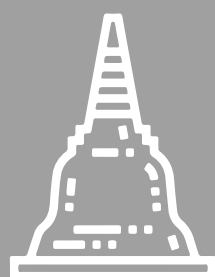
## Vibhavadi Waterfall

Vibhavadi, Surat Thani



Located in the protected wildlife reserve at Khlong Yan, the source of this waterfall is the Khao Daen mountain range and it meanders down through Khlong Phai. Some locals still refer to it as 'Namtok Khlong Pai', meaning Khlong Phai Waterfall. It's around a 10 to 15 minute walk from the car park to the waterfall itself, and there are some great views from the bridge over the canal. The path to the highest point of the waterfall takes in 9 different tiers, with the second tier being the most visually stunning, with water cascading over a sheer rock face and a pool that is perfect for swimming or paddling down below.





# Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratcha Worawihan

Chaiya, Surat Thani





# Wat Phra Borommathat Chaiya Ratcha Worawihan

Chaiya, Surat Thani



This ancient pagoda is designed in the Mahayana Buddhist style and was constructed way back in the days when the Si Wichai empire was at its most prosperous. It is the only remaining site in the whole of Thailand with examples of art and architecture from this particular era and the temple also houses important ‘Sarira’ Buddhist relics

An image of the temple is commonly used as a symbol of Surat Thani province for official purposes and no visit to the province should be complete without paying your respects here.



The temple grounds are also home to the Chaiya National Museum, which hosts some fabulous exhibitions related to the art and history of Chaiya city and is open from Wed-Sun between 09.00-16.00 hrs. (closed on Mon & Tues and public holidays).

**Entrance to the museum** is 100 baht

**For details contact** Tel. : 0 7743 1066





# Ban Phum Riang Ecotourism Community

Chaiya, Surat Thani





## Ban Phum Riang Ecotourism Community

Chaiya, Surat Thani



Located in Phum Riang sub-district, this small community includes both Buddhist and Muslim members living and working harmoniously alongside each other. Most of the villagers make a living from fishing and they have recently created a crab bank and fish farm. There's also Ko Set island, 30 minutes from the Laem Pho coast, which acts as a marine life nursery and is vital for the community's livelihood. Visitors who want to check out the island can book a boat trip in the community and join in with collecting the clams during low tide.

**Phum Riang Silk** is undoubtedly the community's most famous product and comes in various hues of silver and blue with a number of unique floral patterns. Visitors can watch the silk being woven and buy silk products at the Phum Riang market.



**For enquiries contact** Tel. : 09 2379 3969, 09 9319 9570



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**Oyster Farm**

Kanchanadit, Surat Thani



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## Oyster Farm

Kanchanadit, Surat Thani

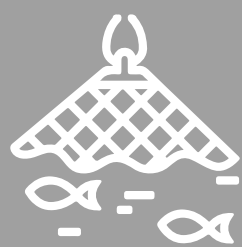


Fresh oysters are one of Surat Thani's most in demand exports and the west coast is heavily populated by oyster farms, especially around Pak Nam Kadae at Kanchanadit district and Ban Don Bay at Mueang district.

**Pak Nam Kadae** acts as both an educational center and the largest natural oyster farm in Thailand. The brackish water conditions, a mixture of fresh water that flows down into the bay from the Tapi river and 16 other water sources, and sea water, are perfectly suited for oyster farming.

The oysters themselves are large in size, pale white and bursting with flavor. Mussels, clams and cockles are also farmed in the area.





# Lilet Conservation Tourism Community

Phunphin, Surat Thani





# Lilet Conservation Tourism Community

Phunphin, Surat Thani



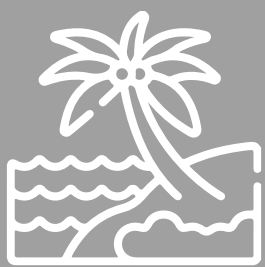
Located at Mu 5, Lilet subdistrict, this community lies among a lowland delta plateau where numerous rivers, streams and waterways meet and mingle. Sections of the community lie right on the coast, while further inland are mangrove forests with thriving, abundant ecosystems. The main occupations of the villagers here are fishing, planting and harvesting coconuts and shrimp farming.

At present there are many activities on offer for visitors and tourists can often see colonies of fireflies in the trees during the dusk hours. There's also the chance to peruse and purchase locally produced goods like woven baskets, sweets and shrimp paste. The community includes homestay accommodation and excursions are available for those interested.



**For further details contact** Tel. : 0 7749 1082, 08 7889 0034





# Ko Samui

Ko Samui, Surat Thani





## Ko Samui

Ko Samui, Surat Thani



Lying around 84km to the west of the Surat Thani coastline, this 247 square kilometer island is mainly flat with mountain ranges towards its flanks, making it perfect for visits all year round. Between February and September is favorable though, as there is no chance of monsoon rains.

Due to the fact that Samui boasts some incredible natural attractions both on land and at sea, as well as stunning beaches and a host of accommodation, dining options and entertainment venues and its own airport, it has become incredibly popular with foreign visitors to Thailand. The most popular sites on the island are:

**Chaweng Beach** – This white sand beach features an impressive range of accommodation and the beach front road is home to vibrant nightlife venues and retail outlets.

**Lamai Beach** – Similar to Chaweng, although noticeably quieter and less developed.



**Hin Ta Hin Yai (Grandfather and Grandmother Rocks)** – Located close to Lamai Bay, these large, oddly shaped granite stones are a result of many years of erosion. There are souvenir and gift shops located close to the viewing point with the famous ‘Kalamae’ toffees from Ko Samui on sale.

There are many more beaches besides the most famous ones, including Hat Mae Nam, Hat Bo Phut, Hat Choeng Mon, Hat Bang Po, Hat Na Ton, Hat Taling Ngam and Ao Phang Ka.



**The following companies operate passenger ferries from Surat Thani – Ko Samui**

Seatran Ferry Ltd. – From Don Sak pier  
Tel. : 1381 or [www.seatranferry.com](http://www.seatranferry.com)

Raja Ferry Ltd. – From Don Sak pier  
Tel. : 0 7737 2800-2 or [www.rajaferryport.com](http://www.rajaferryport.com)

Songserm Rungruang Ltd. – From Laem Tuad pier  
Tel. : 0 7737 1554

Lomphraya Speedboat Ltd. – From Phraya Tapi pier  
Tel. : 0 2629 2569-70, 0 7720 0932-3 or [www.lomprayah.com](http://www.lomprayah.com)

There is also a sleeper ferry which leaves from Ban Don pier  
Tel. : 0 7723 4200, 08 2776 1243, 09 5256 0939







# Muko Ang Thong Marine National Park

Ko Samui, Surat Thani





# Muko Ang Thong Marine National Park

Ko Samui, Surat Thani



This idyllic archipelago is approximately 20 km from Ko Samui and consists of around 40 small islands. Tourists can sign up for one day boat trips which embark from Ko Samui or Ko Pha-ngan with any of the local travel agents.

The highlight of the archipelago is Ko Wua Ta Lab, which acts as a center and features pristine beaches as well as a 400 meter trail which leads of to the summit of the hill in the island's center. Once at the top, visitors can enjoy expansive views over the archipelago and further out into the Gulf of Thailand.

There is also a natural lagoon with a pathway of natural steps leading up to a vantage point which allows visitors to look down over the emerald waters surrounded by rocky cliffs and greenery.

There are also numerous islands which are suited to snorkeling and scuba diving including Ko Sam Sao, Ko Thai Phlo, Ko Wua Kan Tang and Ko Hin Dab, which is also home to the longest stretches of sand in the entire archipelago.





**Entrance charge for national park**

Adults 300 Baht/Children 150 Baht

There is accommodation in the park as well as a camp site for those with tents.

**For information contact**

Muko Ang Thong Marine National Park,  
Tel. : 0 7728 0222, 06 4642 5186 or at [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)







# Ko Tao

Ko Pha-ngan, Surat Thani





## Ko Tao

Ko Pha-ngan, Surat Thani



This large island in the Ko Pha-ngan district, is about 45 km from Pha-ngan island, covers an area of around 25 square km and features some incredible beaches with crystal clear water and vast areas of coral reef on all sides, both in deep and shallower seas.

Tourists from all over the world flock to Ko Tao to learn the art of scuba diving and there are numerous schools on the island that offer courses. The best time to visit is between the end of December and September and there is a wide range of accommodation for tourists. Aside from the diving, the island features the following attractions :

**Ao Mae Hat Bay** is the island's most populated community and the location of the main pier. Visitors here can find a vast selection of restaurants, shops and tour companies.

**Sairi Beach** is not far from the pier and is the island's longest beach, featuring powdery white sand and a great selection of resorts, hotels and beach huts.

**John-Suwan Viewpoint** is located on Khao Chaloke hill and gives the best views down over the island.

There are many more fine beaches to explore such as Laem Hin, Ao Laem Thian, Ao Tanote, Ao Luek, Hat Sai Daeng, Laem Ta To, Ao Chaloke, Ban Kao and more.





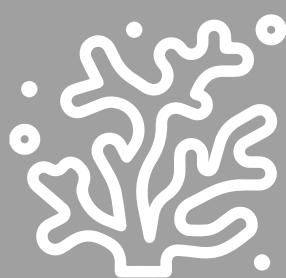


**To reach Ko Tao** it is recommended to take a boat to Ko Samui for convenience. The companies offering boat services between Ko Samui and Ko Tao are as follows.

Lomprayah Speedboat Ltd.  
Tel. : 0 2629 2569-70, 0 7795 0700-1, 08 3392 6426  
or [www.lomprayah.com](http://www.lomprayah.com)







# Ko Nang Yuan

Ko Pha-ngan, Surat Thani





## Ko Nang Yuan

Ko Pha-ngan, Surat Thani



Ko Nang Yuan, located about 500 meters to the north west of Ko Tao in the Ko Pha-ngan district, is made of three small islands connected by a strip of sand which is only revealed at low tide. The sand is fine, the water clear and there's plenty of coral reef for divers to explore.

There is also a viewing point on the crest of the hill at the center of the island which gives a breathtaking view of the connecting beach below.



**To get there,** hire a longtail boat from Mae Hat or Sairi Beach, Ko Tao. The trip across takes around 20 minutes.





## TAT CONTACT CENTER

### TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (HEADQUARTERS)

1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan,  
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel : 0 2550 5500 Fax : 0 2253 7440

[www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org)

email : [info@tat.or.th](mailto:info@tat.or.th)

Open every day between 08.30 – 16.30 hrs



### Suvarnabhumi Airport

Domestic Terminal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gate 3

Tel : 0 2134 0040

Open 24 hours

### Don Mueang Airport

International Terminal (Building 1), 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Gate 2

Tel : 0 2504 4301

Open 24 hours

## TAT, Surat Thani Office

5 Talat Mai Road, Tambon Talat,  
Mueang Surat Thani District, Surat Thani 84000

Tel : 0 7728 8817-9 Fax : 0 7728 2828

email: [tatsurat@tat.or.th](mailto:tatsurat@tat.or.th)

Responsible for tourism in Surat Thani province only



## TAT, Ko Samui Office

370 Mu 3, Tambon Ang Thong, Ko Samui, Surat Thani 84140

Tel : 0 7742 0504, 0 7742 0720-2 Fax : 0 7742 0721

email : [tatsamui@tat.or.th](mailto:tatsamui@tat.or.th)

Responsible for tourism in Ko Samui, Ko Tao, and Ko Pha-ngan only.

