

Chachoengsao Province

Amphoe Mueang Chachoengsao

1 - Thailand Sand City

This exhibition shows displays exquisite craftsmanship in the gigantic sand statues which were created by over professional 70 sculptors worldwide from the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, the United States, Czechoslovakia and Thailand. Situated next to Carrefour Supermarket in Chachoengsao downtown, the World Sand Sculpture commemorates HM King Bhumibol's 80th Birthday. This exhibition shows displays exquisite craftsmanship in the gigantic sand statues which were created by over professional 70 sculptors worldwide from the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, the United States, Czechoslovakia and Thailand. More than 30 pieces are exhibited on 4.8 acres of land, making this the world's largest indoor sand sculpture exhibition. The exhibition is divided into 3 sections: 1. Sand sculptures concerning HM the King Sculptures in this zone extol HM the King and his many good works and dedication to his country and people. 2. Sculptures depicting Thai history and literature This is a very interesting exhibit in the dark, with stunning light and sound effects. 3. International Sand Sculptures This zone is dedicated to sculptures drawing source material from worldwide sources, including the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, the Statue of Liberty, Brandenburg Gate, Van Gogh's work, wind mills, etc. Sand City is open every day from 10.00-19.00 hrs. Admission is 80 Baht for adults and 40 Baht for children. For further information, contact the Office of World Sand Sculpture, tel. 0 3851 5120 or -5121.

2 - Wat Sothonwararam Worawihan is located in the Municipality of Mueang Chachoengsao by the Bang Pakong River. Initially, it was named 'Wat Hong,' which was built in the late Ayutthaya period. The temple enshrines 'Luangpho Phuttha Sothon,' the Buddha image of Chachoengsao province which is revered by the people of Chachoengsao. This sacred Buddha image is believed to bring in an abundance of fruit and food, as well as expel illness. Built by a Lan Chang craftsman, the 1.48 metre-high stucco image of Buddha is in the posture of meditation, with a lap width of 1.65 m. According to history, the Buddha image magically floated up the river and was invited to be enshrined in this temple around 1770 in the early Thon Buri period. Initially, it was a bronze image in the posture of meditation, with a lap width of more than one Sok (Thai measurement equivalent to 50 cm). It had a very beautiful shape. The monks were afraid that the image might be stolen, they, therefore, decided to cover the image with mortar. The covered image is the present appearance visitors can see. Nowadays, many people from all walks of life come to pay homage to and cover the image with gold leaf.

=> **Phra Ubosot** The ceremony to lay the foundation stone and mark the beginning of the construction of a new Ubosot (ordination hall) was performed in 1987. The Provincial Public Works Office was in charge of the construction. The new Ubosot is in an applied Rattanakosin style of art. The original image of Luangpho Sothon is enshrined in the ordination hall which is open daily from 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

=> **Wihan Chamlong** The imitation image of Luangpho Sothon is enshrined in the Wihan Chamlong (imitation image hall). Since the old Ubosot was dilapidated and narrow, it was

demolished and replaced by a new one. The imitation image of Luangpho Sothon was moved from the old ordination hall to the Wihan Chamlong for the general public to pay homage as usual. The image hall is open from 7.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 7.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. at weekends.

In the area opposite the temple, there are shops of food products and souvenirs of Chachoengsao province. For more information about the temple, call Tel. 0 3851 1048, 0 3851 1666. At the temple's pier, there is a boat service. Visitors can cruise along the Bang Pakong River to Talat Ban Mai (Ban Mai Market).

16 - Phraya Sisunthonwohan (Noi Acharayangkun) Monument is located on Si Sothon Tat Mai Road, opposite the Sammanakhan Bang Pakong Park (Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University). The statue which was cast from metal is 2.65 m high. The opening ceremony was performed on 8 June 1999. Phraya Sisunthonwohan (Noi Acharayangkun) was a native of Paet Rio. He was a scholar of Thai language who served the royal court closely throughout his whole life from the reign of King Rama III to King Rama V. He composed poems, proverbs, and royal ceremonial announcements. Also, he was the author of many textbooks on Thai language for teaching purposes, such as Munlabot Banphakit, Wahanit Nikon, Akson Prayok, Sangyok Phithan, Waiphot Phichan, Phisan Karan, etc.; these can be considered the most complete textbooks for Thai youth at that time.

13 - Chachoengsao City Fortress (ป้อมเมืองฉะเชิงเทรา) is located on Maruphong Road. Built in 1794, during the reign of King Rama III, under the supervision of Krommaluang Ronnaret, the fortress was made to protect an enemy invasion. In the reign of King Rama V, it was a stronghold for an army to suppress the Ang Yi rebellion of illegal Chinese opium traders who instigated chaos and robbed the people. In front of the fortress, a public park has been established. Visitors can relax in the park and see the view of the Bang Pakong River. Inactive cannons can be seen on the city wall.

5 - City Pillar Shrine (ศาลหลักเมือง) is a rebuilt shrine on Maruphong Road, Tambon Na Mueang. The building of Thai architecture has a four-porched roof with a Prang finial. Inside, two city pillars are housed. The old one was built in 1834 during the reign of King Rama III. The other belongs to the present day; it was constructed in 1895 during the reign of King Rama V. The shrine of the guarding god of the city pillar is located in the same area. The City Pillar Shrine is open during 7.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

17 - Wat Mueang or Wat Pitulathirat Rangsarit (วัดเมืองหรือวัดปิดลาธิราชรังสฤษฎ์) is located in Tambon Na Mueang. The temple was built in 1834 during the reign of King Rama III, together with the city fortress and city walls by craftsmen from the capital. The architectural style is similar to Phra Prang of Wat Phra Si Rattanasatsadaram in Bangkok; there is difference in some details. Initially, the temple was called 'Wat Mueang.' In 1908, King Rama V on his royal visit to

Chachoengsao renamed the temple 'Wat Pitulathirat Rangsarit,' which means the temple built by the king's uncle.

29 - Kuan Im Loi Nam is housed at the Chachoengsao Assistance for Charity Association (Chachoengsao Relief Unit) on Supphakit Road, Tambon Na Mueang. The Seneca ceramic tile statue in the round of Kuan Im or Kuan Yin (Goddess of Mercy) is around 119 cm high and weighs 40 kg. This yellowish solid figure holds a scripture. Therefore, this is considered Kuan Yin in the posture of holding a scripture to preach humanity of all classes and castes. The statue was washed away from another location and was found ashore near a bridge over the Bang Pakong River on 21 November 1997. The people of Paet Rio invited the statue to be here. Faithful people always come to worship the statue. For more information, call Tel. 08 5013 0946.

11 - Wat Uphai Phatikaram or Wat Sam Po Kong (วัดอุภัยภาติการามหรือวัดชำปอกง) is located on Supphakit Road near Talat Ban Mai or Ban Mai Market. Initially, it was a Chinese temple. At present, it has been transformed into a Vietnamese temple of Mahayana (the Great Vehicle) Buddhism. On the temple grounds, a Chinese style pavilion houses Luangpho To (Phra Trairattana Nayok) or called by the Chinese people as 'Chaopho Sam Po Kong.' Only three Buddha images in this form are found in Thailand. The two other images are housed at Wat Kanlayanamit (Thon Buri), Bangkok, and Wat Phananchoen, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. At weekends, visitors come from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan, to pay homage to the image.

18 - Talat Ban Mai or Talat Rim Nam Roi Pi (ตลาดบ้านใหม่หรือตลาดริมน้ำร้อยปี) is located on Supphakit Road (the way to Amphoe Bang Nam Prio). It is a traditional market by the Bang Pakong River aged more than 100 years. This riverside community has reflected the villagers' way of life since before the reign of King Rama V. To preserve the ancient way of life here, as well as create careers for members of the community, the 'Talat Ban Mai Conservation Club' has been established. Goods on sale in the market are food, rice and curry, duck noodle soup, traditional coffee and beverage, Thai and Chinese styled sweets, traditional toys, gifts and souvenirs, etc. The market is open on Saturdays and Sundays during 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. For more information, contact the Talat Ban Mai Conversation Club at Tel. 0 3881 7336, 08 6148 4513, 08 9881 7161, 08 9666 4266.

3 - Wat Chin Pracha Samoson (Wat Leng Hok Yi) is located on Supphakit Road, Tambon Ban Mai, 1 km from the City Hall. It is a Chinese temple in Mahayana Buddhism, which extends from Wat Leng Noei Yi in Bangkok. It was built in 1906 during the reign of King Rama V. During the royal visit to the 'Prachin Buri Circle' to open the Bangkok – Chachoengsao railway, King Rama V named the temple 'Wat Chin Pracha Samoson.' In the temple's Chinese name, 'Hok' means fortune, luck and wealth; and 'Leng' refers to a dragon. Therefore, it is sometimes mentioned as the temple of the fortune dragon or the dragon of luck. According to the feng shui system, this temple is at the position of the dragon's stomach, the dragon's head is at Wat Leng Noei Yi in Bangkok, and the

dragon's tail is at Wat Leng Hua Yi in Chanthaburi. The dragon's three locations lay on the lands of abundance and wealth - Yaowarat the trading district, Paet Rio the abundant source of plants and food, and Chanthaburi the city of gems. There are many interesting items in Wat Chin Pracha Samoson. Four giant paper figures of Thao Chatu Lakkaban (Four guardian gods of the four directions) guard the entrance door. There are three principal Buddha images and eighteen of the Perfected One, which were made from paper and brought in from China. The cast figure of the God of Luck (Chai Seng Ia) is on the right of the principal Buddha images, accompanied by other gods in the Chinese belief. A giant bell weighs over one ton. It is one of the three bells in the world with letters from the Maha Prajna Paramita Sutra scripture around their bodies. It is believed that to ring the bell is like praying, which gives merit to the ringer. In addition, there are other sacred shrines, such as Wihan Buraphachan (ancestors), Wihan Chaomae Kuan Im (Kuan Yin the Goddess of Mercy), Wihan Ti Chang Uang, Sa Nathi Sawan (pond of the Heaven's water), etc.

10 - Wat Phayakkha Intharam or Wat Chedi (วัดพยัคฆอินทารามหรือวัดเจดีย์) is located in Tambon Ban Mai. A silver inscription found in the crack at the neck of the bell body of the giant pagoda on the temple ground made it known that the temple had been built during the reign of King Rama V, by Nai Suea or Phra Kriangkraikrabuanyut, who was chief of the city of Chachoengsao, and his wife named In. Construction of the pagoda began in 1873 and the work was completed in 1875. The temple was later finished in around 1881. It is considered as an ancient temple. The Fine Arts Department registered the temple as an ancient monument on 23 September 1982. Interesting items of the temple are a giant pagoda, two small pagodas, Wihan (pavilion) of the Lord Buddha's footprint, Ubosot (ordination hall), and a belfry.

19 - Wat Sampathuan Nok (เขื่อนทดน้ำบางปะกง) is located on Supphakit Road. Initially, the temple was named Wat Suan Phrik (Nok). It was built by In, a Buddhist monk, and the villagers in the late Thon Buri period. The name 'Sampathuan' was gradually changed from the wording 'Sam Phra Thuan' (three Buddha images floating upstream against the current), which is related to the legend of Luangpho Phuttha Sothon. The most interesting item is the Ubosot (ordination hall) with the stucco design on the eaves of its balcony, which was built when Phra Phutthirangsimuniwong (Ho Phromchoto) was the abbot. The design depicts the story in the Vessantara Jataka (the tenth incarnation of the Lord Buddha) and the way of life in the past of the people of Paet Rio. At the temple's front, there is a beautiful Buddha image's tower. The Bang Pakong Dam can be seen in the distance from the temple's pier.

20 - Bang Pakong Dam (เขื่อนทดน้ำบางปะกง) is located in Ban Phai Sawek, Tambon Bang Kaeo, about 6 km from town on the Chachoengsao – Bang Khla route. It is under the Bang Pakong River Development Project. The dam serves as a wall to protect the area from saline water, and a source of water for consumption, and allocation to support an expansion of the industrial sector in the East.

9 - Somdet Phra Sri Nagarindra Park สวนสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทร์ละเขิงเทรา

This public park is in front of the City Hall, in the area of 90 Rae (36 Acres) which features a large swamp in the middle. Surrounded by various types of trees, the park is most suitable for relaxation

12 - Maenam Bang Pakong

Maenam Bang Pakong or Bang Pakong River is originated from Korat plateau, pass Prachin Buri, Amphoe Bang Nam Priao and Bang Khla of Chachoengsao, and exit Thai Bay at Amphoe Bang Pakong with the distance of 230 kilometers. The three hour trip of 25 kilometers starts from Chachoengsao town to view the local Thai nature along both banks. The route passes some interesting places such as Khrommakhun Maruphong Siriwats Residence, ancient fortress and walls, previous City Hall, old rafts, many Wats, and landed at Wat Pho Bang Khla to view the spectacular sights of the bats. Tourists can hire boat at the pier of Wat Sothon Wararam Worawihan or in town. The long-tailed boat can accommodate 8-10 people, and 40 people for a big boat. The hiring rate can be bargained due to number of passengers and distance

Amphoe Ban Pho

4 - Talat Khlong Suan Roi Pi (100-year-old Garden-Canal Market) is located in Tambon Theppharat, Amphoe Ban Pho, Chachoengsao, and the Municipality of Tambon Khlong Suan, Amphoe Bang Bo, Samut Prakan. In the past, Khlong Suan was a waterway to Bangkok, starting from the Tha Thua sluice gate (Chachoengsao), past the Garden-Canal Market, toward Pratu Nam (Wang Sa Pathum) in Bangkok. From the past to the present, the people here, a combination of Thai Chinese, Buddhist, and Muslim people, live their happy life harmoniously. This can be seen by the different buildings, such as a Chinese vegetarian hall, Thai temple, Muslim mosque, etc., standing together in proximity. The market is also a rendezvous for people to talk to each other and exchange views, such as a coffee house. For those who are interested in the old ways of life of more than 100 years ago, the market is the ideal place. Visitors will sample delectable food of unique recipes, desserts, traditional coffee, and admire artefacts and valuable works of architecture. There are more vendors at weekends than during weekdays. For more information, contact the Municipality of Tambon Khlong Suan at Tel. 0 2739 3329, 0 2739 3253. A boat service to cruise the canal is available at the market, taking around an hour with a fare of 50 Baht.

To get there: From Bangkok, take the Bang Na – Trat Road and at Km 35, turn left to the road heading for the Thai Country Club for around 15 km. Turn left to Route Chocho 3001 for around 2 km. The entrance to the market is between Km 9-10 or Km 10-11.

From Rom Klao junction take Route Chocho 3001 for around 27 km. The entrance to the market is between Km 9-10 or Km 10-11. The trip takes around 30 minutes.

From Chachoengsao take Highway 314 (Chachoengsao – Bang Pakong). Turn right between Km 14-15 to Route Chocho 3001. The entrance to the market is between Km 9-10 or Km 10-11.

bus Take the Chachoengsao – Lat Krabang bus and get off at the entrance to the market. Walk for around 200 m.

Amphoe Bang Khla

6 - Wat Pho Bang Khla

This temple is 23 kilometers from Chachoengsao. Using highway No. 304 for 17 kilometers, then turn left to highway No.3121 for 6 kilometers, pass the Monument of King Taksin the Great, then turn left 500 meters. Also, another route is to travel by boat from Chachoengsao town at Tawan Ok Plaza pier, and land at the pier of the temple. There are many bats on trees during the day and fly out to search for food during the night. And even though fruits are their favorites, these bats never eat fruits grown by Bang Khla people

22 - The Shrine and Monument of King Taksin the Great

(ศาลและอนุสาวรีย์สมเด็จพระเจ้าตากสินมหาราช) were built as a memorial to the king who won a victory in a fight with the Burmese troops at the mouth of the Cholo River. His troops marched through Chachoengsao to fight for independence. It was long told that once there had been a pagoda in memorial of his victory over the Burmese troops in this area until 1941 when it fell down for an unknown reason. The shrine and monument of King Taksin the Great were therefore constructed in 1988.

Wat Pho Bang Khla is 23 km from the town of Chachoengsao. The temple has an area of around 31 rai. It was formerly called "Wat Pho" and assumed to have been built during 1767-1782 in the reign of King Taksin the Great, with the art styles of the Ayutthaya and Rattanakosin periods. The Wihan (hall) with four porches was made of brick covered with plaster. Its gable-shaped roof is covered with 'Klet Tao' terracotta tiles. The reclining Buddha image is enshrined in the hall. Within the temple compound, many Khangkhao Mae Kai (flying foxes) are seen on trees. This is the world's largest species of bats. It has a wolf-like face, with large eyes, a small nose and ears, reddish brown fur, sharp claws that can grip the branches of trees, and black wings. The bat can fly as fast and far as a bird. The wing spread is around 3 ft. The female bat can have only one offspring at a time. During the day, herds of bats hang their heads down to sleep on trees. At dusk, they go out to feed. They eat fruit and young leaves such as those of Bodhi, mango, and tamarind trees. From an observation, the bats here fly to feed along the Thai border or on the Cambodian side. A cruise along the Bang Pakong River passes by this temple. Visitors can disembark at the temple's pier.

To get there: Take Highway 304 (Chachoengsao – Kabin Buri) for around 17 km. Turn left to Highway 3121. Drive through the town of Bang Khla for around 6 km, past the shrine and the monument of King Taksin the Great, and turn left for around 500 m.

21 - Wat Chaeng (วัดแจ้ง) is located near Talat Bang Khla or Bang Khla Market. The beautiful Ubosot (ordination hall) is a combination of Sino – Thai arts, with sculptures of an ogre on its sides. It is unknown when it was built. It was long told that on the way to beat the Khmer, King Rama I led his troops to arrive at this place at dawn, so a temple was built and named 'Wat Chaeng,' literally meaning 'temple of dawn.'

14 - King Taksin the Great Stupa Memorial

(อนุสรณ์สถานพระสถูปเจดีย์สมเด็จพระเจ้าตากสินมหาราช) is located near the mouth of the Cholo River (Khlung Tha Lat), in Tambon Pak Nam. The king broke through the Burmese army surrounding Ayutthaya the capital, and moved his troops past Nakhon Nayok and Prachin Buri. After that, he clashed with the Burmese near the mouth of the Cholo River. With his intelligence, the king defeated the Burmese who outnumbered his troops, and then took a rest here. A pagoda was constructed by the king to commemorate his victory. Later, the area was eroded by currents before the pagoda collapsed around 1948. Then, the stupa memorial was built on the same area. Visitors can visit and pay homage to the memorial, or admire a riverside view; Ko Lat on the opposite side can be seen.

23 - Muban Namtan Sot (หมู่บ้านน้ำตาลสด) is located in Ban Pak Nam, Mu 11, Wanaphuti Road, Tambon Pak Nam. This palm sap village is the sole production source of ready-to-drink palm sap in the East. See the procedures of making palm sap from a palm tree. Witness the lifestyle of farmers who make palm sap. The process of making palm sap begins with the climbing on a high palm tree to get palm sap in the morning and evening time. The collected palm sap will be boiled and bottled before sending for sale across the country. Also, see how to make sugar from the palm sap, and sample fragrant sweet palm sap. Before taking the trip back, visitors can enjoy buying the village's OTOP products as souvenirs, such as ready-to-drink palm sap, palm sap sugar, Kui Loei pointed-tip hat, stalk of the palm's staminate flower which is believed by the villagers to treat diabetes, etc. For more information, contact the Chachoengsao Agricultural Office at Tel. 0 3851 1635, or the Visitor Service Centre of the palm sap village in Tambon Pak Nam, Amphoe Bang Khla, on the Bang Khla – Khlung Khuean Road.

15 - Mango Orchards (สวนมะม่วง) Chachoengsao is the province with the most number of mango trees in Thailand. The total area used for growing the fruit is about 86,000 rai. The mango trees are mostly found in Amphoe Bang Khla and Amphoe Plaeng Yao. Popular varieties being grown by mango orchardists are Raet, Khiao Sawoei, Nam Dok Mai, Chaokhun Thip, Thong Dam, etc. The mango season begins in March. The province holds the Paet Rio Mango and Products Fair every year. For those who are interested in a visit to a mango orchard, please contact the Agricultural Office of Amphoe Bang Khla, at Tel. 0 3854 1003, or Khun Manop Kaeowongnukun, Chairman of the Chachoengsao Mango Orchard Club, at Tel. 0 3858 3734, 08 9938 9097.

Amphoe Panom Sarakham

8 - Khao Hin Son Royal Development Study Centre is located in Tambon Khao Hin Son on Highway 304, between Km 51-52, and 17 km from the town of Phanom Sarakham. The centre has a vast area of around 1,895 rai. It was established by H.M. the King on 8 August 1979. In the past, the area was degraded with infertile and sandy soil. Soil erosion was highly found. H.M. the King has developed the land, environment and eco-system in the area. There were the development of

water sources, the improvement of forest conditions, development of land, and planning of planting and animal husbandry. As a result, the area has been totally changed. By the introduction of a new agricultural theory on a sufficiency economy, the people have been given an opportunity to live a self-reliant life. The area can be considered a living natural museum and a comprehensive development centre. It can also serve as a model and set an example of development for other areas, with cooperation from government agencies and the private sector. Within the centre, the area is divided for demonstrative and experimental works, such as land development, livestock, aquatic animal culture, arts and craft, an herbal forest plantation project, etc. There are experimental fields of various plants, such as rattan species found in Thailand, avocado, and mango of Thai and foreign species. The Botanical Garden of the East has been established here to supervise research on benefits from herbal plants. Inside the building, there are an exhibition and a demonstration on how to produce herbs. An herbal steaming room is open on Saturday and Sunday from 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (The fee is 30 Baht per person). The centre won the 2002 Tourism Award for Outstanding Performance in the category of Tourist Attractions and the 2004 Tourism Award for Excellence in the category of Agro-tourism Sites.

A two-hour guided tour for a group of visitors is available. Advance contact should be made to the Director of the Khao Hin Son Royal Development and Study Centre. Accommodation is also provided by the centre. A fan room is 100 Baht per person. An air-conditioned room is 600 Baht per night (3 persons). For more information, contact the Khao Hin Son Development Study Centre at Tel. 0 3859 9105-6 during office hours from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

24 - Khao Hin Son (เขานินซอน) is located on Highway 304 (Chachoengsao – Kabin Buri) at Km 53, 53 km from the city of Chachoengsao. Khao Hin Son is a fairly high mountain consisting of small and large rocks in different shapes scattered by nature. Around Khao Hin Son is 'Saun Rukkhachat Somdet Phra Pinklao,' or the arboretum where the shrine of Somdet Phra Pinklao is located. The shrine is in honour and commemoration of the great deeds of Somdet Phra Pinklao, the younger brother of King Rama IV. His Majesty the King presided over the opening ceremony of the shrine in 1979. Behind the shrine is the location of Wat Khao Hin Son.

Amphoe Sanam Chai Khet

25 - Wanakaset or Village Society Development Study Centre or Ban Santitham

(วนเกษตรหรือศูนย์ศึกษาพัฒนาการสังคมหมู่บ้านหรือบ้านสถานดิศกรม) is located in Tambon Lat Krathing on an area of almost 10 rai. More than 700 - 800 species of plants are grown as herbs for medical treatment. Inside, there is a wooden Thai-styled house on stilts with rhombus-shaped roof tiles. The ground floor is used for a meeting or lecture. Folk utensils, ancient objects, and items of the old days have been kept and displayed on the upper floor. At the back, there is an imitation of a rice barn, accompanied with equipment for threshing and hulling paddy. Some part of the house is set aside for youth camping, comprising a recreational ground and an activity area. This is an

ideal place for those who are interested in a natural self-reliant way of life. For more information, contact Mr. Wibun Khemchaloem at Tel. 0 3859 7441, 0 3859 7715. To get there: Take Highway 3245 (Phanom Sarakham – Sanam Chai Khet) and turn right to Highway 3259 (Sanam Chai Khet – Tha Takiap) for around 3 km.

26 - Wat Phrathat Wayo (Wat Huai Nam Sap) is located at Mu 2, Tambon Lat Krathing. Take Highway 3259 (Sanam Chai Khet – Tha Takiap), about 9 km from the town of Phanom Sarakham. The temple has many interesting points. Luangpho Yai is a large Buddha image in the posture of giving blessing with the lap width of 17 m, the height of 19 m, and the base height of 5 m. Phra Mahathat Chedi is a bell-shaped pagoda decorated with yellow, dark blue and white glass. It is 50 m in height and has a base of 45 m in circumference. The Lord Buddha's relics are enshrined here. Inside, there are many Buddha images and oil paintings depicting the Lord Buddha's life. There is a staircase to the upper floors. On the top floor, a panoramic view and the Lat Krathing small-scale reservoir can be seen. In addition, in the temple compound lays the monument of Than Pho Khun, monument of Somdet Pho Saen Kham Fa, and Wihan (hall) of the reclining Buddha image. The temple has natural ambience suitable for recreation. It is open from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Amphoe Tha Takiap

27 - Krabok Khu Wildlife Breeding Station (สถานีเพาะเลี้ยงสัตว์ป่ากระบอด) is located on Highway 3259 (Phanom Sarakham – Tha Takiap) at Km 29 – 30, around 3 km before Amphoe Tha Takiap. The station conducts research, breeding, and propagating of rare and endangered species. It serves as a research and study centre for students and those who are interested. Inside, there is monkey, gibbon, langur, bear, peacock, white-winged wood duck, etc. For a group tour, contact should be made in advance to the Chief of the Krabok Khu Wildlife Breeding Station at Tel. 08 9589 9167.

28 - Khlong Siyat Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำคลองสียัด) is located at Mu 2, Tambon Tha Takiap, around 90 km to the southeast of the city of Chachoengsao. Follow Highway 3259 to Km 36 (around 4 km beyond Amphoe Tha Takiap). The reservoir's entrance is opposite the Khlong Takrao Sub-district Administration Organisation. It is an earthy reservoir that keeps water for agricultural purposes. The surrounding landscape is beautiful. Food shops are available by the reservoir. It is a suitable place for visitors to enjoy themselves, have food, and admire nature. Located in the nearby area is the Chaopho Khao Ka Spirit Shrine which is worshipped by the villagers. For more information, contact the Irrigation Office 9 at Tel. 0 3850 8242.

7 - Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary is a conservation zone covering an area of 643,750 rai in the heart of a vast forest land linking five provinces: Chachoengsao, Chon Buri, Rayong, Chanthaburi, and Sa Kaeo. It is a low-lying evergreen forest which is the nearest to Bangkok. Most of the forest here is a dry evergreen forest. Other types of forest which are slightly found include a moist evergreen forest, mixed deciduous forest, deciduous dipterocarp forest, and grasslands. This

is the last abundant piece of forest land of the East, and there is plenty of biodiversity. Also, it is the source of the Bang Pakong River in Chachoengsao, the Tanot Canal in Chanthaburi, and the Prasae River in Rayong. Geographically, the area is not very steep; it is about 30-802 m above sea level. Khao Sip Ha Chan, the mountain top southeast of the wildlife sanctuary is 802 m above sea level.

In the large forest-covered area, there are wild animals, such as elephant, gaur, deer, barking deer, banteng, pileated gibbon, porcupine, etc., and birds, such as Siamese fire back, great pied hornbill, blue-winged pitta, spotted dove, black-shouldered kite, etc. Also located in the area of the wildlife sanctuary office is the Wildlife Research Centre, the first of its kind in the East, and the second one of Thailand after the Nang Ram Wildlife Research Centre at Huai Kha Khaeng in Uthai Thani. In the valley's area, it is shady and cool. From June to July, butterflies, such as Common Bluebottle, Common Peacock, Jungleking, etc., can be seen.

In addition, there is Namtok Ang Rue Nai or Namtok Bo Thong. Located in the area of the Namtok Bo Thong Ranger Station, the waterfall originates from Khlong Mak (Mak Canal) on Khao Ang Rue Nai or the Ang Rue Nai Mountain, and has flowing water all year round. It is about 40 km from the Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary Office. There is an entrance from Ban Nong Khok. A four-wheel drive car is needed. The waterfall is around 2 km from the Namtok Bo Thong Ranger Station. The nature trail here is suitable for nature lovers. Furthermore, there is another waterfall called Namtok Khao Takrup, which is under the care of the Khao Takrup Ranger Station, about 30 km from the Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary Office.

Admission fees are 200 Baht for adults and 100 Baht for children. Accommodation and a camping site are available. Visitors are required to bring their own tents. Regulations of the wildlife sanctuary must be strictly followed. To visit the wildlife sanctuary, a written request for permission must be made at least 15 days in advance to the Director of the Wildlife Conservation Office, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Flora. For more information, call Tel. 0 2561 4292 ext. 658, 659, or contact the Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary at Tel. 0 3850 2001.

To get there From Bangkok, it takes about 3 hours.

By car From the town of Chachoengsao, take the Chachoengsao – Phanom Sarakham route. From Amphoe Phanom Sarakham, follow Highway 3245 (Phanom Sarakham – Sanam Chai Khet). Change to Highway 3259, past Amphoe Tha Takiap to Ban Nong Khok, for around 50 km. Take the Ban Nong Khok – Sa Kaeo's King Amphoe Khlong Hat route for around 20 km to reach the Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary Office and the Chachoengsao Wildlife Research Station.

By bus Take the Bangkok – Phanom Sarakham bus to connect to the Chachoengsao – Khlong Hat bus and get off in front of the Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary Office.