AMAZING NEW CHAPTERS

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Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Old capital city, source of rice and water, great poets, good people of Sri Ayutthaya, valuable World Heritage

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya has historical evidence of being a city in the Chao Phraya River Basin from around the 11th-13th centuries. There are traces of the city's location, ancient monuments, antiquities, and historical events in legends, and a main stone inscription that is considered the closest contemporary evidence to the events.

Ayothaya City, or Ayothaya Sri Ramthep Nakhon, or Phra Rama City is located in the eastern part of the island of Ayutthaya. It was a prosperous city in politics, governance, and rich culture.

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, during the 417 years of being the capital, was considered as the period of creating the ultimate prosperity of the Thai people. which its height of civilisation appeared evident to many civilised countries. Although Ayutthaya was destroyed by war from the first fall of the city in 1569, which later King Naresuan the Great regained the independence, and the second fall of the city in 1767 that King Taksin the Great regained independence at the end of the same year, both kings are said to be great, majestic rulers that used bravery, sacrifice, and had great intellect to fight to protect the country.

In addition, from the excavation of the ancient sites, today there are still traces of evidence showing the genius and ability of the ancestors who created cultural prosperity and wealth for Thailand. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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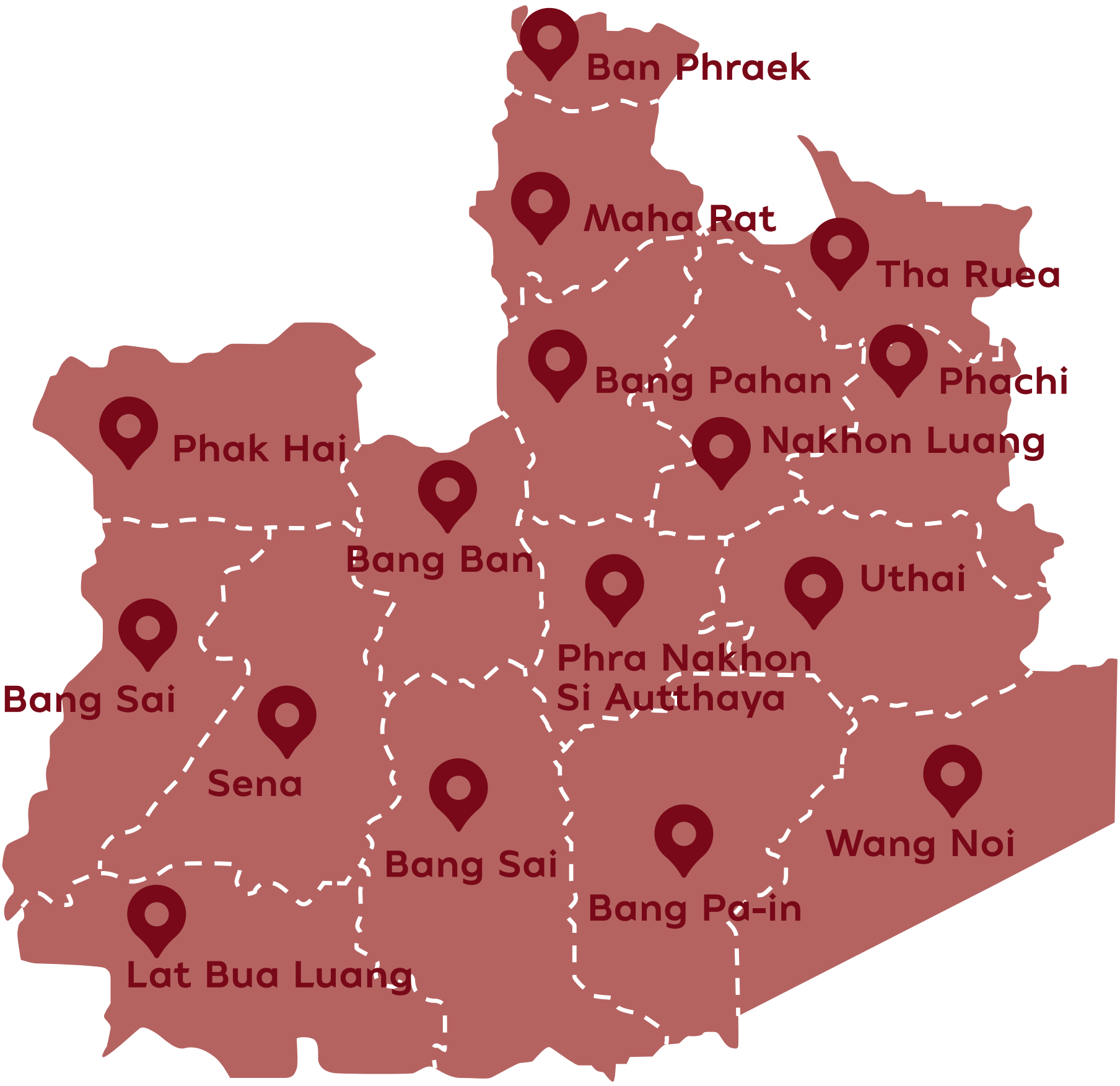
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

(UNESCO) through the World Heritage Committee passed a resolution to accept the historical city of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, which covers the area of the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park and has been established as a historical park since 1976 to be listed as a World Heritage Site on 13 December 1991, at Carthage, Tunisia.

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Map



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พิพิธภัณฑสถานแห่งชาติ
เจ้าสามพระยา

Chao Sam Phraya National Museum

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Chao Sam Phraya National Museum

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located on Rochana Road, Pratu Chai subdistrict opposite Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University. This museum was built on the occasion that His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother came to see the artefacts found from the Phra Prang of Wat Ratchaburana, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province on 23 November 1957. His Majesty informed the Minister of Education and the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department at that time that "The antiques and artefacts found in this Phra Prang of Wat Ratchaburana should have a museum to preserve and set to show to the people in this province of Ayutthaya. They should not be kept and displayed elsewhere."

The Fine Arts Department thus built this museum to preserve and exhibit the antiques found from the prang of Wat Ratchaburana and others found in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province. The Department also graciously requested to have the name of Somdej Phra Boromrachathirat II (Chao Sam Phraya) who built the prang of Wat Ratchaburana for the Museum.

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Interesting things within the Museum include displays of goldware found in the Phra Prang of Wat Ratchaburana in 1957 and goldware found in the Phra Prang of Wat Mahathat. There are also antiques and artefacts from the excavation and restoration of ancient monuments in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province, e.g., Buddha statues in the Dvaravati, Lop Buri, and Ayutthaya art styles that were discovered in the Phra Prang of Wat Ratchaburana, Wat Mahathat, and Wat Phra Ram, and a comparative study of antiques and objects of art found in different periods of Thailand, as well as a Central Thai village showcasing folk art, tools, and appliances in the daily life of the Thai people in the past.

Open Tuesday–Sunday 09.00–16.00 hrs. (closed Monday).

Entrance fee: tourists 30 baht; students in uniform can visit for free.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 3524 1587.

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Million Toy Museum

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Million Toy Museum

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Tha Wasukri subdistrict. The bright blue building shaded by trees is a place that has collected and compiled many world-class toys, both hundreds of years old toys and modern-day toys.

The exhibition area is divided into 2 floors. The upper floor shows an exhibition of collections about the Thai way of life that is hundreds of years old, including ancient photos, film of the reigns of Kings Rama IV-V the Great, coins, stamps, Buddha images, and paintings. The lower floor has an exhibition of collectibles of antique toys that are 50-150 years old, e.g., wooden, celluloid, iron, and plastic toys made in Germany, Japan, France, China, the USA and Thailand.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 09.00-16.00 hrs. (closed Monday)

Entrance fee: adults 50 baht; students 20 baht.

For further details contact, Tel. 08 1890 578

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日本人村

หมู่บ้านญี่ปุ่น

Japanese Village

The Japanese Village

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

The Japanese Village

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Ko Rian subdistrict. It displays the story of the Japanese who came to the Kingdom of Siam. At the end of the 16th century, the Japanese authorities allowed the Japanese to sail out to trade with foreigners. Among those who went to trade, some travelled to Ayutthaya. The King of Thailand gave permission for the Japanese to settle in Ayutthaya on the outskirts of the island city like other nations. After that, more Japanese came to live in Ayutthaya. with a leader to govern their group. The Japanese leader at that time was Nakamasa Yamada, who was given authority and was close to King Songtham until he was appointed to serve as Okya Senaphimuk. Later he was appointed Governor of Nakhon Si Thammarat until his death.

Today, the Thai-Japanese Association has created a replica of Nakamasa Yamada and inscribed the history of the Japanese village in the Ayutthaya period. There is a building exhibiting the relationship between Ayutthaya and foreign countries. The exhibition is divided into 9 parts, e.g., the video room that presents an overview of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, map of the route to Ayutthaya and aerial photographs presenting the prosperity of Ayutthaya from the past to the present, exhibitions and replicas of products of the import and

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export trade in those days, the foreign community and the Japanese community in the Ayutthaya period, an e-book room, and a replica of an ancient ship with evidence that it came into contact with trade in the Ayutthaya period.

Open Monday-Friday 09.30-18.30 hrs.; weekends and public holidays 08:30-18:00 hrs.

Entrance fee: 50 baht.

For futher details contact, the Thai-Japanese Association Tel. 0 3525 9867.

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The Portuguese Village

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

The Portuguese Village

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Samphao Lom subdistrict on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River. It was established to propagate religion and be the centre of the community. At present, there are still traces of the remains of buildings in this area, e.g., Church of San Petro, or as it was called in the Ayutthaya period as the Church of Saint Dominic. It is a Dominican church that was also the first church built in Thailand in 1540. It is located near the centre of the Portuguese Village and covers about 2,400 square metres along the east to west facing the Chao Phraya River.

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The building is divided into three parts. The front is a Dominican Catholic cemetery. The central part is used for religious ceremonies and the burial of priests. The back and sides are living quarters. Furthermore, some important antiquities have been excavated, e.g., human skeletons, coins, glass bracelets, and religious ceremonial equipment; such as, crucifix, religious idols, and beads.

Open 08:00–18:00 hrs.

Entrance fee: 20 baht.

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Baan Hollanda

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Baan Hollanda

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

during the Ayutthaya period was known as the Holland Village, which used to be a community of Dutch people who came to develop an official friendship with Siam in 1604. This corresponds to the end of the reign of King Naresuan the Great.

Now, this village has been rebuilt in the form of a colourful two-storey building in the form of the traditional architecture of a Dutch trading station. It is a historical information centre between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The building tells the history of the past when the settlers came to establish a trading base and the way of life of the Dutch people in Thailand, including the relationship with the Thai people.

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Baan Hollanda is located on the site of the former Dutch East India Company trading station (also known as VOC). It was a community made up of the Dutch people and people of other races. In the celebration of the 400 years of Thai-Dutch relations in 2004, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Prince Willem-Alexander Prince of Orange accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited the location of Baan Hollanda. The Fine Arts Department has excavated the remains of the VOC trading station, and Queen Beatrix donated her personal assets for the establishment of an information and exhibition centre. This is a memorial showing the relationship between the two countries.

Open Wednesday-Sunday 09.00-17.00 hrs.

Entrance fee: 50 baht.

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St. Joseph's Church (French Village)

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

St. Joseph's Church (French Village)

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Samphao Lom subdistrict and built in 1657 during the reign of King Narai the Great. After the first missionaries of Paris, Monseigneur Pierre Lambert de la Motte and 2 priests travelled to Ayutthaya in 1654, Monseigneur Pierre Lambert de la Motte had benefitted the people of Ayutthaya and attended an audience with King Narai the Great to request a place to build a church and a school for performing religious ceremonies and educating children. King Narai the Great bestowed a plot of land by the riverbank so to build the church and school, which was called in those days as "Saint Joseph's Camp".

The Thais relied on this church for 10 days as a fortress to fight the enemy until 23 March 1767, before the enemy burned and plundered their possessions and forcibly took Bishop Pierre Brigot and his delegation to Burma. After the fall of Ayutthaya, this church became abandoned without any priests to take care of it. Then in 1831, Father Jean-Baptist Pallegoix and a delegation travelled to Thailand to restore the church again.

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Currently, the Archdiocese of Bangkok has carried out the restoration of different parts and decorated all the interior, as well as arranged the burial place of Monseigneur Pierre Lambert de la Motte and Monseigneur Louis Laneau inside the temple on both sides of the altar.

Open 08:30-16:30 hrs.

Wat Phra Ngam

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phra Ngam

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

or as it is known by the original name of Wat Charam is located outside the island city of Ayutthaya. There is no documentary evidence of when it was built. However, evidence of archaeological excavations found that Wat Phra Ngam has a layout that was popular in the early Ayutthaya period. The temple faces to the east, and its boundary is defined by the moat surrounding it on all sides. There is a main chedi in front of the temple, which is assumed to have been converted from a wihan. The circular chedi sits on a square base that is on an octagonal base. The chapel is a raised building surrounded by the base, and there are traces of it being built over the original building. From excavation, many ancient artefacts have been found, e.g., stucco clay architecture, roof tiles, Naga and deity stucco patterns, Chinese nails, etc. and found the lap part of the principal Buddha image, a bronze Buddha image in the meditation posture.

The Ubosot of Wat Phra Ngam is a rectangular building that is 15 metres wide and 34 metres long. There are 2 front and rear entrance doors, and there is a plaster base for enshrining Buddha images on the west side of the building that shows traces of restoration several times as well.

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Interesting items in this temple include the Pratu Haeng Kan Wela (arch of time). The gate of the temple where there are the roots of a big Bo tree, which is a sacred tree in Buddhism, appear to be no less than 100 years old. The roots are wrapped around the arch with the stem growing upwards making it look like a large domed roof. Tourists like to see the sunset through the arch of time.

The best time for viewing is 17:00 hrs. onwards until the sky gets dark.

Open 09.00–17.00 hrs.

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Wat Phra Si Sanphet

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phra Si Sanphet

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located to the north of Wihan Phra Mongkhon Bophit. It was an important temple built in the Royal Palace comparable to Wat Mahathat of Sukhothai. In the reign of King Ramathibodi I (King U-thong), the King built a royal palace as a residence in this area. Later, King Borommatrailokkanat moved the palace to the north and dedicated the former land to build a temple within the palace area. He graciously ordered the construction of a Buddhist temple to be a place for various important ceremonies. Therefore, it did not have any residing Buddhist monks.

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Later, in the reign of King Ramathibodi II, the King graciously ordered to build 2 large stupas in 1492; one to contain the relics of King Borommatrailokkanat, his father, and the second one to contain the relics of King Boromrachathirat III, his elder brother. Then, in 1499, he built a large temple and in 1500, he cast a standing Buddha image 16 metres high covered with 286 chang of gold (about 171 kilograms) called Phra Sri Sanphetdayan to be enshrined in the temple. After the fall of the city in 1767, all the gold was burned. In the Rattanakosin era, King Rama I the Great graciously had the damaged parts of this Buddha image brought to Bangkok and contained those irreparable parts in a large chedi that was built in which the King bestowed the name Sanphetdayan Chedi.

For the third chedi, which was to the west, King Borommarachathirat IV (Borom Racha No Phutthangkun) graciously had it built to contain the royal ashes of King Ramathibodi II.

These 3 chedis are a Lankan style and between each pagoda there is a mondop setting them apart. It is assumed that this was built around the reign of King Prasat Thong, and there are traces of restoration during the reign of King Borommakot. When Field Marshal Plaek Phibulsongkhram was Prime Minister, this chedi was restored as it can be seen in its present condition.

Tickets are sold from 08:30-19:00 hrs. (open until 18:00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students: free.

For further details contact, the Office of Archaeology and National Museum 3 Tel. 0 3524 1958 and 0 3524 1945.

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Wat Lokaya Sutharam (Wat Phra Non)

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Lokaya Sutharam (Wat Phra Non)

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Pratu Chai subdistrict near the Royal Palace and Wat Phra Si Sanphet, which was the centre of the Ayutthaya Kingdom. Therefore, it can be deduced that this was one of the important temples on the island of Ayutthaya. Inside the temple is the largest reclining Buddha image on the island of Ayutthaya. It has an old history, and it was mentioned in the Ayutthaya Chronicles as the path to worship the reclining Buddha. It looks like a Buddha image lying outdoors with white brick masonry. Although the Buddha image is 42 metres long and 8 metres high, the details are still quite complete. The face is glowing, happy, and full of mercy, and the head of the Buddha image is beautifully supported by a lotus base. This reclining Buddha image is one of the highlights of Ayutthaya that attracts both Thai and foreign tourists because it is a heritage that did not burn from the fire of war. It is also the pride of the people of Ayutthaya as a World Heritage Site.

In addition, Wat Phra Non still has traces of large buildings, winding balconies, as well as a prang about 30 metres high. The highlight is the majestic principal image of the temple, and it is for this reason that Wat Phra Non is therefore suitable for those who are interested in history and archaeology, which is another interesting site in the city of Ayutthaya.

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Wat Phra Meru or Wat Na Phra Meru Rachikaram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phra Meru or Wat Na Phra Meru Rachikaram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located on the bank of Khlong Sa Bua to the north of the city moat (originally the Lop Buri River) opposite the Royal Palace. It was constructed in the early Ayutthaya period in 1506. According to history, it is stated that “Phra Indra (one of the royal family) during the reign of King Ramathibodi II had great faith in Buddhism, therefore asked for permission from the King to build this temple in 1506.”

When there was the war with King Bayinnaung, in the reign of King Maha Chakkraphat, an agreement was made through peaceful negotiations for an armistice. The King graciously built a large pavilion on the side of Wat Na Phra Meru in the area of Wat Hatdawas. However, when the great battle between Ayutthaya and Burma occurred in 1767, this temple was chosen as the strategic location of the King of Inwa’s Royal Army. At the end of the battle, Ayutthaya lost the war. The King of Inwa ordered to ignore this temple and not burn it down.

At present, the Ayutthaya style architecture still appears in the most complete condition in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province. The Ubosot is 50 metres long and 15 metres wide. The early Ayutthaya style architecture is observable from the various pillars inside the Ubosot.

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Later, it was expanded by adding pillars to support the exterior eaves during the reign of King Borommakot. The gables are teak and carved into a figure of Lord Vishnu riding a Garuda and stepping on the head of a Naga, and there is an image of Rahu on the two sides attached to the head of the Naga. The windows are perforated vertically, and two rows of square pillars with eight pillars per row. The head of the pillar is a lotus bowl in the Ayutthaya style.

The principal Buddha image in the Ubosot that was built at the end of the Ayutthaya period is in the subduing Mara posture. The image is cast in bronze wearing Maha Chakkraphat's uniform and called Phra Phuttha Nimit Wichit Mara Moli Sri Sanphet Borom Trai Lokanat. It is the largest Buddha image of the Ayutthaya period that still appears today and is very complete and beautiful. The image is about 6 metres high and has a lap width of 4.40 metres.

Open 08:30–17:30 hrs.

Entrance fee: 20 baht.

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Wat Yai Chai Mongkhon

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Yai Chai Mongkhon

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is another ancient temple that was constructed during the reign of King Ramathibodi I (King U-Thong), the king who established Ayutthaya. According to legend, this temple was constructed to serve as the office of monks who were ordained from the Rattana Mahathera Sect of Sri Lanka. With the monks at Wat Pa Kaeo, they were highly revered by the people of Ayutthaya, thus resulting in more people coming to be ordained at Wat Pa Kaeo. King U-Thong therefore appointed the Director General of this sect as Somdej Phra Wanrat. He held the position of the right Patriarch with Somdej Phra Buddhakosachan, who had the position of Patriarch of the Kanthathura Sect.

The interesting item in this temple is Chedi Chai Mongkhon, the great victory monument. In 1592, when King Naresuan the Great

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beat the Burmese Uparaja in the battle of the war elephants at Tambon Nong Sarai, Suphan Buri province, the King built a large chedi at this temple as a victory monument. The construction of the chedi may have enhanced the existing chedi or it may have built a whole new body, as there is no clear evidence about this. It was initially called Phra Chedi Chai Mongkhon and later called Wat Yai Chaimongkhon.

This temple was abandoned when the city fell and was set up as a temple with monks during Phansa (Buddhist Lent). In addition, there is Wihan Phra Phuttha Saiyan that was built during the reign of King Naresuan the Great to offer worship and practice meditation. At present, the palace of King Naresuan the Great is being built, and there is a royal monument of him at this place as well.

Open 08:00-17:00 hrs.
For further details contact, call Tel. 0 3524 2640.

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Wat Phanan Choeng Worawihan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phanan Choeng Worawihan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Khlong Suan Phlu subdistrict on the bank of the Pa Sak River. It is a first-class royal temple “Worawihan” of the Maha Nikai Sect. It was built before the establishment of Ayutthaya. According to the Northern Chronicles, King Sai Nam Phueng, who reigned over Ayothaya, was the creator and named it Wat Chao Phra Nang Choeng. There was also the establishment of a Buddha image called Phra Chao Phanaeng Choeng in 1324, which was 26 years before King U-Thong established Ayutthaya. This is based on the story told through the Chronicle of Luang Prasert Aksonnit.

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The interesting item in this temple is Phra Phuttha Trai Rattananayok (Luangpho To), a Buddha image at the end of the U-Thong art period in the subduing Mara posture gilded in lacquer. The image's lap size is 14.20 metres wide, and it is 19.20 metres high. In the front, there is a palm or fan, and the disciples of stucco with gilded lacquer are enshrined on the left and right sides. Luangpho To is an ancient image of the city of Ayutthaya since its founding. It is worshipped by the people of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya and nearby provinces.

The Chronicle of the Old City, Luang Prasert Aksornnit's edition states that Luangpho To was constructed in 1324, or during the reign of King Ramathibodi I, or 26 years before the founding of Ayutthaya. When Ayutthaya was about to fall, it appeared in the Chronicles of the Old City that the big Buddha image at Wat Phanan Choeng had a miracle of crying.

Luangpho To is a Buddha image that is highly respected by the people of Chinese descent, and in Chinese language, it is called "Sam Po Kong". The area inside the Ubosot also enshrines 3 large Buddha images in the posture of subduing Mara: the golden Buddha, stucco Buddha, and the Naga Buddha.

Open 08:00–17:00 hrs.

Wat Tha Ka Rong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Tha Ka Rong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Samphao Lom subdistrict and is an ancient temple of the Ayutthaya period. It is located on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River of the island of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. According to history,
it was built during the reign of King Chairachathirat in the early Ayutthaya period before the fall of the city. This area used to be the base camp of General Nemyo Sibodi.

At present, the architecture remains of the Ayutthaya period, e.g., the teak pavilion on the bank of the Chao Phraya River and the Ubosot enshrining Phra Phuttha Rattanamongkhon or Luangpho Yim. Later, during World War II, Wat Tha Ka Rong was converted into a technical cadet school by using the worship hall as a classroom. The Ubosot of brick and mortar is in perfect condition, the gable is beautifully etched wood, the arches and windows are decorated with stucco designs, and the front of the Ubosot is decorated with stained glass. Outside, there is

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a wall surrounding the temple.

The temple grounds are beautifully decorated with various types of flowers and ornamental plants. It also has a clean and beautiful bathroom that won the national award for the best toilet of the year

Open 08:00–17:00 hrs.

Wat Phutthaisawan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phutthaisawan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is on the bank of the river to the south opposite the island city. This temple was built in the area of the former palace of King U-Thong, which was called Wiang Lek Palace or Wiang Lek. After that, the King built a new palace in Nong Son subdistrict (Bueng Phra Ram); therefore, he established this place as Wat Phutthaisawan.

Interesting items in this temple include a large principal prang in the Khmer art style in the centre of the temple on a platformed base. It has a rectangular shape with 2 staircases on the east and the west. For the north and south sides, there are 2 mondops and inside the mondop, there is a Buddha image.

In addition, there is the palace of Somdej Phra Phutthakosachan, who was a senior monk in the Ayutthaya period. This palace is in a rather dilapidated state. Inside the walls of the palace are coloured murals of the group of deities, Buddhist monks worshipping the Buddha's feet, and the junk when Somdej Phra Phutthakosachan went to Lanka. These images are in a very indistinct state. There is also an ordination hall on the west side of the prang, a group of 12 chedis, and a reclining Buddha wihan.

Open 08:30-16:30 hrs.

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Wat Sala Pun Worawihan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Sala Pun Worawihan

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located near Wat Phanom Yong on the bank of the city canal of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. It is a first-class royal temple “Worawihan” and is an ancient temple of the Ayutthaya period, but there is no evidence about who built it. The temple enshrines an ancient Buddha image called *Luangpho Khaen* Lai, a Buddha image with a lap width of 29 inches. Its appearance is the art of Ayutthaya similar to the construction of a garland. Inside the Ubosot enshrines a standing Buddha image, which is considered the only standing image in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province constructed in the Ayutthaya period.

In addition, Wat Sala Pun used to be the residence of the Supreme Patriarch, who was appointed in the outer provinces called “Somdej Phra Phutthachan (Phuk)”.

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Wat Phu Khao Thong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phu Khao Thong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Phu Khao Thong subdistrict about 2 kilometres from the Royal Palace. This temple is mentioned in the old city Chronicles "Hongsawadi Bayinnaung was the creator of the main chedi in 1569, in the Mon-style art, tall and large, to commemorate when he won the battle against the Thais." Later, when King Naresuan the Great restored and declared independence for Ayutthaya, in 1584, he ordered to build a chedi in the Ayutthaya style and to remove the upper part of the Phra Maha Chedi like a major renovation and built 12 wooden recessed chedis. This was popular in that era on the original base of the Thaksin Phra Maha Chedi, which was the original skill of the Mon craftsman leaving only the lower Thaksin base.

Currently, the Fine Arts Department has built a monument of King Naresuan the Great riding a horse in front of Wat Phu Khao Thong for the people to worship.

In addition, there is a large reservoir on the side (monkey cheeks project), which was a royal initiative of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great to help alleviate the suffering of the Thai people during the flooding season, and during the dry season, there would still be water for use throughout the year.

Open 07:00-17:00 hrs.

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Wat Borom Phuttharam

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Borom Phuttharam

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in the area of Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University, Si Sanphet Road, Pratu Chai subdistrict. Around 1688-1703, the area of Patong was the former residence of the King. The area of the temple was limited by ancient transport routes, e.g., in the east was along Khlong Chakrai Noi, and on the west was a royal road called Maharataya Road or Patong Road. Such roads and canals forced the plan of the temple to align north and south. Thus, the temple faced to the north.

The Ubosot is on a curved base like a junk boat according to the late Ayutthaya art. The stucco arch is in the shape of Phra Chulamani, and inside, there is a Buddha image in the attitude of subduing Mara. In front of the Ubosot is a chedi with a lower base decorated with lion patterns.

This temple is different from other temples in that it graciously has greenish-yellow glazed tiles to cover the roof of the Ubosot,

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wihan, and pavilion. This was also used to decorate chedis and arches, hence the name “Wat Krabueang Khlueap (the glazed tile temple)”. It took up to 2 years to complete the construction.

In the reign of King Borommakot, the King graciously gave this temple a major renovation and made 3 pairs of beautiful pearl inlay doors. At present, one pair of these doors is at the Monthian Tham Hall in the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, another is at Wat Benchamabophit Dusit Wanaram, and another was made into a bookcase and is currently on display at the National Museum, Bangkok.

Open 08:30-16:00 hrs

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Ban Khong Pho" Sufficiency Economy Learning Centre

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Ban Khong Pho" Sufficiency Economy Learning Centre

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is an agricultural learning centre that presents concepts, inspiration and a good conscience through the doctrine and principles of work of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great to pass onto children, youth, and the people has led to further development of self and society.

The interior of the Centre is divided into different zones. There are demonstrations and learning activity bases consisting of farmland, animal husbandry, rice field, and accommodation. Children will enjoy many activities, e.g., feeding the fish, collect goats' and sheep's milk, collect eggs, etc.

Open 08:30–17:00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 09 8965 7998.

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Wat Phra Ram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Phra Ram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is a temple outside the Palace area to the east opposite to Wihan Phra Mongkhon Bophit. It has a large and spacious area. King Ramesuan built it on the site of the cremation of King Ramathibodi I (King U-Thong), his father.

Interesting items inside this temple are the large pagoda is located on a high square base pointed to the top. On the east side, there is a medium-sized pagoda, and the western part has been made into an arch. There are stairs leading up from the base to both sides. At the corner of the prang, there are Himmapan creatures, and there is also a small prang located in the north. Under the base of the small prang, there is a chedi surrounding all 4 sides.

At Wat Phra Ram, there is one thing worth noting, which is the northern wall of the temple has overlapping lines on the east, west and south walls. There is an arch to the west that is level with the balcony on the northwest side of the prang. The overlapped line is level with the northeastern corner of the prang's balcony that has no arch as if it was intentionally created for some purpose.

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Open 08:00–18:00 hrs.

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students free.

For futher details contact, the Ayutthaya Historical Park Office Tel. 0 3524 5123-4.

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Wat Mahathat Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Mahathat Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is at the foot of Saphan Pa Than east of Wat Phra Si Sanphet. Some Chronicles say that this temple was built during the reign of King Borommarachathirat I. Later, King Ramesuan ordered the Buddha's relics to be enshrined under the main prang of the temple in 1384.

The pagoda of Wat Mahathat is considered to be a prang built in the early stages of the Ayutthaya period. Thus, it was influenced by the Khmer prang. The ground floor was built with laterite, and there is a new addition of masonry and mortar. King Prasat Thong was graciously pleased to restore the pagoda by making it higher than before. Later, the top fell down leaving only the porch. There is evidence that it was a large pagoda and very beautifully constructed.

In 1956, the Fine Arts Department excavated this prang and found various antique artefacts of importance like a stone casket. Inside, there were 7 stupas overlapping each other divided into silver, Naga, ebony, red sandalwood, garnet glass, and gold. The inner layer contained the Buddha's relics and precious ornaments. The Buddha's relics are now enshrined at the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum.

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Interesting items in this temple include a sandstone Buddha's head covered with tree roots. The head of this Buddha image fell at the base of a tree in the loss of the city until the roots of the tree covered it. This is a strange beauty in another way.

Tickets are on sale 08:00–17:00 hrs. (open till 18.00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students free.

For further details contact, the Ayutthaya Historical Park Office Tel. 0 3524 5123–4

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Wat Ratchaburana

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Ratchaburana

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located at the foot of Saphan Pa Than opposite Wat Mahathat. King Boromrachathirat II (Chao Sam Phraya) graciously ordered the construction in 1424, in the area where Chao Ai Phraya and Chao Yi Phraya were cremated and was graciously pleased to build two pagodas in that area.

Wat Ratchaburana and Wat Mahathat were damaged severely by fire, when the city fell. The remains show that the wihan and the different parts of the temple were very large. The Wihan Luang was 63 metres long and 20 metres wide. There were stairs leading up to the front in 3 ways, and the walls of the wihan were cut into windows. At present, the remains of the temple's pillar and the base of the main Buddha image are still visible.

The main pagoda is the first period of Ayutthaya art. It was popularly built according to the Khmer architecture style in which it was the principle chedi of the temple. Each of the niches of the chedis have a standing Buddha image enshrined in stucco. The prang is decorated with stucco statues of a garuda, giants, angels, and Naga with beautiful patterns.

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Inside the prang, there is a 2-storey partitioned room that visitors can enter. Upstairs there are blurred murals. The ground floor used to be where gold was stored. There are paintings painted in vermilion and gilded with images of Buddha images in the Lila posture and meditation posture, as well as angels and flowers. Antiques discovered in the Phra Prang of Wat Ratchaburana were made of gold, bronze, stone, terracotta and gems. When the Fine Arts Department excavated the prang of Wat Ratchaburana, they moved these valuable antiques to be kept in the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum.

Tickets are on sale 08:00–17:00 hrs. (open till 18.00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students free.

For further details, contact the Ayutthaya Historical Park Office Tel. 0 3524 5123-4.

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Wat Chaiwatthanaram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Chaiwatthanaram

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River outside of the island city in Ban Pom subdistrict. It is one of the most beautiful ancient temples that was built during the reign of King Prasat Thong in 1630. This temple is the burial place of Prince Thammathibet (Chaofa Kung), a poet of the late Ayutthaya period, and Prince Sangwan, who were punished by flogging to death.

In the reign of King Borommakot, the main prang of this temple was on a square base, and in all four corners of the base, there were chedis. In the reign of King Prasat Thong, the King graciously built a large prang as the principle one of the temple. This was a revival of the art of the early Ayutthaya period, where a prang was built as the principle chedi of the temple like the prangs at Wat Mahathat and Wat Ratchaburana.

In addition, there is a balcony around the main chedi. Inside the balcony, there is a stucco Buddha image in the attitude of subduing Mara. The balcony wall is made of bricks and mortar, and there are bars in the shape of a Kudan pattern. The Ubosot is in front of the temple, and inside there is the main Buddha image in the attitude of

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subduing Mara made of sandstone wearing a royal uniform. The parapet of the Ubosot is made of green colored stone. The designed etchings are of the permanent guards and the Kan Khot design. There are 12 wooden recessed chedis in front of the Ubosot, as well as chedis with a base 12 metres wide and 12 metres high. This art began to spread since the reign of King Prasat Thong.

Wat Chaiwatthanaram was declared a national historic site in 1935, and the Fine Arts Department has been doing continuous renovations to maintain the great beauty like in the past.

Tickets are on sale 08:00-17:00 hrs. (open till 18.00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students free.

For further details contact, the Ayutthaya Historical Park Office Tel. 0 3524 5123-4.

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Wat Maheyong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Maheyong

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Hantra subdistrict outside of the city to the east. Originally, it was a royal temple, but became an abandoned temple after the fall of Ayutthaya in 1767. This temple has an interesting history because it is an indicator of the spiritual progress of those involved in the construction. The temple had also been maintained for hundreds of years.

Currently, the Fine Arts Department has registered Wat Mahayong as a national ancient site since 8 March 1941. According to the Northern Chronicles, Queen Kalyani, Consort of King Thammaracha, the eighth king of Ayutthaya, was the founder of Wat Maheyong.

Wat Maheyong was restored after the loss of Ayutthaya's independence to become a new temple and place of meditation. There is also still an old Ubosot or ancient site located on a two-storey base, which it is quite large compared to other ancient sites.

Tickets are on sale 08:00-17:00 hrs. (open till 18.00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Tourists 10 baht; students free.

For further details contact, the Ayutthaya Historical Park Office Tel. 0 3524 5123-4.

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Wihan Phra Mongkhon Bophit

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wihan Phra Mongkhon Bophit

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is a royal temple located in Pratu Chai subdistrict, Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya district south of Wat Phra Si Sanphet. The main highlight is that it is an ancient temple in the area of the city wall that has been restored well. The interior of the Wihan is where Phra Mongkhon Bophit, a bronze Buddha image in the subduing Mara posture, is enshrined. The image has a lap size that is 9.55 metres wide, and its height is 12.45 metres. It is one of the largest
Buddha images in Thailand, which was damaged in the second fall of Ayutthaya, but has been restored with new gold-clad bronze as seen at present.

Phra Mongkhon Bophit was assumed to have been built in the reign of King Chairachathirat around 1538. It was originally enshrined outdoors. Later, in the reign of King Songtham, the King graciously order to be moved to the southwest of Wat Phra Si Sanphet.

Open 08:30-16:30 hrs.
For further details contact, the Wihan Phra Mongkhon Bophit Office Tel. 0 3532 1797 and 0 3524 3172.

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Bang Pa-In Royal Palace

Mueang Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Bang Pa-In Royal Palace

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located on Prasatthong Road, Bang Len subdistrict. It is anotherfamous tourist attraction of Bang Pa-in District and Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province. It has been assumed that it was built by King Prasat Thong because Ko Bang Pa-In was his birthplace and the former residence of his mother.

The Palace was probably the residence of many kings of Ayutthaya later until the time it had to be abandoned after the second loss of Ayutthaya's independence until the reign of King Rama IV the Great when the Palace was restored again. Later, King Rama V the Great graciously ordered to build a royal throne hall and various structures. It is still used as a residence and welcomes guests and holds receptions on various occasions.

The area of the palace is divided into 2 parts. The outer court area that is used as a place for royal associations and ceremonies, and the inner court area that is used as the king's private residence.

In addition, there are many attractions in the Palace grounds for tourists to visit, e.g., Ho Hem Montian Thewarach, Aisawan Thiphya-Art, Warophat Phiman, and Bhumi Sathian Throne Hall.

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However, the dress code for visiting the palace must be modest. Do not wear sleeveless shirts, pants or skirts above the knee, or open-heeled shoes. Tourists who do not dress appropriately must wear a shawl, sarong, or coat that is provided by the Palace.

Open 08:30–17:00 hrs.
Entrance fee: Adults 40 baht; children 20 baht.
For further details contact, Tel. 0 3526 1044 and 0 3526 1548.

Wat Niwet Thammaprawat Ratchaworawihan

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Wat Niwet Thammaprawat Ratchaworawihan

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is in Bang Len subdistrict, Bang Pa-In district. It is a first-class temple of the category “Ratchaworawihan” under the Thammayut Sect, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. In 1876, King Rama V the Great used this place for royal merit making when the King transferred his throne to stay at Bang Pa-In Palace

The distinguishing feature of this temple is its Western decoration. The Ubosot resembles a Western Christian church. It has a spired roof and Gothic arched window openings. The wall of the chapel above the window in front of the main Buddha image is decorated with stained glass and is a portrait of King Rama V the Great. The plaster base enshrines the principal Buddha image *“Phra Phuttha Narumon Thammamophat”* that is set up like a cross in a Christian church. On the right-hand side of the Ubosot, there is a hall enshrining the Phra Kantharat image. which is a standing Buddha image in the attitude of asking for rain.

Opposite Phra Kantharat is the location of the old stone Buddha image hall with a Buddha image covered by a Naga of the Lop Buri period made by Khmer artisans, which is a thousand years old. It is adjacent to the big Phra Sri Maha Bodhi tree that spreads branches around the front of the Ubosot. Not far away, there is the *Diskun Anuson Stone Garden,*

which is a collection of different types of stones, e.g., limestone, sandstone, gravel, slate, and is the place where the ashes of Prince Damrong Rajanubhab and many members of royalty are located.

Open 09:00–17:00 hrs.

Kong Khong Market

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Kong Khong Market

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located on the Bang Pa-In-Wat Phanan Choeng road, Non Luang subdistrict. It is near Ban Saeng Lom and is a retro market. The words “Kong Khong Market” refer to the manner of standing and bowing in conversation between buyers and sellers in ancient times.

In the past, this market used to be a checkpoint (tax collection point). It is a place where various kinds of goods are traded, including community goods and goods from other cities. It is possible to experience the ancient atmosphere of the Ayutthaya period, the Thai lifestyle of the past, and there is the sale of chemical-free vegetables and fruit from the farms, as well as various types of sweet and savoury dishes. The vendors dress in retro costumes.

In addition, in the morning before the market opens, vendors will have a dancing ceremony to offer to Grandfather Som, who the traders at this market respect.

Open Thursday-Sunday 09:00-16:00 hrs. (closed Monday -Tuesday)
For further details contact, Tel. 08 9107 8443 and 0 3570 3700.

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Arts of the Kingdom Museum

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Arts of the Kingdom Museum

Bang Pa-In, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is a place exhibiting the craftsmanship of the Queen Sirikit Institute, Chitralada Palace and art and handicrafts of the Foundation for the Promotion of Arts and Crafts of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother.

The Museum divides the exhibits into categories with a recorded narration with a touch screen displaying different information of the various items. At the entrance hall exhibits a room of jewel beetle wing crafts in a beautiful rainbow-coloured green. The walls are decorated with Yan Lipao handwoven work with jewel beetle wing art, and a large exhibition room displaying handicrafts, e.g., silverware and goldware, a replica of the Royal Barges of the Royal Barge Procession, e.g., Sri Suphannahong, Sri Prapasorachai, which in the middle of the hull enshrines a golden tiered Busabok, and a wood-carved scene from the Thai literature “Sangthong” and “Himmapan”.

In the exhibition hall on the second floor, there are various exhibits, e.g., a large gold niello scene from the “Ramakien” (the Thai Ramayana) of the story by King Rama II, which is displayed in a 3D form with a large scene on both sides of the hall. It is an ancient silk embroidery work

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that uses the least silk or the smallest line of the cocoon embroidered in gradients and shadows to create a beautiful, dimensional image and decorated with gold, glittering sequins, and glass. The first side tells the story of “Himmapan”, and the second side tells the story of “Inao”.

In addition to the exhibition of masterpieces of the artisans, there is also a souvenir shop in the area selling products of the Queen Sirikit Institute Foundation for the Promotion of Arts and Crafts, Somdej Phra Panwassa Foundation, Phufa Shop, Kammajong Project, Chulabhorn Knit Roi Soi Rak Foundation, and the Textile Museum.

Open Wednesday–Sunday 10:00–15:30 hrs.

Entrance fee: Adults 150 baht; students and the elderly 75 baht.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 3535 2995 and 0 2283 9557.

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Maha Rat Buddhist Park and Luang Pu Thuat Market

Maha Rat, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

Maha Rat Buddhist Park and Luang Pu Thuat Market

Maha Rat, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya

is located in Ban Mai subdistrict, Maha Rat district. In the past, this area was a route used by King Naresuan the Great; hence, the name of Maha Rat Buddhist Park. Within the area, an image has been constructed to portray the largest monk in the world, Luangpho Thuat who stepped on fresh water. The width of the lap is 24 metres, and the height including the base is 51 metres. The image was constructed from cement, clad in bronze, and coated with gold. The purpose of the construction was to bring prosperity to the general public, and it was one of the projects in honour of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother. The Park covers an area of 79 acres.

The interior of the Park is shady and surrounded by a large pond. A beautiful area has been set up for the people to pay their respects to Luang Pu Thuat. It is also considered a tourist attraction and recreation place for tourists.

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Another item of interest is the Luang Pu Thuat Market, which is a market that sells food and souvenirs along the way to pay homage to Luang Pu Thuat, including main meals, snacks, traditional Thai desserts, beverages, and various OTOP products. The waterfront coffee shop also has a good atmosphere. Tourists can pay homage to Luang Pu Thuat at any time.

Open 10:00–16:00 hrs.

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TAT Contact Center

Tourism Authority of Thailand (Head Office)

1600 Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan,

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel. 1672 and 0 2250 5500

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

www.tourismthailand.org

Open every day between m 08.30 to 16.30 Hrs.

Suvarnabhumi Airport

Domestic Terminal,Gate 3, 2nd Floor

Tel. 0 2134 0040

Open 24 hours.

Don Mueang Airport

International Terminal (Building 1), Gate 2, 1st Floor

Tel. 0 7621 1036, 0 7621 2213

Fax 0 7621 3582

Open 24 hours.

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