



HUA HIN

Prachuap Khiri Khan Province's main tourist spot, Hua Hin, is located 281 km. south of Bangkok. Hua Hin is one of Thailand's most popular seaside resorts among overseas visitors as well as Thais. Located on the sunrise (west) side of the Gulf of Thailand, Hua Hin is renowned as Thailand's most traditional beach resort. It was here, in the 1920's, that King Rama VII built a summer palace, thus creating a vogue among high society for Hua Hin as a favorite retreat from Bangkok's summer. Today the Royal Family continues to reside at Hua Hin for part of the year. Hua Hin is noted for its traditional fishing port with many seafood restaurants, and a splendid sandy beach which starts from a rocky headland next to the port and curves gently for some 3 km. to its southern point where Buddhist temples surmount hilltops. Hua Hin is a well-established beach destination, with full facilities. But in contrast to Pattaya, the long-established resort on the opposite shore of the Gulf, Hua Hin provides a quiet, relaxed place amid surroundings which preserve a typical Thai ambience. Hua Hin is thus well suited for families. It has everything a happy couple could need and much more, perfectly located as they are along the romantic and clean strip of sandy beaches on the west coast of the Gulf of Thailand, within easy reach of Bangkok by road or rail. Indeed, it was the advent of the railways and proximity to the capital that first brought nobility and socialites to these 'royal' resorts and established the area as Thailand's original seaside destination.

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MUST SEE

Hua Hin Beach: Hua Hin's beautiful white-sanded beach, gently curving five kilometers from the headland at Damnoen Kasem Road to Khao Takiap is a tranquil haven for visitors. There's no beach road to bring in traffic and vendors, just hotels, condominiums and cottages facing straight onto the sand, and jet scooters and motor boats are discouraged. Instead tourists walk and jog along the sand, ride the local ponies, swim, windsurf, or simply relax blissfully soaking up the warm sunshine.

Cha-Am Beach: This long pleasant beach is lined with casuarina trees and shady umbrellas. A beach road gives direct access to the sand, and as a result bustles with vendors selling snacks and cool drinks. Just what Thai families like, so the beach gets packed at weekends. There's a buzz on the water too, with jet scooters, banana boats and kids bouncing around in rubber rings. Lots of fun...

Pran Buri Beach: Pran Buri is located between Hua Hin and Prachuap Khiri Khan, and just half an hour by car from Hua Hin. Prachuap Khiri Khan, essentially a fishing port, is the provincial capital in this part of the kingdom where you can discover beautiful bays in the company of steep mountain outcrops. About 60 kilometres to the north of Prachuap Khiri Khan is Pran Buri, a relatively new destination amongst in Thailand's thriving resort offerings. Blessed with endless miles of white sandy beaches, Pran Buri is fast becoming one of the preferred holiday get-aways for discerning individuals and for those who yearn for their own private retreat.

Railway Station: Hua Hin became fashionable as a resort in the 1920's when the rail line was extended south from Bangkok and a station built in the centre of town. To facilitate visits by the Royal Family, a beautiful red and white waiting room was moved from Sanam Chan in Nakhon Pathom and erected on the platform. On the other side of the track is a well preserved old steam train in front of the 1st tee off at Royal Hua Hin, Thailand's oldest golf course.

Khao Hin Lek Fai: Khao Hin Lek Fai stands on the western boundary of the Hua Hin town. On the top of this hill, you can see Hua Hin from a high angle. With today's newspaper in hand, it'll be easy to identify each building you see from the viewpoints.

Khao Takiap: At the south end of Hua Hin Beach, Khao Takiap (Chopstick Mountain) offers superb views of the bay from the small temple perched on top, an ideal photo viewpoint provided you can make it up the steep steps. Small seafood restaurants abound around the foot of the hill, supplied by a nearby fishing village.

Khao Nang Phanthurat: Khao Nang Phanthurat is a limestone hill that looks like a huge woman lying on her back. The hill, named after a female ogre from a Thai folklore, was designated a forest park to save it from rock blasting for cement production.

Kaeng Krachan National Park:

Thailand's largest national park at 2,915 square kilometers, Kaeng Krachan is a heavily forested, mountainous park spread along the border with Myanmar, and home to hundreds of species of birds and wildlife, including elephants, deer, gibbons, gaur, wild pigs, and possibly tigers. Popular spots for visitors are the Kaeng Krachan Dam, with boat trips on the lake, picnics at natural Pine Trees Hill and even gentle rafting down the Phetchaburi River.

Night Market: A visit to the Night Market on Dechanuchit Road is a must, if only just to savour the atmosphere or find out who is in town. Here you will find roadside restaurants, food stalls and the famous roti (pancake) maker mingled with vendors selling t-shirts, shoes, handicrafts, shells, knick-knacks, and a variety of souvenirs.



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GETTING THERE

BY RAIL

Trains leave Bangkok Railway Station for Hua Hin and Prachuap Khiri Khan several times daily. For more information contact, Tel: 1690 or Website: www.railway.co.th.

BY BUS

Frequent buses leave Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal for Hua Hin and Prachuap Khiri Khan. Tel. 0 2435 1199 Website: www.transport.co.th.

BY CAR

From Bangkok, take Highway 35 via Samut Songkhram, then Highway 4 via Phetchaburi and Hua Hin to Prachuap Khiri Khan, a total distance of 281 km. An alternative route is via Nakhon Pathom, Ratchaburi and Phetchaburi, a total distance of 320 km.

For more information, please log on to :

<http://www.tourismthailand.org/destination-guide/prachuapkhirikhan-77-5449-1.html>

FOR ACCOMMODATION information, please log on to :

<http://tourismthailand.org/accommodation/prachuapkhirikhan-77-1.html>

Important Phone Nos : Tourist Service Centre : 1672
Tourist Police : 1155

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Prachuap Khiri Khan Office :

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