

# Mae Klong Railway Market (Hoop Rom Market)

**By Vanseven Co.,Ltd.**



## ATTRACTION DETAILS

Mae Klong Railway Market (Hoop Rom Market) is a local market in Samut Songkhram Province, commonly called Siang Tai (life-risking) Market. It is considered one of amazing-Thailand attractions in the province. Spreading over a 100-metre length, the market is located by the railway near Mae Klong Railway Station, Mueng District, Samut Songkhram Province. It is a common fresh market selling seafood, vegetable, fruits, fresh and dried food, meats and other miscellaneous goods. Mae Klong Railway Market is open from 6.00 a.m. -6.00 p.m.

The market is called ‘life-risking’ market because its stalls are attached to the Mae Klong-Ban Laem railway, which is a short railway line running from and to Mahachai and Mae Klong. Vendors at the market put out parasols or canvas to protect themselves against the sun. The shelters stick into the railway where visitors walk and do their shopping. When each signal of the arriving train rings, chaos happens: vendors will rush to close their parasols and canvas, along with clearing all goods that will obstruct the coming train at a great speed. Once

the train passes, parasols and canvas will be reopened as goods are again put into their usual place next to the railroad. The market, accordingly, is so called 'Hoop Rom (umbrella/parasol-closing) Market'. The practice is usual for vendors and local people, but not for tourists who will definitely find the scene exciting and enjoyable at each visit. The parasol-closing event happens eight times per day according to the time that trains leave Mahachai for Mae Klong and depart Mae Klong for Mahachai. Trains will arrive at Mae Klong Station at 8.30 a.m., 11.10 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 5.40 p.m., and depart the station at 6.20 a.m., 9.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m..

# Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

By Vansseven Co.,Ltd.



## ATTRACTION DETAILS

In the past, daily commerce in Thailand was conducted mostly along rivers and canals (or khlongs in Thai). Bangkok's water network was busy and served as the principal means of communication causing Bangkok to be called as the "Venice of the East" by early European visitors. Out from Bangkok, there is a floating market that becomes one of the Thailand's most famous attractions, Damnoen Saduak Floating Market. Every morning, boat vendors will cramp in Khlong Damnoen Saduak to sell product from their plantations that varies from fruits to vegetables. Now the product is more varieties as there are many visitors visit here every day. Check out there early morning and take a ride on a row boat to get the real sense of floating market.

# WAT PHRA MAHATHAT

By Vanseven Co.,Ltd.



## ATTRACTION DETAILS

Wat Mahathat is located west of Wat Phra Sri Sanphet, at the foot of Paa Than bridge.

According to some historical records, the temple was built during the reign of Somdet Phra Borom Rachathirat I. Later Somdet Phra Ramesuan enshrined the reliquary inside the foundation of the Prang, and this incident thus originated the temple's name "Wat Mahathat" or "Wat Phra Sri Rattana Mahatat" which means the sacred temple where the relics of the Lord Buddha were installed. The Prang of Wat Mahathat was built in Early Ayutthaya. Its structure became the traditional model when constructing a temple and can be found nationwide. Within the kingdom of Ayutthaya, the reliquary holds historical and religious significance as the edifice representing the Buddha. It is believed that Somdet Phra Borom Rachathirat I or Khun Luang Pa Ngua granted a permission to build the temple, but the

completion took place during the reign of Somdet Phra Ramesuan. The Prang in which the holy relics were installed was greatly influenced by Khmer-style architecture - the lower part was made of laterite, whereas the upper part was masonry. There was a restoration during the reign of Somdet Phrachao Prasatthong in order to heighten the Prang, but this caused a serious damage to the top and the Prang was left alone with the portico. It was so unfortunate, as it was such an enormous and magnificent one. In 1956 the Fine Arts Department made another attempt to renovate and found a large number of invaluable antiques, such as the stone casket containing the relics. The casket is in fact consists of 7 superimposing stupas: a combination of lead and tin, silver, copper alloy, ebony, sandalwood, garnet and gold. Nowadays the casket is kept in Chao Sam Phaya National Museum.

Additionally, highlights of Wat Mahathat include the octagonal pagoda, the plaster base of a Buddha image, the medium-size Prang with mural paintings about the life of the Buddha, the resident hall of the Buddhist Supreme Patriarch and other smaller Viharas. What seems to be the most prominent landmark of the temple is the head of a sandstone Buddha image entwined in the roots of a Bodhi tree.

# WIHAN PHRA MONGKHON BOPHIT

By Vanseven Co.,Ltd.



## ATTRACTION DETAILS

Viharn Pra Mongkolborpiti is situated on the south of Wat Prasrisanpetch and is where the bronze Buddha image in the attitude of subduing Mara is situated. This Buddha image has a lap measurement at 9.55 metres and height at 12.45 metres. This is one of the biggest Buddha image in Thailand. It was assumed to be built during the Ayuttaya Era of King Srongtam. The King transferred the location from the east side to the west side which has been the location since then. After that the King ordered to build a dome on top.

However, in the era of King Suer, a thunderbolt struck at the tip of the dome which causes damage to the dome. The King ordered to restore the dome and change the roof of the dome to a cathedral and the top of Pra Mongkolborpiti was extended during the reign of King Barommakote. During the 2nd fall of Ayuttaya, Viharn Pra Mongkolborpiti was ruined by the enemy. After that King Rama 5 ordered to restore this viharn again in the Ayuttaya architectural style. It is a good model of the Buddha image during the end of Ayuttaya reign.

Originally, the east side of the viharn is Sanam Luang, which was used for the cremation ceremony of the Kings and the royalties same as the Sanam Luang in Bangkok.

Viharn Pramongkolborpiti is opened on from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and public holidays. The tourists can visit Wat Prasrisanpetch or visit both temples via riding on elephants from Wang Chang Ayuttaya.

# WAT LOKAYASUTHARAM

By Vanseven Co.,Ltd.



**Wat Lokayasutharam is situated at Pratoochai District, behind the Ancient Palace and the Pratoochai Primary School, in the area Of Wat Worapoh (Wat Rakhang) and Wat Worachettharam.**

**Wat Lokayasutharam is 800 meters from Wat Phra Mongkon Bophit. Wat Worachettharam and Wat Worapoh are also closeby. Nevertheless, we had quite some difficulty finding Wat Lokayasutharam, likely our otherwise good Ayutthaya map, was a bit off the mark.**

**The important feature Wat Lokayasutharam is a huge reclining Buddha image, called Phra Bhuddhasaiyart, which faces to the east.**

**It was constructed of bricks and cement in the art style of the Middle Ayutthaya Period. It is 37 meters long and 8 meters high. There are other impressive Reclining Buddha Images in Ayutthaya, but this seems to be the largest.**

**The head is placed on a lotus, and the legs overlap squarely to show the equalized toes.**

**Behind the Reclining Buddha Image you will find remains of other temple buildings, but honestly not much is worth seeing.**