



Grand Pearl River Cruise



One Way Tour A Cruise : Bangkok – Nonthaburi

From River City Pier to Wat Chonglom Pier

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| 08:30 am | Check In at River City Pier counter tour No.2 to Embark “ Grand Pearl Cruise ” |
| 09:00 am | Welcome to Luxury Boat Grand Pearl To Cruising along the Chao Phraya River (The River of King) to Nonthaburi Relax and Enjoy the beautiful scenery along the riverside, Viewing of the temple of Dawn and Grand Palace. Cruising about 2 hours on the River of King, Seeing the Typical Life Style of Thai People passing Nonthaburi to Wat Chonglom Pier. |
| 11:00 am | Buffet Lunch will be Served with Thai & International Cuisine. |
| 12:00 am | Arrive Nonthaburi at Wat Chonglom Pier |

WAT YAI CHAIMONGKOL

By Vanseven Co.,Ltd.



Wat Yai Chaimongkol is a magnificent ancient royal monastery, more than a mere place of worship. It has been the pride of Siamese people since the 13th Century. Its very existence conveys a sense of the power of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, which once expanded in all directions. From Siam to cover part of Burma to the northwest, then stretched to the east to the whole of Laos and Cambodia, and extended southward to the whole of Malaysia and the little island of Singapore. Never during those 417 years did any other nations challenge Siam's dominion of the whole Golden Peninsula.

When Siam had seen the civilization of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, there was already a myriad of languages, religions and local customs and rivers of people flowing to the vibrant city of Ayutthaya. It turned Wat Yai Chaimongkol into a national education hub from the mere schooling of royal offspring. A lot of evidence showed that a culture of literacy and education flourished with a long-lasting strength of religious sciences of Wat Yai Chaimongkol. It is this strength that hundreds of current monks and nuns inherited. As the temple's motto says, "Those who with a clear mind, they live the life of perfection and shall arise in glory. Those

whose mind are unsteady, they lament on the path of sorrow and shall never reach fullness of wisdom." (In Thai, it was written as Jai Sai Pen Boon Jai Khoon Pen Bab).

The beautiful secrets of Wat Yaichaimongkol acquired a personality of its own. The temple is alive with the smiles of Phra Buddha Chaimongkol, the most sacred Buddha image, and others. Their images not only speak of a time of freedom as well as of the affluence of the Ayutthaya Kingdom but also give a warm welcome to visitors from other lands.

Whoever comes within the sight of Ayuddhaya city can clearly see the timelessness of The Great Pagoda Chayamongkol from the far horizon. In the bright sun light, the Great Pagoda Chayamongkol gives an illusion of peace and the glorious victory of King Naresuan the Great over the Burmese four centuries earlier. He is the idol of the Thai army and the hero of all Thailand. King Naresuan the Great's victory established a supremacy throughout the whole Golden Peninsula land which lasted for centuries. The monastery has always been a safer place for his spiritual retreat. His supreme confidence in the Thai courage, Thai elephant-back combat, and Thai patriot was the legacy of Wat Yai Chaimongkol.

When the Burmese enemy sacked Ayutthaya in 1767, it spelled doom for the Ayutthaya Kingdom. Burma fired innumerable palaces and temples. Black smoke that rolled in red clouds over the city for months was still kept in the whispering winds on the top of the Great Pagoda. Genocide with mass robbery and rapine swept across the central plain of Thailand, especially in Ayutthaya city, filling water ways and rivers with rows of bodies and blood. Wat Yai Chaimongkol was seized and turned into a fortress, then it became a long-lost temple for a hundred years. Phra Ubosot (Ordination Hall) is full of mystery. The holy spirit of the large reclining Buddha with a length of 15 metres witnessed everything that happened in those days.

Upon entering the changing world of the nineteenth century, Phrakru Pawanarangi brought the ancient temple to life and created a memorable transformation. Apart from its scenery that remains enchanting blended with the ancient beauty and serenity, housing King Naresuan The Great's monument and holding renowned meditation classes also drew the nation's attention. Wat Yai Chaimongkol is now one of the most fascinating temple tourist destinations of the country, contributing a lot to the tourism development of Ayutthaya city. Visiting Wat Yai Chaimongkol is just like taking the journey into the past and is well worth a visit!

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 PHRA MAHATHAT

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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 Mahat" 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.

WAT LOKAYASUTHARAM

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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.