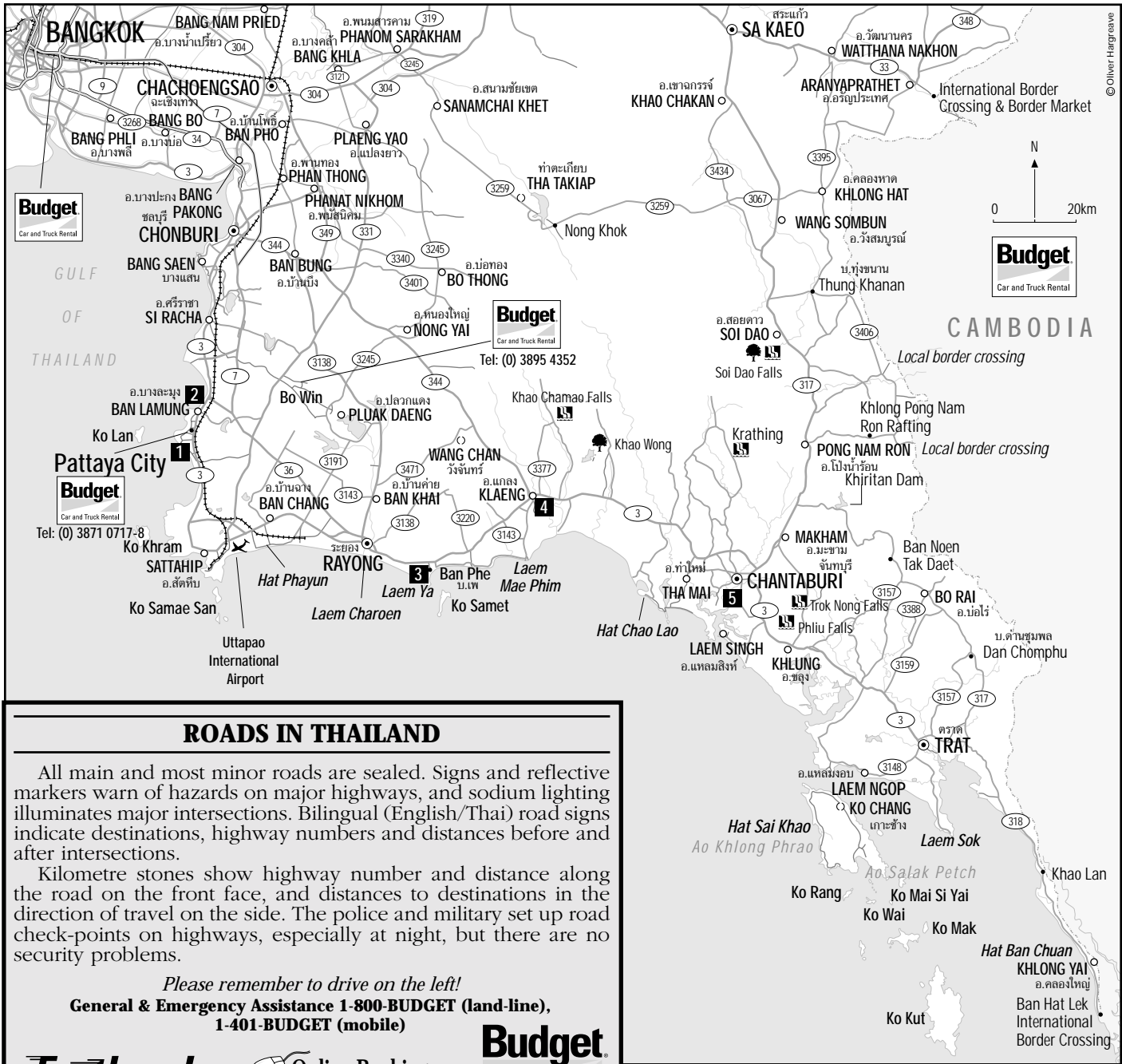


# Budget WorldClass Drives

## PATTAYA AND THE EASTERN GULF OF THAILAND



### ROADS IN THAILAND

All main and most minor roads are sealed. Signs and reflective markers warn of hazards on major highways, and sodium lighting illuminates major intersections. Bilingual (English/Thai) road signs indicate destinations, highway numbers and distances before and after intersections.

Kilometre stones show highway number and distance along the road on the front face, and distances to destinations in the direction of travel on the side. The police and military set up road check-points on highways, especially at night, but there are no security problems.

*Please remember to drive on the left!*

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Whether pristine sandy beaches on idyllic islands or quiet historical enclaves inland, this route along Thailand's eastern seaboard on the Gulf of Siam has it all.

Starting from Pattaya, Section 1 of this drive will help you find the nicest beaches with the best seafood and will

guide you to nearby inland attractions. Section 2 highlights outstanding family attractions found north of Pattaya on the road to Chonburi and Bangkok.

Ban Phe, a coastal fishing port which serves the resort island of Ko Samet, is the starting point for section 3, which goes east following the sandy beaches between the headlands of

Laem Ya and Laem Phim.

Section 4 continues east from Klaeng to the historical provincial capital of Chanthaburi. Section 5 covers the well-known resort island of Ko Chang, as well as a scenic inland route through mountainous country around Khao Soi Dao, and the route east from Trat to the international border crossing into Cambodia at Hat Lek.

**Budget**  
SECTION 1 : 000 kms.

# PATTAYA CITY AND ENVIRONS

**W**atersports, motor sports, exotic zoos and gardens, inland adventures, 17 competition class golf courses within an hour's drive and a beat that pulses through the night till dawn — Pattaya has so much to offer for all the family. So when the pace gets too hectic, laze sublime and let Pattaya put life in the pink.

The heart of the city lies in South Pattaya at the southern end of Ao Pattaya (Pattaya Bay). Once a fishing village, this was the first area to become an entertainment centre. Since then hotels and entertainment centres have spread north, south and inland.

**PATTAYA'S ROAD SYSTEM**

**1 POINTER ONE**

The T junction of North Pattaya Rd. (Pattaya Nua) with Highway 3, the Sukhumwit Rd. near KM144

**2 POINTER TWO**

The traffic circle joining North Pattaya (Pattaya Nua) Rd., Beach Rd.(Pattaya 1), Pattaya Road 2, and the road to Naklua.

**3 POINTER THREE**

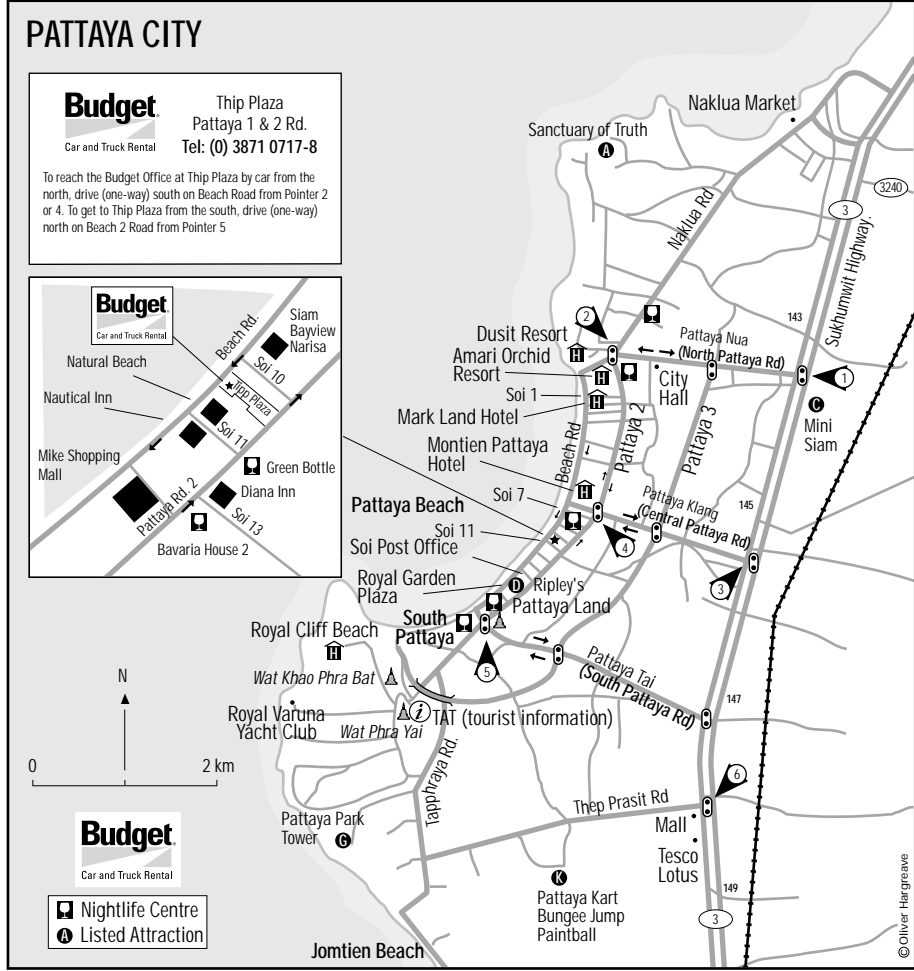
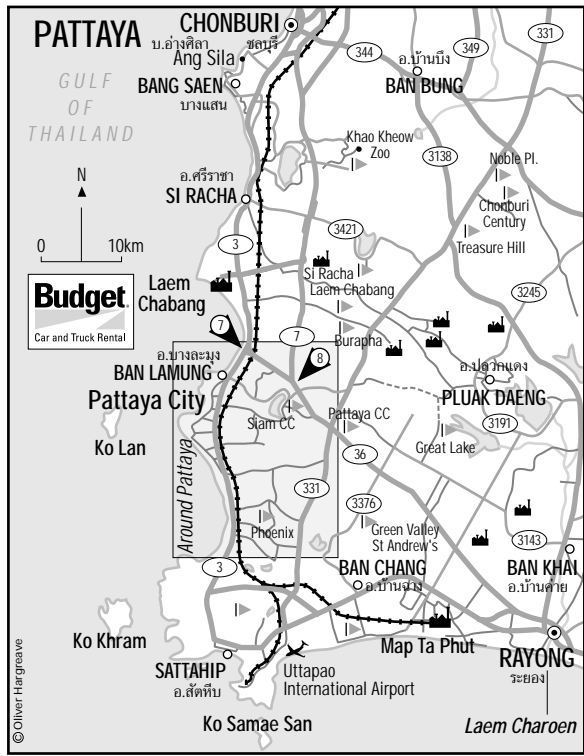
The junction of Central Pattaya Rd and the Sukhumwit Highway (H3), near KM146

**4 POINTER FOUR**

The intersection of Central Pattaya Rd. and Pattaya 2 Rd.

**5 POINTER FIVE**

The intersection of South Pattaya Rd. and Pattaya 2 Rd.



**6 POINTER SIX**

The junction of Thap Prasit Road to Jomtien with the Sukhumwit Rd. (H3) near KM148.

Pattaya's prime beach along Ao Pattaya is served by Beach Road (Pattaya 1 Rd.), a one-way road north to south along the beachfront that begins at Pointer 2. North Pattaya Rd (running west from Pointer 1) is the first of three link roads (North Pattaya Rd, Central Pattaya Rd. and South Pattaya Rd.) which join Beach Road with the Sukhumwit Highway between Chonburi and Sattahip. These roads cross Pattaya 2 Rd.— a one-way road from south to north between pointers 5 and 4 — and Pattaya 3 Rd.

**ATTRACTIONS IN AND NEAR PATTAYA**

Family attractions in Pattaya's residential hinterland east of the Sukhumwit Highway (H3) are most easily reached by taking H3240 from near KM142, or from along a road signposted to the Siam Country Club which goes east from the Sukhumwit

Highway from approximately 800m north of Pointer 3.

Before going to any of these attractions, be sure to contact our Pattaya Office to take advantage of any discounts available to Budget customers (regular entry prices from 200 to 500 baht per adult according to attraction).

A. The Sanctuary of Truth — art objects in a fantastic eleven storey 'Three Headed Elephant Art Museum' (08:00-17:00/20:00 according to season daily) and 'special dolphin show' at 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00. The Sanctuary of Truth has been built by the same organisation that created the Ancient City — *muang boran* — a must see attraction near Bangkok (see section 2)

B. Million Years Stone Park — a 40 acre landscaped park with a botanical garden, fossilized plants, rare animals and a crocodile farm (09:00-18:00 hrs)

C. Mini Siam - Famous places of Thailand and the world at one twenty-fifth scale, as well as go-karting (07:00-22:00 hrs. Tel: (0) 3842 1628)

D. Ripley's Believe it or Not — Curios and illusions from the masters of make-believe in the Royal Garden Plaza Shopping Mall between Beach and Pattaya 2 Roads

E. Wannasin Farm — demonstrations of traditional Thai culture and lifestyles include a floating market (09:00-18:00 closed Tuesdays)

F. Phanarak Park — a quiet resort with gardens and fish ponds ideal for tranquil retreat

G. Pattaya Elephant Village — Elephant riding

H. Pattaya Park Tower — an express lift takes you to a high viewing platform offering stunning views followed by a descent by gondola or harness down cableways (Tel: (0) 3825 1201-8.

I. Horseshoe Point & Three Kingdoms Theme Park — a resort and country club with horse riding facilities and a mausoleum park honouring the Chinese heritage of businessman Kiarti Srifuengfung.

### Sports Near Pattaya

International class motor racing can be enjoyed as a spectator sport at the Bira Circuit (J. H36 KM12 off the westbound lane), but for hands on experience, two go kart circuits are found along Thep Prasit Road (West of Sukhumwit Rd at the lights near KM148). One of these, Pattaya Kart (K) also offers Bungee Jumping and Paintball). Horse riding can be enjoyed at Horseshoe Point (I).

Adventure water sports include Lakeland Water Cable Ski (L) and the Blue Lagoon Water Sports Club (M Wind and Kitesurf - turn west off Sukhumwit Rd between KM155 and 156). For the Pattaya Shooting Club turn east (inland) from the Sukhumwit Road between KM153&154.

### Golf Courses

Pattaya is perfectly located to take advantage of the many Golf and Country Clubs between Chonburi and Rayong. Clubs welcome non-members and have equipment for hire, but it is recommended that you call first to book your round and accommodation if so desired. Signs on the nearest turn-off from a main highway usually point out the route along minor side roads to the course itself.

### Golf Clubs Around Pattaya

**Pattaya Country Club**, H331 KM107

Tel: (0) 3842 3718-9, BKK (0) 2541 4994-7

**Phoenix Golf & Country Club**

H3 KM158 Tel: (0) 3823 9391-6,

Fax: (0) 3823 9402

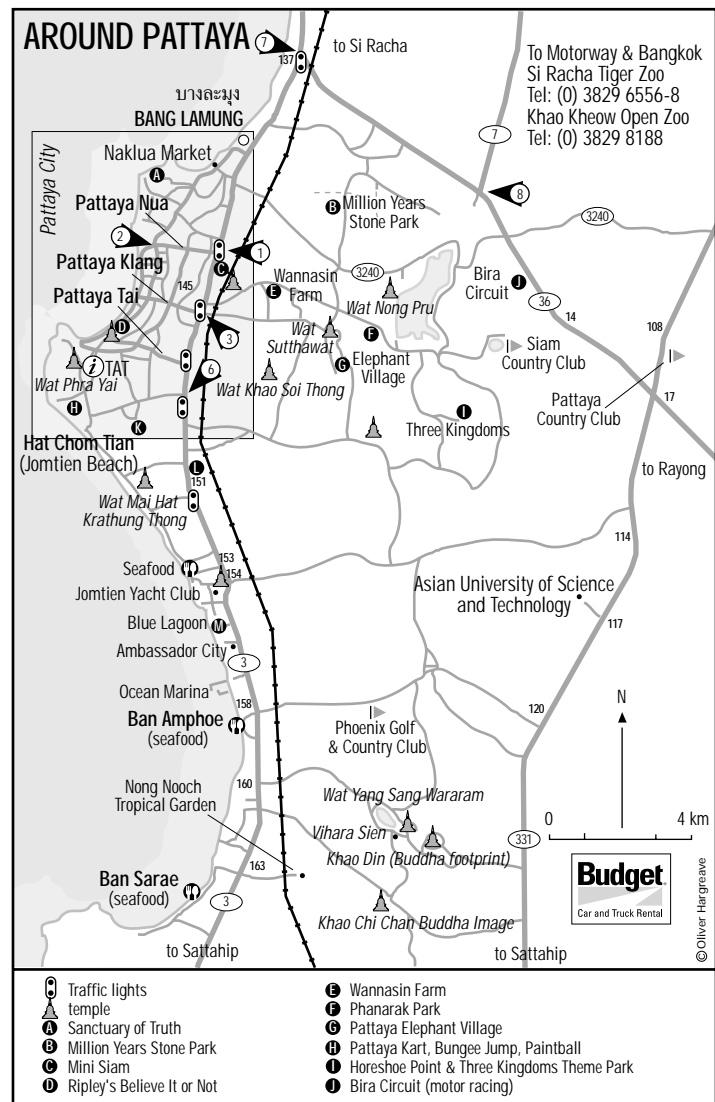
**Siam Country Club Golf Course**

H3 KM145 Tel: (0) 3824 9381-6,

Fax: (0) 3824 9387, BKK (0) 2215 3334

### South of Pattaya

Hat Chomthian is the first of several beaches between inlets fed by small rivers that together follow the coastline in a lazy arc southwards to Sattahip. Fishing villages along the 18 kilometre bay have become prime locations for seafood restaurants. These are found at Ban Amphoe (H3 KM158 west turn) and



Ban Sarae (H3 KM164 west turn).

Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, a resort with restaurants, a mini zoo, culture hall and handicraft centre, children's playground and elephants (*showtimes 10:15, 15:00 and 15:45*) is located inland down a side-road east from the Sukhumwit Highway at KM.163

### Wat Yang Sang Wararam and Khao Chee Chan

A road inland from near KM161 goes to Wat Yang Sang Wararam. A royal temple of the first class, Wat Yang has large grounds containing a hill-top mondop with a Buddha footprint (Khao Din), a large chedi and several international pavilions. The Vihara Sien, a Chinese-style vihara which houses Tang dynasty bronzes, and the Khao Chee Chan Buddha image, a 130 metre tall image carved into a rockface, are found a short distance from Wat Yang.

# NORTH FROM PATTAYA TOWARDS BANGKOK

**T**he town of Si Racha and the island of Si Chang remain interesting places to visit despite the industrial development along the coastline around Laem Chabang. Heavy traffic may be expected on the coastal Sukhumwit Road (H3).

If you wish to make a fast journey to or from Bangkok, H7 and H34 (elevated tollway) or the Bangkok Chonburi Motorway (H7) are the best routes to take. H3 itself follows its original coastal route towards Bangkok and is of limited interest apart from the prime near-Bangkok attractions of the Ancient City (*muang boran*) and the Crocodile Farm in Samut Prakan Province.

**7 POINTER SEVEN**

The junction of H36 and the Sukhumwit Highway at KM 137. H36 is a convenient cross country route that skirts the industrial areas around Rayong and is the fastest way to Ban Phe (section 3), Chantaburi (section 4 and Trat (section 5). It is also the best route to the faster inland route north to Bangkok on H7.

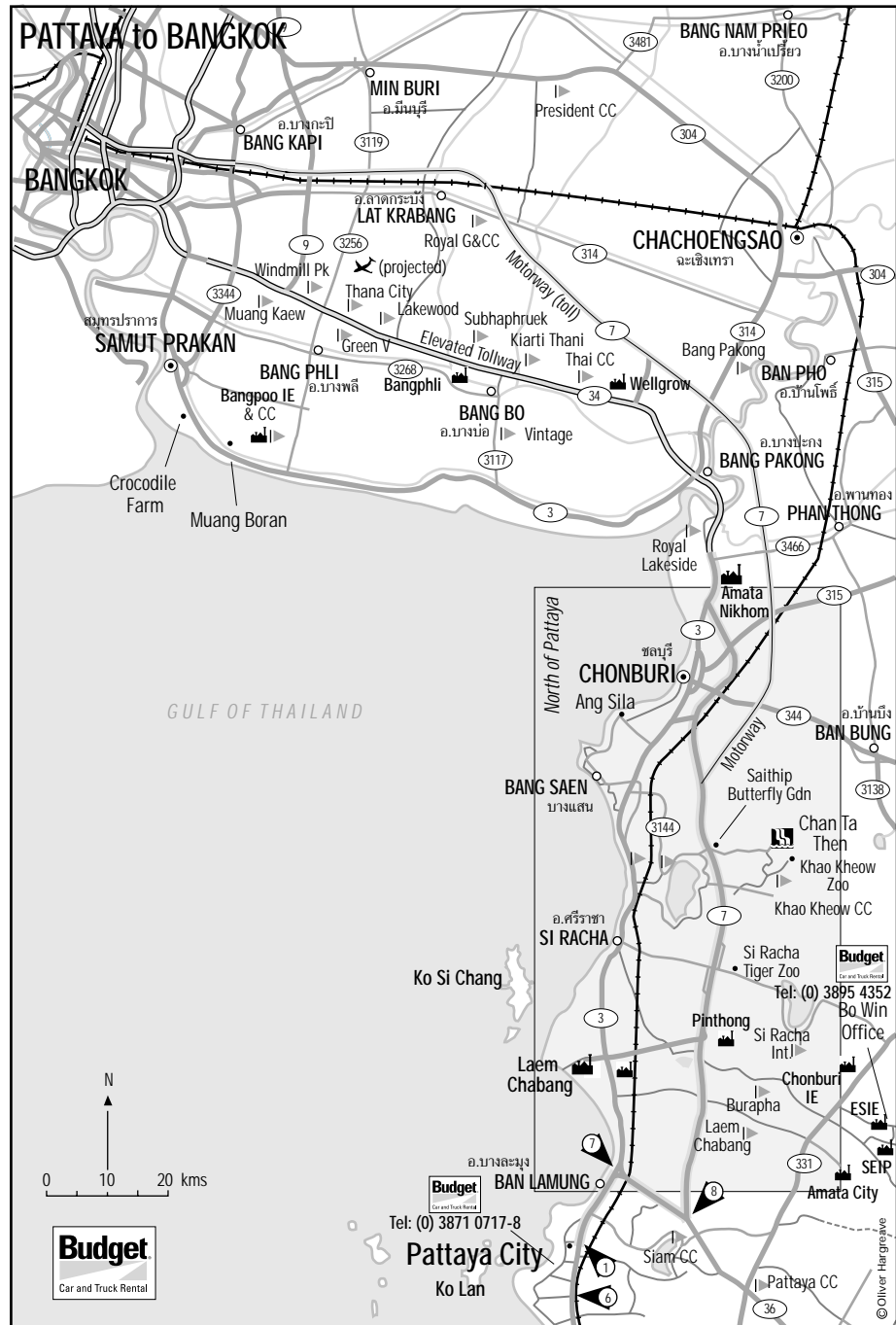
**8 POINTER EIGHT**

H 7 terminates at looped T junction with H36 near KM6. H7 leads to the Bangkok-Chonburi Motorway (toll-road), or via a spur of H3 to H34 and the 50 kilometre long elevated tollway above H34. If using H34 to approach Bangkok, expect traffic queues at Bang Na near the the start of the expressway system. H7 is likely to be the faster route into Central Bangkok in conditions of heavy traffic. It is also a better route to take for the airport.

*(Distances are one-way from Pointer 1)*

**Si Racha and Si Chang Island (Ko Si Chang) 25kms**

Drive north from Pointer 1 on H3 until you reach Si Racha at KM119, where you turn west. Passenger ferries depart hourly from the pier near Soi 14 on a pleasant 45 minute trip to the historical island of Si Chang. Once you have landed on the island, motorcycle

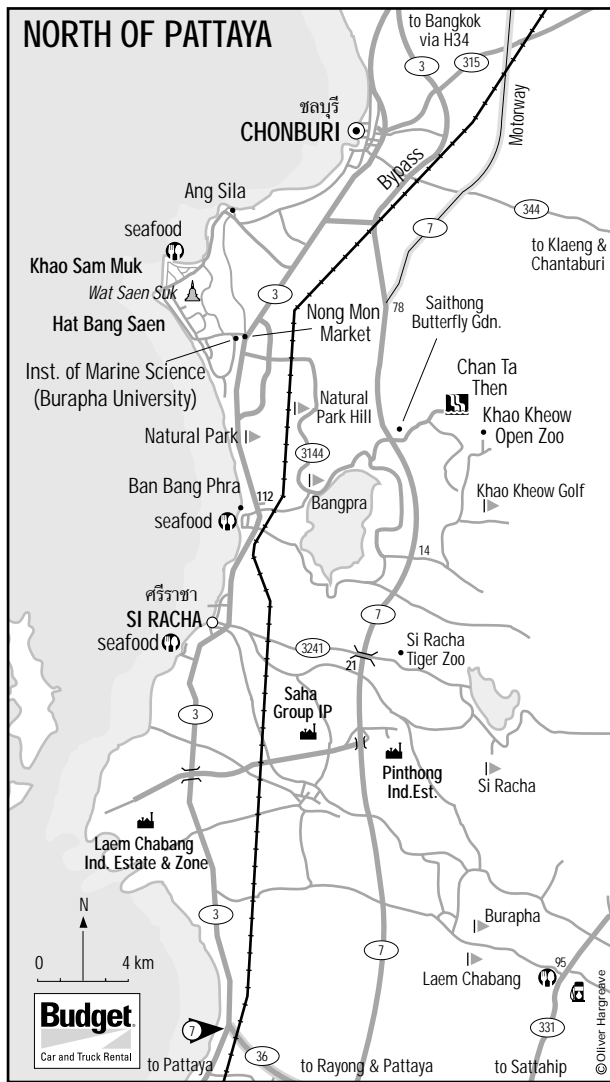


taxis can be hired from the fishing port to see a Chinese temple and the ruins of a palace abandoned when the French occupied the island in 1893. The last ferry from the island returns to the mainland at 17:00 hrs.

**Si Racha Tiger & Khao Kheow Open Zoo 45 kms**

Take H7 north from Pointer 8 (at KM41) to the Si Racha Tiger Zoo (If

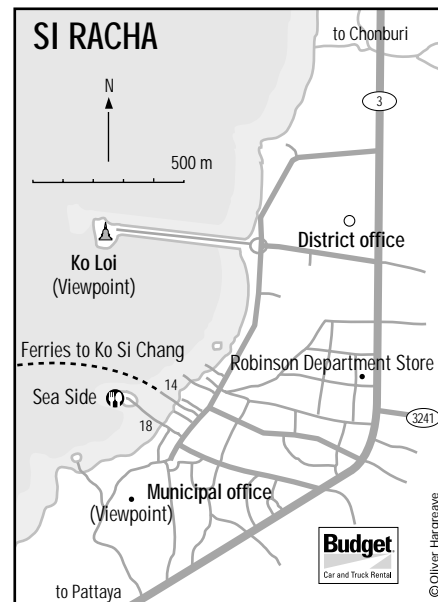
travelling northbound, turn onto the frontage road north of KM23 and then turn left at the bridge. Make a U-turn at the first possible convenience to come back over the bridge and drive east approximately 2 kms to the entrance to the Si Racha Tiger Zoo (08:30-18:00 hrs shows hourly Tel: (0) 3829 6556-8). A visit to the Tiger Zoo fits well with a visit to the larger Khao Kheow Open Zoo, the best of the



zoological attractions in Chonburi Province. Khao Kheow Zoo has over 300 species in a 2000 acre drive-through park (*Hrs. 07:30-18:00. Tel: (0) 3829 8188. Map available at zoo office*).

To go to Khao Kheow, you must similarly turn left and then double back over the bridge if travelling northbound on H7 at KM14 or at KM10. The latter road (H3144) also leads past the Saithip Butterfly Garden (*08:30-17:00 hrs. Tel: (0) 3829 8330*) and the small Chan Ta Ten Falls.

**Bang Saen, Khao Sam Muk & Ang Sila** 50kms  
Bang Saen is 39kms north from Pointer 1 on H3. Before the turn off (at KM104 signposted Bura-pha University and Bang Saen Beach), the road passes through Nong Mon Market, a market selling dried seafood products which are popular with Thais returning



to Bangkok.

The Institute of Marine Science (*hrs 08:30-16:30 closed Mondays*) has a large aquarium open to the public. It is found on the south (left) side of the road heading west towards Bang Saen Beach. Wat Saen Suk, on a lane running east from the inland road (H3137) running parallel to the beach road along Bang Saen, contains Buddhist sculptures fashioned in a Chinese theme-park style.

Seafood restaurants ring Khao Sam Muk, a promontory inhabited by monkeys. Oyster beds and restaurants line Sila beach to the north. Apart from a large Chinese temple by the highway, Ang Sila is famed for its stone carvings and has an interesting highstreet (one-way street off H3144 from where the highway turns sharply inland).

### Muang Boran 105 kms

Located at KM33 (from Bangkok) on the Sukhumwit Highway, Muang Boran is a historical park quite unlike anything else in the kingdom (*Hrs. 08:00; last entry 17:00, closes 18:00*). The 320 acre drive through park contains over 100 monuments ranging from life-sized or reduced replicas to reconstructed originals of Thailand's historical buildings. Bilingual explanations are given at all points in this unmatched attraction.

If travelling along this section of H3 from Bangkok, the extraordinary Erawan shrine at KM22, the Crocodile Farm (Turning at KM29.) and Wat Asokaram (turning at KM31) are additional points of interest.

### GOLF COURSES NORTH IN THE CHON-BURI - PATTAYA AREA

#### Bangpra International Golf Club

H3144 KM10 Tel: (0) 3834 1149-50, Fax: (0) 3834 1151

Rsvn BKK (0) 2285 0670-2,

#### Burapha Golf Club H7 KM31 H7 KM31

Tel: (0) 3834 5151-2, Fax: (0) 3834 5153

#### Chonburi Century Country Club

H331 KM72 Tel: (0) 1905 7697, (0) 1304 1545

#### Khao Kheow Country Club

H7 KM14 Tel: (0) 3829 8224-6,

Fax: (0) 3829 8226

#### Laem Chabang International Country Club

H7 KM31 Tel: (0) 3837 2273,

Fax: (0) 3837 2275

#### Natural Park Hill Resort Country Club

H3144 KM7 Tel: (0) 3839 3001-8,

Fax: (0) 3839 3019 BKK (0) 2914 1930-6

#### Natural Park Resort Country Club

H3 KM109 Tel: (0) 3834 9370-81,

Fax: (0) 3834 9365

#### Noble Place Golf Resort & Country Club

H33 KM 71 Tel: (0) 1484 9069,

Fax: (0) 1212 9327 BKK (0) 2231 5859-60

#### Sriracha International Golf Club

H3241 KM12 Tel: (0) 3833 8375-8,

Fax: (0) 3833 8379

#### Treasure Hill Golf & Country Club

H331 KM76 Tel: (0) 3842 0766

BKK Tel: (0) 2295 0856-7

### GOLF COURSES BETWEEN CHONBURI & BANGKOK

#### Bang Pakong Riverside Country Club

H314 KM8 Tel: (0) 3851 3523,

Fax: (0) 3851 3526

#### Bangpoo Country Club H3 KM37

Tel: (0) 2324 0320-9, Fax: (0) 2324 0330,

Rsvn: (0) 2324 0320-9

#### Green Valley Country Club H34 KM19

Tel: (0) 2312 5883-9, Fax: (0) 2312 5890

#### Kiarti Thane Country Club H34 KM30

Tel: (0) 2707 1700-9, Fax: (0) 2707 1710-1

Rsvn: (0) 2707 1700 Ext. 201

#### Lakewood Country Club H34 KM18

Tel: (0) 2312 6278-86,

Fax: (0) 2321 6270 Rsvn: (0) 2312 6276-77

#### Muang Kaew Golf Course H34 KM7

Tel: (0) 2316 3918-21, Fax: (0) 2316 3922

#### Royal Golf & Country Club H7 KM21

Tel: (0) 2738 0133-7, Fax: (0) 2738 0138

#### Royal Lakeside Golf Club H3 KM51

Tel: (0) 3857 3275-9, Fax: (0) 3857 3281

#### Subhaphruek Golf Course H34 KM26

Tel: (0) 2317-0801-4, Fax: (0) 2317 0805

#### Thai Country Club H3 KM35

Tel: (0) 3857 0234-46, Fax: (0) 3857 0225,

BKK Tel: (0) 2651 5300-6

#### Thana City H34 KM14

Tel: (0) 2336 1968-78 Ext 543,

Fax: (0) 2336 1979

#### The Vintage Club H34 KM27

Tel: (0) 2707 3820-6, Fax: (0) 2707 3829

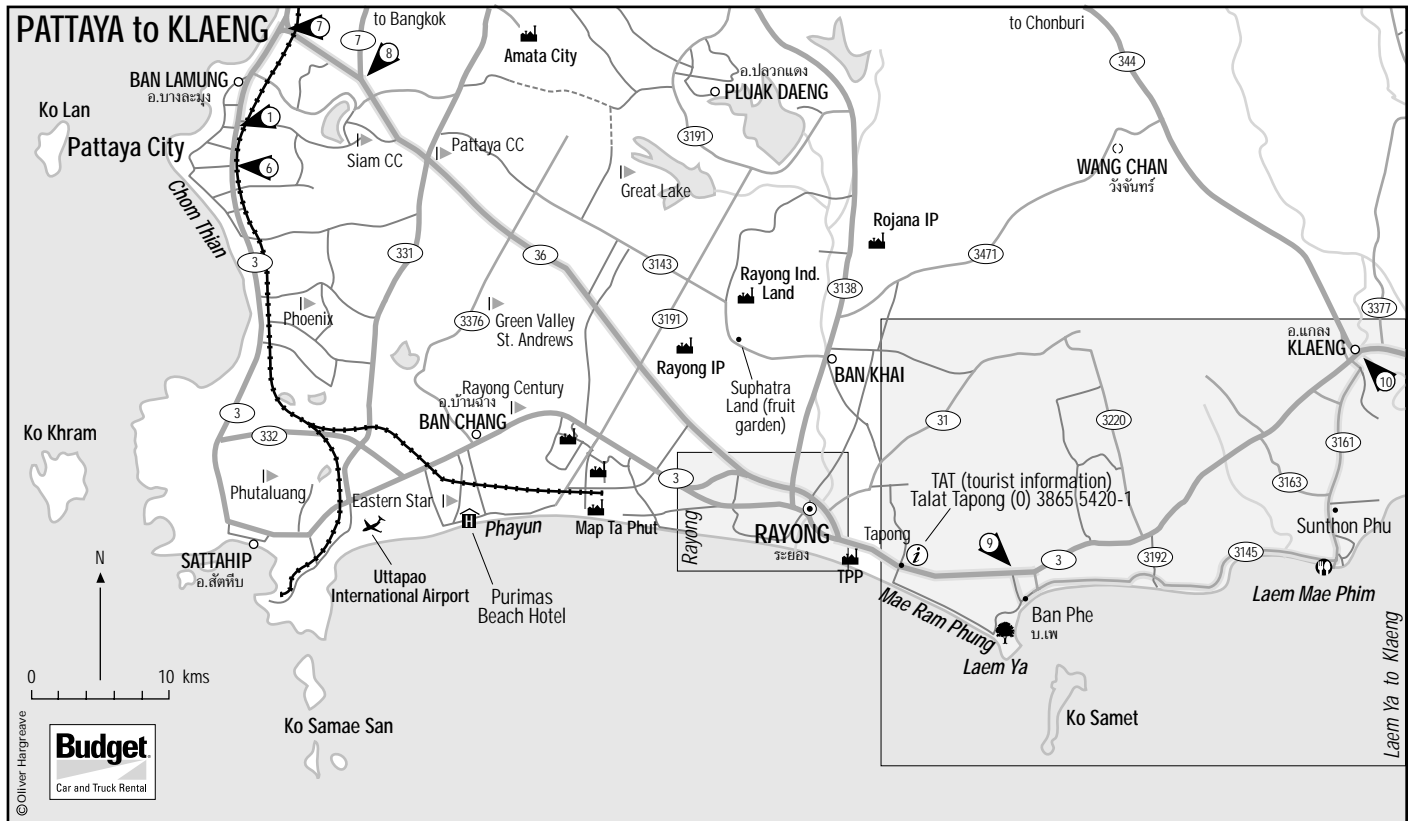
#### Windmill Park Country Club H34 KM10

Tel: (0) 2316 9591, Fax: (0) 316 8256

**Budget**

**SECTION 3 : 97 kms.**

# PATTAYA BAN PHE AND KLAENG



**H** 36 (from Pointer 7) is the best route east from Pattaya. Though Rayong City has some old temples and good seafood restaurants on Laem Charoen (*south turn in the middle of Rayong City at KM220 — see map 9; selected accommodation is listed below and on the maps*), it is better to avoid this industrialised area. This section covers the coast east of Laem Ya, where resorts take advantage of unspoiled beaches east to Laem Mae Phim.

**9 POINTER NINE**

Turn south here for H3140 to Ban Phe and Ko Samet and the coastal route H3145 east to Laem Mae Phim.

**10 POINTER TEN**

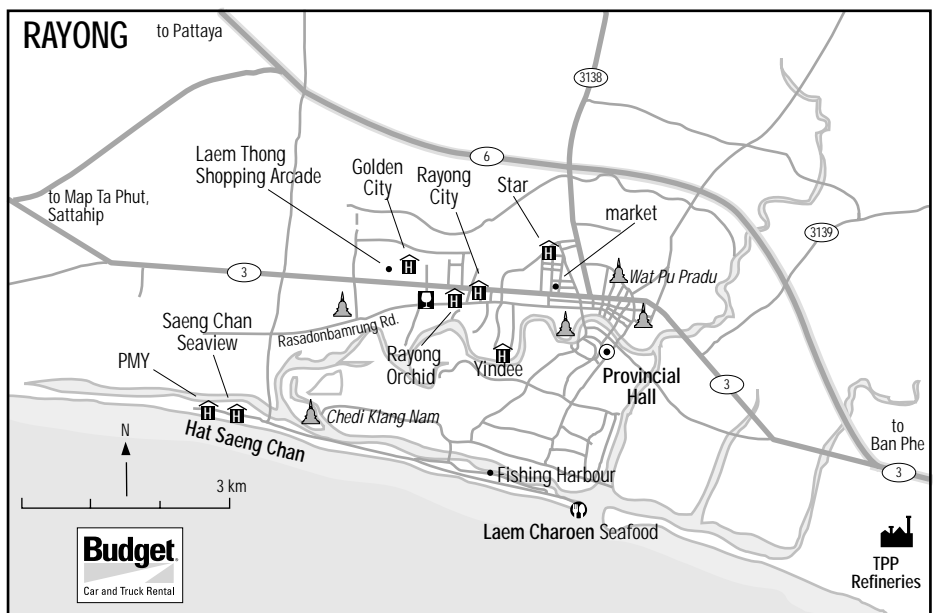
H344 is the fastest route to Bangkok from all points east of Klaeng

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Sattahip to Rayong**

- P.M.Y Beach Resort. 147/394 Mu 2 Beach Rd., Rayong 2100 Tel: (0) 3861 4855, Fax: (0) 3861 4887 **๑๑** (*Hat Saeng Chan — Saeng Chan Beach*)

**6 Budget**  
Car and Truck Rental



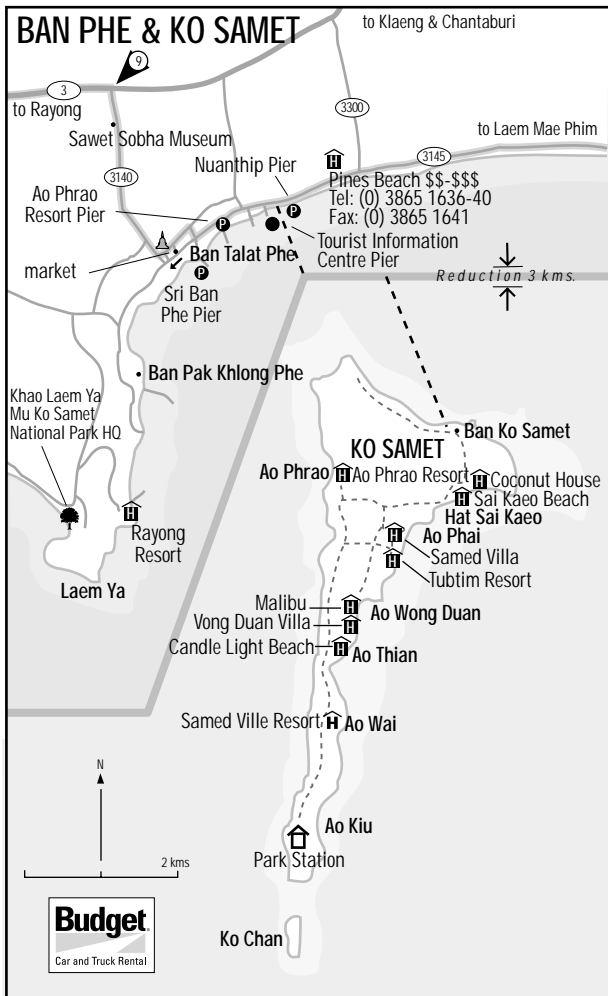
- Rayong City Hotel. 11 Ratbamrung Rd. Soi 4 Noenpra, Rayong 21000. Tel: (0) 3861 6838-9, Fax: (0) 3861 3497 **๑**
- Purimas Beach Resort. 34 Mu 4 Phayun-Namrin Rd., Ban Chang, Rayong 21130. Tel: (0) 3863 0382-90, Fax: (0) 3863 0380. **๑๑-๑๑๑๑** (*Hat Phayun — Phayun Beach*)
- Star Hotel. 109 Rayong Trade Centre, Rayong 21000 Tel: (0) 3861 4901-7, Fax: 3861 4608 **๑ - ๑๑๑๑**

**Ban Phe & Ko Samet.**

Turn south at Pointer 9 to go to the market centre of Ban Phe, a fishing port with an attractive narrow high street (one-way traffic east to west) lined with shops in wooden buildings.

Mu Ko Samet Laem Ya National Park offers a nature trail near the park HQ on the mainland, but the main

[www.budget.co.th](http://www.budget.co.th)



boat transport directly to the beach you plan to stay on. Advance booking may not be necessary during the week, but the island gets crowded at weekends during the peak season.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Samet Island

- Ao Phrao Resort (Ao Phrao) 292 Mu 2, Phe, Rayong 21160 Tel: (0) 3865 1134-5, Fax: (0) 38651952 **๕๕-๕๕๕๕**
- Sai Kaew Beach Resort (Hat Sai Kaew) Ko Samet, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 1239 0208 **๕-๕๕**
- Samed Villa (Ao Phai) 89 Mu 4, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 1494 8090, (0) 1239 0223, Fax: (0) 1239 0203 **๕**
- Tubtim Bungalows (Ao Tubtim) Ko Samet, Phe, Rayong 21160 Tel: (0) 1218 6425, BKK (0) 2729 3144 **๕-๕๕**
- Vong Duen Resort, 22 Mu 4, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 3865 2408, (0)

3865 1777, Fax: (0) 3865 1741 **๕-๕๕**

- Saeng Tien, 88 Mu 4 Lo Samet, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 3865 1223, Tel: (0) 3865 1223 **๕**
- Samed Ville (Villa) Ao Wai, Ko Samet, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 3865 1681-2, Fax: (0) 3865 1681 **๕-๕๕๕๕**

interest is the island of Ko Samet, an island famous for its sandy beaches, which are mainly found on the east side of the island.

Many places to stay are found on Hat Sai Kaew (White Sands Beach) and Ao Wong Duan (Wong Duan Bay). More secluded resorts are hidden in the coves between these main beaches. Transport is by boat except for a few local pick-ups which ply the island's unsealed tracks.

Piers serving Ko Samet are located on the eastern edge of Ban Phe. These piers have safe overnight parking and can reserve accommodation, arranging

### GOLF COURSES IN THE SATTAPHI-RAYONG AREA

#### Eastern Star Resort & Country Club

H3 KM193 Tel: (0) 3863 0410-7, Fax: (0) 3863 0418

#### Great Lake Golf & Country Club

H3376 KM9 Tel: (0) 3862 2630, (0) 1218 6913, (0) 1218 7620

#### Phutaluang Royal Thai Navy Golf Course

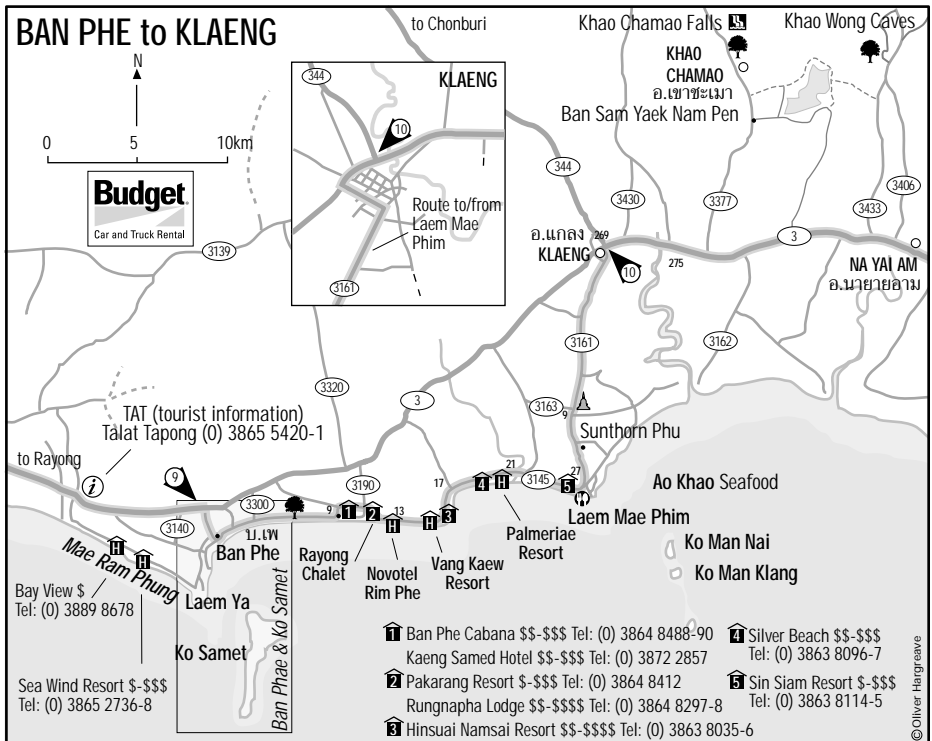
H3 KM182 Tel: (0) 3870 1843

#### Rayong Century Golf & Country Club

H3 KM197 Tel & Fax: (0) 3860 2889

#### Rayong Green Valley & St Andrews 2000

H3376 KM14 Tel & Fax: (0) 3889 3838-46



### H3145 & H3161 Ban Phe - Laem Mae Phim & Klaeng 40kms

H3145 is a pleasant route linking several resorts that take advantage of the long sandy beaches between Laem Ya and Laem Mae Phim. Numerous seafood restaurants are located at Laem Mae Phim.

H3161 goes to Klaeng from Laem Mae Phim, skirting a flat landscape to the east consisting of villages, prawn farms and mangrove swamp typical of river estuaries on this coast. The road passes a park celebrating Thailand's classical 19th century poet, Sunthorn Phu, 3 kms north of Laem Mae Phim. A side road next to the park gives access to the estuary to the east.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Laem Ya-Laem Mae Phim

- Rayong Resort. 186 Mu 1, Phe, Rayong 21160. Tel: (0) 3865 1000-6, Fax: (0) 3865 1007 **๕๕๕-๕๕๕๕**
- Rayong Chalet 4/32 Mu 3, Chak Pong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (0) 3864 8287-8. Fax: (0) 3864 8289, BKK (0) 2260 3590 **๕๕-๕๕๕**
- Novotel Rim Pae Resort. 4/5 Mu 3, Chak Pong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (0) 3864 8008-12, Fax: (0) 3864 8002, BKK Rsvn: (0) 2237 1308 **๕๕๕๕-๕๕๕๕**
- Vang Kaew, 214 Mu 2, Chak Pong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (0) 3863 8067, Fax: (0) 3863 8068. BKK Rsvn: (0) 2259 4150-1 **๕-๕๕๕๕**
- Palmeraie. 177 Mu 1, Chak Pong, Klaeng, Rayong 21190. Tel: (0) 3863 8071-2, Fax: (0) 3863 8073, BKK Rsvn: (0) 2213 1162. **๕๕-๕๕๕๕**

**Budget**

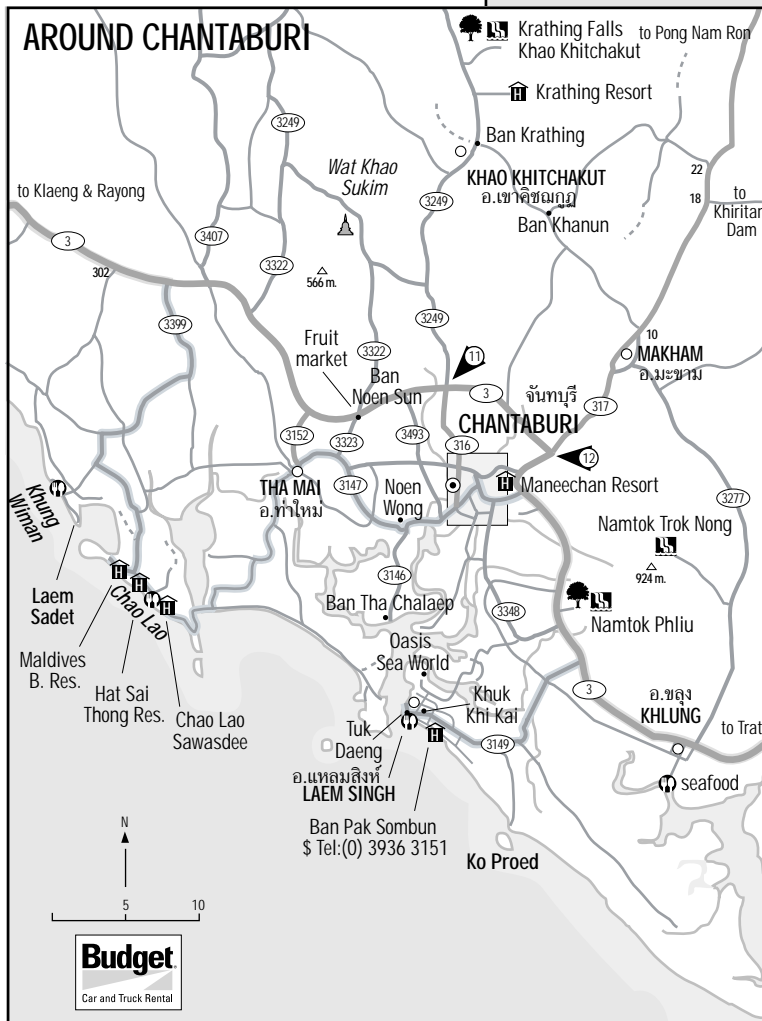
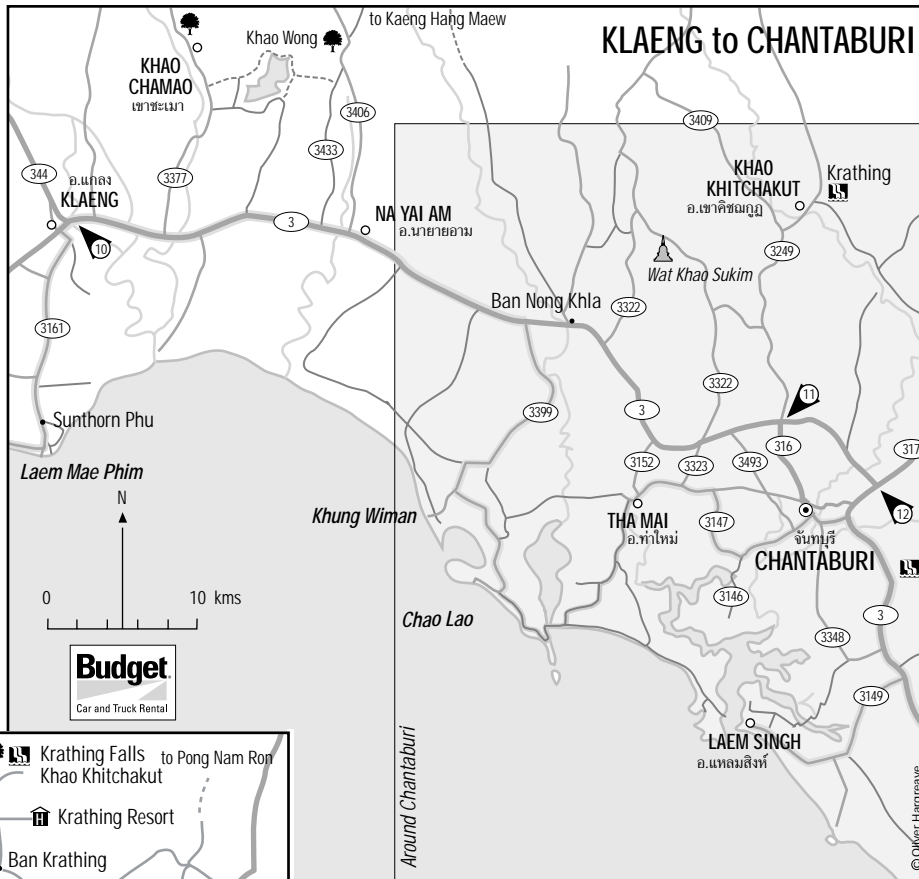
**SECTION 4 : 55 kms.**

# KLAENG CHANTABURI

**F**rom Klaeng, Highway 3 skirts mountains and estuaries. The highest of the peaks, Soi Dao Nua (1605m), lies to the north of Chantaburi's provincial capital. Waterfalls tumble off the jungle clad heights, the prominence of which creates large amounts of rainfall and has helped the area become the fruit basket of Bangkok. A fruit festival celebrates this fact in the harvest season at the beginning of May.

Attractions include Chantaburi City, the waterfalls in national parks and several beaches where seafood restaurants are numerous.

If you plan to visit the waterfalls, it is as well to note that they are less crowded during weekdays and at their best as the rainy season progresses. Reaching the different levels may involve sweaty climbs through moist



evergreen jungle up sometimes slippery paths. Take swimming gear to enjoy the cool pools.

### **11 POINTER ELEVEN**

The junction of H3249 and H316 with H3 at KM315

### **12 POINTER TWELVE**

H3 turns sharply south at KM333. H317 goes north to Sa Kaeo.

### **Khao Chamao- Khao Wong National Park**

*(H3 KM275 north turn onto H3377 — 16kms.)*

A two kilometre nature trail links the eight levels of the Khao Chamao Falls. Khao Wong *(H3 KM286 12 kms north on H3433)* is a modest sized limestone karst with a succession of small, pungent caves inhabited by bats. It is possible to drive directly from Khao Chamao to Khao Wong using dirt roads (4WD) to the north or south of the mountain. This drive that will be of interest as much for the rural scenery you pass through as for the destination.

### **Hat Kung Wiman, Laem Sadet & Hat Chao Lao**

*(south turn off H3 at KM303 on H3399 or from*

*Chantaburi via Tha Mai District. 26kms to Chao Lao on H3399* The low hills, headlands and the bay of Ao Khung Kratie combine to create some pleasant coastline, the best of which is found on the extensive sandy beaches between Laem Sadet and Chao Lao.

Chao Lao is a Thai style beach resort consisting of numerous small restaurants serving excellent seafood. Bungalow resorts are found at back and little else. A new bridge across the river estuary makes possible a circular trip via Tha Mai. Laem Singh to the south-east is entirely devoted to prawn farming except for one small beach (see map)

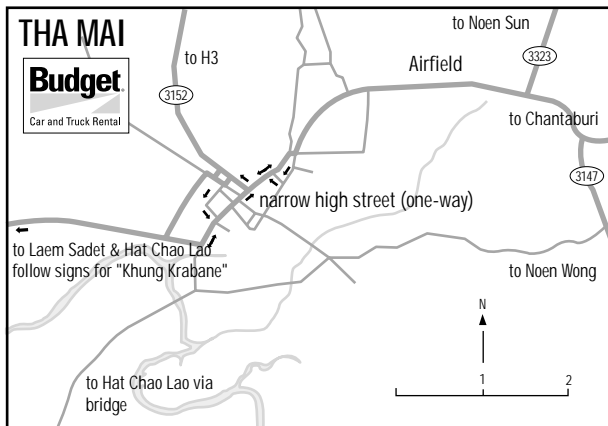
## ACCOMMODATION

### (Chao Lao & Laem Sadet)

- Hat Sai Thong Resort, 99 Mu 6 Khlong Khut, Tha Mai, Chantaburi 22120. Tel: (0) 3936 9123-6 BKK Rsvn: (0) 2254 9797 Ext. 369 **໕໕ - ໕໕໕**
- Chaolao Sawasdee Resort, Khlong Khut, Thai Mai, Chantaburi 22120. Tel: (0) 3936 9308-9, (0) 1664 7193 **໕໕**
- Maldives Beach Resort, Laem Sadet Beach, 4 Khlong Khut, Tha Mai, Chantaburi 22120. Tel: (0) 3936 9100-3, Fax: (0) 3936 9104. **໕໕ - ໕໕໕**

### Wat Khao Sukim & Krathing Falls

*(Take H3322 north form H3 at either KM306 or from pointer 11—25 kms round route. Krathing Falls may be roach from H3322 or direct from H3 at KM324 on H3249 (signposted Khao Khitchakut)—22kms)* A meditation centre lies at the heart of Wat Khao Sukim, but the main attraction for visitors is a vast four storey building containing an extraordinary array of artefacts donated to the temple. Krathing Falls in Khao Khitchakut National Park has thirteen levels accessible from a steep 500 metre



[www.budget.co.th](http://www.budget.co.th)

path (see accommodation inland section 5).

### Noen Wong Fortress

*(H3146 approx. 4 kms from Chantaburi)* The bastion was built on a bluff south-west of Chantaburi City in 1843 as a defence against the Vietnamese. Ramparts for 39 cannon enclose 270 rai of land upon which stands Wat Yotanimittara and a small museum of underwater archeological exploration.

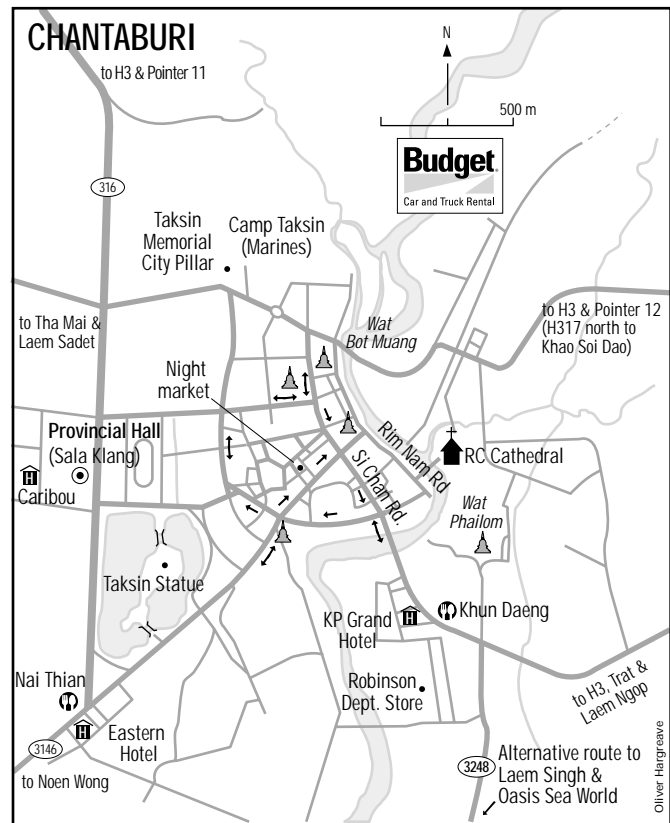
### Chantaburi

*(South turn at Pointer 11. 6kms.)*

Chantaburi lies close to sapphire and ruby mining regions found in the mountains to the north-east. Deposits near Bo Rai are largely exhausted, but stones come from Phailin in Cambodia and elsewhere. The downtown gem trading area along Si Chan Road throngs with traders on Fridays and Saturdays.

Chantaburi was dominated by the Khmer from Angkor in the 14th century, and repeatedly invaded from Cambodia in the 16th century. In 1767 Phraya Taksin occupied the city after the Burmese destruction of the Siamese capital at Ayutthaya. From Chantaburi he began the campaign that was to force the Burmese out of Siam and secure the polity that evolved into modern Thailand.

From the 18th century Chantaburi provided a haven for Christians fleeing persecution in Vietnam, and later the city attracted many overseas Chinese. The Catholic Cathedral was completed in 1909. It can be reached by footbridge across the river from Rim Nam Street, a charming narrow street best for walking and sampling the city's Chinese-Vietnamese rice noodles. Chantaburi's night market is also



within close walking distance.

To the south-west of the city, Noen Wong Fortress was built in 1843 to defend the increasingly wealthy area, but it had no chance of preventing the French from occupying Chantaburi and Trat provinces in 1893 as part of their colonial expansion west of the River Mekong in Cambodia and Laos. The French left in 1907 when Siam finally ceded Battambang, Siem Reap and Sisophon provinces to French Indochina.

With the Fall of the France in 1940, Thai forces retook the lost provinces, though they suffered a naval defeat at Ko Chang (there is a memorial near Laem Ngop). In 1947, the provinces were restored to the French.

## ACCOMMODATION

### In Chantaburi City

- Caribou Highland Hotel. 14 Chawanautid Rd., Wat Mai, Chantaburi, 22000. Tel: (0) 3932 3431-55, Fax: (0) 3932 1584. **໕໕ - ໕໕໕໕**
- Eastern Hotel. 899 Thachalaeb Rd, Chantaburi 22000. Tel: (0) 3931 2218-20, Fax: (0) 3931 1985. **໕ - ໕໕**
- KP Grand Hotel. 35/200-201 Tritat Rd. Chantanimit, Chantaburi 22000. Tel: (0) 39 32 3201-13, Fax: (0) 3934 4123 **໕**
- Maneechan Resort. 14 Raksakcha-moon Rd., Tha Chang, Chantaburi 22000. Tel: (0) 3934 3777-8, Fax: (0) 3934 4123 **໕໕໕**

**Budget** 9  
Car and Truck Rental

# CHANTABURI KO CHANG & HAT LEK

**F**rom Pointer 12, you may turn north to take inland routes to Khao Soi Dao mountain and a scenic back-country route to Trat, or you can follow Highway 3 to Trat directly. The highlight of this part of the coast is Ko Chang, which is reached by driving to Laem Ngop and then taking a car ferry.

**13 POINTER THIRTEEN**

H3156 to Laem Ngop (for Ko Chang) goes south from Ban Saeng Tung at KM379. Near KM378, H3157 to Bo Rai leads to a pretty inland route to the Khiritan Dam, joining H317 at KM19.

**14 POINTER FOURTEEN**

H3 KM399. East turn on H318 for the route to Khlong Yai and an inland route to Bo Rai using H317. H3 terminates in Trat, becoming H3148 to Laem Ngop.

**Khao Soi Dao & Back Country Routes East**

Highway 317 north from pointer 12 gives access to the county around Soi Dao Mountain. The first inland route east takes H3277 to the south-east from Makham (*H317 KM.7 east turn. 26kms to Khlung*), passing the Trok Nong Falls. More spectacular scenery can be enjoyed on H3299, which runs east from H317 near KM19 and passes the Khiritan Dam and joins H3157 near KM27 after 44kms.

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Inland**

- Eng Dao Hill Resort (H317 KM36 west turn) 229/Mu 1 Tabsai, Pong Nam Ron, Chantaburi 22140. Tel: (0) 3936 0258-60. **๕๕** Also organises rafting trips (max. 8 persons 2500 Bt.) **๕๕**
- Krathing Country Resort (H3249 KM20) 21/7 Mu 5 Phlung, Khao Khitchakut sub-district, Chantaburi 22210. Tel: (0) 3945 2453-6. BKK Rsvn. Tel & Fax: (0) 2259 8121-3 **๕๕**

**Golf near Soi Dao**  
**Soi Dao Highland Hotel & Golf Club**  
(H317 KM.43). 153 Mu 2 Tabsai,

Pong Nam Ron, Chantaburi 22140. Tel & Fax: (0) 3938 7123. Tel: (0) 3932 2831-2, Fax: (0) 3932 1483 **๕๕**

**Laem Singh Port & Beach**

(25 kms return to H3). Turn south-west at KM345 onto H3348, drive for 3kms and turn left just before a sharp right hand bend near KM.3 — follow signs for 'Dolphin' to go to the Oasis Sea World Dolphinarium and Butterfly Farm — One hour shows start 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00 Tel: (0) 3936 3238-9. H3149 south-west form H3 at KM. 348 provides an uncomplicated direct route to Laem Singh avoiding the dolphinarium.

Seafood restaurants line the beach near the mouth of the estuary. The French occupation is marked in Laem Sing by an old customs house (*tuk daeng*) and a second small, lopsided tower that served as a jail in which Thai prisoners were kept beneath the mesh floor of a chicken coop (*khuk khi kai*). The coastline between Laem Singh and the mangroves of Khlung to the south-east is dominated by prawn-farming.

**Namtok Phliu & Khlung**

(KM346 north turn — 1.7kms) In 1876, King Rama V (Chulalongkorn) built a chedi and the pyramid housing the remains of his beloved Queen Sunantha, who drowned in a boating accident at Bang Pa-In two years after they had visited the falls. A one-kilometre nature trail goes round and above the falls.

Note the Chinese (Wat Mangkol



Buppharam) on Highway 3 near the side-road to the falls. The road towards the sea at the main lights in Khlung (near KM356) terminates at jetties and some good seafood restaurants.

**Laem Ngop and Ko Chang Island**

Laem Ngop fishing port is the starting point for passenger ferries to Ko Chang and the smaller islands to the south. A nearby memorial museum commemorates a naval battle between the Thai and French in which two Thai vessels were sunk in 1941. Three car ferry services serving Ko Chang operate from landings west of Laem Ngop.

## Ko Chang

Ko Chang is the largest of more than 40 islands that form an archipelago which became the Mu Ko Chang Marine National Park. Due to government intentions to make it a prime tourist destination, the island is undergoing rapid change.

Ko Chang's jungle clad ridge reaches over 700m in height and runs the length of the island. A U shaped two-lane concrete road (*Be careful on the very steep z bends to the south of Ban Khlong Son!*) is being extended and will be fully sealed from Ban Rong Than and Ban Salak Phet round the northern head of the island down and around to just east of Ban Bang Bao. The loop may be completed with a final extension that will only be for use by mountain bicycles.

Three superb beaches are located on the west coast — Sai Khao, Khlong Phrao and Kai Bae. Than Mayom and Khlong Phlu Falls offer inland attractions (*park fees are collected*), and there are some minor falls around Ao Salak Phet. Ban Bang Bao and Ban Rong Than have good seafood restaurants in scenic locations.

Resorts are being developed

throughout the length of the west coast and inexpensive huts are still available in keeping with the islands reputation as a haven for young travellers. Increasingly, however, mid to up-market resorts are occupying prime sites along the main beaches. Between these three main beaches, rocky beach is common, especially at low tide.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Ko Chang

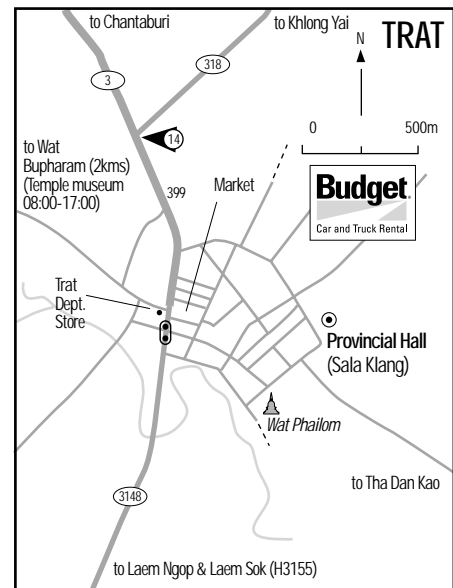
- Aiyapura, 29 Mu 3, Ko Chang, Trat 23120. Tel: (0) 3952 1656-60, Fax: (0) 3952 1656. Bkk Off. (0) 22862 1611 <www.aiyapura.com>.
- Ban Pu Ko Chang, Hat Sai Khao, Tel: (0) 1942 2964, (0) 3954 2355 ๕๕ - ๕๕๕๕
- Khlong Phrao Resort 21/1 Mu 4 Ko Chang, Trat 23120. Tel: (0) 1830 0126, Laem Ngop Off: Tel: (0) 3959 7216, Fax: (0) 3959 7106 <www.klongpraoresort.com>

### Trat to Khlong Yai & Hat Lek (89 kms from Pointer 14)

Wat Buppharam to the west of the provincial capital town of Trat is the main point of interest apart from the fresh market at the centre of town. The Ban Pu Resort, which has an unusual

location over mangrove forest and a restaurant with a local reputation, is the best accommodation nearby.

The drive to Khlong Yai and Hat Lek is fast, passing sandy beaches extending from Laem Klad to Khlong Yai. Virtually any side road can get you to nearly deserted beaches. However, due to their location in the bight formed by Laem Sok and the archipelago, the beaches are not as attractive as those on the islands. The best beach is found at Hat Chuen (south turn either at KM.57 or KM59). Accommodation is found



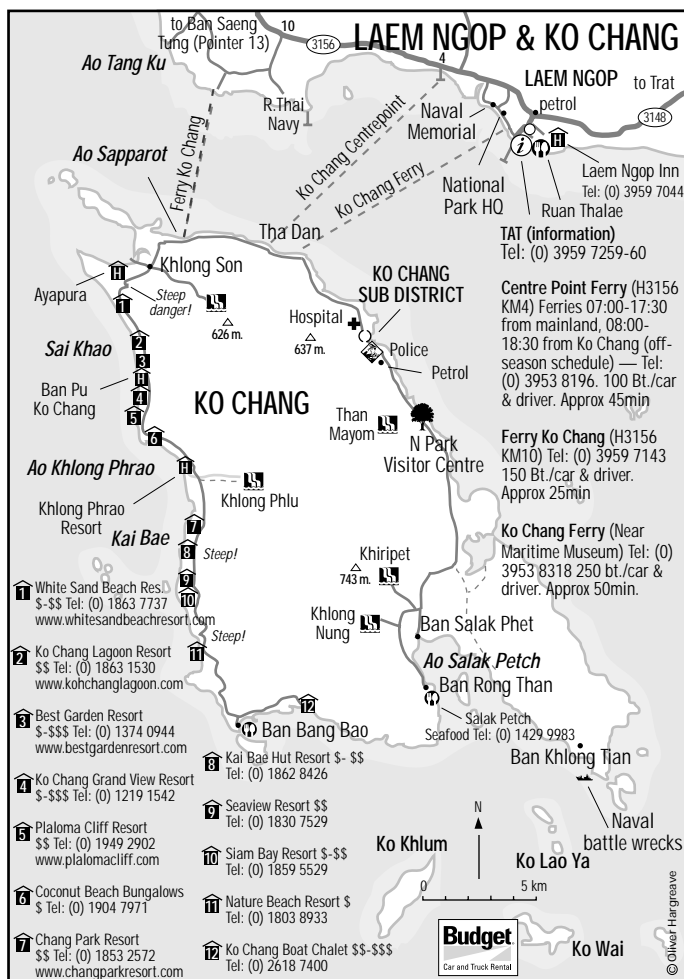
at Hat Muk Kaew (KM41) and along the old road between the sea and H318 around KM67 to the north-west of Khlong Yai District.

Apart from quiet coastal backwaters and rural hinterland, H318 passes a small but unusual memorial museum at the site of a former refugee camp at Khao Lan Ratchakarun (KM48). Khlong Yai (KM74) is a small town with wooden houses on streets that become increasingly narrow as they approach the sea. A large fishing port is located a few kilometres to the east at KM.80.

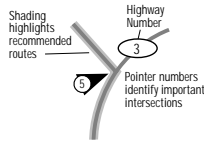
Hat Lek (KM89) is a border market selling cheaper Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese products as well as French wines. To gamble at the Grand Hotel Casino (Tel: (0) 3954 4383-5) just across the border from Hat Lek, you will need a visa from the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok (185 Ratchadamri Rd. Tel: (0) 2254 6630, Fax: (0) 2253 9859). You must leave your Budget Car on the Thai side.

## ACCOMMODATION

- Ban Pu Resort & Suan Pu Restaurant. ๕๕ - ๕๕๕๕ 199 Mu 1, Tambol Nong Khan Song, Trat 23120. Tel: (0) 3954 2355, (0) 3951 2400, Fax: (0) 3954 2359 (*Turn left at KM.6 on H3148. Restaurant Hrs. 10:00-22:00*) Set in a man-grove forest with a recommended restaurant.
- Hat Muk Kaew Resort. ๕๕๕ . H318 KM41. Pleasant isolated setting by beach. Tel: (0) 3951 1777, (0) 1211 3358. Bangkok: (0) 2559 3247-8, Fax: (0) 2530 7226.



## INSTRUCTIONS



**To help you find your way through an unfamiliar landscape, the route is divided into sections. Suggested routes are marked on the maps and numbered pointers listed in sequence in the likely direction of travel.**

### Kilometre references are noted in two ways:

H3 KM13 = Kilometre stone 13 is the nearest kilometre marker on Highway 3 (Sukhumvit Highway). (west turn — 3kms) If you are travelling north, this means you should turn left and drive 3kms to the indicated destination.

**Fill up with petrol!** Before entering back country roads, make sure you have enough fuel. In deep country areas, filling stations are reduced to hand-pumps from barrels, which is inconvenient and more expensive.

**Broken up and buckled road surface may sometimes be encountered** along highways, but this is usually rare on main highways unless there is road construction. Always be very careful driving through areas where there is road construction, especially if you are driving at night (we recommend you avoid driving at night in Thailand). Damaged road surface is commonly found on tertiary sealed roads in rural areas. Avoid driving faster than 60kph on such roads and be ready to slow down frequently.

**4 WD Only!** If you are driving a vehicle that does not have four-wheel drive, please do not enter roads indicated as suitable for 4WD if driving an ordinary sedan (it is not usually necessary to engage 4WD on most dirt road).

**Dirt roads** are common in border areas and the mountains, and important unsealed routes are regularly maintained. We recommend that you avoid dirt roads, in particular remote ones, as you will be responsible for anything that happens to vehicles off regularly maintained and paved roadways. Should you go on a dirt road, however, please drive slowly to avoid mechanical problems and to keep the dust down, especially when passing people and driving through villages.

**Remember to always take drinking water — allow for emergencies. A torch can be useful as well as an umbrella or warm clothing, depending on season and location.**

**Defensive driving.** Be wary of oncoming traffic when approaching the brow of a hill or a blind corner, and be especially vigilant for vehicles entering

from side-roads which may not stop as they enter the major road. Always slow right down when entering a village or town, no matter how empty the road might look.

**Help us get it right!** If you have suggestions or find serious errors in this guide, please advise our staff.

**Music while you drive.** Before you set out, take advantage of low prices for audio tapes in Thailand and stock up with some new tunes, or play around with the FM radio to see what you can pick up.

### INFORMATION

This guide is designed to complement regular guide-books. The offices of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT — locations on the maps) at Pattaya (Tel: (0) 3842 7667 or (0) 3842 8750, Fax: (0) 3842 9113. E-mail: tatpty@chonburi.ksc.co.th), at Tapong (H3 KM230+200m) near Rayong (Tel: (0) 3865 5420-1 Fax: (0) 3865 5422) and at Laem Ngop (Tel: (0) 3959 7259-60, Fax: (0) 3959 7255) can also provide useful information and brochures.

### ACCOMMODATION

Selected accommodation suggests a range of places that stand out for ambience, but many other places on the map listings can be just as nice. We strongly advise pre-booking accommodation in the high season and during festivals.

Accommodation near the beach is charged at a premium in Thailand, so even 'cheap' rooms can cost between 10 and 20 dollars per night, which can be more than double the inland equivalent.

Travel with enough cash to get you to the next ATM machine, which are usually found at banks in main district towns (*amphoe*). Credit cards can be used at large gas stations and most main resorts/hotels. Fuel prices are around 15 Baht per litre (The baht/US dollar exchange rate is fluctuating around 40-42 Baht=1US\$)

Only indication prices for accommodation are given, as rack rates change according to the occupancy rate. Be prepared for an additional 17% of government taxes to be added onto a hotel bill. Walk-in rates are indicated as follows:

฿฿฿฿ 6000 Baht up  
 ฿฿฿ 3000-5999 Baht  
 ฿฿ 1000-2999 Baht  
 ฿ 0-999 Baht

### NATIONAL PARKS

Foreigners are charged 200 Bht. (children 100 Bht.) entrance fee to national parks in Thailand. If you can produce a Thai driver's license, you may be charged at the rate for Thai people (20 Bht./adult 30 Bht./vehicle), but this is uncertain. The entrance fee will allow you to enter all sites in that park on the date of purchase.



STOP



NO PASSING



STOP (POLICE) CHECK



SLIPPERY ROAD



STEEP HILL



FALLING ROCKS (LAND SLIDE)

**For reservations, please contact your travel consultant or call Budget:**

**In the U.K.: 0541 565-656, In the U.S.: (800) 527-0700  
 In Germany: 01805 244-388, In Australia: 1-300 362-848  
 In Singapore: 532-4442, In Thailand: 1-800-BUDGET**