

Budget WorldClass Drives

HUA HIN, KANCHANABURI AND WESTERN THAILAND

Highlights of the Drive

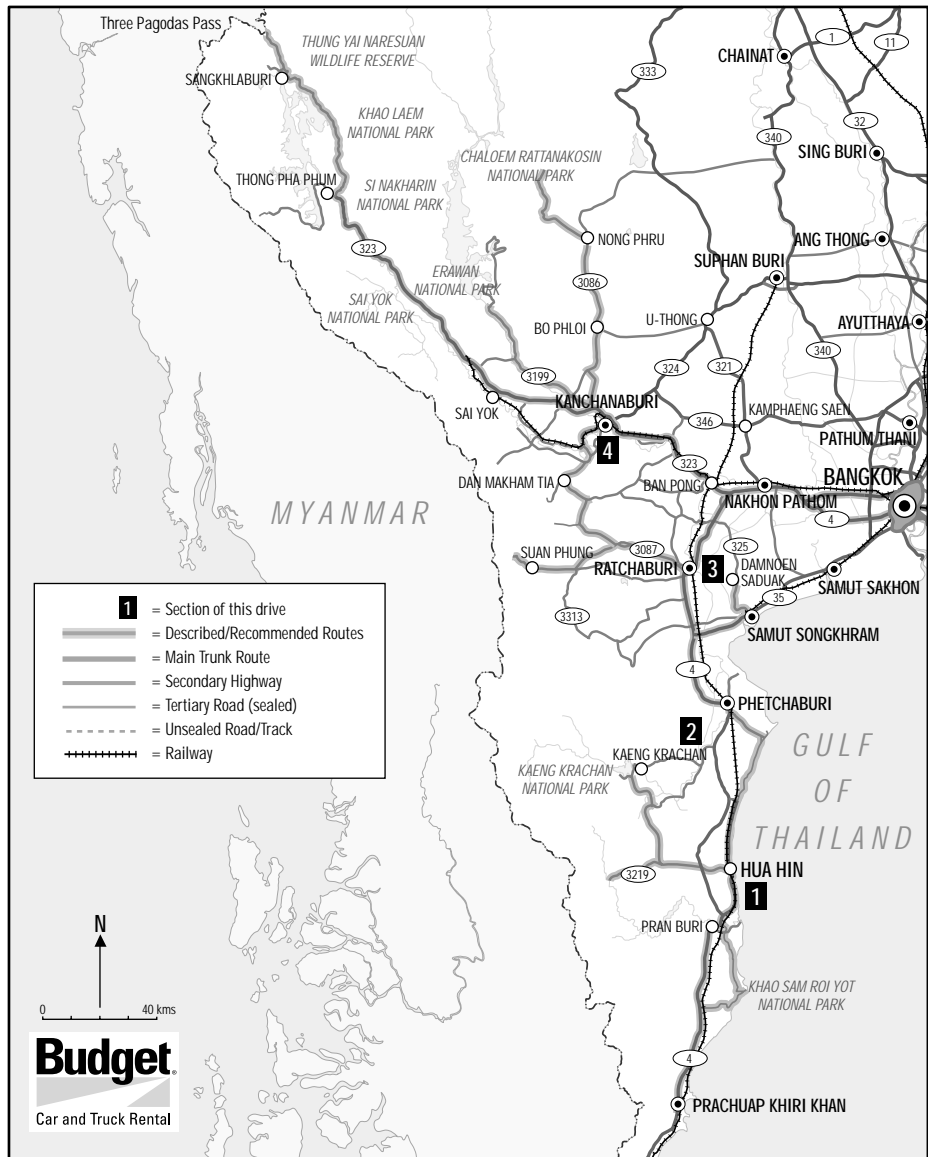
Hua Hin is an excellent starting point for exploring the western coastline of the Gulf of Thailand and the Tennasserim range inland along the border with Myanmar. From the coastal retreats of Prachuap Khiri Khan to the canals of Ratchaburi and the valley of the river Khwae in Kanchanaburi, this drive offers great variety.

In addition to geographical variety, a variety which golfers in particular will be able to enjoy at over twenty golf courses, the territory is of significant historical interest. Remains from prehistoric times to the Dvaravati and Khmer civilisations of the sixth to eleventh centuries may be seen at monuments and in national museums. Royal Palaces give an idea of more recent Thai history, and the memorials to the Death Railway built in the Second World War will leave a lasting impression.

An easy one-day journey south from Hua Hin to Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park can be extended to an overnight visit to the provincial capital of Prachuap Khiri Khan. Other places to visit near Hua Hin are the historical city of Phetchaburi to the north and Kaeng Krachan National Park inland to the west.

A longer rural route leads to Kanchanaburi Province, which contains historical monuments and a wealth of national parks and wild-life sanctuaries that protect the last extensive wilderness in Thailand.

Though this drive focuses on Hua Hin as a starting point, fully integrated maps allow you to start and finish your tour in Bangkok (ask for Budget's Airport Routefinder Map to be delivered with your car) or to continue your journey south (pick up a copy of Budget's Bangkok-Phuket & Surat Thani Route Map before you leave) along Thailand's near endless beaches.



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!

Emergency Assistance 1-800-BUDGET, Bangkok Office (0) 2203 0250, (0) 9896 4549, Hua Hin Office, (0) 3251 4220, (0) 9836 2755



HUA HIN

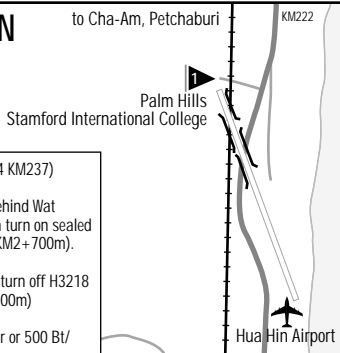
PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

Hua Hin first developed as a fishing village between long sandy beaches stretching for kilometres north and south of the small harbour. Shortly after the railway reached the town in 1922, the beach to the north was chosen as the site for the 'Klai Kangwon' (meaning 'far from worries') Royal Palace. Hua Hin then became a genteel beach resort.

When the tourism boom of the 1980's came, Cha-Am developed to the north, and high rises sprang up between the two resorts. Hua Hin, however, has been protected and whatever the changes taking place on land, the long beaches and tidal sand flats so perfect for walking at dawn or sunset have remained amongst the best in the kingdom.

AROUND HUA HIN

- Hua Hin Elephant Village (H4 KM237)
 - Hua Hin Elephant Village (behind Wat Itisukato off H3128 — north turn on sealed lane opp. Rockstra Pub at KM2+700m).
 - Pang Chang Hua Hin (south turn off H3218 on unsealed track at KM2+400m)
- Prices are same (700 Bt/hour or 500 Bt/hour) at all elephant camps with rides available 08:30-17:30
- Palm Hills Resort & Country Club
Tel: (0) 3252 0800-11 Fax: (0) 3252 0820
 - Royal Hua Hin Golf Course
Tel: (0) 3251 2475 Fax: (0) 3251 3038



- 1 Anantara Resort & Spa \$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3252 0250 Fax: Tel: (0) 3252 0259
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2477 0800
- 2 Majestic Beach Resort \$\$-\$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3252 0162-8 Fax: Tel: (0) 3252 4077
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2751 4020-2
E-mail: majesticresort@thailand.com
- 15 Hua Hin Marriot Resort & Spa \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 1881 Fax: (0) 3251 2422
<www.marriotthotels.com>
- 16 Chanchay Bungalow & Hotel \$-\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3253 2374-5 Fax: (0) 3253 2376
E-mail: banchanchay@hotmail.com
- 16 B Thipurai Guest House \$
Tel: (0) 3253 2096-7 Fax: (0) 3251 2210
E-mail: Thipurai@hotmail.com
- 17 Sailom Hotel \$\$-\$\$\$ Tel: (0) 3251 1890-1
Fax: (0) 3251 2047 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2392 2109
- 18 Minitel \$-\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2436 Fax: (0) 3251 2117
- 19 Chiva Som (Int. Health Resort) \$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3253 6536 Fax: (0) 3251 1154
<www.chivasom.net>
- 20 Pacific Beach Club \$\$-\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3253 6698-9 Fax: Tel: (0) 3253 6697
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2285 0169
<www.pantip-court.com/pacific.htm>
- 21 Ban Duangkaew Resort 1800-2880 Bt.
Tel: (0) 3251 5307 Fax: (0) 3251 5532
E-mail: bd Resort@yahoo.com
- 22 Swan Ocean View \$\$ Tel: (0) 3253 6330 Fax:
Tel: (0) 3251 3362 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2225 3002-3
- 23 Anantasila Villa \$\$-\$\$\$\$ Tel: (0) 3251 1879
Fax: (0) 3251 5914 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2221 1732
- 24 Hua Hin Blue Wave Beach Resort \$\$-\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3253 6247-9 Fax: Tel: (0) 3253 6245
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2930 5667-8

HUA HIN DOWNTOWN

Budget
Car and Truck Rental

- 4 Pananchai Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3251 1707 Fax: (0) 3253 0157
- 4 Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa \$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2888 Fax: (0) 3251 1135
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2253 0123
<www.huahin.hilton.com>
- 5 Fresh Inn Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3251 1389 Fax: (0) 3253 2166
- 6 Ban-Boosarin Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3251 2076
- 7 Central Hua Hin Village \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2021-38
Fax: (0) 3251 1014
- 8 Sirin Hotel \$-\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 1150 Fax: (0) 3251 2045
- 9 City Beach Resort \$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2870-5 Fax: (0) 3251 2448
E-mail: huahin@citybeach.co.th
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2319 1468-71

* Several guest houses in this area – limited or no parking

- 10 Puangpen Villa Hotel \$-\$\$ Tel: (0) 3253 3785-6
Fax: (0) 3251 1216
- 11 Jed Pee Nong Hotel \$-\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2381
Fax: (0) 3253 2063
- 12 Hotel Sofitel Central Hua Hin \$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 2021-38
Fax: (0) 3251 1014
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2541 1463
<www.sofitel.com>
- 13 Patchara House Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3251 1787
- 14 Hua Hin Grand Hotel & Plaza \$\$-\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3251 3230-4
Fax: (0) 3251 1765.
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2254 7675

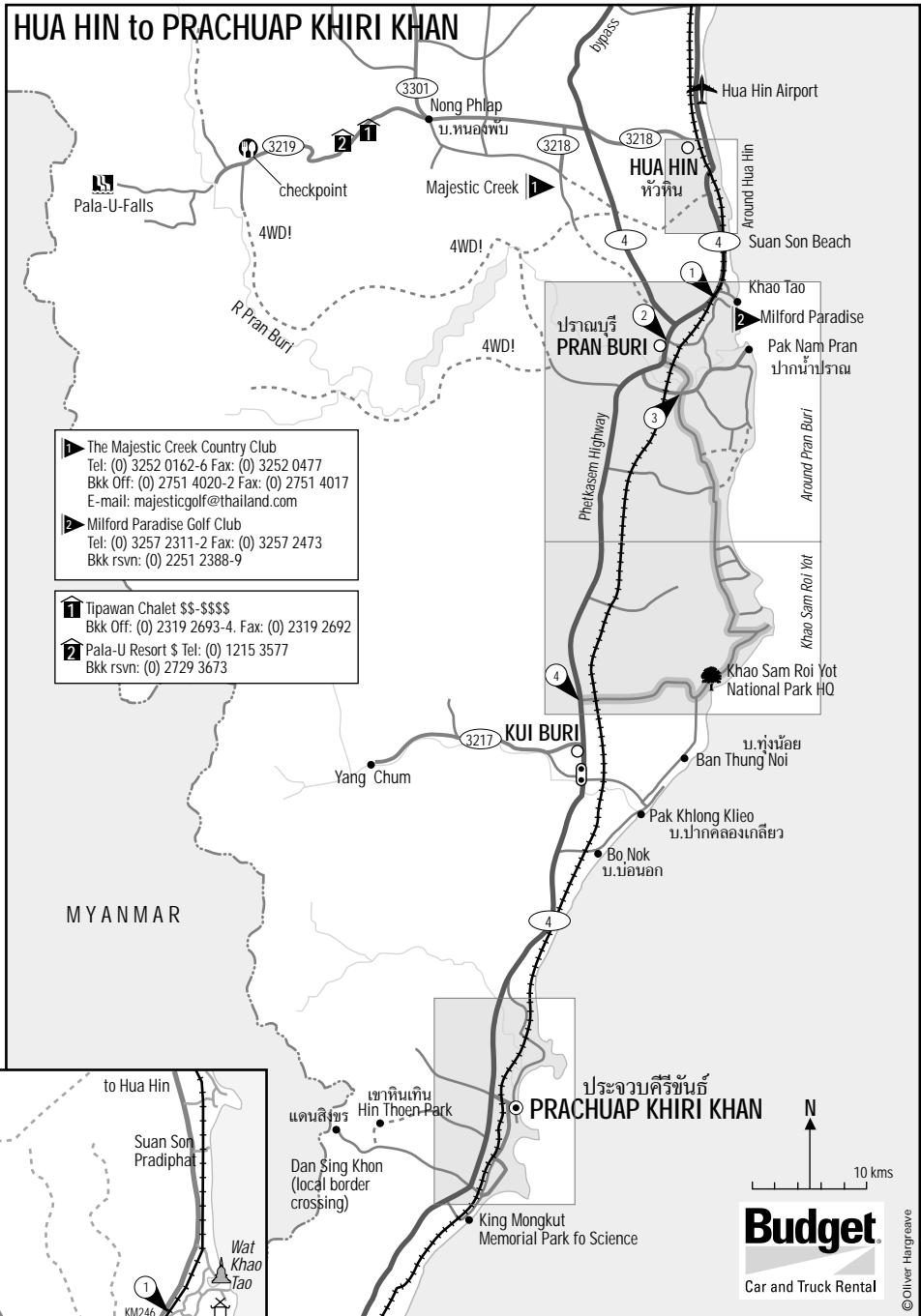
Budget
Car and Truck Rental

Places to visit near Hua Hin

- 1) Viewpoint and gardens of Khao Hin Lek Fai, the hill overlooking Hua Hin (4 kms).
- 2) Khao Takhiap, the point at the southern end of Hua Hin beach (6 kms)
- 3) Wat Itisukato and its Buddhist theme park style of architecture (H3218 north turn at either KM1+300m or KM2+700m)
- 4) The Marukathaiwan Palace (H4 KM216-7 hrs 08:00-16:00 90 Bht.)

ACCOMMODATION

- Ban Duangkaew Resort ๑๑ (๒) Around Hua Hin) Tel: (0) 3251 5307 Fax: (0) 3251 5532 E-mail: bd resort@yahoo.com
- Hotel Sofitel Central Hua Hin & Central Hua Hin Village ๑๑๑-๑๑๑๑ (๒ & ๗ Hua Hin Downtown) Tel: (0) 3251 2021-38 Fax: (0) 3251 1014 Bkk Res: (0) 2541 1463 <www.sofitel.com> E-mail: sofitel@sofitel.co.th
- Hua Hin Marriot Resort & Spa ๑๑๑-๑๑๑๑ (๒ Around Hua Hin) Tel: (0) 3251 1881 Fax: (0) 3251 2422 <www.marriotthotels.com>
- Swan Ocean View ๑๑ (๒ Around Hua Hin) Tel: (0) 3253 6330 Fax: (0) 3251 3362 Bkk Res: (0) 2225 3002-3

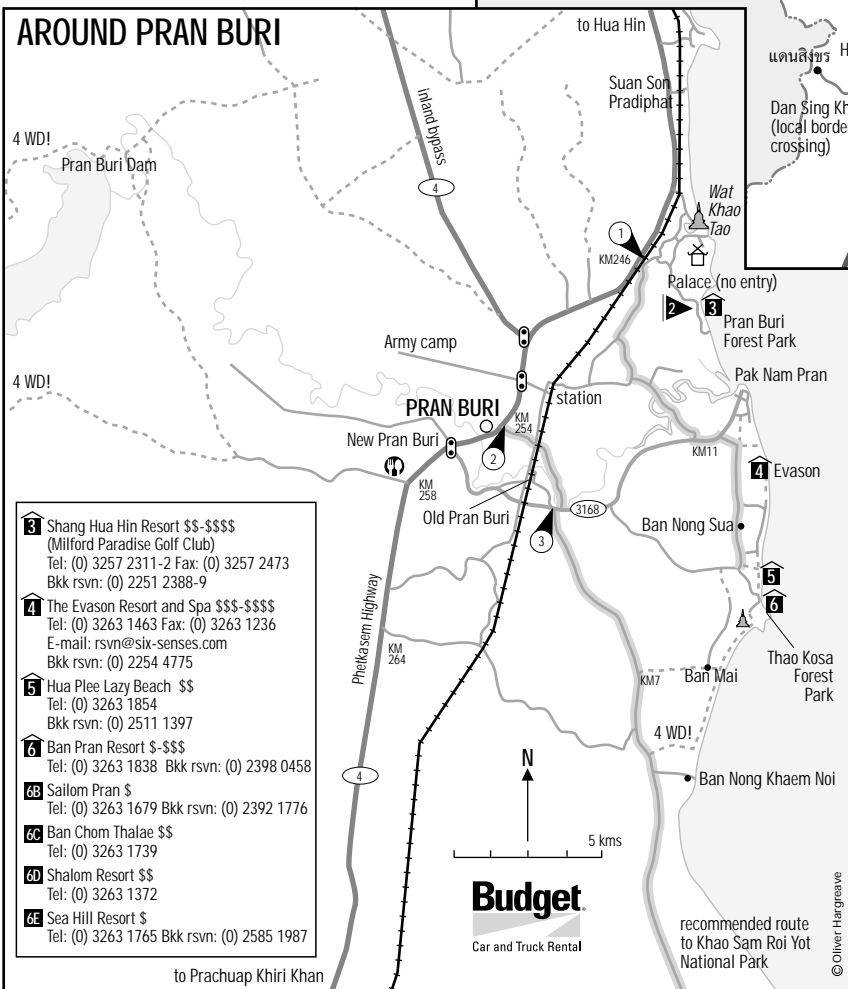


▶ The Majestic Creek Country Club
Tel: (0) 3252 0162-6 Fax: (0) 3252 0477
Bkk Off: (0) 2751 4020-2 Fax: (0) 2751 4017
E-mail: majesticgolf@thailand.com

▶ Milford Paradise Golf Club
Tel: (0) 3257 2311-2 Fax: (0) 3257 2473
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2251 2388-9

1 Tipawan Chalet \$\$-\$\$\$\$
Bkk Off: (0) 2319 2693-4. Fax: (0) 2319 2692

2 Pala-U Resort \$ Tel: (0) 1215 3577
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2729 3673



3 Shang Hua Hin Resort \$\$-\$\$\$\$ (Milford Paradise Golf Club)
Tel: (0) 3257 2311-2 Fax: (0) 3257 2473
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2251 2388-9

4 The Evason Resort and Spa \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3263 1463 Fax: (0) 3263 1236
E-mail: rsvn@six-senses.com
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2254 4775

5 Hua Plee Lazy Beach \$\$
Tel: (0) 3263 1854
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2511 1397

6 Ban Pran Resort \$-\$\$\$
Tel: (0) 3263 1838 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2398 0458

6B Sailom Pran \$
Tel: (0) 3263 1679 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2392 1776

6C Ban Chom Thalae \$\$
Tel: (0) 3263 1739

6D Shalom Resort \$\$
Tel: (0) 3263 1372

6E Sea Hill Resort \$
Tel: (0) 3263 1765 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2585 1987

South to Khao Sam Roi Yot and Prachuap Khiri Khan

Unless you wish to relax at a beach along the route, the return journey (130 kms if rounding the park) can be made comfortably within one day. An overnight stay is recommended if you wish to continue to Prachuap Khiri Khan.

- KM240. Suan Son Pradiphat (army) Beach (East turn 1 km. 10 Bht. till 18:00 hrs)
- KM243 Khao Tao temple and beach on H3325 (East turn 1.5kms)
- KM246 Milford Paradise Golf and the Pran Buri Forest Park (Pointer 1. Turn east and then turn left after crossing the railway.)

KM246 Shortcut to Pak Nam Pran, a major fishing port (Pointer 1 East turn, then turn right after crossing railway — this route joins H3168 near KM11), and the beach south to Thao Kosa Forest Park

Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park

The 98 square km park is a contrast of flat wetlands and jagged crags reaching over 600m in elevation. Attractions include caves and the Thung Sam Roi Yot wetlands. The fastest direct route to the park is to turn east at Pointer 2 and then go south from pointer 3 (130kms if on the circular route around the park).

KM25 Ban Pu (East turn — 4kms) and car park for boats to Laem Sala Beach. The Phraya Nakhon Cave is a 430m climb from this beach. Kaeo Cave may be visited en route (1.2 kms on dirt road left — do not enter without proper light as dangerous falls are possible — local guides with lanterns are usually available near the mouth of the cave)

KM20 Sai Cave (East turn — 3kms. Torch required)

KM17 Hat San Phraya (East turn 500m)

KM14 Wat Khao Daeng & boat trips (West turn — 500m) and Horizon Adventure sea-canoe touring (East turn — 600m)

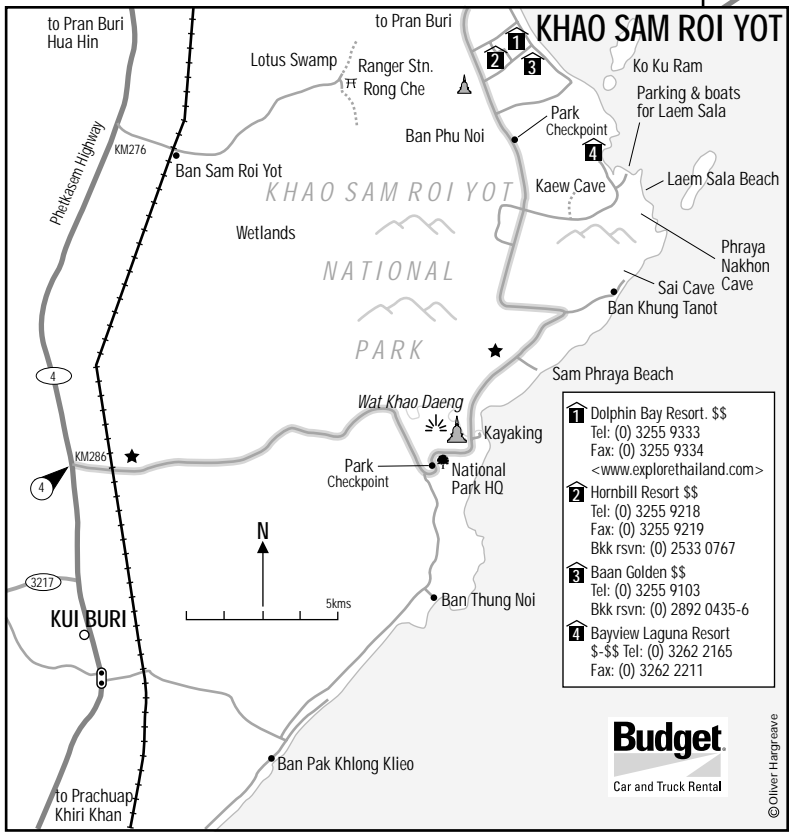
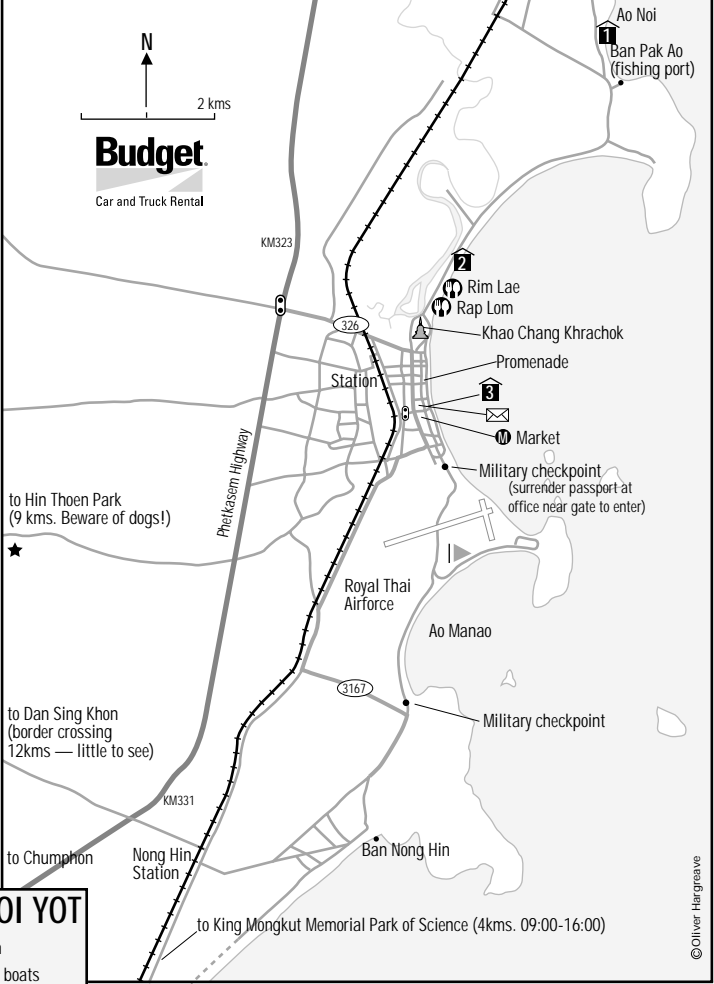
KM13+500m. A 750m trail leads NW to a viewpoint (a steep climb almost qualifies as a scramble).

KM13 National Park HQ (Park accommodation must be booked in advance by calling the park at (0) 3260 3751 or the RFD Parks Division in Bangkok

H4 (KM285—Pointer 4) For Thung Khao Sam Roi Yot wetlands, turn north onto H4 and then east on a cement lane 200m north of KM276 for the ranger station at the lotus swamp (9kms). Boats can be hired to see the birds, which are best in August and September when migratory species arrive.

AROUND PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

- 1 Ao Noi Beach Resort \$
Tel: (0) 3260 1350
- 2 Golden Beach Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3260 1626 Fax: (0) 3260 1222
- 3 Had Thong Hotel \$
Tel: (0) 3260 1050-6 Fax: (0) 3260 1057



- 1 Dolphin Bay Resort. \$\$
Tel: (0) 3255 9333
Fax: (0) 3255 9334
<www.explorethailand.com>
- 2 Hornbill Resort \$\$
Tel: (0) 3255 9218
Fax: (0) 3255 9219
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2533 0767
- 3 Baan Golden \$\$
Tel: (0) 3255 9103
Bkk rsvn: (0) 2892 0435-6
- 4 Bayview Laguna Resort \$-\$\$
Tel: (0) 3262 2165
Fax: (0) 3262 2211

Prachuap Khiri Khan

Prachuap Khiri Khan (90kms south of Hua Hin) has a spectacular setting and a provincial atmosphere which charms those seeking quiet corners of Thailand. You may visit Ao Manao, a private beach controlled by the Air Force, or climb to the top of Khao Chang Krachok. Otherwise there is little to do except wait for the seafood stalls to open up along the promenade in the evening.

ACCOMMODATION

- The Evason Resort and Spa ๑๑๑-๑๑๑๑ (1 Around Pran Buri) Tel: (0) 3263 1463 Fax: (0) 3263 1236 Bkk Res: (0) 2254 4775
E-mail: rsvn@six-senses.com
- Dolphin Bay Resort. ๑๑ (2 Khao Sam Roi Yot) Tel: (0) 3255 9333 Fax: (0) 3255 9334
<www.explorethailand.com>
E-mail: dolphin@explorethailand.com

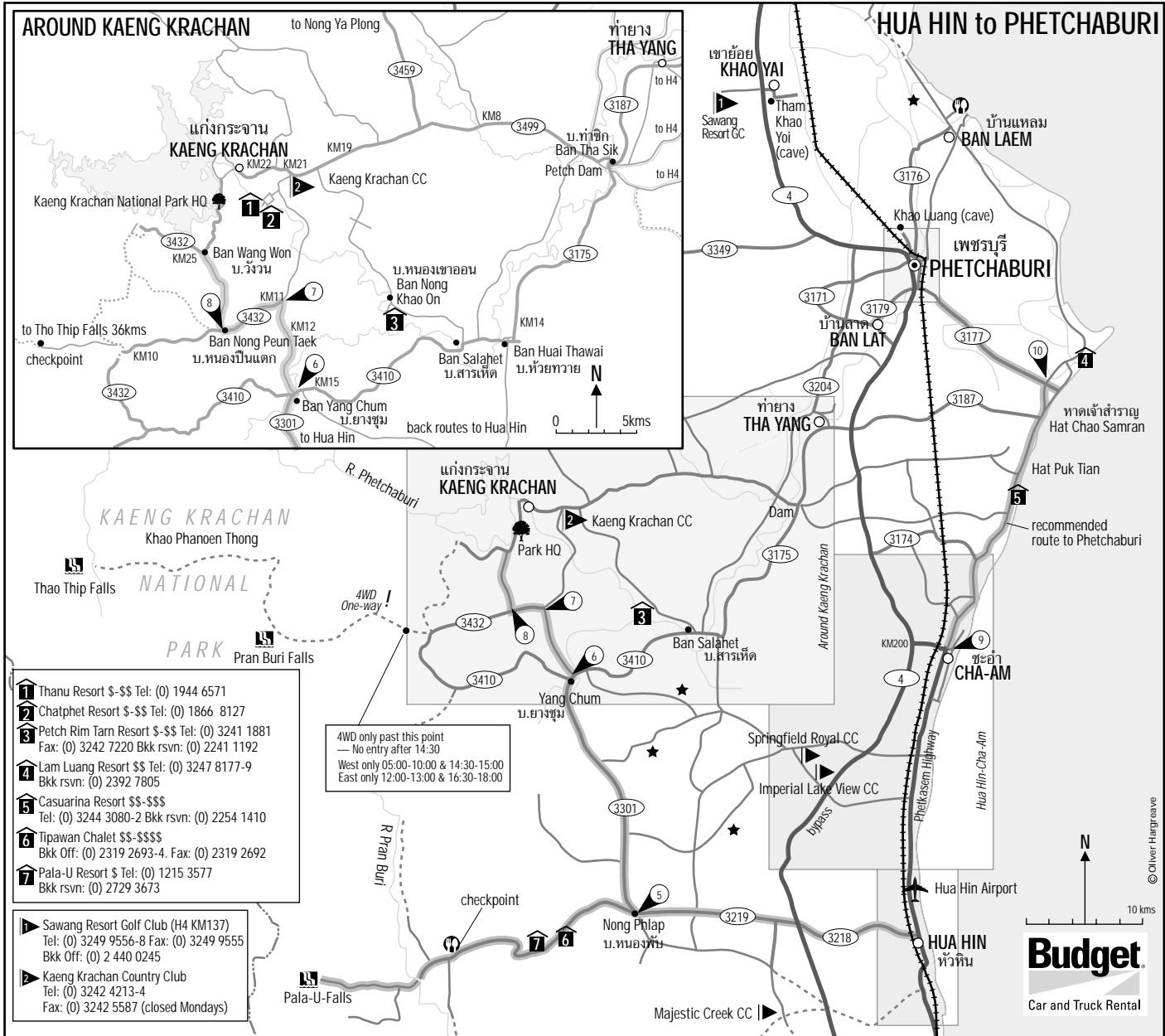
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HUA HIN

SECTION 2 : 60 kms.

KAENG KRACHAN - PHETCHABURI



The 2915 square kms of the Kaeng Krachan National Park straddle the Tennasserim mountains to the west along the border with Myanmar. Two waterfalls may be visited in the park.

The Pala U Falls

Follow H3218 & H3219 to the Pala U Falls (60 kms — walk the final 700m of unsealed track if not driving a 4WD vehicle. Entry 08:00-16:30. Allow a full day), a series of 15 levels of cascades in a narrow valley filled with evergreen forest.

The Tho Thip Falls

A 36kms dirt road leads to Ban Krang Camp at KM15, a walk to Pran Buri Falls from KM18 (visitors must take a park guide), Phanoenthong camp at KM30, and a car park at

KM36, from where the Tho Thip Falls are 4kms on foot.

Prior permission from the park HQ (H3432 KM29) must be obtained and only 4WD vehicles are allowed in (one-way access on dirt road: 05:00-10:00 & 14:30-15:00 up only; 12:00-13:00 & 16:30-18:00 down only; no entry after 14:30 — avoid visiting at weekends). Drive with caution as you will be responsible for your vehicle on this road. Camping equipment can be hired at the Park HQ, but you must take food, drinking water, torch, repellents, etc. (Call the Park HQ for details. Tel (0) 3245 9293).

The park headquarters are most easily reached from Hua Hin by driving to KM12 on H3219 and then turning north on H3301 following Pointers 5,6 7 & 8.

North to Cha-Am and Phetchaburi

North of the Marukathaiwan Palace, several monolithic high-rise condotels mark the coast as far as Cha-Am, where resort accommodation follows a beach-front road in this popular Thai resort.

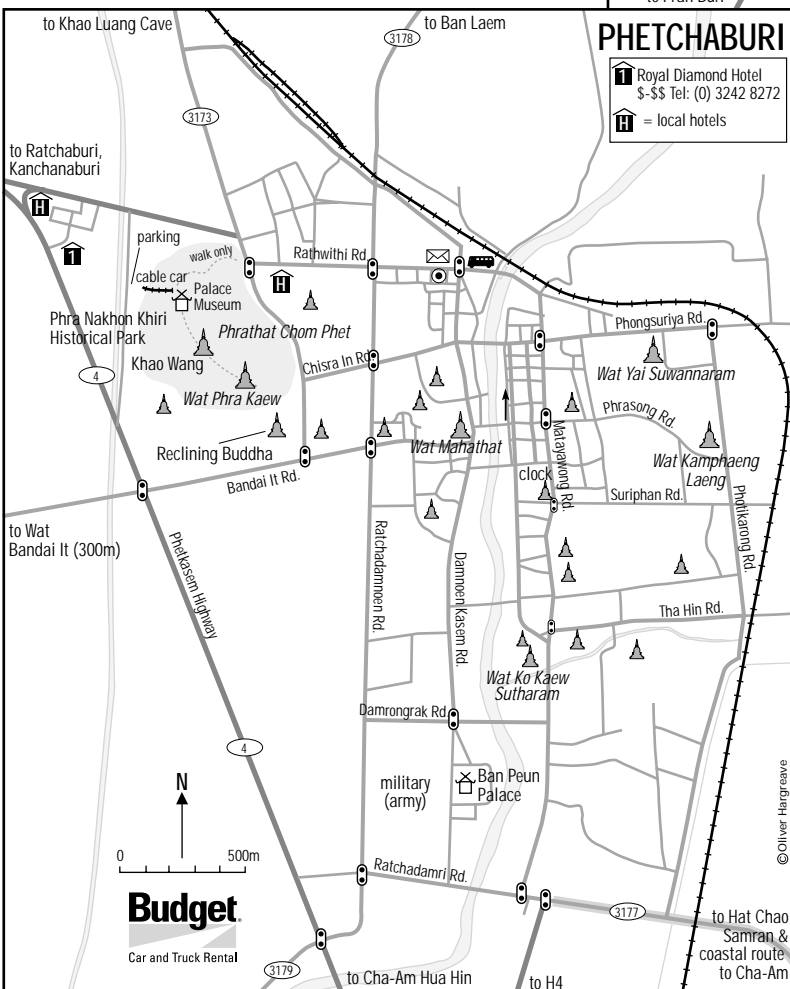
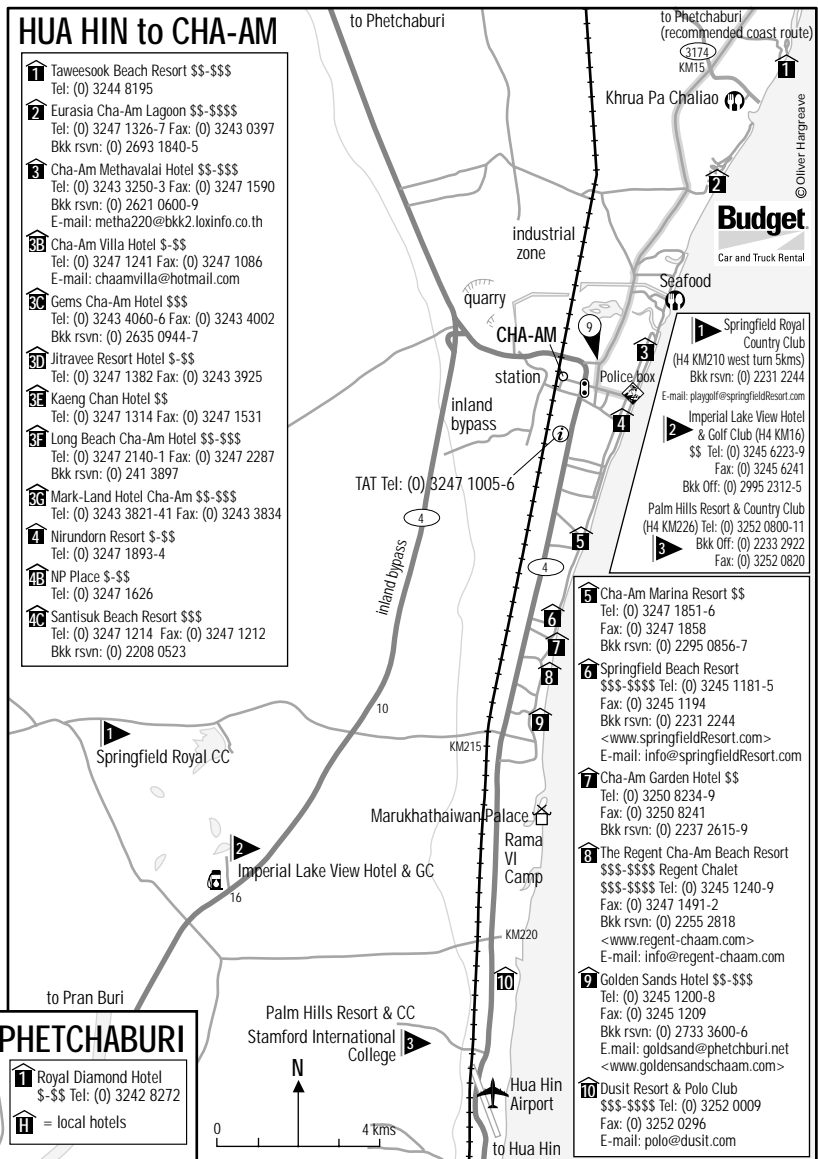
The coast road north from Cha-Am (Pointers 9&10) offers a marginally longer, but much quieter road to Phetchaburi than the stressful main trunk route (H4). The coastal route is recommended if you are not in a hurry. North of Hat Chao Samran the beaches become mud-flats backed by salt pans, and the coastal roads are severely broken up.

ACCOMMODATION

- Anantara Resort & Spa ๕๕๕๕ (1 Around Hua Hin) Tel: (0) 3252 0250 Fax: Tel: (0) 3252 0259 Bkk Res: (0) 2477 0800
- Casuarina Resort ๕๕-๕๕๕ (2 Hua Hin-Phetchaburi) Tel: (0) 3244 3080-2 Bkk Res: (0) 2254 1410
- Dusit Resort & Polo Club ๕๕๕-๕๕๕๕ (10 Hua Hin-Cha-Am) Tel: (0) 3252 0009 Fax: (0) 3252 0296 E-mail: polo@dusit.com
- The Regent Cha-Am Beach Resort/Regent Chalet ๕๕๕-๕๕๕๕ (7 Hua Hin-Cha-Am) Tel: (0) 3245 1240-9 Fax: (0) 3247 1491-2 Bkk Res: (0) 2255 2818 <www.regent-chaam.com> E-mail: info@regent-chaam.com

HUA HIN to CHA-AM

- 1 Taweesoek Beach Resort \$-\$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3244 8195
- 2 Eurasia Cha-Am Lagoon \$-\$-\$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1326-7 Fax: (0) 3243 0397 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2693 1840-5
- 3 Cha-Am Methavalai Hotel \$-\$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3243 3250-3 Fax: (0) 3247 1590 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2621 0600-9 E-mail: metha220@bkk2.foxinfo.co.th
- 4B Cha-Am Villa Hotel \$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1241 Fax: (0) 3247 1086 E-mail: chaamvilla@hotmail.com
- 5G Gems Cha-Am Hotel \$\$\$\$ Tel: (0) 3243 4060-6 Fax: (0) 3243 4002 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2635 0944-7
- 6D Jitrawee Resort Hotel \$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1382 Fax: (0) 3243 3925
- 7E Kaeng Chan Hotel \$\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1314 Fax: (0) 3247 1531
- 8F Long Beach Cha-Am Hotel \$-\$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 2140-1 Fax: (0) 3247 2287 Bkk rsvn: (0) 241 3897
- 9G Mark-Land Hotel Cha-Am \$-\$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3243 3821-41 Fax: (0) 3243 3834
- 4 Nirundorn Resort \$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1893-4
- 4B NP Place \$-\$-\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1626
- 10C Santisuk Beach Resort \$\$\$ Tel: (0) 3247 1214 Fax: (0) 3247 1212 Bkk rsvn: (0) 2208 0523



Phetchaburi

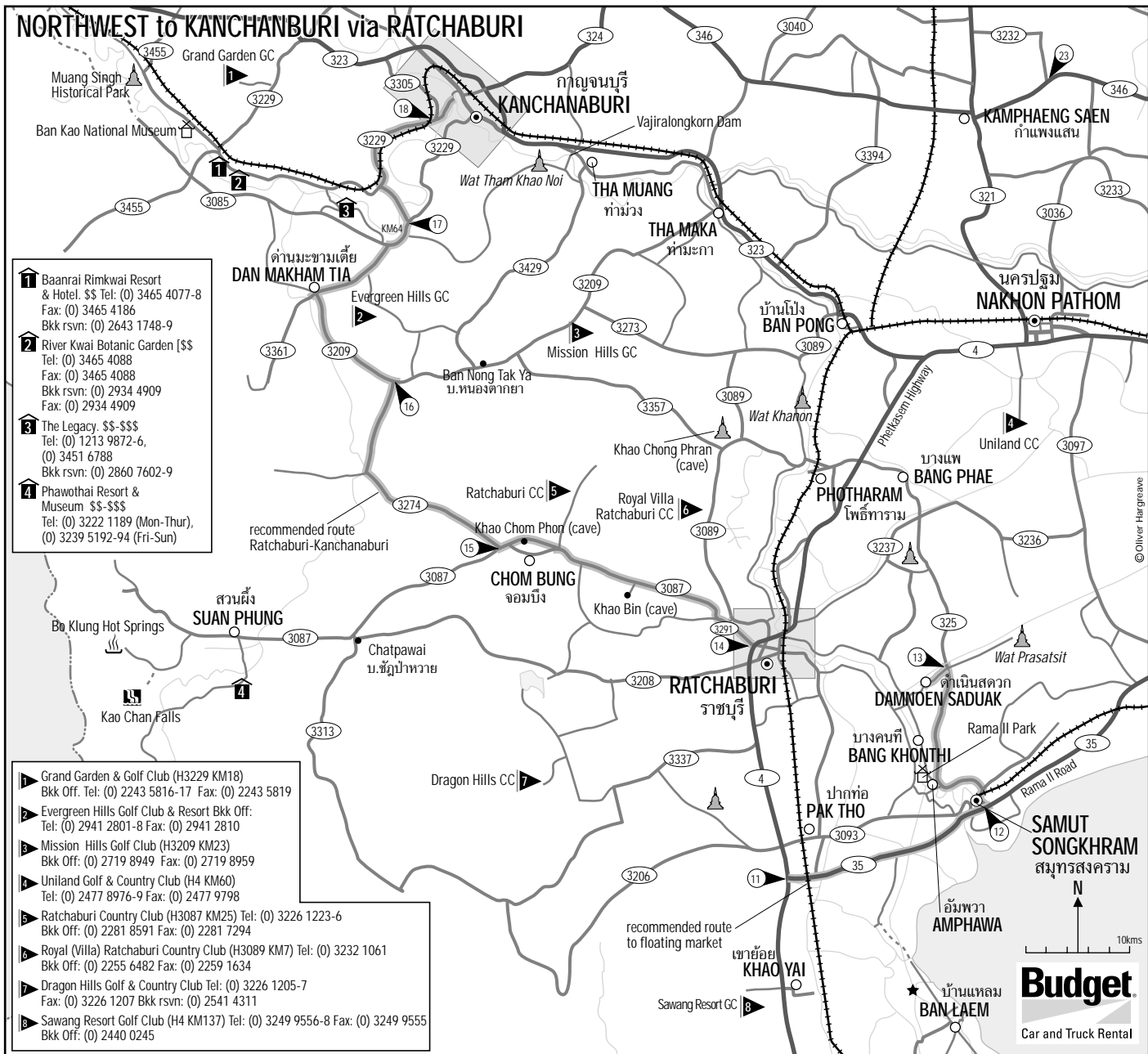
With relics from the Khmer empire at Wat Kamphaeng Laeng going back to the 12th century, Phetchaburi is the site of an old settlement. Long a seat of royalty, the city has many temples as well as two 19th century royal palaces — the Phra Nakhon Khiri Historical Park and Phra Ram Ratchaniwet (Ban Peun) Palace (to visit Ban Peun, enter the army camp).

Temples of interest are Wat Yai Suwannaram (an old ubosot, 18th C. murals and a library on a pond) and Wat Ko Kaeo Sutharam (18th C murals) and Wat Mahathat (Khmer-Ayutthayan prangs). Several of the temples have long wooden row houses (kuti) for monks.

The Buddhist shrines at Khao Luang (4 kms from city centre) and Khao Bandai It (1.5 kms) are amongst the best examples of cave shrines common to the karsts and limestone hills of Phetchaburi and Ratchaburi provinces.

The highlight, however, remains the Phra Nakhon Khiri Historical Park. A short cable-car ride takes you up to King Mongkut's hill-top residence, which has been converted into a national museum, and to cobbled pathways shaded by plumeria trees covering the summit.

RATCHABURI - NAKHON PATHOM KANCHANABURI



Follow the route indicated (Pointers 14-18) for the shortest route to Kanchanaburi (223 kms from Hua Hin) avoiding the busy highways. The minor roads on the banks of the Mae Khlong is also an interesting and tranquil alternative to busy highways 4 and 323.

Ratchaburi

The city of Ratchaburi is worth visiting for the National Museum in the old city hall (08:30-16:30 Closed Mondays, Tuesdays & National Holidays) and the Khmer style of architecture at Wat Mahathat.

Several cave shrines are found in Ratchaburi Province.

Khao Chong Phran cave (H3089 KM18 north from Ratchaburi) is noted for the flocks of bats which fly out of its mouth as dusk falls. Wat Khanon (east bank of the Mae Khlong 3.5 kms north of Photharam) has preserved the traditions of shadow puppets (demonstration 10:00 am Saturdays only).

The Floating Market at Damnoen Saduak

Though the market is for tourists, hiring a boat (300-700 Bt) to see the maze of canals in this area remains fascinating. A return journey to the floating market from Hua Hin (145kms one way) requires a very early start, as the market winds down after 11:00 hrs.

To reach the floating market, go to Pointer 11 and take H35 (filter left for flyover east from H4 at KM126— signposted Rama II Rd. to Samut Songkhram and Samut Sakhon. This is the main route to Bangkok — expect heavy traffic at all times). At Pointer 12 (KM63) turn north onto H325 to Damnoen Saduak. Follow H325 through Samut Songkhram and north until KM25. Turn west at Pointer 13 (1km to main centre for renting boats)

A through route west from Damnoen Saduak can be taken to Ratchaburi (22kms) and to the Rama II Park near Amphawan, which contains a well-preserved Ayutthayan style wooden palace.

Suan Phung

The Bo Khlung Hot Springs and Kao Chan Falls (H3087 KM34+ south turn — 10 & 14kms. 4WD only for Falls) together with small resorts offer quiet retreats in this less-developed area (65kms from Ratchaburi)

Routes between Bangkok and Kanchanaburi (198 Kms)

The most direct route between Bangkok and Kanchanaburi is to use H338 and H4 to reach H323 (Pointers 19 & 20), but there is no way to avoid the heavy traffic encountered within a 50km radius of Bangkok. H346 (Pointers 21-23) takes a longer but less busy northerly route via Ban Len and Kamphaeng Saen. (see Budget's Airport Routefinder Map for road information in Bangkok)

H4 (Phetchkasem Highway)

KM30 Samphan Elephant Ground & Zoo (Crocodile Wrestling show: 12:45, 14:20. 16:20, Special show 13:15 15:00. Elephant Theme show 13:45 & 15:30. Additional shows Sundays & holidays. Foreign Adults 350 Bht. /children 250 Bht. Thais 60/30 Bht. Tel: (0) 2429 0361-2)

KM32 The Rose Garden (Cultural Centre — show with ceremonies and traditional dancing at 14:00 hrs. Tel: (0) 3432 2544-7 Adults 330 Bht.)

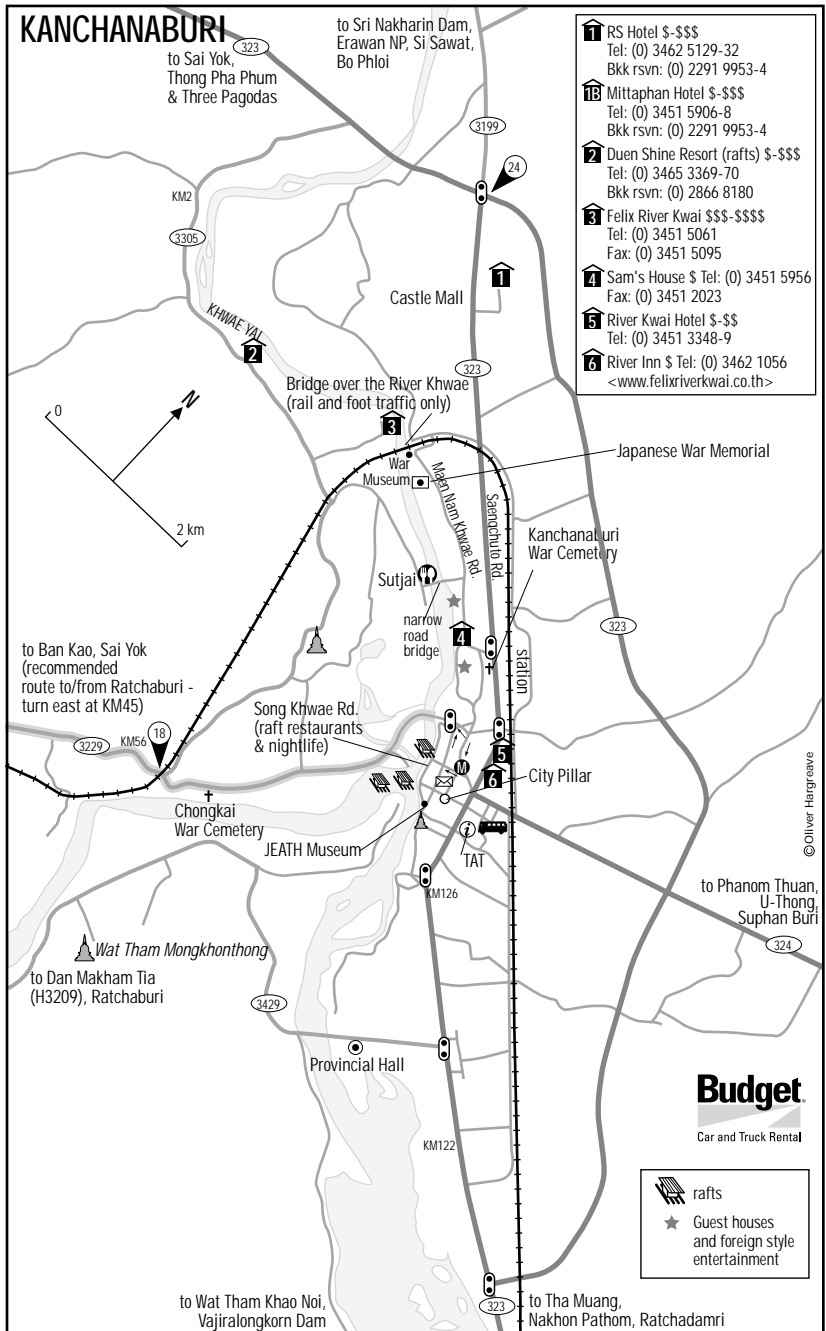
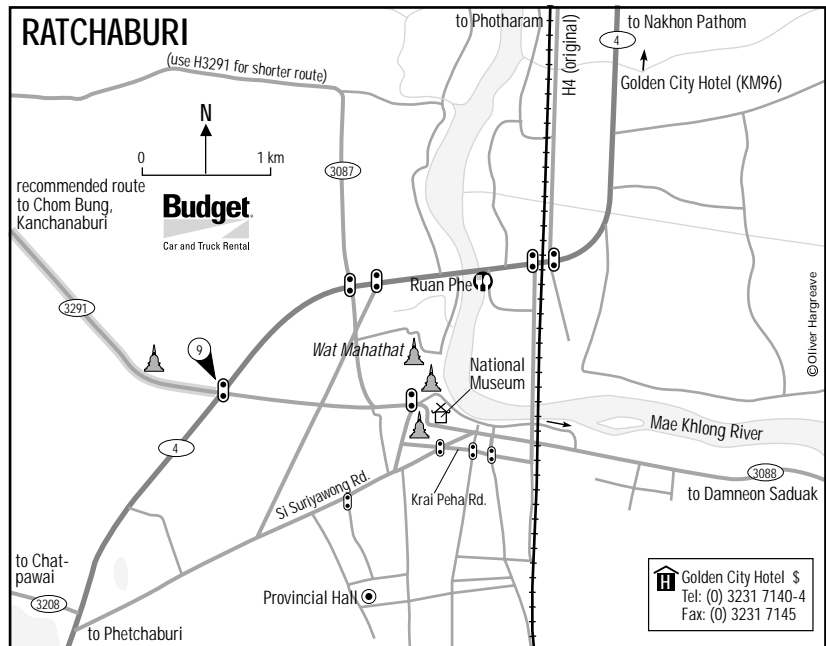
H338

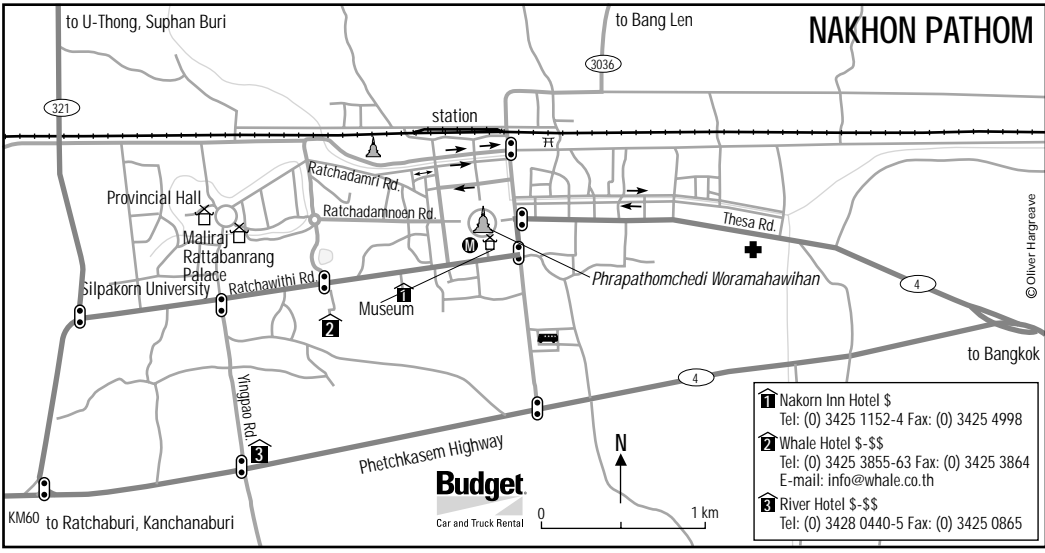
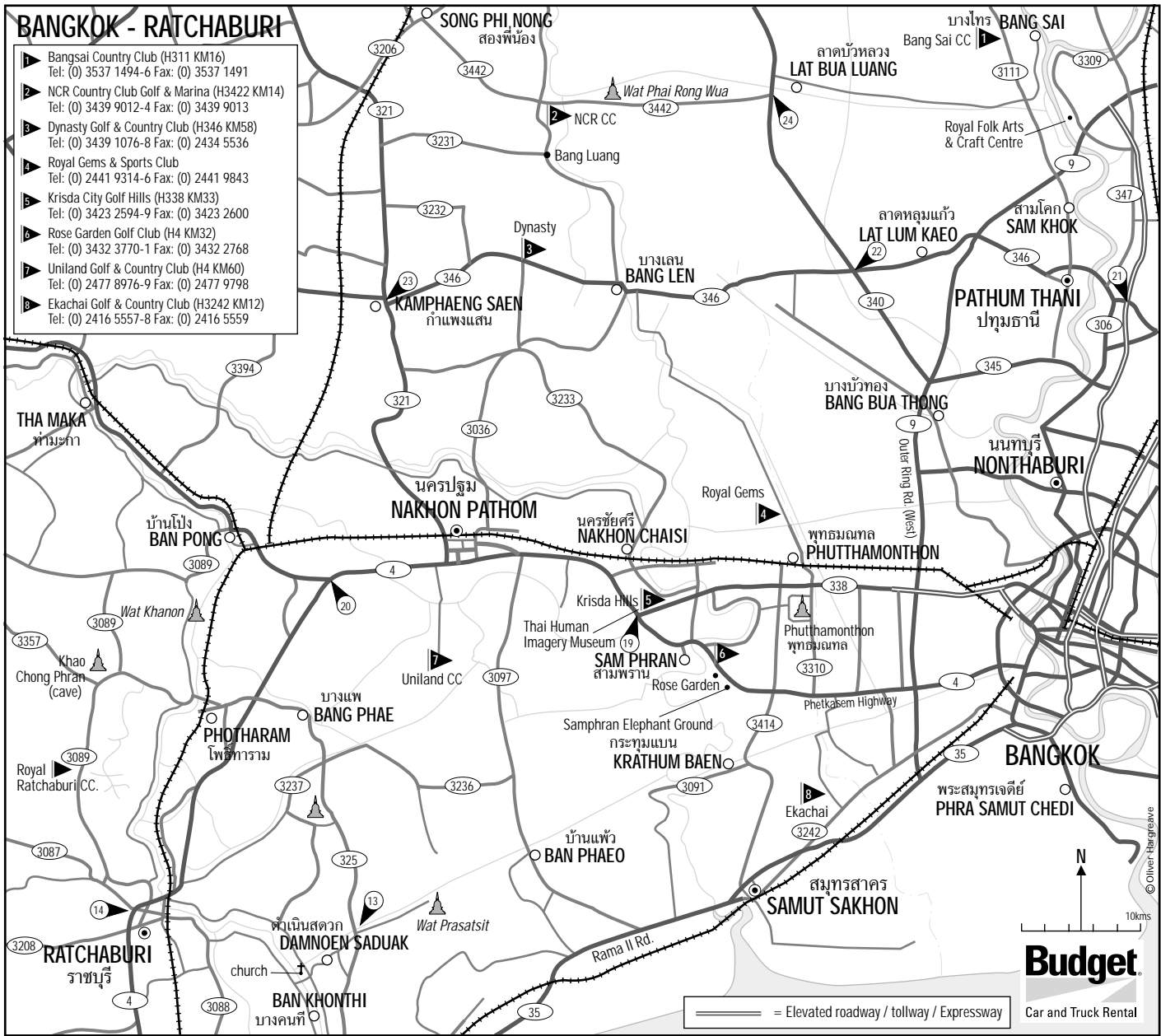
KM18 south turn on H3310. The Phra Phutthamonthon Park has a 40m tall standing Buddha image and replicas of famous Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

KM31 The Thai Human Imagery (wax) Museum (09:00-17:30 hrs 200 Bht.) contains life-like images of monks, kings and Thai folk.

ACCOMMODATION

- Felix River Kwai ๓๓๓-๓๓๓๓ (🏠 Kanchanaburi)
Tel: (0) 3451 5061 Fax: (0) 3451 5095
E-mail: felix@kan.a-net.net.th
<www.felixriverkwai.co.th>
- Home Phu Toey Resort ๓๓ (Kanchanaburi and Sai Yok H323 KM61) Bkk Res: (0) 2621 1510-3 Fax: (0) 2621 1514





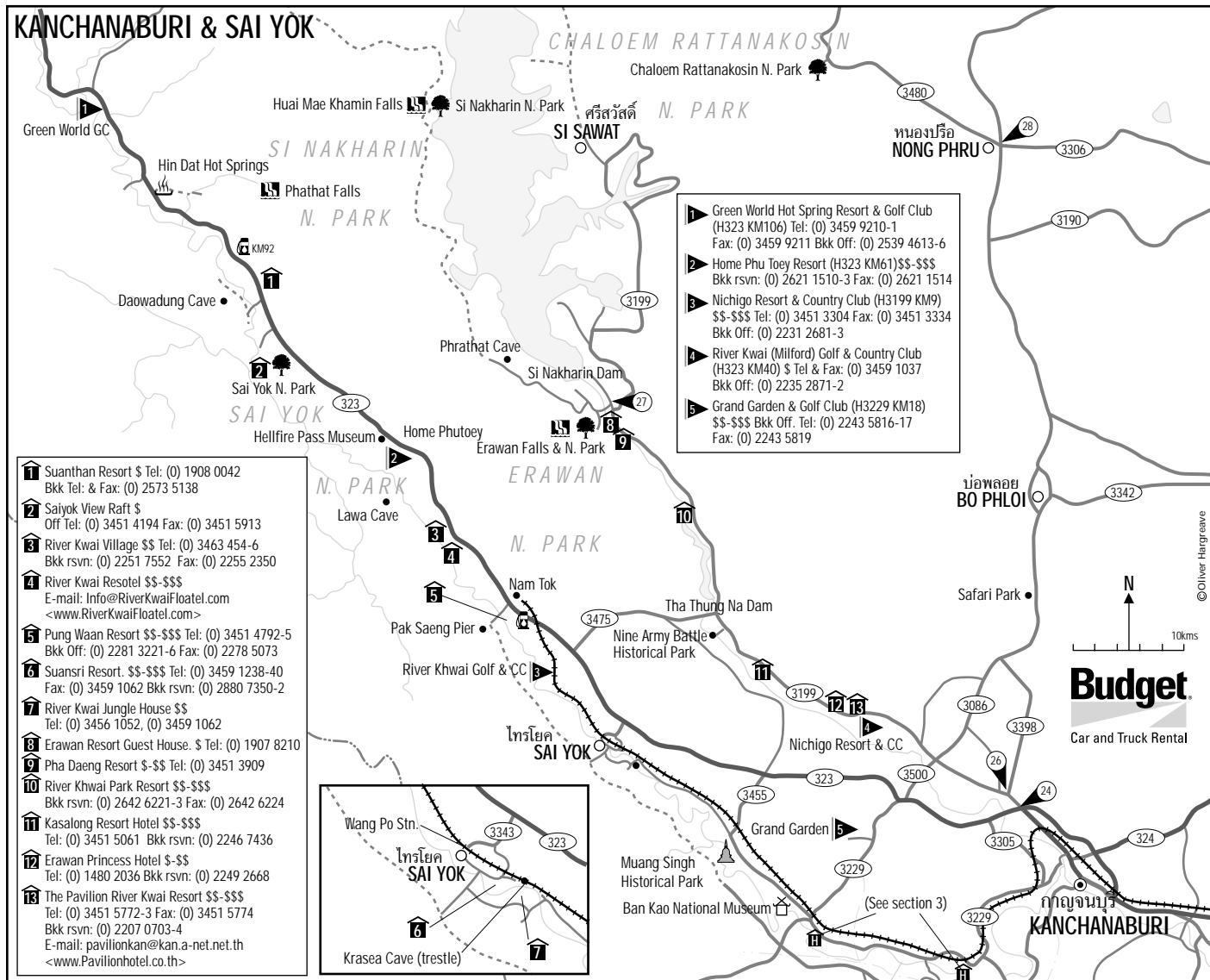
Nakhon Pathom

Nakhon Pathom is the site of Thailand's largest stupa. Of particular note are the Buddha images surrounding the outer wall round the stupa, as well as the adjacent national museum (09:00-16:00 Closed Mon-Tues. 30 Bt),

The Provincial Hall is part of the spacious Sanam Chan Palace built by King Rama VI. The Maliraj Rattabanrang within the grounds may be visited (09:00-16:00 Thurs-Sats. 30 Bht.).

KANCHANABURI

THE THREE PAGODAS



Kanchanaburi

Kanchanaburi City is interesting for its market and for the accommodation on or near the river, but it is most famous for the 'Bridge over the River Kwai' (actually River Khwae) and war-grave cemeteries of the 'Death Railway'.

Nearby temples of interest include Wat Tham Mangkongton (9 kms H3429 KM5) and Wat Tham Khao Noi and Wat Tham Sua (17kms. South on H323 to Tha Muang — cross over the Vajiralongkorn Dam and turn right)

The Valley of the Khwae Noi (H323 from Pointer 24)

The Khmer ruins at Muang Singh attest to the strategic value of this valley as a route between Burma and Thailand. Passing close to the ruins a thousand years later, the Death Railway brought an infamy which contrasts starkly with the beauty of the surrounding mountains.

KM12 H3229 to Ban Kao National Museum (Left turn 16kms. H3445 KM2. 08:30-16:30 closed Mons & Tues. 30 Bht.), which has a collection of artefacts dating from around 2000 BC, and the Khmer Ruins of Muang Singh Historical Park (25 kms. H3445 KM11 30 Bht.). Continue north on sealed road for back route to Sai Yok and the Krasae Trestle.

KM15 H3343 left to Sai Yok. Direct route to Wang Po station and the Krasae Trestle

KM45 Paksaeng Pier (Left turn — 2kms) for boats to Lawa Cave and raft accommodation upriver. Fill gas tank if near empty!

KM65 The Hellfire Pass Museum (Left turn 300m — see Death Railway)

KM80. Saiyok National Park (Left turn — 3kms). Caves, waterfalls, boats to Lawa Cave and raft accommodation.

KM84. Daowadung Cave (Turn left and follow road across the river. Turn right at T junction with dirt road. Turn left at sign to temple after 1.3 kms and drive up concrete lane — 4kms). Probably the best caves to see.

KM103. Phathat Falls (Right turn 12kms - unsealed after 6kms) — more impressive than the Sai Yok Noi Falls, and, like all falls in the Kanchanaburi area, features layered steps created by calcium deposits.

KM105. NW turn to Hin Dat Hot Springs (400m on unsealed road back round to car park)

KM109 A road NE leads to the Phu Sawan Falls (22kms. 4WD) and an unsealed route (4WD only) to Huai Khamin Falls in the Sri Nakharin National Park.

North-West to the Three Pagodas Pass

H323 to Sangkhla Buri and the Three Pagodas Pass goes right at a T-junction (KM125 Pointer 25. Kilometres are measured from this point — no fuel till Sangkhla Buri!) Continue to Thong Pha Phum on H3273 for Muang Pilok (63kms).

The pretty journey along the narrower (H323) road to Sangkhla Buri and the Three Pagodas border crossing (86kms) is worthwhile if you plan to explore the culture of the Mon and other ethnic groups who inhabit the borderlands around the lake. Your hotel/guest house in Sangkhla Buri will be able to provide detailed information on what to see.

KM25 (H323) NE turn to Lam Khlong Ngu National Park (26kms 4WD).

KM32 Dai Hong Tong Falls (SW turn —1.5 kms)

KM33. Kruangkrawia Falls (near road)

KM40 Khae Laem National Park HQ (near road)

KM68 NW turn to Three Pagodas Pass at T junction (18kms). Straight ahead for Sangkhla Buri (4kms)

The Khwae Yai Valley and Erawan National Park (50kms)

Take H3199 from Pointer 24 (Fork left at pointer 27 through the dam checkpoint after KM46 — 3.5kms) to go to the famous falls in the Erawan National Park. A 2km walk follows the course of the stream up the seven tiers of the falls.

Continue on the road on the west side of the lake to Phra That Cave (10kms — part of Erawan National Park) and the Huai Mae Khamin Falls in Sri Nakharin National Park (45kms—4WD)

KM23 (left turn 1.5kms) Nine Army Battle Historical Park (09:30-11:30&14:30-16:30).

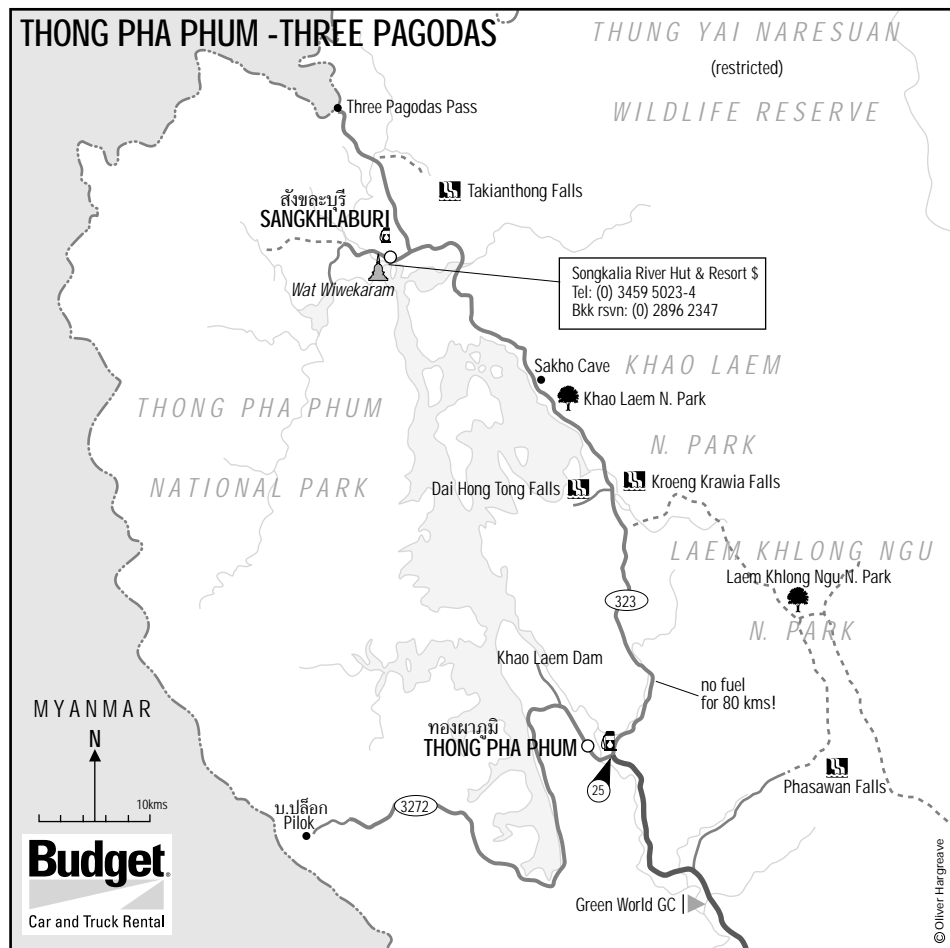
THE DEATH RAILWAY

The Death Railway is named for the more than 100,000 lives taken to build and maintain it between 1942 and 1945. Places to visit in Kanchanaburi include the JEATH Museum (08:30-16:30 daily, 30 Bht.) and the Chongkai and Kanchanaburi War Grave Cemeteries. The bridge over the Khwae Yai is especially popular during the sound and light show (held at the end of November — call TAT Kanchanaburi Tel: (0) 3451 1200 for details).

The trestle at Tham Krasae (near Wang Po Station, Sai Yok. H3343) has only partly been modernised since the original structure was built by POWs. More remnants of the railway can be seen at Sai Yok Noi Falls (H323 KM46), which is 1km beyond the terminus of the operational part of the line at Nam Tok Station. Train schedules are as follows:

Kanchanaburi Dep	Nam Tok Arr	Nam Tok Dep	Kanchanaburi Arr.
06:11	08:40	05:25	07:25
11:01	12:50	13:00	14:48
16:37	18:40	15:15	17:51

Jack Chalker's unforgettable drawings, sketched when he was a POW, are on display in a small memorial park at the Home Phutoey Resort (H323 KM61— call first for permission to enter unless booked for a round of golf or overnight stay). Similarly impressive is a visit to The Australian War Graves Museum at Hellfire pass (H323 KM65 09:00-16:00 daily. Donation) and the historical walk along the old roadbed (4.5kms). More remnants of the line can be seen at Sai Yok National Park (H323 KM80).



North to Chaloe Rattanakosin National Park (97kms)

H3398 and H3086 lead north to Nong Phru (Pointers 26&28), passing Bo Phloi, a former gemstone mining area. Turn west at Nong Phru (KM63 — pointer 28), following signs to Chaloe Rattanakosin National Park. The main features are a cave (Tham Lot Noi) with a stream running through and a 2km walk upstream passing the Trai Trung Falls to a spectacular sinkhole (Tham Lot Yai).

KM23.(West turn) The Safari Park (09:00-18:00 Adults 150/children 90 Bht. Elephant and crocodile shows scheduled between 11:00-16:00 hrs. Tel (0) 3462 8270-1) features a drive through zoo and a resort/theme park around a large restaurant.

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Distances and turnings are indicated by kilometre references, which follow the kilometre stones placed on all government highways:

H4 KM13 = Kilometre stone 13 is the nearest kilometre marker on Highway 4 (Phetkasem Highway). (west turn — 3kms) = if you are travelling north, this means you should turn left and reach your destination after 3kms

Fill up with petrol! Remote country roads have no filling stations, or fuel is only served by hand pumps from barrels, which is inconvenient and more expensive. Check your fuel before leaving towns if planning to go on a long, remote route through back roads or the border country.

Alternatives routes may be suggested, and it is up to you to decide which road is best for you. Where possible, the suggested routes try to avoid busy main highways in order to help you cruise happily along the holiday road in Thailand.

★ **Broken and buckled road surface frequently encountered!**

4 WD (only)! If you are driving a vehicle that does not have four-wheel drive, please do not enter this road. Though it is not usually necessary to engage 4WD on most dirt roads, the higher clearance and fortified suspension of such vehicles make their use obligatory on many unsealed roads in Thailand.

Dirt roads are common in border areas and in the mountains, and important unsealed routes are regularly maintained and classed as all-weather. In the green season, however, many roads can have deep muddy patches. 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.

To help you find your way through an unfamiliar landscape, suggested routes have been identified with numbered pointers listed in sequence in the likely direction of travel.

Remember to allow for emergencies — always take drinking water. A torch can also be useful, as can an umbrella or warm clothing, depending on the season when you are travelling.

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

INFORMATION

This guide is designed to complement regular guide-books. The offices of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT — locations on the maps) at Cha-Am (Tel: (0) 3247 1005-6 Fax: (0) 3247 1502. E-mail: tatphet@tat.or.th) and Kanchanaburi (Tel: (0) 3451 2500 Fax: (0) 3251 1200) can also provide useful information and brochures.

ACCOMMODATION

A range of places that stand out for ambience are listed, 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.

Travel with enough cash to get you to the next ATM machine (at banks in district towns). Credit cards are usually only accepted by larger resorts/hotels.

Only indication prices for accommodation are given, as rates change. Be prepared for additional government taxes to be added onto a hotel bill. Walk-in rates are indicated as follows:
 ฿ = 0-999 Baht
 ฿฿ = 1000-2999 Baht
 ฿฿฿ = 3000-5999 Baht
 ฿฿฿฿ = 6000 Baht up

NATIONAL PARKS

Visitor centres at park HQs usually have brochures with maps detailing sights, though English language versions may not always be available. There are board maps and walking trails are usually well-marked.

Park accommodation can be spartan, and is not well set up for walk-in trade unless you bring your own tent and food. Prior reservation from the Forestry Department in Bangkok is essential in the peak periods. Tel: (0) 2579 7223, (0) 2579 5734, (0) 2561 4292-4 ext. 724&725.

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 should be charged at the rate for Thai people (20 Bht./adult). The entrance fee will allow you to enter all sites in that park on that day.

		
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.: 0645 60-60-60, 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