

Handbook of
Marine National Park
Tourism

**GULF OF
THAILAND**

The “**Handbook of Marine National Park Tourism : Gulf of Thailand**”, is prepared by the Marine National Park Division, the Royal Forest Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. It is designed to give tourists visiting Thailand basic information for each marine national park and to then be able to choose an appropriate destination suitable to their own requirements.

The emphasis of the information is on ease of use and covers a priority of interesting resources and activities in the parks, including best time for visiting and expenses needed for the trip. It has been prepared by experienced professionals in marine national park tourism. However, since information might change, we recommend readers to contact the Royal Forest Department directly or search for more information from Internet websites such as www.forest.go.th, www.tat.or.th and www.TalayThai.com.

The Royal Forest Department would like to thank all those interested in marine nature tourism in Thailand. We hope the handbook will be useful in proving to you the beauty of Thailand's coasts.

Thank you

*Marine National Park Division,
The Royal Forest Department, Thailand*

Glossary : *Time to Visit - The most suitable time to visit Gulf of Thailand should be during April to October.
Length of Stay - The recommended period of time for a visit, excluding travel time unless as a day trip.
Cost - Approximate. Could be more or less depending on length of stay and type of trip.
Central Telephone Number 66-2562-2918-21*

Compared with terrestrial parks, (Yellowstone National Park was declared in 1872), marine protected areas are a fairly recent phenomenon. In Thailand the first National Park was Khao Yai opened in 1961 and the first marine National Park, Khao Sam Roi Yot was created in 1966. But it was not until 1993 that Marine National Parks were managed separately from terrestrial parks. This recent interest in marine conservation has derived largely from the realization that human influences on marine resources particularly in the coastal region, are having devastating effects which threaten not only the resources but also the livelihood of many people who rely on them.

Tropical marine ecosystems are very diverse and are represented in Thailand by such important habitats as; Open water, Coral reefs, Seagrass beds, Mangrove forests, Soft sediment communities and Beaches. These habitats are all particularly important for many of the people of Thailand as they provide both subsistence and cash crop fisheries and other benefits, such as wood from mangrove forests. In addition, these ecosystems also contain a high biodiversity of animals and plants and form the basis for valuable tourism industries, with potential for ecotourism and education related activities.

With great concern of valuable resources, the Marine National Park Division (MNPD) was established in 1993 by a reorganization of the National Park Division. All the national parks with a significant marine or coastal ecosystem was included in the new MNPD. At present, the division is responsible for managing the 21 marine national parks, with a further 5 areas being in the process of establishing.

Goals of Division

The Marine National Park Division was established to achieve the following objectives.

1. To manage the Marine protected areas in accordance with the National Park act 1961.
2. To continually revise and update marine park management strategies for natural resource conservation and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems in the Marine National Parks.
3. To provide recreation, education and research opportunities within the parks in a sustainable fashion.
4. To undertake and utilise research to update management plans for each Marine National Park, independently.



Location	Trat Province
Time to Visit	Almost all year, except stormy period in October.
Place to Visit	Ko Chang, Nam Tok Than Mayom, Nam Tok Khlong Phlu and Ko Rang.
Travel Info.	Take a boat from Laem Ngob, Trat. There is a regular daily boat service: 15-30 min. by boat to the island. There are also car ferries available.
Length of Stay	2 nights or a day trip by a speedboat from Laem Ngob.
Cost	2,000 Baht
Ecosystem	Coral reefs, mangrove forests, sandy beaches and tropical forest including waterfall.
Activities	Snorkelling, trekking, and swimming
Tel. No.	(039) 538-100

The national park is a collection of small and large islands located on Thailand's eastern border. There are several various habitats ; moist evergreen forests, waterfalls, beaches, mangrove forests, and coral reefs. Ko Chang is the main tourism center, with roads connecting almost all the island and with amenities of many types. For those who seek a little more peace, you can take a boat to any of the nearby small islands, several of which have full accommodation. Many beaches have clear water suitable for swimming and are an especially suitable location for honeymoon couples !





KHAO LAEM YA - MU KO SAMET NATIONAL PARK

Location	Rayong Province
Time to Visit	All year, except stormy period in October.
Place to Visit	Had Sai Kaep, Ko Samet, Ko Khudi, Ko Thalu and Khao Laem Ya.
Travel Info.	To Ko Samet take a boat from Ban Phe, Rayong. There are many piers, and boats run a service almost every hour. 45 min. to the island by boat. To Khao Laem Ya take a motorcycle from Ban Phe Market it take only 15 min. to the park headquarters.
Length of Stay	1 night or a day trip, either privately or with a package tour.
Cost	1,000 Baht
Ecosystem	Coral reefs and sandy beaches.
Activities	Snorkelling and swimming
Tel. No.	(038) 653-034, 652-136

The national park is located near Bangkok and only an hour from Pattaya. It is separated into 2 sections, on the mainland and on the islands. Most tourists go to Ko Samet, a largest island in the park and with one of the most beautiful white sandy beaches in Thailand. The island has many facilities, and a large range of accommodation. There is also a bus service. The beaches are suitable for swimming, but if you would like to go snorkeling, we recommend you hire a boat to the nearby islands. There are package tours available on the island.



Phetchaburi



Klai Kangwon Palace

Khao Kri Lat



Khao Takiap

**Prachuap
Khiri Khan**



Khao Tao

— Ko Sing To



Sam Roi Yot
Fresh Water Swamp

— Ko Ku Ram



Park Headquarters

— Ko Khi Nok



Khao Wang
Sai Ding

**Gulf of
Thailand**

Ao Prachuap

— Ko Raet

Ao Manao



Location	Prachuap Khiri Khan Province
Time to Visit	All year.
Place to Visit	Khao Daeng, Had Sam Phraya, Had Laem Sala, Tham Phraya Nakhon, Tham Kaeo and Tham Sai
Travel Info.	By car from Bangkok about 3 hours, and only 30 min. from Hua Hin. There are local buses from Pranburi to the park, but hiring a car is more convenient.
Length of Stay	1/2 day trip.
Cost	300 Baht
Ecosystem	Fresh water swamp, mangrove forests, sandy beaches and mixed deciduous forest
Activities	Trekking, bird watching, cave exploration and boating
Tel. No.	(032) 603-571

Sam Roi Yot is an easily visited park and costs little. Popular activities are bird watching and more general wildlife watching of common species such as macaques and langurs. Walking along the nature trails in the mangrove forest is also popular. Adventurers may climb the mountains for a panoramic view. There are also caves that can be reached by boat in just a few minutes. The beaches in the area may not be the most beautiful, but are still peaceful and suitable for those who love a private vacation. Moreover, boating along the mangrove canal in the dusk is the most romantic activities provided here. There are several small restaurants in the area. Visitors to Hua Hin may visit Sam Roi Yot in just half a day and will spend only a few hundred baht. Car hire can be arranged at Hua Hin Market.



Prachuap Khiri Khan

Myanmar

Ao Prachuap

— Ko Raet

Ao Manao

— Ko Chan



Park Headquarters

Had Wanakon

Gulf of Thailand

— Ko Ram Ra

Ao Bang Saphan



Location	Prachuap Khiri Khan Province
Time to Visit	All year.
Place to Visit	Had Wanakorn, Ao Makha and Ko Chan
Travel Info.	Only 2 hours south from Hua Hin. From Prachuap Khiri Khan, it takes 30 min. Car hire can be arranged at Hua Hin
Length of Stay	1/2 day trip.
Cost	300 Baht.
Ecosystem	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, and rocky beaches
Activities	Snorkelling, trekking, and swimming
Tel. No.	(032) 602-654

A quiet beach on the western coast of the Gulf of Thailand. It is a long famed tourist attraction. Although there is little in the way of diversity of beautiful habitats, its peacefulness and economic costs attract tourists. Most visitors consist of family groups, who hire a car from Hua Hin and have a picnic here. It may be a location included in a day trip with Sam Roi Yot. Had Wanakorn has a small coral reef on the nearby islands. Visitors can hire a boat and snorkelling equipment, but must contact the park in advance.



CHUMPHON

Ao Phanang Tak

Ko Chorakhe

Ko Ngam Yai

Ko Ngam Noi

Ao Pakhad

Ko Kalok

Ko Thalu

Ko Lak
Ngam

Had
Sai Ri

Ko Samet

Ko Sak

Ban Thung Kha

Ban Kho Tia

Ko Maphrao

Ko Mattra

Ao Thungkha

Park Headquarters

Ko Lak Raet

Ko I-Raet

Ko Lawa

Ko Thonglang

Ko Rung Ka Chiu

Ko Klaep

Ao Sa Wi

Ko Kula

Ao Khram

Laem Pracham Hiang

Ban Hat
Sai Ri

Had Sai Ri

Had Arunothai

Ko Rang Banthat

Ko Kihram

Ao Thong Khrok

Ko Phithak

Ban
Nam Lot



Location	Chumphon Province
Time to Visit	All year, except in November due to heavy rains.
Place to Visit	Mangrove nature trail at the park headquarters, Ao Thung Kha, Ko Mattra, Ko Ngam Yai, Ko Thalu and Ko I-Raet
Travel Info.	Take the silky road to the south of Thailand. The park has a very long coastal area, the beaches of which can be visited by car. Hire a boat to visit the outlying islands.
Length of Stay	1 night
Cost	1,000 Baht
Ecosystem	Coral reefs, mangrove forests, sandy beaches, and rocky beaches, seagrass, and muddy beach
Activities	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, bird watching, and nature walk.
Tel. No.	(077) 558-144-6

A park of diversity, both shallow and deep coral reefs, nature trails through mangrove forest, nice view point, large long white sandy beaches, and strange looking islands along the coast. Another important point is the convenience of transportation; by car, train, and plane. With but little expense, visitors are able to choose their preferred accommodation and restaurants. A trip to the area can be arranged as a package tour through several resorts. There are also SCUBA diving equipment rental shops that are interesting and low cost.





Location
Time to Visit
Place to Visit

Surat Thani Province
All year.
Nam Tok Than Sadet,
Nam Tok Pang, Khao Ra,
Ko Tung Ku-Tung Ka
and Ko Wao.

Travel Info.

Take a speedboat or ferry
from the mainland,
Ko Samui, or Ko Tao to
Ko Pa Ngan. 1-3 hours by
boat which operate daily.

Length of Stay

1 night.

Cost

1,500 Baht

Ecosystem

Sandy beach, tropical
evergreen forest and
coral reefs.

Activities

Snorkelling, SCUBA diving
swimming, trekking,
and visiting historic sites.

Tel. No.

(077) 238-275

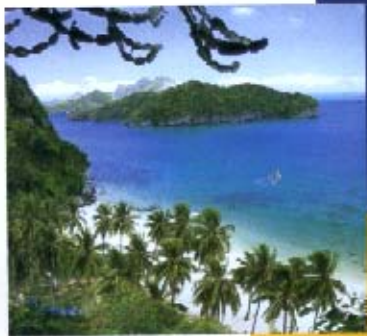
Phangan is a large easily visited island. There are roads to several tourist attractions on the island, and facilities include many classes of accommodation and even internet. The park covers a partial area of the island, where visitors can enjoy walking in the forest. Moreover, you also can visit several waterfalls, where previous Thai kings have left inscriptions of their abbreviated names. Those interested may take a snorkelling or SCUBA diving package tour operated by several private companies





Location	Surat Thani Province,
Time to Visit	Almost all year, but should avoid visiting in November
Place to Visit	Ko Wua Ta Lap, Lagoon at Ko Mae Ko, Ko Sam Sao and Ko Thai Phlao.
Travel Info.	Take a boat in the morning from Had Nathon or Bo Phut Pier, Samui. The boats operate a daily package tour service.
Length of Stay	Day trip.
Cost	1,500 Baht
Ecosystem	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, tropical evergreen forest and karst.
Activities	Snorkelling, trekking, and canoeing
Tel. No.	(077) 286-025, (077) 420-225

Mu Ko Ang Tong has an interesting ecosystem attractive to everybody especially who visits Ko Samui. The convenient package tours take you to visit tropical evergreen forest and to climb mountains to view the most beautiful Lagoon of the Gulf of Thailand, before diving down to explore the world of shallow water coral reefs. Canoeing, which is becoming more and more popular, is available for those who are interested. For those who simply admire the peace and purity of nature, and enjoy wild animal watching like birds and langurs, you may camp at the designated campsites, but must contact the park authorities in advance so they may prepare food.



Ko Samui



Ko Tan

Ko Mat Sum

Chong Samui

Ao Khanom

Park Headquarters

Ko Wang Nai

Ko Wang Nok

Ko Rap

Surat Thani

Had Nai Phlao

Had Sichon

Gulf of Thailand

Nakhon Si Thammarat

Location	Nakhon Si Thammarat Province
Time to Visit	All year.
Place to Visit	Nam Tok Tha Noi, Tharn Khao Wang Tong and Ko Wang Nok.
Travel Info.	1 1/2 hrs. from Surat Thani by car, and then by hiring a boat to visit the several islands or by taking a package tour from Ko Samui.
Length of Stay	Day trip.
Cost	1,000 Baht
Ecosystem	Coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrasses, and sandy beaches
Activities	Snorkelling, swimming and trekking.

This park has just opened so the facilities may not be ready, but there is a convenient road to the coastal area by private or hire car. There are nature trails in the mangrove forest and a trekking trail to a cave. For those interested, this area has a long beach with private accommodation of a reasonable price. Those interested in coral reefs and islands can travel from Ko Samui by taking a package tour to the South Sea Islands. There are both half day and full day tours. Some of the islands have cheap accommodation available with a peaceful atmosphere for those who love nature.



HAD KHANOM - MU KO THALETAI NATIONAL PARK

TABLE OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES MARINE NATIONAL PARK : GULF OF THAILAND

Parks	Bungalow	Tent	Campsite	Restaurant	Visitor Center	Boat Hire	Canoing	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Bird Watching	Cave & Geography	Historical & Cultural Site	Waterfall	Remarks
Mu Ko Chang		X	X	X	X	X	X	C	B					B,F
Mu Ko Samet	X	X	X	X	X	X		C	C					B
Khao Sam Roi Yot	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		M/B
Had Waniakorn	X	X	X	X	X	X		C	C					L,C
Mu Ko Chumphon	X	X	X	X	X	X		B	B	X	X	X		L,C
Than Sadet-Ko Phangan			X	X		X		C	E			X	X	C,F
Mu Ko Ang Tong	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C		X	X			L,F
Had Khanom-Mu Ko Thalelai			X			X		C			X		X	M,F
Ab Manao-Khao Tanyong			X	X				X	X					B

A = Very Good, **B** = Good, **C** = OK


Remarks : **F** = Forest, **M** = Mangrove, **C** = Coral Reef, **S** = Sea Grass, **B** = Beach, **L** = Landscape


-  **Mu Ko Chang National Park**
(038) 538-100
-  **Khao Laem Ya - Mu Ko Samet National Park**
(038) 653-034, 652-136
-  **Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park**
(032) 603-571
-  **Had Wanakorn National Park**
(032) 602-654
-  **Mu Ko Chumphon National Park**
(077) 558-144-6
-  **Than Sadet - Ko Phangan National Park**
(077) 238-275
-  **Mu Ko Ang Tong National Park**
(077) 286 025, 420-225
-  **Had Khanom - Mu Ko Thaletai National Park**
Moo 1, Tambon Khanom,
Amphoe Khanom,
Nakhon Si Thammarat 80210
-  **Ao Manao - Khao Tanyong National Park**
Amphoe Mung, Narathiwat 96000




The sea is a resource of the world. If everybody helps protect the sea, it will be with us forever. The seas of the Indo-Pacific area are especially important as they contain the highest diversity of marine life in the world. All of the marine national parks in Thailand are located in this area.


Do not buy any shells, animal remains, or animal products from rare species such as sea turtles, Giant Clams, and Giant Tritons. These animals are protected species under Thai Law.

 Avoid eating rare sea animals such as sharks, Bowmouth Guitarfish, and Shovelnose Ray.

 Do not catch, touch, or collect sea animals and shells. It disturbs animal behavior and is against national park regulations under Thai Law.

 Do not fish or catch any sea animals by any means within the marine national parks.

 Strictly follow marine national park regulations.

 Inform the park officers if you observe any illegal action in the park.

We thank all park visitors who help take care of Thailand's natural resource and thus the world's. We hope that everybody will be enthralled by the nature of Thailand and look forward to welcoming you again.

Remark : Local words meaning

An	= Gulf
Had	= Beach
Hin	= Pinnacle
Khao	= Mountain
Khlong	= Canal
Ko	= Island
Laem	= Cape
Mu Ko	= Archipelago
Nam Tok	= Waterfall
Na Pha	= Cliff
Tham	= Cave



Under Thai Law, it is illegal to conduct the following activities in marine national parks.

-  Occupy, build, or clear the land.
-  Collect or take out any plants and animals, or harm anything.
-  Change the watercourse or stream, block the watercourse, etc.
-  Collect or harm any orchids, honey, charcoal, bat guano, flowers, leaves, fruits, etc.
-  Take any vehicles into undesignated areas.
-  Take off or land any aircraft in undesignated areas.
-  Take any pets or domestic animals into the parks.
-  Do anything for profit, unless granted special permission.
-  Post unauthorized signs or posters, or write graffiti.
-  Carry any hunting equipment or weapons into the parks.
-  Use firearms, explosives, or light fireworks.
-  Make any loud noises that may disturb other visitors or animals.
-  Drop litter or leave any ignitable matter.





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Marine National Park Division
The Royal Forest Department

April, 2002