

Section 9

Songkhla Province Information

History of Songkhla

Songkhla, in former time, was located in the Eastern part of Thailand. There are some ancient artifacts, arts, and other evidence indicating that an ancient community was formed in antiquity and can still be found in Songkhla today. In Arabic-Persian merchant's record, from 1450-1550, Songkhla was firstly known as Singor or Singora. However, in Natural and Political History of the Kingdom of Siam written by Nicolas Gervaise, Songkhla was called "Sing-khon Town". Therefore, it was assumed that the name of "Songkhla" was distorted from "Singha-la" or "Sing-khon."

The reason why Songkhla was called "Singha-la," which means the city of the lion, was from the Persian and Indian merchants. They found a lion-shaped mountain sitting nearby the entrance to the city of Songkhla, which was Cat and Mouse Islands as seen from afar. Therefore, the Indians called it Singha-la while Thai called it Sathing Town. When the Malays came to Sathing Town for trading, the town was called Singha-la but it was pronounced in the western people's accent as "Singora." Then, Thai pronounced it like westerns and Malay so it became Songkhla. On the other hand, it was believed that the word Songkhla was derived from Sing-khon which means mountain. It was claimed that Songkhla was located at the foot of Red Hill. In addition, the King, at that time, had given the name of Vichainkiri to Songkhla which matched to the geographical features of Songkhla. King Rama V considered that Songkhla used to be pronounced "Singhanakara" which was included the sound of "A". Malay merchants did not like this sound as they naturally spoke fast so they cut the sound of "ha" and "na" off. This is why it became Singara or Singhora then Singora.

Songkhla is an historical town that has a long history, stretching back to pre-historic time and the pre-historic stone axes were discovered in Sathing Pra. K. Burlbet had given an opinion that Songkhla's prosperity could be attributed by Sathing Phra being a central hub of the Chiato or Chekto Empire to South East Asia which was directly influenced by Indian cultures in Srivijaya Kingdom for over 7 centuries. The evidence of architectures and sculptures reveals that Sathing Phra was the center of civilization around Songkhla Lake during such period of time.

In the 19th Buddhist Century, Sathing Phra's civilization faded while the new community nearby called "Phatthalung Town at Pha Kho" prospered and became the center of Langkawong Nikaya Buddhism. However, later in the 20th - 22nd Buddhist centuries, the town had often been invaded by Malay pirates while two big communities nearby Songkhla Lake emerged, one at the lake inlet of Red Hill which then developed into Songkhla Town beside Red Hill and the other one at Bangkaew, Khaochaison, Phatthalung which then became Phatthalung Town.

During 1619-1680, Songkhla Town beside Red Hill was very prosperous in trading with other countries controlled by Malay governors migrating from Indonesia. They escaped from the Dutch monopoly of trade to trade freely in Songkhla, which was supported by England. During the first period, from 1619-

1642, the governor of Songkhla was Muslim. Later, in 1642-1680, the governor of Songkhla rebelled against Ayutthaya so the town was suppressed by King Narai the Great and left without proper governance. Then, Phatthalung took control of it. From 1699 to 1776, Songkhla reformed at a new location in Laemson called Songkhla Town at Laemson Side which is opposite to the current location of Songkhla town.

After the defeat of Ayutthaya to Burma in 1767, there were many factions while Chao Phraya Nakhon set himself up and nominated Mr. Withea, his relative, as the governor. In 1775, the King of Thonburi subdued the governor group, and Yiang Sae-Hao, a Chinese bird-nest tax officer, was appointed by the king as the Governor of Songkhla named Luang Suwankhirisombat which is the ancestor of Na Songkhla family. From 1775-1901, 8 generations of this family continuously governed Songkhla. In 1836, King Rama III of Rattanakosin Kingdom, instructed Phraya Vichiankiri (Tianseng) to build the city wall fortress. During the construction of the wall, Tuanku AhmadSa-ad together with the rulers from Syburi, Pattani, and 7 other provinces, attacked Songkhla. After Songkhla was conquered by the coalition from the other provinces, the construction of the fortress and city wall were completed. Also, the city pillar was set up and the town of Songkhla was moved to the east of Laem Son called Bo Yang District, which is now in the area of Songkhla Municipality.

In the reign of King Rama V, the country administration was reformed and Monthon Thesaphiban or the administrative subdivisions were initiated. Phra Vajitworrasarn (Pan Sukhum) was appointed as the Special Inspection Governor of Songkhla in 1895. Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat was established in 1896 and lasted until 1915 and the Southern Region Hall was located there from 1915-1925. Songkhla used to serve Prince of Lopburi while he was appointed as the Intendant and Viceroy of the South until the end of King Rama VI. In 1932, Monthon Thesaphiban or the administrative subdivisions was dissolved and changed to provincial administration. Songkhla then becomes one of the provinces in the south of Thailand.

Logo



The picture of a conch shell on an ornate tray, or Wan Fah tray in Thai, means just the conch shell. There is no exact meaning attributed to it. However, it was said that the logo originated from the decoration on the button of Prince of Songkla's jacket. After that, Fine Arts Department designed the picture of conch shell as the logo of Songkhla.

Vision (2014-2017)

“Songkhla, secure economy, sustainable natural resource, and good quality of life for people”

□ Mission

- 1) Develop secure economy
- 2) Develop Songkhla to make people secure and safe
- 3) Develop Songkhla to become a lifetime learning society and make people have good quality of life
- 4) Manage natural resources and environment for production base and sustainable development

□ Strategy

- 1) Develop agriculture, industry, trade, investment, tourism and service to create the stable economic growth
- 2) Strengthen stability and safety of people's life and asset
- 3) Develop people's quality of life based on multi-cultural society
- 4) Conserve and restore natural resources and environment for sustainable development

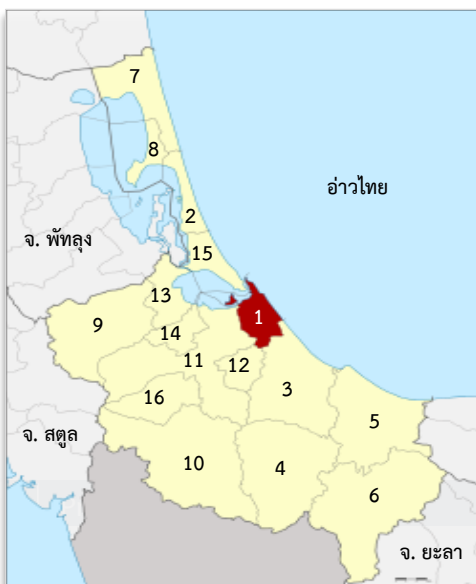
□ Location and Territory

Songkhla is located on the east of Thailand's southern coast, between 6°17'- 7°56' N Latitude and 100°01'-101° 06' E Longitude, at 4 meters above sea level. Songkhla lies 947 kilometers south of Bangkok along the railway and 950 kilometers along the southern highway. The territory is detailed as followed.

To the north	bordered by Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phatthalung
To the east	bordered by the Gulf of Thailand
To the south	bordered by Yala, Pattani, Kedah and Perlis of Malaysia
To the west	bordered by Phatthalung and Satun

□ Area

Songkhla covers the area of 7,393,889 square meters or about 4,853,249 rai. It is the 27th largest province in Thailand and the 3rd largest in the south of Thailand, consisting of 16 districts following.



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Mueang Songkhla | 9) Rattaphum |
| 2) Sathing Phra | 10) Sadao |
| 3) Chana | 11) Hat Yai |
| 4) Na Thawee | 12) Na Mom |
| 5) Thepha | 13) Khuan Niang |
| 6) Saba Yoi | 14) Bang Klam |
| 7) Ranot | 15) Singhanakhon |
| 8) Krasae Sin | 16) Khlong Hoi khong |

Azadirachta Excelsa (Jack) Jacobs or Sa-dao-thiam (in Thai)



Family Name : Miliaceae

Common Name : Sadaothiam

Economy Name : -

Local Name : Thiam, or Sadaochang
(called in Trang)

Description: Sadaothiam's height is 30 centimeters to 4 meters. Its young bark is smooth then peeled off when it grows. The leaves lie alternately, like a feather shape and get bunched together at the edge, with a 20 to 60 centimeter-long leaf stalk. The leaf is an oval shape, 3 to 4 centimeter-wide and 5 to 8 centimeter-long. The edge of the leaf is glume in light green color. Its flowers set in bouquet in between leaves, with a white or light green color. Its single seed is oval in shape with a yellow color at maturity and strong smell inside. Sadaothiam would normally bloom in March and ready for harvest from May to June and breed by seed.

Ecology: Sadaothiam can be commonly found in the farm along the south, further down from Chumpon.

Benefit: Sadaothiam is a fast growing tree with good quality timber, and clear of termites. Most of its parts are useful. For example, its timber is used to make furniture and fretworks. Its young flower is edible. Its seed is extracted for pesticide. Also, its bark can be used to treat diarrhea.

□ Topography

The north of Songkhla is a narrow peninsula, called Sathing Phra Peninsula, lying towards the South. Another part, Southern, has a rectangular shape. Both parts are connected by Tinsulanond Bridge. The northern part is mostly consisted of low plains. The eastern part is also flat and connected to the sea. The southern and western parts are mountains and highland originating the major river.

□ Climate

Songkhla's climate is influenced by tropical monsoon winds. The southwest monsoon and northwest monsoon winds are passing by each year. The southwest begins from mid-May to mid-October while the northwest arrives in mid-October and can last until mid-February. The different origins of the winds bring two different seasons to Songkhla. Those are:

- 1) Summer starting from mid-February to mid-May
- 2) Rainy season divided into two periods. Southwest monsoon rain arrives from mid-May to mid-October while northwest monsoon rain begins in mid-October and lasts until mid-February.

Administration

The administration of Songkhla is separated into 3 types as followed.

- 1) Central Government consisting of 221 central government agencies and 5 independent central government agencies located in the area of the province
- 2) Provincial Government consisting of two levels.
 - 2.1 Provincial level including 36 agencies
 - 2.2 District level including 16 districts, 127 sub-districts, and 1,023 villages.
- 3) Local Government consisting of 141 organizations as followed;
 - 3.1 One Provincial Administrative Organization
 - 3.2 48 Municipalities include two city municipalities, Songkhla City Municipality and Hatyai City Municipality, 11 municipalities, and 35 commune municipalities.
 - 3.3 103 Subdistrict Administration Organizations

Main Character of Songkhla

Songkhla is one of major lower-southern provinces that produce rubber, rice and seafood. The province is the 2nd biggest producer of the rubber in Thailand (532,793 tons of rubber per year) with 128 rubber factories located in Songkhla. Also, Songkhla is the center of a large seafood processing and production industry with 30 seafood factories. Moreover, with a lot of rice fields around Songkhla Lake producing 180,000 tons of rice per year, Songkhla becomes the largest lower-southern rice producer. Under these facts, Songkhla is the biggest hub of economy in southern of Thailand with an over-average portion of the country's economy. The balanced revenue of Songkhla is from the agriculture sector at 18%, from the industry sector at 21%, and from the transportation and retail sectors at 19%. In addition, Songkhla is the border trading hub with the most income in the country, 62% of overall border trading. Songkhla is also known as an important hub of trade, finance, investment, and services in southern Thailand, a base for factories, the Stock Exchange, and Bank of Thailand's branches. At the same time, Songkhla is bordered by Malaysia. Therefore, the connections in trade, investment, and the conduction of Northern Corridor Economic Region or NCER as well as Gate Way to connect Malaysia and southern region's transportation and trade, are well set up. Energy producing industries such as natural gas is also facilitated in the JDA (Joint Development Area) of Thailand and Malaysia. Also, crude oil and coal can be found in Saba Yoi district, Songkhla, and the province is the transportation hub to ASEAN countries.

(Source: Songkhla Provincial Development Plan Year 2014-2017, Revised Edition)

Tourism Potential

Songkhla is well-known for both natural and cultural tourist attractions in the south of Thailand. The natural attractions such as Samila Beach and Son-on Cove are popular among the tourists. Also, there are several local culture and traditional events and ceremonies annually held in Songkhla such

as the Vegetarian Festival, New Year Festival, Songkran Festival (Thai New Year), and Chak Phra Festival (Pulling the Buddha Image).

1) Art Attractions

1.1 Magic Eye 3D Museum is a new attractive tourist attraction in Hat Yai, located in the area



of Greenway Market. The exhibition includes room-size paintings, using computer graphic to calculate the position of painting, creative perspective delusion 3D background for photography, then painting and coloring the 2D pictures by professional artists to become 3D images. The tourists will enjoy taking photos in different exhibition rooms such as Aquarium, Zoo, Surrealism, Ice world and Egyptian.

1.2 Nang-Ngam Art Street is supported by Songkhla Municipality and Ministry of Tourism and



Sports, creating and renovating 96-year-Chino-Portuguese house built in 1919. The house is located in the old town area of Songkhla, at the corner of Nang-Ngam Street and Raman Street. The picture of three old people, drinking tea, having a conversation happily, and reading newspapers, in ‘Fujoa’ traditional tea house, is exhibited in street art

style with watercolor painting on the building, showing Songkhla people’s way of life in the past.

2) Cultural and Religious Attractions

2.1 Stupa Chedi Triphob Trimongkol is the stainless steel Chedi, built to celebrate his Majesty the King Rama IX’s 60th birthday and to be the Buddhist center for furthering the Buddha’s teaching and Thai culture.



2.2 The Great Buddha Statue in Plugkhla Temple is located in Moo 5 of Khlong Hoi Khong District. The Buddha statue is 8 meters wide and 12 meters high, in the posture of meditation. The main hall of the temple is 45 meters long and 35 meters wide. It is situated 7 kilometers away from the District Office in a green and peaceful environment.



2.3 Khoad Temple or Khoksak Meditation Center is in Moo 5 of Banklonghan, Bankhae Sub-district of Chana, 50 kilometers away from Hatyai. It was built in 1993 by reusing colorful glass bottles to build the temple, pavilion, monk house, pagoda, and the temple's wall. The temple is considered the largest recycling architecture in the world with the area of over 20 rai.



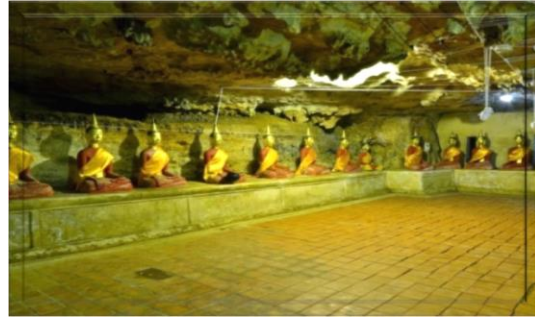
2.4 Tham Khao Rup Chang Temple was built in 1968 by temple abbot and Buddhist disciples from Singapore. The temple is located in Padang Besar, Sadoa District, 13 kilometers from Padang Besar Market. The cave inside the temple is used as the religious place, surrounded by beautiful stalagmite and stalactite coupled with a peaceful atmosphere.



2.5 Kongkawadee Temple is located in Moo 3 of Rattaphum sub-district, Khuan Niang, Songkhla. The temple is well-known for the elder monk named Song who was praised for his immortality and reputation magic. Also, inside the ubosot of the temple, the wall is beautifully painted by local artist, Juling Pongkanmoon.



2.6 Tham Talod Temple is located in Ban Tham Talod, Moo 6, Khao Daeng Sub-district, Saba Yoi, Songkhla. It is 25 kilometers from the Saba Yoi District Office. In the temple area, there is a big cave, that is accessed through another entrance to the hill, called Talod Cave, which is divided into 3 units. In the cave, there are many Buddha Images, made of wood and covered by cement, many of which are hundreds of years old.



2.7 Pha Kho Temple or Ratchapraditsathan Temple is located on Pha Kho Hill (Patthasing Hill) at Moo 6, Chumphon Sub-district of Sathing Phra, Songkhla. It is considered the important temple in the history because the Chedi of Phra Maolak, which was the Lanka's architectural southern art in Ayutthaya Period, is situated in the temple. Also, the legend of Luangpho Thuat who put his foot in the sea then it magically turned into fresh water originated here.



2.8 Jathing Phra Temple is the old temple of Sathing Phra since the ancient time. It was previously called Sathing Phra Temple but later distorted to Jathing Phra Temple. The temple is in Moo 4, Jathing Phra Sub-district, Sathing Phra, Songkhla. Ancient remains from the Srivijaya period such as Phra Maha Dhatu Chedi, an ancient bell tower, a reclining Buddha Image, and wall paintings detailing Buddhist history can be found inside the temple.



2.9 Kongkaleab Temple is a famous temple for both Thai and foreigners, situated in Moo 5, Tha Chang Sub-district, Bang Klam, Songkhla. The area of the temple is 9 rai, 2 ngan, and 93 square wa.



2.10 Ek Choeng Sae Temple, located in Krasae Sin District, hosts a Buddha statue made of coral reef. It is 70-centimeters wide and 120 centimeters high. Today, the Buddha statue is covered with plaster.



2.11 Hatyai Nai Temple is on Petchkasem road, nearby U-thapao Canal Bridge. The temple hosts a reclining Buddha statue called Phra Phuttha Hattha Mongkol which is considered the third largest reclining Buddha in the world at the size of 35-meter long, 15-meter tall, and 10-meter wide.



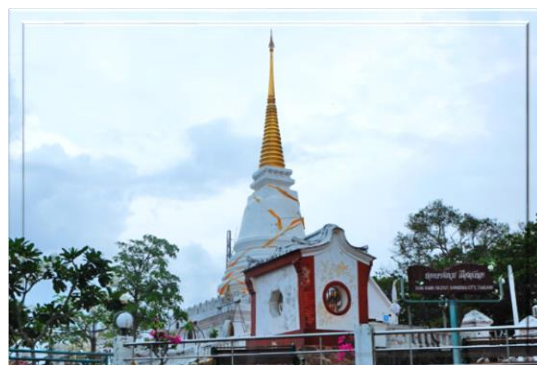
2.12 Matchimawas Worawihan Temple or Wat Klang is on Saiburi Road, Muang Songkhla. It was built over 400 years ago and it is believed that a rich citizen of Songkhla, named Yai Si Chan donated the large amount of money for the construction, so it was originally named Wat Yai Sri Chan. Later on, Wat Liep was built in the north, together with Wat Pho in the south, people then changed the name to Wat Klang in reference to its current position. The temple also hosts Phattharasin Museum and its fine collection of historical artifacts.



2.13 Chedi Phra Borommathat of Chai Mongkol Temple is in Muang district of Songkhla where the Buddha's relics were kept. It was told that the relics in the pagoda were brought from Lanka in 1892 by Mr. Na Issaro. The relics were kept in the pagoda for Buddhists until today.



2.14 Phra Dhatu Chedi Luang Khao Tang Kuan is on the top of west hill of Khao Noi, located about 290 feet above sea level. The steps uphill are nearby Laemsai Temple. The chedi of the Buddha relic was built in the Dvaravati period. Then, in 1859, King Rama V visited Songkhla and requested that the Governor of Songkhla repair the temple for the locals to pay respect.



3) Historical Attractions and Museums

3.1 Songkhla City's Wall was built in 1836. The wall was made of plastered stones, located on Chana Road, opposite Songkhla National Museum. The wall's Sema leaf rampart is in the fortress shape with the length of 143 meters.



3.2 Songkhla City Shrine is a Chinese-style shrine on Nang Ngam Road. It is an ancient architecture of dating from the Rattanakosin period. It was built in the era of Phraya Vichiankiri (Tianseng Na Songkhla), the regent of Songkhla Province. Inside, there is a city pillar made from Javanese cassia wood, which, on March 10, 1842, King Nangklao decreed as the city pillar.



3.3 Khao Nam Khang Historic Cave, or widely known as Piyamitr 5 Village, was, in the past, the village of the communists. However, they changed their attitude and turned over to help develop the country on March 13, 1987. The tunnel is claimed the longest and widest man-made tunnel in Thailand with 3 stories and many doorways. It is 600 meter long with the approximate capacity of 200 people and it took about 9 years to construct the tunnel.



3.4 Holy Well (Laem Bo Thor Temple) is located in Moo 4, Kohyai Sub-district, Krasae Sin, Songkhla. It was said that a monk named Phra Sinnarai and a nobleman named Khun Wichaipromsan, who travelled from India to Ayutthaya, made this holy well that provides clear and clean water throughout the year.



3.5 The National Museum was constructed over a hundred years ago in the Chinese-style. It was built in 1878 to serve as the private residence of Phraya Suntrarak (Nate Na Songkhla). In 1894, the place later became the residence of Songkhla and Nakhon Si Thammarat's administrative officers under the order of Phra Vajitworrasarn (Chao Phraya Yommarat). In 1896, it was used as the City Hall of Nakhon Si Thammarat County and today it serves as the Songkhla National Museum.



3.6 Phatummarong Museum was the former residence of Khun Vinijthanthakam (Bueng Tinsulanonda). It is a Thai-house architecture built to bear a resemblance to the birthplace of His Excellency, General Prem Tinsulanonda, the former Prime Minister of Thailand and Statesman who was born in Songkhla.



3.7 Folklore Museum was built in 1978 with the area of 23 rai. The exhibitions are in 4 southern architectural style buildings. Each part exhibits lifestyle, local culture, arts and crafts, along with the history and archeology, which are cultural heritages that express the identity and local wisdom of people who live in the southern part of Thailand.



4) Natural Attractions

4.1 Samila Beach is known for its powdery-sand beach and shady pine groves, where Songkhla's most famous mermaid statue and Cat and Mouse Islands are located.



4.2 Son-On Beach hosts the Monument of Prince Chumphorn, which was established by the members of Songkhla National Defense Volunteers and Thai Navy in 1987. Fishermen make offerings at his statue and pray before their voyage.



4.3 Koaseng is Located 3 kilometers away, to the south of Simila beach. The beach is delightful and scattered with sizable rocks. The biggest and outstanding rock is located above the cliff called "Hua Nai Rang." It is believed that Nai Rang's spirit is still there, guarding his treasure under the rock.



4.4 Songkhla Zoo is an open-range zoo with the area of 900 rai. It was established with the aim to preserve and return the wild animals to nature. The zoo is home to various kinds of domestic and exotic animals. The highlight is the hill-top viewing point, from which a stunning panorama of Songkhla can be enjoyed.



4.5 Tinsulanond Bridge across Songkhla Lake is separated into 2 parts. First part of the bridge connects the coast of Mueang Songkhla District at Ban Nam Krachai to the southern coast of Koh Yo for a total distance of 1,140 meters while the second part connects the northern shore of Koh Yo to the coast of Ban Khao Khiao for a total distance of 1,800 meters. The construction of the bridge began on March 26, 1984 and it was completed on September 25, 1986.



4.6 Songkhla Aquarium is divided into 3 parts. The first one is the fresh water exhibition including waterfall and fresh water marine animals. The second part is the exhibition of brackish water ecology on mangrove forest animals. The third one is the exhibition of rare seawater animals including 200-kilogram giant catfish and leopard sharks in panoramic screen of over 3 meter high and 7 meter long tank.



4.7 The sculpture of the great Naga is one of Songkhla's symbols. It was designed to be seen from all angles. The sculpture is made of brass fumigated by green rust, designed by Mr. Montree Sangmusika. The sculpture is separated into 3 parts:

1) The Head of Naga is located on the area of Song Thale Park at the end of Son-On Cape. It has the size of 1.20 meter diameter and its height from the basement is 9 meters, facing and spouting the water from its mouth to Songkhla Lake.



2) The belly of Naga is located on Chomdao Park, nearby Lotus Pond and Samila Cape. It has the size of 1.20 meter diameter. Its length is 5 meters and its height is 2.5 meters. Its shape is semicircle that people can pass under and this was believed to bring a good fortune.



3) tail of Naga is located on Samila Beach, on, Sadoa Road, behind golf course. It has the size of 1.20 meter diameter. Its length is 4 meters and its height is 4.5 meters. The great Naga sculpture is a current attraction among both Thai and foreigners who visits Songkhla.



4.8 General Prem Tinsulanonda Historical Park has been adapted to be the public park and the swamping forest learning center of Songkhla Lake, divided into 2 parts. The first area consists of Historical Hall of PremTinsulanonda, the former prime minister and the statesman while the second area consists of ecology learning center of swamping forest, an 800-meter ecotourism walk way including recreation area.



4.9 Hatyai City Municipality Park is another recreation park located 6 kilometer away from Hatyai.

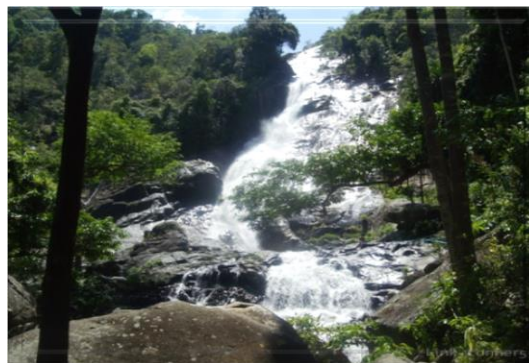
There are a pavilion in the water and a zoo with the decoration of flowering plants and big trees. At the foot of the hill, there is a bird park hosting King Rama V Monument. The southern side of the hill nearby the Boy Scout Camp, there is a Jadestone statue of The Goddess of Mercy, or Quan Yin. At the top of the hill, there are the Brahma statue and the Buddha image in the attitude of persuading the relatives not to quarrel



4.10 Ton Ngachang Waterfall is 26 kilometer away from Hat Yai. It is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the southern Thailand with 7 levels. The most beautiful level is the third level called Ton Ngachang, which is the name of the whole waterfall, as the water is separated into two lines, resembling a pair of elephant's tusks. The word "Ton" means waterfall in local language.



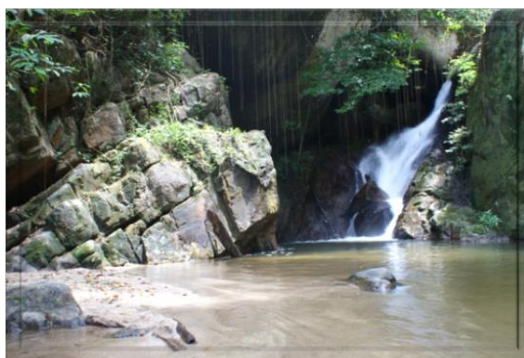
4.11 Ton Plew Waterfall is in the south of Rattaphum district, Songkhla, in the area of Ton Ngachang Wildlife Sanctuary, Bantad Mountain. This beautiful waterfall is 50 meter high with the water falling down on the stones in a peaceful and shady atmosphere.



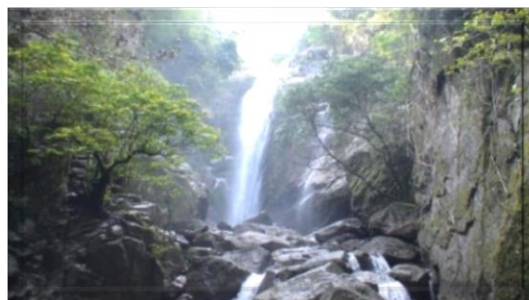
4.12 Ton Dadfah Waterfall is located in Na Thawee District, 2 kilometer far from Khao Nam Khang National Park Office. The first level of the waterfall is 10 meter high cliff with 80-90 degree slope. On the second level, the water falling down and spreading along the 30 meter high cliff with 80 degree declination makes such a beautiful landscape.



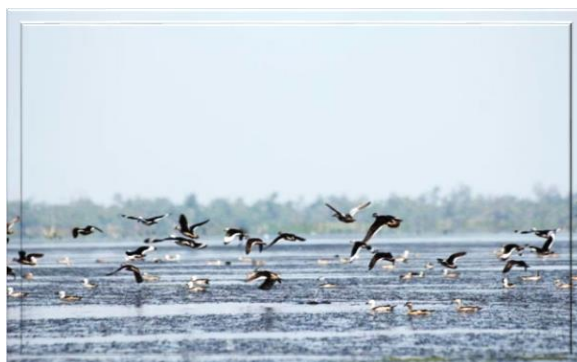
4.13 Boriphath Waterfall Forestry Park is an all-season small waterfall that located in Rattaphum District. It is 52 kilometers away from Muang Songkhla District along the Highway 406 and another kilometer off-road at KM 35 and KM 36. The waterfall is in a greenery atmosphere and there is a walkway to see the beauty of the nature along the stone hill.



4.14 San Kala Khiri National Park is located in Moo 2, Bahoi Sub-district, Saba Yoi, Songkhla. It is 25 kilometers away from Saba Yoi and it is the wellhead of Thepha River. The national park is rich of tropical plants, wildlife and many natural and beautiful attractions like waterfalls, caves, watershed forest and peat swamp. It is a learning place of natural forest and there is also a historical place like Ban Si Hui.



4.15 Khu Khut Waterfowl Park is established as a non-hunting area of Songkhla Lake on April 9, 1976. The park is a part of Songkhla Lake with the area of 227,916 rai covering the districts of Muang Songkhla, Sathing Phra, Singhanakhon, Khuan Niang, and Krasae Sin in Songkhla and Pakpayoon District of Phatthalung. The survey by the Royal Forestry Department found various species of domestic and emigrating birds during October to April each year.



4.16 Klongla Reservoir (Royal Initiative Project) is a large reservoir located in Ban Ton San, Klongla, Khlong Hoi Khong District, Songkhla. It contains 21.42 million cubic meter of water for agriculture in both rainy season and summer. It is also a recreation area for the local people.



4.17 Klong Sadao Reservoir is a medium sized reservoir at the wellhead of U-taphao Canal. It is situated in Ban Huaykhu, Samnaktaw Sub-district, Sadao, Songkhla, containing 56.741 cubic meter of water. The reservoir was built for aquaculture and agriculture of the local people. Also, it is a recreation area for people living around.



4.18 Chaloe Phrakiat 80 Phansa Bridge is connected between Songkhla Province and Phatthalung Province. Its length is 5.450 kilometers, which is considered the longest bridge in Thailand. The bridge is located in Bankao Sub-district, Ranot, Songkhla, along the line of Thale Noi and Thale Luang of Songkhla Lake. There are some attraction along the bridge, such as the bird viewpoint and the scenic point, that visitors can park their cars and enjoy the view of Songkhla Lake. Also, the life of water buffaloes living in the swamp area with the cattleman on boat is another interesting point of eco-tourism.



5) Trading Attractions and Floating Markets

5.1 Gimyong Market is an old market set up since Hatyai was established. There are a variety of cheap products including souvenirs, fruits, and other stuffs for any festivals. The market is unique and convenient to tourists.



5.2 Santisuk Market is claimed to be the shopping paradise selling various cheap products like clothes, glasses, watches, bags, perfumes, cosmetics, shoes, electronic appliances and many other things.



5.3 Khlong Hae Floating Market is located in Khlong Hae, Hatyai. It is the first cultural floating market in southern Thailand and the only one in the south combining floating shop on boats and local food stalls in southern style ancient market. Another attraction of the market is that the staffs and also tourists dress in Thai traditional outfits and eco- friendly food containers such as coconut shell and bamboo tube are used.



5.4 Klongdan Market is located in Klongdan Sub-district, Ranot, Songkhla. It is also connected to Ramkaew Sub- district, Huasai, Nakhon Si Thammarat. Klongdan is situated at the main intersection of three canals, which are Ranot Canal, Cha-aud Canal, and Pakpanang Canal. Such three canals flow along to the end then merge into a small canal named Klongdan, which is considered a natural boundary of two provinces. The old buildings along the canal in the market area are well kept and the walkway bridge made of wood is built for the market visitors.

