

British Club Seniors Section

Ayutthaya Day Trip 25th May 2023

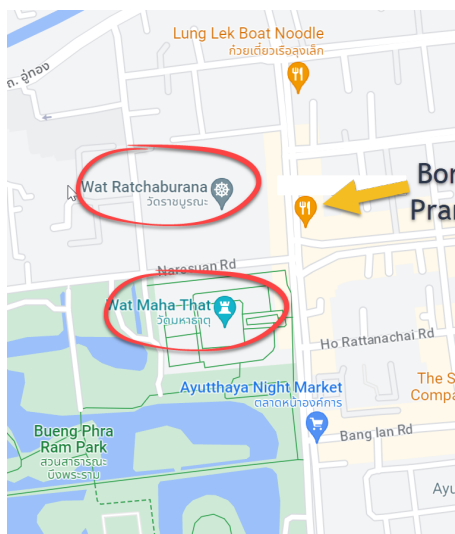


Ayutthaya was once a magnificent city and the capital of the Ayutthaya Kingdom. Founded in 1350, it flourished as a trading hub and grew into one of the world's wealthiest and most cosmopolitan cities. Ayutthaya's strategic location allowed it to control crucial maritime trade routes, attracting merchants from Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The city's prosperity was reflected in its grand temples, palaces, and bustling markets. However, Ayutthaya faced numerous conflicts with neighboring kingdoms, and in 1767, it fell to the Burmese army, leading to its destruction and decline. Today, Ayutthaya stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, preserving the remnants of its glorious past.

0830 Depart British Club

0930 (approx.) Arrive Ayutthaya Historical Park –
Wat Rachaburana

0930 – 1030 Explore *Wat Ratchaburana* and *Wat Maha That* on your own. There is a small entrance fee for the temples.



For those wanting a sit down or a blast of aircon there are two excellent cafes opposite Boran Café and Prang View (excellent coffee).



Wat Ratchaburana. Built in 1424, it stands as a remarkable testament to the architectural and artistic brilliance of the Ayutthaya period. The temple's central prang, or tower, adorned with intricate stucco designs, dominates the skyline. Inside, visitors can explore the ruins of the main assembly hall and discover remnants of stunning murals and ornate Buddha images. Wat Ratchaburana has played a significant role in Thai history and culture, and its restoration efforts have helped preserve its historical and artistic heritage, attracting tourists and scholars alike to marvel at its beauty.

Wat Mahathat is a revered 14th century temple, it was one of the most significant and prestigious temples during the Ayutthaya Kingdom. The temple complex was renowned for its towering prang (spire) and majestic central Buddha image. Unfortunately, during the Burmese invasion in 1767, the temple was heavily damaged and fell into ruins. However, its iconic feature, the Buddha head entwined in the roots of a banyan tree, remains a captivating sight, symbolizing the resilience and spiritual essence of Ayutthaya. Today, Wat Mahathat stands as a prominent archaeological site and a testament to Thailand's rich cultural heritage.



1045 Depart for Chao Sam Phraya Museum
1100 (approx.) Arrive Chao Sam Phraya Museum
1100 – 1145 Explore the museum
150 Baht entrance fee, 30 Baht for Thai citizens



From paper-thin gold sheets of the Buddha to gold swords, head decorations and a crown, the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum has filled its new Gold Treasure Exhibition Building with 2,244 pieces of gold artefacts and ornaments made around the fifteenth century.

The new exhibition hall is now open to visitors, showcasing 400 years of creativity and the wealth of the former capital city of Siam.



1200 Depart for Lunch
1215 (approx.) Arrive at Ruan Rub Rong Restaurant
1215 – 1345 Enjoy a leisurely lunch on the Pasak River



1345 Depart for St Joseph's Church
1400 (approx.) Arrive St Joseph's Church
1400 – 1415 Look at the church (it is very hot inside)



St. Joseph's Church in Ayutthaya was built during the 17th century, it is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the country. The church's architecture showcases a blend of European and Thai influences, with its distinct red-brick façade and intricate details. St. Joseph's Church served as a center for Catholic worship during the Ayutthaya Kingdom. However, like many other structures in Ayutthaya, it suffered extensive damage during the Burmese invasion in 1767.

1415 Depart St Joseph's Church
1430 (approx.) Arrive Japanese Village
1430 – 1445 Explore the Japanese Village



The Japanese Village in Ayutthaya is a unique cultural attraction that offers a glimpse into the historical ties between Thailand and Japan. Established in the 16th century, it was a residential area for Japanese traders and merchants during the Ayutthaya Kingdom. The village showcases traditional Japanese-style houses, gardens, and a small museum.

1445 Depart Japanese Village for BC

Entrance fee is 50 Baht.