



British Club Seniors Section – Chachoengsao Day Trip – Friday 31st

Itinerary - All times are subject to change

**** It's HOT ...Water is available on the bus – please keep hydrated ****

0830 – Depart BC for Wat Hong Thong (approximately 1 hour 10 minutes)



Wat Hong Thong (Golden Phoenix) also known as Wat Klang Nam (Middle of the Sea) is a temple complex on the Gulf of Thailand along Chacheongsao province's 10km coastline in a somewhat denuded but rapidly being replanted mangrove forest. Much of the area around the temple is used to farm salt.

From the pier to the left, visit the three level pagoda, the Phrathat Khongkha Mahachedi in (Ganges Grand Pagoda). The first level contains statues of the Lord Buddha. The second level of the stupa has some interesting wax statues of the Lord Buddha, a copy of the famous Emerald Buddha currently kept in the temple of the Grand Palace in Bangkok, and paintings of the current and past Kings of Thailand. The top floor has a terrace with excellent sea and coastal views, along with a golden stupa which you can enter. Inside the roof top golden stupa are religious relics.

The other building is the smaller ordination hall. This Central Thai style ordination hall is beautifully decorated inside and out. The interior features wall and ceiling paintings depicting scenes from the life of the Lord Buddha. The main Buddha image is a scaled down copy of another famous statue of the Lord Buddha, the Phra Phuttha Chinnarat, the original of which is enshrined at Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat in Phitsanulok.

The adjacent pier is a new 'sea walk' with a glass floor. Tickets to go on the sea walk cost 30 Baht and they will give you a covering for your shoes to protect the floor. The large observation tower costs 20 Baht to ride in the lift. The views from the top of the coastline and inland are magnificent (but for the PM 2.5 pollution right now).

Depending on arrival time, we will spend approximately 45 minutes to one hour at this destination.

1100 (approx.) Depart for The River, Bang Prakong, for Lunch (Approximately 30 minutes)



Lunch is a set menu to be shared Thai style. Water and soda water are included. If you would like any extras or drinks, please pay separately.

1230 (approx.) Drive to Wat Saman Rattanaram (Approximately 40 minutes)



Wat Saman Rattanaram is in complete contrast to the serenity of Wat Hong Thong. The temple is located on a landlocked island on the banks of the Bangpakong River. We will park in the main car park, and we can walk to the main temple area through the market.

See:

- The reclining pink Ganesh, 24m long, 16m tall. The biggest Ganesh statue in Thailand. The Ganesh statue is surrounded by eight rats, each in a different colour. You choose the rat to make a wish to based on the day of the week you were born, put some money into the donation box and whisper your wish into one of the rat's ears, covering the other ear firmly so your wish cannot escape from the rat's head. It is believed that Ganesh will make your wish come true quickly\
- The ornate Chinese temple and the Goddess of Mercy (Jao Mae Guanyin)
- The Hindu deity Indra riding the three headed elephant Erawan. He is holding a trident and a thunderbolt, a weapon he used to kill the evil Vritra. Indra is the Hindu King of the Gods and the King of Heaven
- Overlooking the river is a large statue of the Hindu God Brahma seated on a pedestal, his left foot resting on pink lotus flowers. Depicted with four faces and four arms and wearing a golden crown, Brahma is revered as the God of Creation.

- On the riverbank are several large brightly colored statues of Nagas serpent deity. Nagas are often seen in Thai temples. When the Buddha was meditating under a Bodhi tree, it was a Naga serpent that sheltered the Buddha with his hoods from torrential rain
- In a corner of the parking lot is a replica of the Golden Rock in Burma with the Kyaikhtiyo pagoda, one of Burma's most sacred sites. The pagoda on top of the Golden Rock on the edge of a cliff enshrines a hair of the Buddha.

There are plenty of places to rest, have a drink or snack and a huge market for plants, souvenirs, food, whatever.

We will spend approximately an hour at the temple before returning to The BC.