



## BRITISH CLUB SENIORS SECTION

Nakhon Chai Si Day Trip – Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### *Itinerary & Briefing Notes*

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

**\*\* Don't forget your hat, and socks for walking on 'hallowed ground' that might also be hot\*\***

#### **0830 – Depart BC for Wat Rai Khing (approximately 1 hour)**



Located along the Tha Chin River, **Wat Rai Khing** ('Temple on ginger farm') built in 1791 during the reign of Rama IV the temple is considered to be perhaps second only in importance to the Great Chedi in Nakhon Pathom City. The Buddha image is

in the attitude of Buddha subduing the demon Mara and is of Chiang Saen style, assumed to have been built by Lanna Thai and Lan Xang craftsmen. According to legend, this Buddha image was found floating in the river, along with four other Buddha images, all of which are the principal Buddha images in the prominent temples throughout the central basin of Thailand. It is believed that all five were brothers.

The temple is well known among Thais; faithful Buddhists frequently pay a visit to Wat Rai Khing to pay homage to the sacred Buddha image. The temple is also renowned for its natural fish sanctuary, a habitat of hundreds of thousands of iridescent shark and black spotted catfish.

#### **09.40 – Depart for Wat Samphran (approximately 20 minutes)**



**Wat Samphran** ('The Dragon Temple') formerly known as Wat Buddha Pawana but changed its name after a major scandal involving the founding Abbot who was sentenced to 160 years in jail for abusing young girls. The Temple is set in a very large area covered in lovely mature trees, bushes, and flowers. There is so much to see in addition to the Dragon Temple itself and the surrounding features. Be prepared to shed coins in the

search for good luck and the fulfilment of wishes. Look out for the Golden Buddha, the Turtle and the Elephant as you enjoy strolling in the lovely grounds and relaxing in the tranquil environment. There are of course the usual small stalls selling souvenirs, ice creams, water etc, and also there are lots of toilets to be found (those used during our recon trip were very clean).

## 11.30 – Depart for Award Winning Gotae Kitchen Restaurant (approximately 30 minutes)



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

## 13.45 – Depart for the Thai Human Imagery Museum (approximately 30 minutes)



Opened in June 1989 the Thai Human Imagery Museum was created by the inspired Artist Duangkaew Phityakornsilp and his colleagues with an aim to promote and to preserve traditional Thai arts and culture. These artists spent over 10 years studying and experimenting on wax sculpture using fibre glass before succeeding in creating the beautiful, exquisite, and durable figures on display throughout the museum. Exhibits include Thai historical figures, including all the kings of the Chakri Dynasty, displays of Thai culture and traditions, and famous fictional characters, including those from Sunthorn Phu's epic poem Phra Aphai Mani.

Look out for the Glass Blower situated to the left after exiting the Museum (It is not guaranteed that he will be present).

NOTE: There are Entry Charges to pay here: For Thai people Baht 80, for Foreigners Baht 300.

**14.45 – Depart for Wat Don Wai & Market (approximately 30 minutes, some roads under repair so beware of a bumpy ride in places)**



Not the biggest of Temples, but well worth a look-in as you walk past and on to the very large riverside market that sells an enormous assortment of foods, vegetables, fruits, and Thai puddings.

Also located on the Tha Chin River, this 100 years old Temple and Market is very much oriented to serving the local community and does not see many 'Farang' visitors. Regretfully we will not have time for a short boat trip along the river, but perhaps include in your memories for a potential future visit.

Be warned that it is quite a walk from the Temple entrance and through the market to the river and back again!

An alternative for those not too interested in purchasing tasty foods and the freshest fruit and vegetables anywhere, including Nakhon Pathom's famous varieties of 'pomelo', could be to visit the Temple then buy a coffee etc from the Amazon Café located on the left side of the car park square not far from where our minibus will drop us off and pick us up for our return to the British Club.

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