



BRITISH CLUB SENIORS SECTION

Samut Prakan Day Trip – Thursday, 23rd November 2023

Itinerary & Briefing Notes

**** It's HOT, stay hydrated. There is cold water on the bus****

**** Suggest you wear socks for the Temple visit owing to probable very hot shoes off area****

A Brief History of Samut Prakan

Samut Prakan sits on both banks of the Chao Phraya River, which empties out nearby into the Gulf of Thailand. The old name for the city is “Paknam” which means ‘river mouth’ or ‘estuary’ in Thai language. First occupied during the Ayutthaya Period in 1620 when the first temples were constructed, it was not until 1819 that the population grew and the city was formed. This occurred after King Rama II commanded that forts be built on both sides of the river. He also commanded that the city be named “Samut Prakan”, which means “Ocean Forts”. The city has played an important part in Thai history. *The “Paknam Incident” on 13th July 1893 when a French warship was in conflict with guns fired at it from the Thai garrisons on either bank of the Chao Phraya River where shots were fired back. The modern Thai flag was first flown in the city. The first railway in Thailand was opened in 1893 between Bangkok and Paknam. The first telegraph was used with a line between Bangkok and the lighthouse in the Gulf of Thailand at Paknam.*

08.45 – Depart BC for the Royal Thai Navy Museum

(Approximately a 45 minutes journey, then 1 hour 45 minutes at the Exhibition)



The military history of Thailand encompasses 1,000 years of armed struggle, from wars of independence from the Khmer Empire through to struggles with her regional rivals, Burma and Vietnam, and periods of conflict with Britain and France during the colonial era.

The Museum chronicles the history of the naval aspects of the Thai armed forces from the Ayutthaya period through its official founding as the Royal Thai Navy in 1906, to almost the present day (but no aircraft carrier!).

11.15 – Depart for Wat Asokaram

(Approximately a 30 minutes journey, then 40 minutes at the Temple)



Construction was started in 1955 and completed in 1962. The temple has two main buildings; the highlight being the beautiful Phra Thutangkha Chedi – a group of 13 stupas (chedis) that represent the 13 duties of a monk during any religious trip. We can walk inside and visit the ground and second floor.



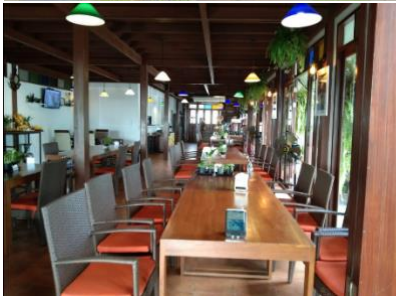
Opposite to the chedi lies the main hall of the Wat where Buddhists meditate and chant. To the right of the main hall there is an elevated statue dedicated to King Ashoka the Great (268-232BC), the third Mauryan Emperor of Magadha in the Indian subcontinent, who spread Buddhism to Asia, and especially Thailand, and after whom the Temple is named.

12.10 – Depart for the Baan Chidlom Restaurant

(Approximately 20 minutes, journey then 1 hour 30 minutes for lunch)



Our lunch will be at the lovely Baan Chidlom Restaurant located on the estuary of the Chao Phraya River as it flows into the Gulf of Thailand, where the food will be, as discovered in our Recon visit, extremely fresh and tasty. In addition, for those who want it, they have draft craft beers on tap and in bottle from the blossoming 'Underdog Micro Brewery'.



As usual, we share a number of Thai dishes in the Thai style. If you wish to sample the beers or other items, these will be to individual's account.

**14.00 – Depart for The Samut Prakan Learning Park and Tower
(Approximately 25 minutes journey, then 45 minutes at the Park and Tower)**



Please be advised that, with the exception of the old steam locomotive and tram car near the Tower's front entrance, nothing else in the Learning Park is likely to be of any interest to any of us, but the Tower most certainly is!! Located in the middle of Samut Prakan City, the 180 m high Tower took some 10 years to build and opened its doors to the public on 25th August 2022. Regretfully, the lower level interactive and other exhibition areas are only opened on Saturdays, but we will take the high-speed lift to the 23rd level to experience the marvelous 360 views and then up to the 25th level to visit exhibits on Samut Prakan community projects, venerated Buddhist Monks, and HM King Rama IX's several Royal Projects

to improve the wellbeing of local people.

Please note that there is a Baht 60 Entrance Charge that everyone will need to pay.

**15.10 – Depart for BC
(Approximately 45 minutes journey)**