

Pattaya Information

Introduction

Pattaya is 147 kilometres southeast of Bangkok, and faces the Thai Gulf. Pattaya is Asia's premier beach resort, and caters with equal appeal to families, couples and single visitors. Pattaya's relaxing tropical ambient is synonymous with every ingredient for memorable holidays. Accommodation ranges from luxuriously appointed beachside hotels with superb convention facilities to simple guesthouses. Sporting opportunities abound both on land and water, and include some of the finest golfing, gamefishing and scuba-diving anywhere in Asia. Theme and amusement parks, offbeat museums and lush botanical gardens offer numerous forms of leisure activities and cultural entertainment for all family members. And, after dark, Pattaya offers all the allure and magic of a truly vibrant nightlife with a spectacular variety of restaurants, nightclubs, bars, discotheques, cocktail lounges and cabarets. Pattaya can be brash, bold, beautiful and bucolic, and offers everything an authentic international beach resort can.

Local Culture

Within twenty years, Pattaya has been transformed from a sleepy fishing community into an international resort often referred to as the 'Thai Riviera'. Pattaya is literally a place where East meets West, both in colour and character, and is probably the most cosmopolitan place in Thailand after Bangkok.

Major Beaches & Islands

Pattaya Beach

Some 4 kilometres long, this beach faces Pattaya Bay, the major venue from where boats visit Pattaya's offshore islands. The beach curves from north to south and is largely paralleled by a treelined promenade and beach road which is lined, in the northern and central parts, by hotels and restaurants. The northern section of the beach is largely tranquil, while the central and southern parts become increasingly lively, thanks to a position of shops, department stores, boutiques, beauty salons, supermarkets, bars, discotheques, restaurants and nightclubs. The central area of the beach is a major shopping area, while the southern end is one of Pattaya's major nightlife areas.

Jomtien Beach

This 6-kilometre long, largely straight beach, some 4 kilometres south of Pattaya, is the most notable of several beaches south of the resort. The beach is popular with windsurfers and watersports enthusiasts, largely because the area enjoys brisk and fresh breezes sweeping inland from the Thai Gulf, and because the seas are less congested with boats than is Pattaya Bay.

Jomtien is also a major residential area with beachside hotels, bungalow complexes, condominiums and restaurants.

Ko Lan (Lan Island)

Some 15 minutes by speedboat from Pattaya Bay, Ko Lan is the largest of Pattaya's offshore islands and is a popular venue for watersports such as windsurfing, water skiing, snorkelling and scuba-diving. Viewing coral reefs through glass-bottomed boats and parasailing are other popular activities. Island beaches are lined with souvenir stalls selling colourful beachwear and decorative handicrafts, foodstalls and restaurants. Visitors seeking greater tranquility can travel to Ko Pai (Bamboo Island), some 35 minutes by speedboat from Pattaya Bay. Quiet, pristine beaches and clear waters ideal for swimming and snorkeling characterize this uninhabited island.

Attractions

Mini Siam

Situated at kilometre 143 on Sukhumvit Highway, some 3 kilometres from Central Pattaya Road, this complex features miniature reproductions of major cultural and archaeological sites within Thailand, including Khmer shrines and the ancient capitals of Sukhothai and Ayutthaya, and features a section of miniaturized major international landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House, St Basil's Cathedral and the Statue of Liberty. The complex also has a go-kart track and a Thai restaurant.

Million Years Stone Park & Pattaya Crocodile Farm

Some twenty minutes from central Pattaya, this bucolic enclave features a landscape of native Thai flora, a fascinating collection of Bonsai trees, and massive ancient rocks (thus the park's unusual name) imported from Kanchanaburi province. Artfully landscaped with flowers and trees, the park contains a crocodile farm, a select collection of wild animals native to Thailand and nearing extinction, a pool containing giant catfish native to the Mekong River, and a restaurant. There are daily crocodile and magic shows.

Pattaya Park

This beachside water amusement park is located between South Pattaya and Jomtien Beach. Colourful water slides, whirlpools and shallow pools suitable for small children make the park popular with families. Restaurant facilities, a fast food corner, changing rooms and lockers number among facilities, and there is easy access to the beach should visitors prefer to swim in the sea. The park is overlooked by the 240-metre high Pattaya Park Tower that contains a revolving restaurant. The tower offers an exhilarating view of Pattaya and two novel ways, the Pattaya Park Sky Shuttle and Pattaya Park Tower Jump, of reaching the ground.

Pattaya Elephant Village

Situated on the Siam Country Club Golf Course road, the village features trained elephants demonstrating time-honoured forestry skills, enjoying themselves playing football, re-enacting wild elephant hunts and a medieval war elephant parade in a popular daily afternoon show. Elephant rides are also available at 9.00 AM.

Phanarak Park

Also on the Siam Country Club Golf Course road, this tropical garden complex contains a well-stocked lake for fishing enthusiasts, bungalow accommodation, restaurant facilities, a mini-golf course, jogging and cycling tracks and boating facilities.

Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum

Located next to the Royal Garden Resort Hotel inside Royal Plaza Garden, this museum, only the second of its kind in Asia, features a high technology theatre adapted from a pilot-training simulator, permanent and special displays of oddities such as animal freaks and unusual human feats, based on the popular cartoon feature of the same name which is featured in newspapers throughout the world.

Nong Nooch Orchid Wonderland

This artfully landscaped botanical garden and country resort, located at kilometer 163 on Sukhumvit Highway, contains a splendid collection of native Thai flora, including hundreds of varieties of orchids, ferns, flowering plants and exotic blooms. The enclave contains numerous Thai-style residences, an ornamental lake, a large auditorium wherein daily cultural performances are presented, featuring folk dances, martial arts and traditions, followed by the most entertaining of all elephant shows imaginable, an hilarious form of pachyderm burlesque.

Bottle Art

The world's sole Bottle Art Museum at Km 145.3 on Sukhumvit Highway, has more than 300 displays of miniature bottles.

Sporting Opportunities

Numerous sporting opportunities include participant and spectator sports on land and water. Major land sports include golf, tennis, go-karts, squash, badminton, bowling, jogging, paintball and motor-racing. Popular watersports include windsurfing, sailing, waterskiing, gamefishing, snorkeling and scuba-diving. Opportunities for less easily definable activities, including bungee jumping and parasailing, are also available.

Land Sports

Golf

Golfers can enjoy challenging rounds at 9 scenic 18-hole courses near the resort, and a small course at the Asia Hotel. In most cases, clubs, shoes and other equipment can be rented, and green and caddy fees are eminently reasonable. During weekdays, there are few courses that need to be booked in advance.

Major courses in the Pattaya area are:

Bangphra Golf Course

45 Mu 6 Tambon Bangphra, Amphoe Si Racha, Chon Buri
Tel: (038) 341-149, 341-150 Fax: 341-151

Burapa Golf Club

Tambon Bung, Amphoe Si Racha (opposite Laem Chabang International Golf Course)
Tel: (02) 248-15569

Khao Khiao Country Club

Tambon Bangphra, Amphoe Si Racha, Chon Buri
Tel: (02) 279-4817 Fax: 01-353-2511

Laem Chabang International Country Club

106 Mu 4 Tambon Bung, Amphoe Si Racha, Chon Buri
Tel: (02) 255-3556, 01-485--0639

Panya Resort Country Club

502 Mu 10 Sukhumvit Highway, Amphoe Si Racha, Chon Buri
Tel: (038) 349-370-81 Fax: 349-365

Phoenix Golf & Country Club

Kilometre 158 Sukhumvit Highway, Amphoe Bang Lamung, Chon Buri
Tel: 01-213-3859, (038) 239-391-8

Royal Thai Navy Golf Course

Tambon Phlu Ta Luang, Amphoe Sattahip, Chon Buri Tel: (038) 431-189

Siam Country Club Golf Course

50 Tambon Pong, Amphoe Bang Lamung, Chon Buri
Tel: (038) 249-381-7

Si Racha International Golf Club

284-285 Amphoe Si Racha, Chon Buri
Tel: 01-916-2416, 01-915-6282

Natural Park Hill Country Club

159/1 Sansuk Bangphra Road, Chon Buri
Tel: (038) 393-001-18 Fax: (038) 393-019

Noble Place Golf Resort & Country Club

88/8 Mu 6 Ban Bung, Chon Buri
Tel: (01) 484-9066, 484-9069 Fax: (01)
212-9327

Pattaya Country Club

Highway No. 331, Bang Lamung, Chon Buri
Tel: (01) 211-2499, 213-9457 Fax: (01) 212- 0278

Tennis

Tennis can be enjoyed at 14 Pattaya hotels, where preference is given to hotel guests. Certain hotels have tennis coaches.

Go-Karts

Go-karts are available at the 400 and 700-metre track Pattaya Kart Speedway, at Mini Siam, K.R. Gokart, and the 1,080-metre track for professional drivers at the Bira International Circuit.

Squash

Squash can be enjoyed at the Cherry Tree pub on the Siam Country Club Golf Course road, the Dusit Resort Pattaya and Ambassador City, Jomtien.

Paintball

This game of skill, strategy and daring can be enjoyed every day at the Paintball Park which is located near the Pattaya Kart Speedway.

Badminton

The Pattaya Badminton Court on Soi 17 is open 24 hours daily.

Bowling

Three alleys cater for bowlers, the Pattaya Bowl on Pattaya Road 2, an alley in the Royal Jomtien Hotel, and the OD Bowl in South Pattaya.

Jogging

A jogging track is an integral part of the pleasantly landscaped Pattaya Fitness Park located near the summit of Pattaya hill. Certain hotels have jogging tracks. Jogging is also enjoyable along the promenades facing Pattaya Bay, and along Jomtien Beach.

Motor Racing

The Bira International Circuit at Km 14 on Route 36 to Rayong periodically stages international motor and motorcycle racing. The 2.4 kilometre track is ideal for Formula 3 racing. There are daily opportunities for speed enthusiasts who enjoy driving their own two-wheeled or four-wheeled vehicles around the challenging track for nominal fees.

Snooker

Snooker can be enjoyed at the Pattaya Bowl, AR Snooker, Dice Cafe Hall and the Royal Place Hotel.

Shooting

A handgun and rifle range with 19 fully equipped and airconditioned galleries is open daily at Tiffany's on Pattaya 2 Road.

Horse Riding

Available at the Horse Sport Centre at Km. 11 on Route 36 (near the Bira International Circuit). Mountain and jungle rides are made on Australian thoroughbreds. Riding lessons are offered.

Watersports

Water Skiing

The most popular venues are the northern and southern parts of Pattaya Beach, Jomtien Beach and Ko Lan island. Freshwater water-skiing is available at Lakeland Cable Water Ski at Kilometre 150.5 on Sukhumvit Highway.

Windsurfing

Jomtien Beach is the major centre for windsurfing. Tuition is widely available for beginners. The Pattaya Windsurf Club on Jomtien Beach regularly stages board competitions. October through June are the best months for windsurfing, thanks to ideal water and wind conditions.

Sailing

The most popular rentals are Lasers, Prindles and Hobie Cats. Sailing is a year-round sport in Pattaya's waters. Visitors wishing to avail themselves of knowledgeable information regarding sailing rentals and seasonal conditions should contact their hotel travel desk, or the Royal Varuna Yacht Club at Tel: 251-115.

Gamefishing

Pattaya Information

Expeditions are organized by many operators. Waters surrounding Manwic-hai, Rin and Kram islands are popular for the pursuit of marlin, king mackerel, barracuda and other Gulf denizens.

Major game fishing operators include:

Bangsaray Fishing Lodge

Km 165 Sukhumvit Highway, Bangsare Village, Amphoe Sattahip
Tel: (038) 436-757.

Deutches Haus

Soi 4 Beach Road, North Pattaya
Tel: (038) 428-725

Samaesan Fishing Bridge

40/7 Mu 4 Samaesan Village, Amphoe Sattahip
Tel: 01-211-4659

Scuba Diving

Scuba diving and snorkelling are popular around Pattaya's offshore islands, particularly those furthest from Pattaya Bay, namely Ko Pai, Ko Manwichai, Ko Luam and Ko Rim. Neophyte divers can take open water certification courses organized by several local dive shops.

Pattaya's major dive shops include:

Dave's Diver Den

190/11 Mu 9, Central Pattaya Road Road
Tel: (038) 420-411 Fax: 360-095

Divers World

219/76 Soi Yamato, South Pattaya
Tel: 426-517

Mermaid's Dive School

Mermaid Beach Resort, 75/102 Mu 12 Jomtien Beach Road
Tel: (038) 232-219-20, 231-907 Ext. Dive Shop Fax: 232-221

Paradise Divers

Siam Bayview Hotel, 310/2 Mu 10, Beach Road
Tel: (038) 423-871-8 Ext. Paradise Divers Shop Fax:423-879

Piak Diving centre

109/18 Jomtien Beach Road
Tel: 231-008

Scuba Tek Dive Centre

Weekender Hotel, Pattaya 2 Road
Tel: 428-720 Fax: 429-461

Seafari Sport Centre

359/2 Mu 9 Soi 5, North Pattaya
Tel: (038) 429-060

Sunshine Diver

53 Soi 10, Beach Road
Tel: (038) 429-069, (01) 943-8288 Fax: 429-069

The Dolphin Diving Centre

183/29 Mu 10 Soi Post Office
Tel: 427-185, (01) 944-0992 Fax: 427-158

Parasailing

This sport is ubiquitous throughout the resort, is featured at several hotels with their own private beaches, and is perhaps best enjoyed at Ko Lan where floating 'take-off and landing' platforms mean flight occurs exclusively above the sea.

Freshwater Water Sports

These can be enjoyed at the Ban Bung Sailing & Paramotor Centre some 4 kilometres off Sukhumvit Highway (from Km 150) where there are facilities for, among other activities, windsurfing, sailing, canoeing and fishing.

Shopping

South Pattaya is the major shopping area for beachwear, souvenirs, films, tapes, pharmaceuticals and liquor. The resort's major gems, jewellery, silk, cotton and handicraft shops, tailors and boutiques are located in the vicinity of, or adjacent to, major beachside hotels. The Pattaya 2 Road is also a favourite haunt for shoppers, with several handicraft and Thai silk shops. Department stores and allied bazaars in Central Pattaya offer other shopping experiences.

Dining & Nightlife

Some of Thailand's choicest seafood is found in hotel buffets and several specialty restaurants. Steakhouses, coffeeshops and fast food outlets provide attractive alternatives. Gourmets and gourmands alike find satisfaction in numerous restaurants featuring regional Thai cuisine and French, Swiss, German, Italian, English, Scandinavian, Indian, Arabic, Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese and Korean food.

Major hotels operate gourmet restaurants, cocktail lounges, discotheques, nightclubs and supper clubs which offer excellent food, drinks, music and international entertainment. Such establishments are ideally suited to family entertainment. Nightlife beyond Pattaya's hotels is more liberated and exciting. Discotheques, transvestite cabarets, nightclubs, coffee shops, karaoke bars, open air bars and restaurants with live music and entertainment compete for attention. Most such establishments are located along the Beach Road, Pattaya 2 Road, and in South Pattaya, which is also the resort's major shopping area. Up-to-date listings of entertainment and shows are available in local English language tourism publications.

Transportation

Pattaya can be reached in a comfortable 2 and half hour drive along Sukhumvit Highway via Bang Pakong, Chonburi and Srirach. And one can also avoid Chonburi by opting for State Highway 36 (new route - Chonburi - Pattaya - Rayong). or motorway from Bkk. (Rama 9 Rd. Chonburi)

Air - conditioned and non - air - conditioned coaches regularly leave from the Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekamai) and Northern Bus Terminal (Morchit) on kampaengphet Road throughout the day.

First bus leaves Eastern Bus Terminal at 05:00 hrs. with every half an hour. Last bus leaves at 23:00 hrs. For more information, please kindly contact Eastern Bus Terminal (0-2391-2504) for air-conditioned coaches and 0-2391-8097 for regular coaches and the Northern Bus Terminal at 0-2936-2852 to 66 (ext : 311) for air-conditioned coaches.

The State Railways of Thailand offers daily train service departing Bangkok's Hua Lumpong Station at 6.55 a.m. Tel 0-2223-7010, 0-2223-7020. The journey takes about 3 hours and a half.

Travel within the resort

Traveling around Pattaya is most convenient by mini-buses that continually ply the Beach Road and Pattaya 2 Road in counterclockwise circuits. Fares are 5 baht per person per ride. Fares beyond the main bay are negotiable. Those who wish to be independent, and explore Pattaya's surrounding countryside and beaches at leisure, can hire motorcycles, jeeps or cars. The visitor is advised to shop around, and consult local tourism publications, for different companies offer different prices and conditions.

Festival

Each year, usually during April, the week-long Pattaya Festival is celebrated with a wide range of entertainment spectacles, including parades, beauty contests, concerts, food festivals, fireworks and an exciting calendar of sporting events, including Grand Prix and go-kart motor-racing, sailing regattas, windsurfing competitions, power boat racing and fishing contests. Special exhibitions and shopping opportunities abound as Pattaya celebrates in a style befitting its stature as Asia's premier beach resort.

[Hotels in Pattaya](#) | [E-Biz-Travel.com](#)