



Island Welcome

Your guide to Koh Sichang คู่มือท่องเที่ยวเกาะสีชัง

Need help? Call 038 216 XXX

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ACTIVITIES AROUND KOH SICHANG



Samlor Tours

Among day tripping tourists, a very popular approach is to hire a samlor to take you to the sight-seeing points mentioned below, the beach at Tham Phang, and more. The complete tour costs B250 for up to 5 persons, with negotiable stopping times at each point.

Boat trips

You can spend a pleasant day motoring around Koh Sichang and its sister islands, stopping to hike, swim, fish, or snorkel over the coral around Koh Khaangkhaao (Bat Island) just to the south of the main island. (The coral is not spectacular,



but there is usually clear water and thousands of colorful fish to see.)

Swimming

The island's best-known and biggest beach is Tham Phang (Fallen Cave Beach) on the outer, southwest side of the island. It offers a broad sandy beach, umbrellas and chairs for rent (20 baht per person as long as you care to stay), changing and bathing rooms, plus some simple food.

The beach at the palace is popular with locals, as is secluded Haad Sai Kaew to the south. When the wind is right, this is some of the cleanest and clearest water we've found in Thailand.

Fishing

The crowd of boats at either pier points to Koh Sichang's economic mainstay—fishing, but above all, fishing for squid. A visit to the mar-



ket on the pier about 08:00 is likely to present a scene of silver, gold and red fish, shrimp as long as 25 cm (ten inches), squid, and crabs, all vigorously alive, plus a variety of mollusks. To catch something yourself, an easy start is to bring your own rod, and try your luck from the cliffs. Even an unlucky beginner can expect to land a few squid. For the bigger stuff, rent a fishing boat that can carry 10 people for B1,500 on up a day.



Walking and Biking

Traffic on the island is light, and local drivers (unusually for Thailand) are careful of pedestrians, so you can walk everywhere there's a road. Destinations not listed under things to see are the headland beyond Tham Phang Beach (by road) and the summit above the Buddha



สีชัง พาเลซ
SICHANG PALACE

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Footprint, to which there is a path of sorts. There is a lot of enjoyable bush walking, starting from the old palace, Tham Phang beach, or the Yellow Buddha. Be careful! Most of the island is limestone, and there are some concealed potholes. For mountain biking or longer hikes, the mostly empty southern half of the island has some very scenic tracks. There are also caving and climbing opportunities—ask at the information booth.

Snorkeling

Bring your own equipment, or rent at Haad Tham Phang. The best place to see fish and coral is at the southwest tip of Koh Khaengkhaao, mentioned under boat trips.

Kayaking

You can rent sea kayaks at Haad Tham Phang. The very fit owner says he's made a circuit of the whole island in less than three hours. Koh Khaengkhaao would be an easier paddle, and has nice, usually



empty beaches as well as snorkeling opportunities.

THINGS TO SEE

King Chulalongkorn's Palace

Built starting about 1890, the Judhadhut Palace was abandoned shortly after hostilities with France in 1893 showed



how vulnerable it was to a modern navy. The main building was taken to Bangkok, where it is now famous as Vimarn Mek palace. Several of the remaining structures have been restored. A walk through the gardens and up the hill under century-old frangipani trees can be a delightful way to spend an hour or two, especially in the late afternoon.

Chinese Temple and Buddha's Footprint


North of the town, very conspicuous as you approach on the ferry, is the Chinese temple known as *Saan Chao Pho Khao Yai*, or Shrine of the Father Spirit of the Great Hill. This predates the palace by centuries, going back to the days when junks from Ming China anchored in the sheltered water on the east side of the island. The shrine, founded around a cave from which seafarers saw a magic light shining into the night, draws tens of thousands of mainly Chinese supplicants from as far away as Djakarta and Beijing.

In a little gazebo about 100 meters above the main shrine is the Buddha's Footprint. If you have the energy for a fairly stiff climb, the ideal approach is to go up the rear or western stairway early in the



morning. After 505 stairs you step suddenly from close bush to a panoramic view of the harbor and Siracha on the mainland, spectacular at sunup. An improvised walking stick is handy for the steeper parts and for making yourself understood by any stray dogs that might claim the stairs for themselves.






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Yellow Buddha

Just behind the town, prominently visible if you come in on a daytime ferry, is the Tham Chakraphong meditation center, with a number of colossal Buddha images and a cave of modest interest.

Tham Yai Prik Temple

This unorthodox (nuns wear brown, and everybody works) Buddhist community offers a pleasant walk through shady gardens, sweeping views of both sides of the island, meditation cells in the rock, and a chance to talk to some of the monks and nuns.

DINING & ACCOMMODATION

Our main claim to culinary fame is seafood, but you can get a variety of other items—even a good steak, if you look. Koh Sichang also offers a surprisingly wide range of accommodation, from luxury hotel rooms to the simplest beach cabins.

Listings for accommodation, * to **** for level of amenities, price for double room; cuisines T = Thai, C = Chinese, W = Western, V = Vegetarian; features of note; price for a 3-dish seafood dinner with 1 bottle of Singha beer.

Sichang Kayak

The best feeling—slipping through the waves. stopping at little islands. beaches. hour. lo Phang t 5540.

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1. *Green House B200; T B240
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2. *** Sichang View a/c, hot water, TV B800-1,000; CT B450 038 216 210
3. * Ah Lee Koh Khaam Bungalows, B300 01 XXX XXXX
4. *** Sichang Hill Resort a/c, hot water, TV B600-800. 038 216 XXX
5. **** Sichang Palace Hotel, mini-bar, pool, billiards CTW B400 038 216 XXX
6. *** Tiew Pai Park, a/c, hot water, TV B500-800; CTWV B290 038 216 084
7. Baan Bai Fern Restaurant, CT B300 038 216 XXX
8. Pan & David Restaurant, TWV B300 038 216 XXX
9. Lek Noi Restaurant, T B280 038 216 XXX
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11. Lek Tha Wang Restaurant, T B280 038 216 486
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13. ** Tham Pang Beach Resort, B450 - 550; T B320 038 216 XXX
14. Sichang Kayak Rental B200/day; snorkeling equipment 01 822 5540
15. * Koh Khaangkhaao Bungalows, B200 by arrangement, 01 XXX XXXX

