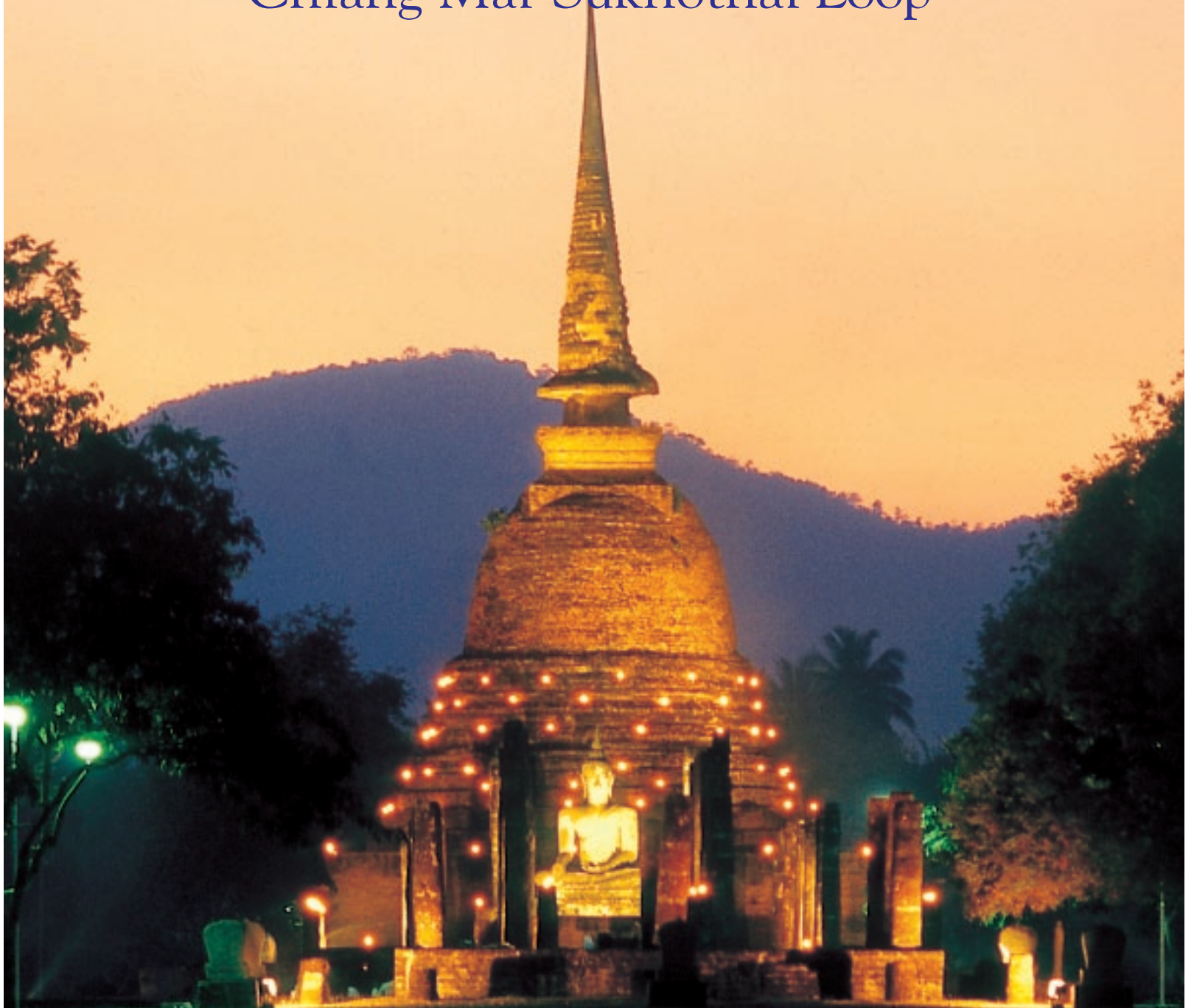


Budget WorldClass Drives

Chiang Mai-Sukhothai Loop



Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

SELF DRIVE VACATIONS



 **amazing** 1998
THAILAND 1999

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Budget WorldClass Drives

CHIANG MAI - SUKHOTHAI LOOP

Budget Rent a Car has more than 3,200 rental locations worldwide, including seven convenient locations throughout Thailand.

We're known for our superior customer service, great rates and wide variety of vehicles to choose from, including the adventurous Jeep Cherokee, the sporty Suzuki Vitara and the affordable Honda City.

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On behalf of Budget Rent a Car worldwide, we welcome you and yours to the Kingdom of Thailand. Thank you for including us in your travel plans.

Enjoy your Thailand visit!

SYMBOL LIST

Main Road	Kilometre Stone
Minor Road	Temple
Unsealed Road	Park
Suggested Routes	Water Fall
River	Hot Springs.
Province	Hotel/Resort/Guest House
District	Hospital
Key Point.	Gas Station
Distance Between Key Points (kms.)	Restaurant

Budget: Thailand



Honda City/Toyota Soluna

- 1.3 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 4, holds 1 large, 2 small suitcases.



Honda Civic or similar

- 1.6 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 4, holds 2 large suitcases.



Suzuki Vitara 4WD

- 1.6 litre, Automatic 4WD
- Seats 4, holds 1 large, 2 small suitcases.



Honda Accord or similar

- 2.0 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 5, holds 2-3 large suitcases.



Toyota Camry or similar

- 2.2 litre, Automatic sedan
- Seats 5, holds 3 large suitcases.



Jeep Cherokee 4WD

- 2.5 litre, Manual 4WD
- Seats 5, holds 4 large suitcases.

*** All vehicles have air conditioning and power steering.

Welcome to your exclusive Budget World Class Drive.

CHIANG MAI – SUKHOTHAI LOOP

The finest old wooden temples, World Heritage historical parks, untamed jungle, rugged mountainous scenery and hill-tribes in the remote reaches of north-western Thailand await you on this tour.

This Worldclass Drive takes you south to the city of Lampang before going on to the historical birth-place of the Thai Kingdom at Sukhothai. From there the full tour goes west to the border town of Mae Sot, a colourful ethnic crossroads.

A special tour goes south to the boundary of Thailand's last remaining extensive reserve of primary forest. There the remote district town of Umphang is the base for eco-adventure into the jungle for two days or more.

From Mae Sot the return route follows the Thai-Myanmar border north-west along the Moei River through country populated by the Karen. Striking karst scenery is followed by a pass through mountainous country to the Yuam River Valley and Mae Sariang. Turning north-east, the route crosses a major watershed before entering the valley of the River Ping and passing the highest mountain in Thailand en route back to Chiang Mai.

The full tour programme takes five days, but this can be shortened by returning to Chiang Mai directly from Sukhothai on alternative routes. This tour also offers scenic and cultural alternatives to the northern section of the busy main highway between Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

ACCOMMODATION

The raw distance for each day's drive is fairly short, allowing time for stops along the way as well as for side-trips. Destinations for each night, there-

fore, are flexible. The listings here only include the best places to stay along the routes. The main towns usually have local hotels (see maps) for commercial travellers, some of which have more expensive rooms or suites. The rooms in many of these hotels are often satisfactory, though basic. Full price indications for accommodation are listed as follows:

🏠🏠 (1500-3000 Baht)

🏠 (500-1500 Baht)

🏠 (500 Baht or less)

Major credit cards are accepted by the up-market hotels and restaurants, but otherwise you will need cash for the small, remote places along the route.

WHEN TO GO

The peak season runs from mid-November till after the Chinese New Year (at the end of the first lunar month of the calendar year) and rises again for the Songkran festival (Thai New Year) in mid-April. Advance booking is necessary for peak periods.

Warm clothing is needed for cold temperatures in upland areas, especially between November and March. The rainy season (July-September) offers turbulent skies and clearer visibility over the rugged landscape, not to forget low season discounts of 50% or more on accommodation.

MAPS, KEY POINTS AND INFORMATION

The maps in this booklet have been specially researched and prepared for this tour. Key Points along the route indicate important road junctions. A useful addition as a general map of Northern Thailand, however, is the "Thailand North" map published by Berndtson & Berndtson. Visitors will also find invaluable a good guide book providing cultural background and more comprehensive information.

TOUR PROGRAM

DAY 1

Chiang Mai - Lampang
99 kms.

DAY 2

Lampang - Sukhothai
205 kms.

DAY 3

Sukhothai - Mae Sot
166 kms.

DAY 4

Mae Sot - Mae Sariang
232 kms.

DAY 5

Mae Sariang - Chiang Mai
190 kms.

DAY 1 : CHIANG MAI - LAMPANG 99 kms.

The Thai Elephant Conservation Centre and Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang, the finest example of a Northern Thai temple, are highlights in a day's drive that goes south to Lampang, a historical city on the banks of the Wang River.

1 KEY POINT ONE

H11 to Lampang and Om Muang Rd.

2 KEY POINT TWO

H 11 (KM.20) & H1034 to Ko Kha

3 KEY POINT THREE

H1 to Chiang Rai & H11 to Chiang Mai

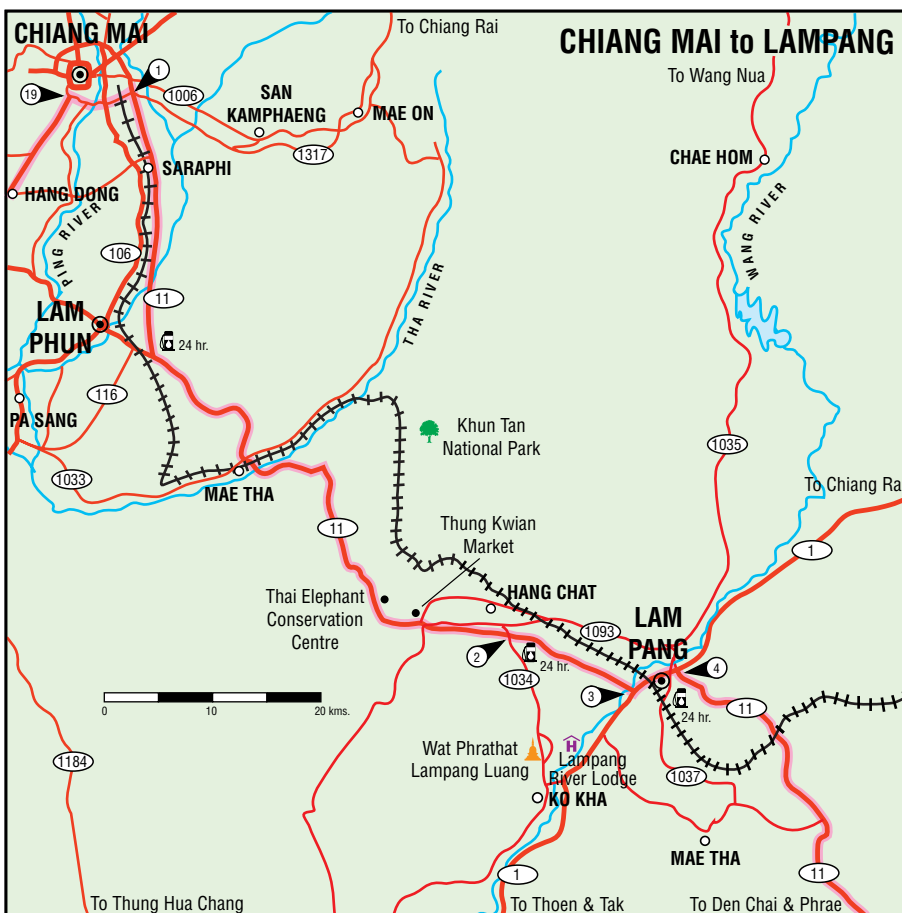
H 11 is a fast divided highway and the main trunk route to the south. If you are on the slower itinerary

outlined in this guide, you will still have to start early in order to visit Lamphun (alternative route) as well as catch the 11:00 show at the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre (ST.1). Many temples can be visited on this tour, however, and you may find it better to leave a visit to Lamphun for your return. Turn left off Highway 1 to enter Lampang City (see city map).

Lampang was formerly known as Khelang and has been in existence since before the 14th century. The ruling house of this city fought for independence from the Burmese in the 18th century and established an



Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang



autonomous northern vassal state centred on Chiang Mai, which was finally incorporated into the Kingdom of Siam in the late 19th century.

The old wooden trading buildings along the river front have been well-preserved in the Talat Kao area on the south banks. The commercial south part of the town can be seen in a tour by horse and cart starting from in front of the provincial office.

On the northern banks remnants of the old city walls enclose spacious compounds and temples. A large teak house built in 1885 called Ban Sao Nak is open to the public (10:00-17:00), and Burmese style buildings are found at both Wat Phra Kaew Ton Taew and Wat Pongsanuk Tai. Wat Chum Si and Wat Si Rong Muang south of the river are also Shan-Burmese in style.

For dining in the evening the river front offers several good restaurants and pubs; recommended is the Huan Chom Wang (17:00-22:30).

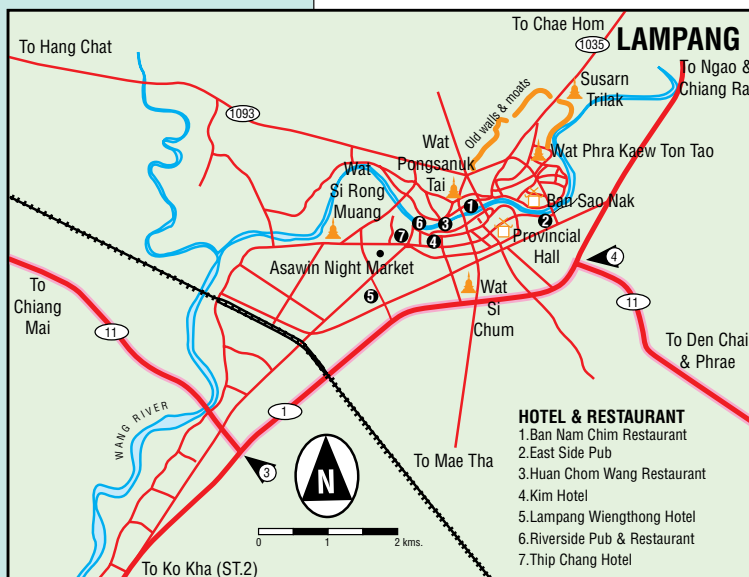
DAY 1: SIDE TRIPS

★ THE ELEPHANT CONSERVATION CENTRE — ST 1

(H11. KM.29. [1 km.]) This centre is an attempt to counter the threat to the Asian Elephant in Thailand and includes an elephant hospital. A modest entrance fee is charged for shows (10 & 11 a.m. everyday; 1.30 p.m. weekends only) and rides are offered.

★ WAT PHRATHAT LAMPANG LUANG VIA KO KHA — ST 2

(KM.20 [27 kms.]) Turn left (south) on H1034 to Ko Kha and Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang (12 kms.) Lovely old buildings are found within the fortified compound of what is considered the finest wooden temple in the region. A pamphlet available from the Phra Kaew Museum (08:00-17:00) in the temple compound to the south of the walls gives details and recounts the legend of the origin of the temple. Return by going on to Ko Kha (4 kms.) and then turning left (east) across the river and continuing straight to Lampang.



ACCOMMODATION

Lampang Wiengthong Hotel. 138/109 Phaholyothin Rd. T Suan Dok, Lampang 52100 Tel: (054) 225801-2, Fax: (66 54) 225803. 🏠🍷 A modern upmarket hotel.

Lampang River Lodge. H1 KM.591 opposite Susco Gas Station. Tel: (054) 226922. Bangkok Res. Fax: (66 2) 2560248.

🏠🍷 Relaxing riverside resort.

Pin Hotel. 8 Suandok Rd, Lampang 52100 Tel: (054) 221509, 322283-4. 🏠🍷 Small modern hotel with central location.

Tipchang Hotel. 54/22 Takroa Noi Rd, Sibtui, Lampang 52000. Tel: (054) 226 501-6. Fax: (66 54) 225362. 🏠🍷 Thai style mid-range hotel near night entertainment area.



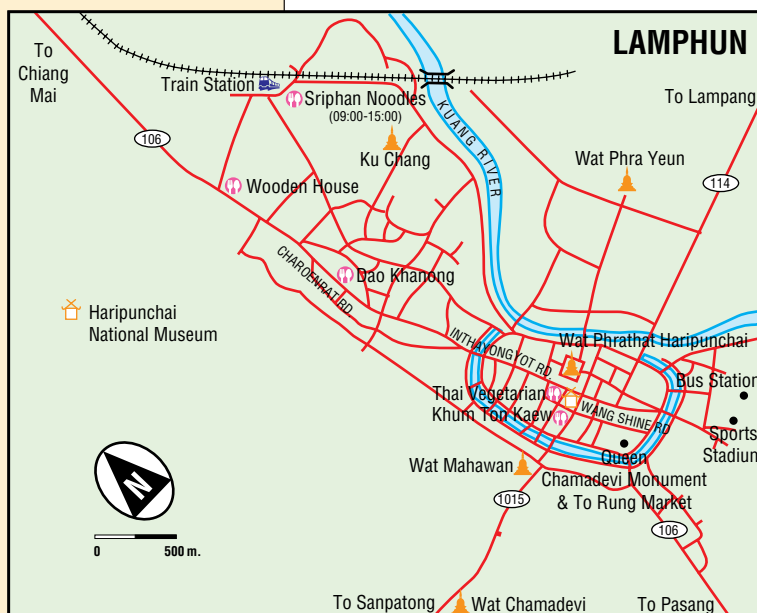
Thai Elephant Conservation Centre

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE VIA LAMPHUN

Wat Phrathat Haripunchai and Wat Chamadevi, Lamphun. (32 kms.) You may begin the day by taking the pleasant, but slow, tree-lined highway (H)106 through Saraphi to Lamphun (26 kms.). The city is said to have had its origin as a Mon settlement in the 10th century. Wat Phrathat Haripunchai and Wat Chamadevi temples are amongst the major temples of interest in the north.



Wat Phrathat Haripunchai



DAY 2 : LAMPANG - SUKHO THAI 205 kms.

The route passes into the Yom River Valley and follows it to the northern reaches of the central plains. There the ancient cities of Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai flourished prior to the rise of the great Siamese Kingdom of Ayutthaya.

4 KEY POINT FOUR

H1 to Chiang Rai & H11 to Den Chai

5 KEY POINT FIVE

H11 to Den Chai & H1023 to Wang Chin

6 KEY POINT SIX

H101 KM 29/28 and the road across the river in Amphoe Sri Satchanalai.

7 KEY POINT SEVEN

H1195 to Sukhothai and H1048 to Thoen

8 KEY POINT EIGHT

H101 Si Satchanalai/Kamphaeng Phet & H12 Sukhothai/Tak

H11 goes through secondary woodlands and a pass to the Wang Valley and down to Key Point 5, where you turn off onto H1023 for Wang Chin. The small district town has one restaurant on the river bank as well as some food stalls on the single high street.

The route to Si Satchanalai follows H1125 along the Yom River and then takes H1177, joining H101 after 28 kms.



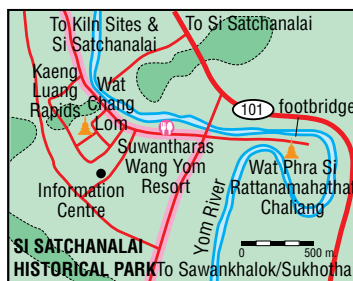
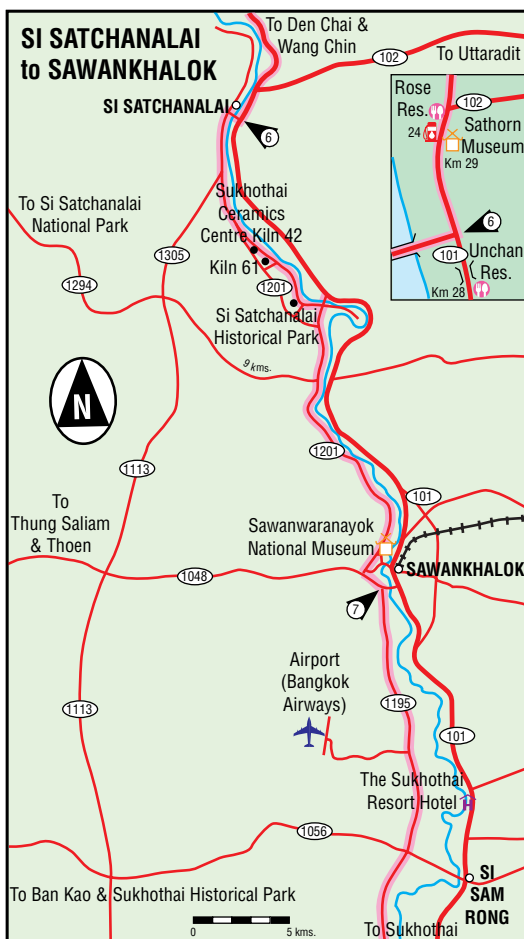
Wat Chang Lom

Si Satchanalai District town is also known as Hat Sieo, which is famous for the weave of the people of Lao Phuan descent. Looms can be seen beneath houses in the nearby villages, especially to the north across the river. The Sathorn Gold Textile Museum (08:00-18:00) provides an interesting opportunity to appreciate and buy some of the delicate work. Good restaurants for lunch are available in town.

Study the map of the Si Satchanalai-Sawankhalok and Sukhothai areas to determine your route and how far you want to go for the day. The fastest route to the Sukhothai Historical Park is via little used H1305 and H1113 (approx 52 kms.). The turn off south-west onto H1305 is south of KM.2 on the road that follows the west bank of the Yom River, but it is unmarked (except for a wooden sign to Si Satchanalai National Park-the return journey to the park waterfalls is 100 kms.).

H101 is the main route from which side trips may be made to Si Satchanalai Historical Park (KM.18) and Sawan-aranayok National Museum (Sawankhalok), but it is more pleasant to





take the less busy alternative route on the west bank of the Yom River. This will enable you to visit the kiln sites (left side of road after approx. 8 kms.), which are extensions of the National Museums (see below), and then drive on to the historical park and southwards.

Si Satchanalai National Park occupies a peaceful site on the banks of the Yom River, and the nearby Suwanthanas Resort is good for a meal if not to stay the night. Several local gold smiths are well-known for their hand-wrought jewellery.

Si Satchanalai was a provincial centre of the Khmer empire in the 12th century, before



Sukhothai Historical Park

becoming part of the Kingdom of Sukhothai that King Ramkhamhaeng built up at the end of the 13th century. Thai history books attribute to this kingdom the foundation of the independent (from the northern Tai, Khmer and Mon) Siamese Tai kingdoms that evolved into present day Thailand. At the height of its power the kingdom directly controlled the western half of



MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS IN SUKHOThAI PROVINCE

The museums (open Wed-Sun: 09:00-1600), historical parks and nearby temples in Sukhothai Province charge admission fees. If you plan to visit most of these, you can save by buying a 'total ticket', which will give you access to all sites in the province within 30 days.

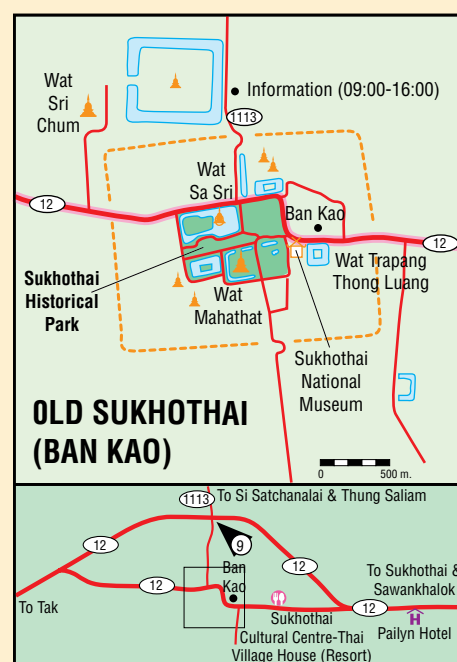
There are separate charges for vehicles to enter the Historical Parks (Access to Si Satchanalai Historical

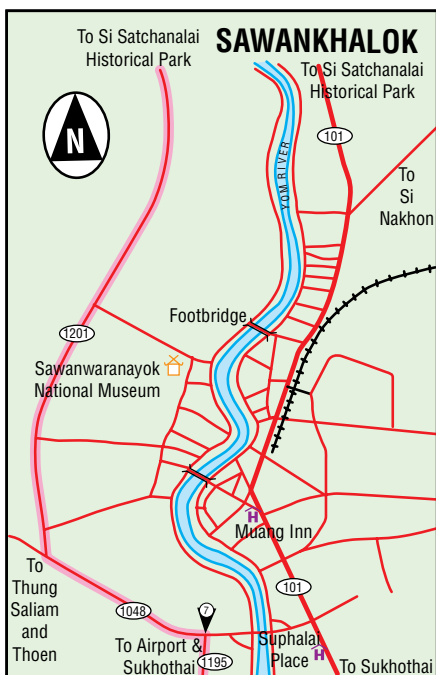
Park is on foot only after 17:00 until the park is closed at 19:00. A detailed map is available at the information centre. For a map of Sukhothai Historical Park, go to the adjacent National Museum)

The National Museums (at Sawankhalok and Old Sukhothai) and the kiln site extensions contain Buddha images, pottery, old photos, models as well as in-depth information about the sites.



Kiln 61





the upper Chao Phraya basin and enjoyed vassal tribute from as far as Pegu in Burma, Luang Phabang in Laos and Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the south. After Ramkhamhaeng's death in 1298, Sukhothai rapidly declined, making way for the growth of Ayutthaya.

The provincial town of Sawankhalok is smaller than (new) Sukhothai and seems to have more charm. Both

have hotels, but Sukhothai has more to offer at night.

ACCOMMODATION

(listed in order of location on the recommended tour route).

Suwanthanas (Wang Yom Resort). 78/2 Mu 6 Si Satchanalai. Tel: (055) 611179, 612277 ext. 279 Fax: (66 55) 623448. Mobile: 01-3565627. 🏡🏡 Lovely garden atmosphere and quiet bungalows on riverbanks. Adv. booking recommended.

Suphalai Place Hotel. 39 Mu 4, Sawankhalok, Sukhothai 64110. (055) 641627 Fax: (66 55) 641772. 🏡🏡 A small but reasonable hotel 2 kms. south of the centre of Sawankhalok

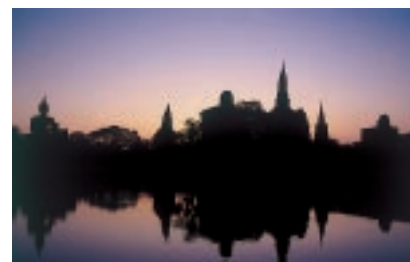
The Sukhothai Resort Hotel, 99 Mu 7 Tambol Samruan, Sisamrong District, Sukhothai. Tel: (055) 681698-9, 681700. Fax: (66 55) 681697. 🏡🏡🏡 KM 19/20 left turn by large seated Buddha north of Samrong District. Luxurious resort on the banks of the Yom River.

Northern Palace Hotel (Wang Nua). 43 Singhawat Rd, Sukhothai 64000. Tel: (055) 611193-4 Fax: (66 55) 612038. 🏡🏡 Thai style hotel in the middle of the new town of Sukhothai.

Pailyn Hotel. 10/2 Charodwithi-thong Rd (H12), Sukhothai 64210.

Tel: (055) 613310-5 Fax: (66 55) 613317.

🏡🏡 The best hotel close to the Historical Park in Sukhothai.



Sukhothai Dawn

DAY 2: SIDE TRIP

★ WIANG KOSAI NATIONAL PARK. — ST 3

(H1023. KM.74. north turn 3 kms.) The park centres on the relatively small Mae Koeng Luang Falls. A walkway leads up (approx. 300m) to the seventh level of the cascades.

QUICK RETURN ROUTES TO CHIANG MAI.

Sukhothai - Chiang Mai via Thung Saliang, Thoen, Li and Chom Thong. 326 Kms.

Take H1113 from Sukhothai Historical Park approx. 29 kms from Key Point 9 and turn left (west) onto H1048 and head for Thoen (82 kms) via Thung Saliang (20 kms). Though sign posts are in Thai only, the road numbers are clearly marked.

From Thoen you may proceed along H1 to Key Point 3 and the fastest route to Chiang Mai (total distance 186 kms), or you may take the less busy route H106 via Li. This will allow you to return either via Lamphun, visiting Wat Bang Pang at KM.86 on the way (215 kms — see alternative route on Day 1), or via Doi Tao using H1103 to Key Point 17 in Hod, rejoining the full tour (257 kms. see Day 5).

The first (approx.) 30 kms. of H106 to Li has many bends and is a conduit for slow, heavy trucks carrying lignite. Once past the lignite mine, the route becomes easy.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE SOUTH TO BANGKOK VIA KAMPHAENG PHET

From Key Point 8 it is just over 80 kms. on H101 to a third historical park at Kamphaeng Phet. The town owed its importance to its location on trading routes following the River Ping on the frontier of the Kingdom of Sukhothai between Ayutthaya and Lanna.

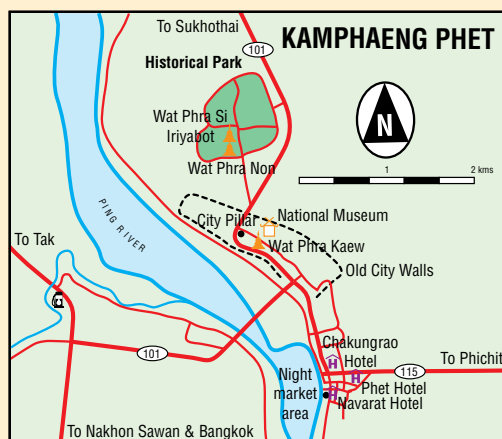
The town makes a convenient overnight stop on a two-day drive to Bangkok. Modern hotels in the downtown area include:

Phet Hotel. 189 Bamrung-rat Rd., Kamphaeng Phet 62000. Tel: (055) 712810-5 Fax: (66 55) 712816. 🏡🏡

Chakungrao Hotel. 123/1 Tedsa Rd. Kamphaeng Petch 62000. Tel: (055) 711315, 711325-6. 🏡🏡



Wat Phra Si Iriyabot



DAY 3 : SUKHOThai - MAE SOT 166 kms.

The route crosses to Tak and the mountains that bound the western flank of the River Ping Valley. Visit national parks and hill-tribe villages on the way to Mae Sot, a town grown rich on border trade.

8 KEY POINT EIGHT

H101 Si Satchanalai/Kamphaeng Phet & H12 Sukhothai/Tak

9 KEY POINT NINE

H12 Sukhothai/Tak and H1113 to Si Satchanalai

10 KEY POINT TEN

H1 Lampang/Tak & H12 to Sukhothai

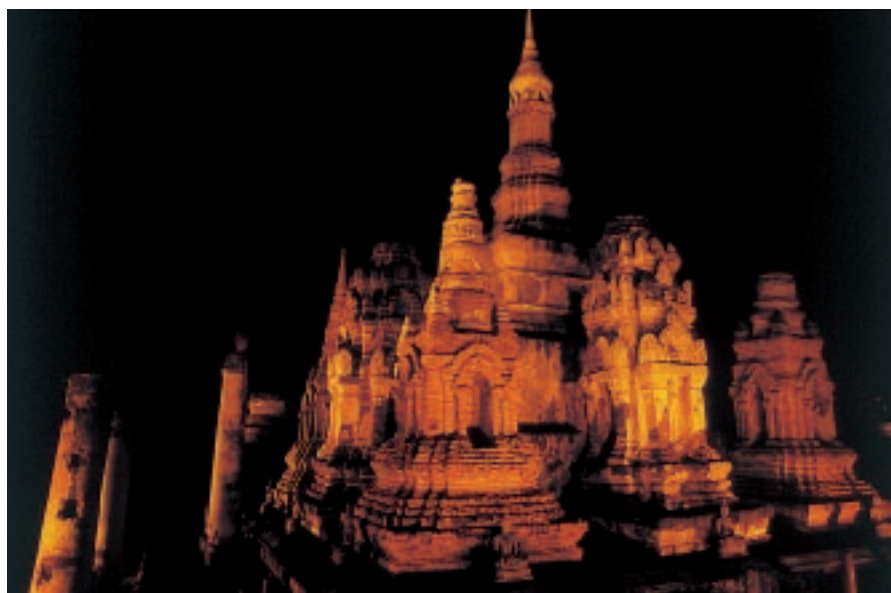
11 KEY POINT ELEVEN

H1 Tak/Kamphaeng Phet and H105 to Mae Sot

12 KEY POINT TWELVE

H105 Tak/Mae Sot & H1090 to Umphang (traffic circle)

From Sukhothai Historical Park, H12 is a fast drive to Tak. You may turn



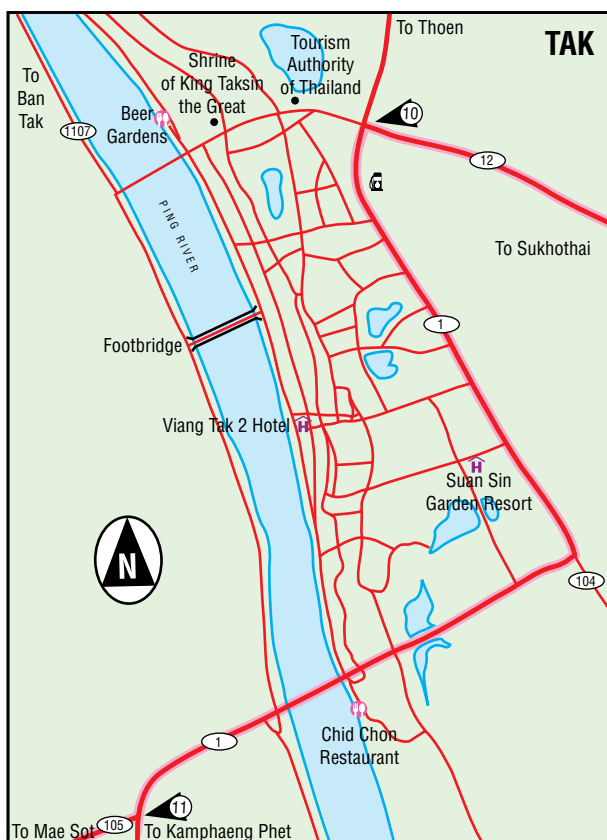
Wat Mahabat, Sukhothai

left at Key Point 10 or drive straight to the river. Turn left (south) immediately before the bridge across the river to see the town and go to the Chid Chon Restaurant.

Turn west onto H105 at Key Point

11. The drive offers side trips to parks and hill-tribe villages, as well as the opportunity for fresh coffee at the hill-tribe products market at KM.29. A shrine at KM.70 honours Chao Pho Phawo, who died defending the spot





Mae Sot morning market

against a Burmese army in the late 18th century.

Mae Sot is a busy trading town best known for its morning market. You may purchase gems, semi-precious stones and other products from Myanmar, perhaps at prices that are good.



Lahu Shebleh

DAY 3: SIDE TRIPS

★ BHUMIPHOL DAM — ST 4

(61 Kms.) To reach the world's eighth largest concrete arch dam turn north on H1 and then west at KM.462 to Sam Ngao. Follow the signs from Tak to Ban Tak and Sam Ngao for an alternative rural route on the west bank of the Ping. A rest house near the dam offers accommodation.



Amazing Tree

★ LAN SANG NATIONAL PARK — ST 5

(3 kms.) The park contains a small waterfall popular with the people of Tak.

★ LISU, HMONG AND LAHU VILLAGES — ST 6

(5 kms.) A right (south) turn on a sealed concrete road just before KM.26 leads through a Lisu and a Hmong village to a Hill-tribe Development Centre. Drive through the centre to reach a Lahu village. Other villages of the Lahu Shehle sub-group may be reached by taking a north turn (5 kms. 4WD) along a dirt road near KM.27.

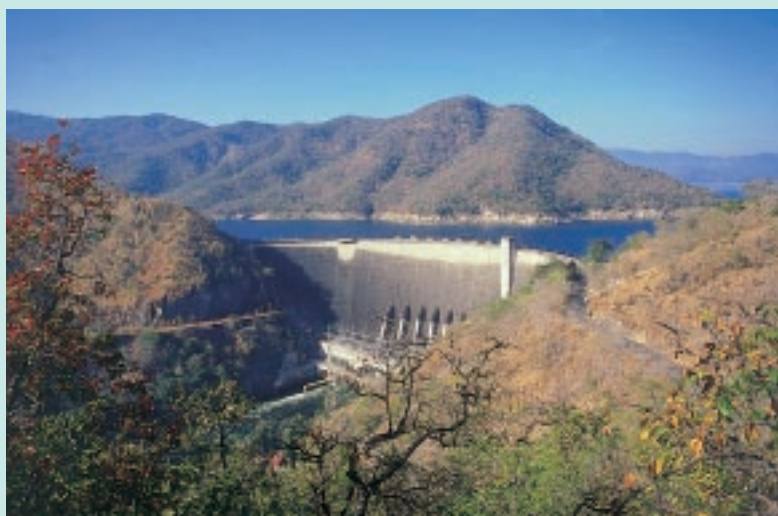
★ TAKSIN MAHARAT NATIONAL PARK — ST 7

(3 kms. 4WD after 2 kms.) The

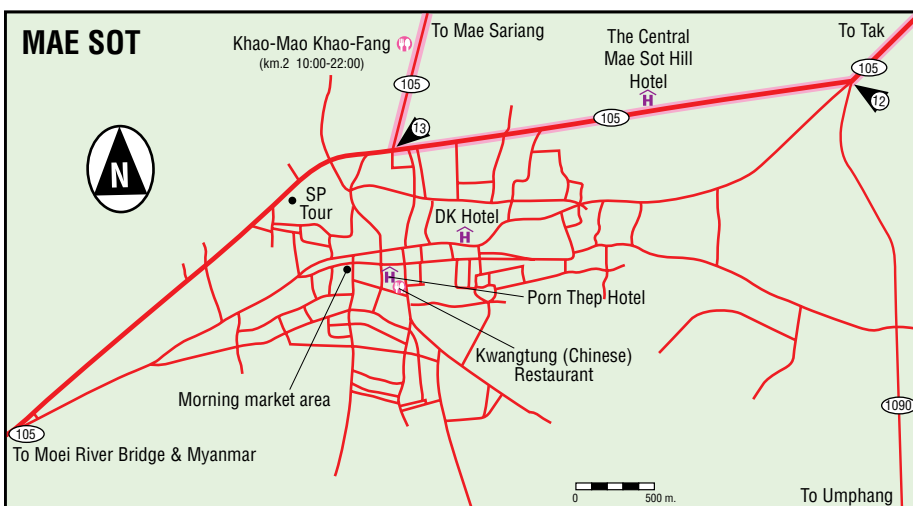
park is famous for a huge specimen of anisoptera, a species of dipterocarp. You have to sign in before entering the park. To reach the tree you walk 400m down a very steep track to the bottom of a ravine. Bird calls, primary forest and cool temperatures in the evergreen lower down compensate for the stiff climb back up. Allow one hour for the walk.

★ THE MOEI RIVER FRONTIER CROSSING — ST 8

(5 kms.) Drive past Key Point 13 to the end of H105 at the bridge across the Moei into Myanmar. Tourists may walk across for a day visit (until 17:30) and will need 10 US\$. You will get a new visa upon returning to Thailand. The Grapow Pla restaurant on the north side of the bridge ramp is good.



Bhumiphol Dam



ACCOMMODATION

Viang Tak 2 Hotel. 236 Chomphol Rd. Tak 63000. Tel: (055) 512507-8. 🏠🏠
A modern medium rise hotel on the river front near the main market of Tak.

The Central Mae Sot Hill Hotel, 100 Asia Highway, Mae Sot, Tak 63110. Tel: (055) 532601-8 Fax: (66 53) 532600. Bangkok Office Fax: (66 2) 541 1038. 🏠🏠🏠 The most luxurious hotel in the Mae Sot area.

Porn Thep Hotel. 25/4 Soi Sri Wiang, Prasathwithi Rd, Mae Sot, Tak. Tel: (055) 532590-4. 🏠🏠 Thai style medium rise hotel in the middle of town.

SPECIAL SIDE TOUR TO UMPHANG

(164 kms one way. 4WD) H1090 is the only way in to the small district town of Umphang, which is bounded by the Burmese border and by mountainous and protected nature reserves.

From Key Point 12 H1090 is a good highway. H1206 (KM.31 west turn) goes to Pop Phra District, the large Karen refugee camp at Ban Mo Koe, and the border crossing at Ban Wa Le. The Kulap Doi (Mountain Rose) Restaurant. (07:00-21:00: Tel: 055 520349) and Phacharoen Falls (700 m. west) are both near KM.36 and provide an opportunity to break.

The last gas stations before Umphang are around KM.44, after which point the road narrows and the surface deteriorates. The rest of the journey follows a spectacular route along precipitous slopes, high ridges and across deep ravines. Sharp corners, steep grades, pitted and broken road surfaces (depend-

ing on state of upkeep) make travel slow. Allow at least five hours for the journey.

Umphang offers comfortable rustic-style bungalow/guest house accommodation. There are noodle shops on the high street and restaurants at the guest houses. Night entertainment is provided by well-known folk singer Khru San at Gift House (H1090. KM.162), when he is in town.

Guest houses offer combination rafting, elephant and trekking tours through magnificent scenery to waterfalls and Karen villages along the Umphang River. The minimum required time is two nights in Umphang for the main day-trip to Tilosu falls, but longer treks for wild-life enthusiasts can be arranged.

Though walk-in clients are catered for, advance booking is advised, especially during peak periods.

ACCOMMODATION IN UMPHANG

Bunyaporn Resort. 106 Umphang-Palatha Rd, Umphang, Tak 63170. Tel: (055) 561040-1. 🏠 - 🏠🏠 An older guest house with newly-built riverside bungalows on stilts.

Tu Ka Su Cottage. 40 Mu 6, Umphang, Tak 63170. Tel: (055) 561295 or mobile: (01) 8258238. Fax: (66 2) 9164164. 🏠 - 🏠🏠 Khun Suchart ('Woody') provides friendly service in adjoining family-sized bungalows.

Umphang Hill Resort. Umphang-Palatha Rd. Umphang, Tak 63170.

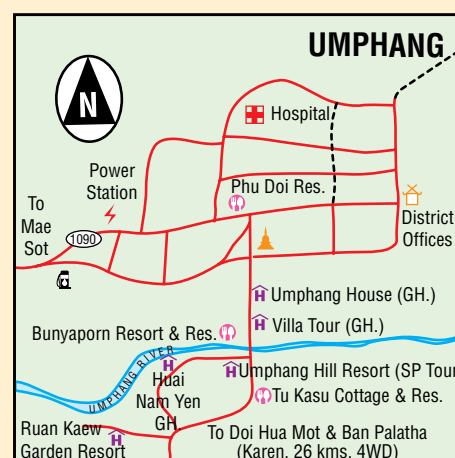


Tilosu Falls

Tel: (055) 561063-4. Fax: (66 53) 561065. 🏠 - 🏠🏠 Part of SP Tour which has an office in Mae Sot (055) 546112-4 (see map) and operates a rustic guest house near Mae Salit (Day 4).



Skaw Karen



DAY 4 : MAE SOT - MAE SARIANG 232 kms.

Karen villages in striking scenery are found along the Moei River that forms the frontier between Thailand and Myanmar. The route follows the river before climbing away to the north to pass over into the valley of the River Yuam and to the small town of Mae Sariang.

13 KEY POINT THIRTEEN

H105 to the Moei River and H105 to Mae Sariang.

14 KEY POINT FOURTEEN

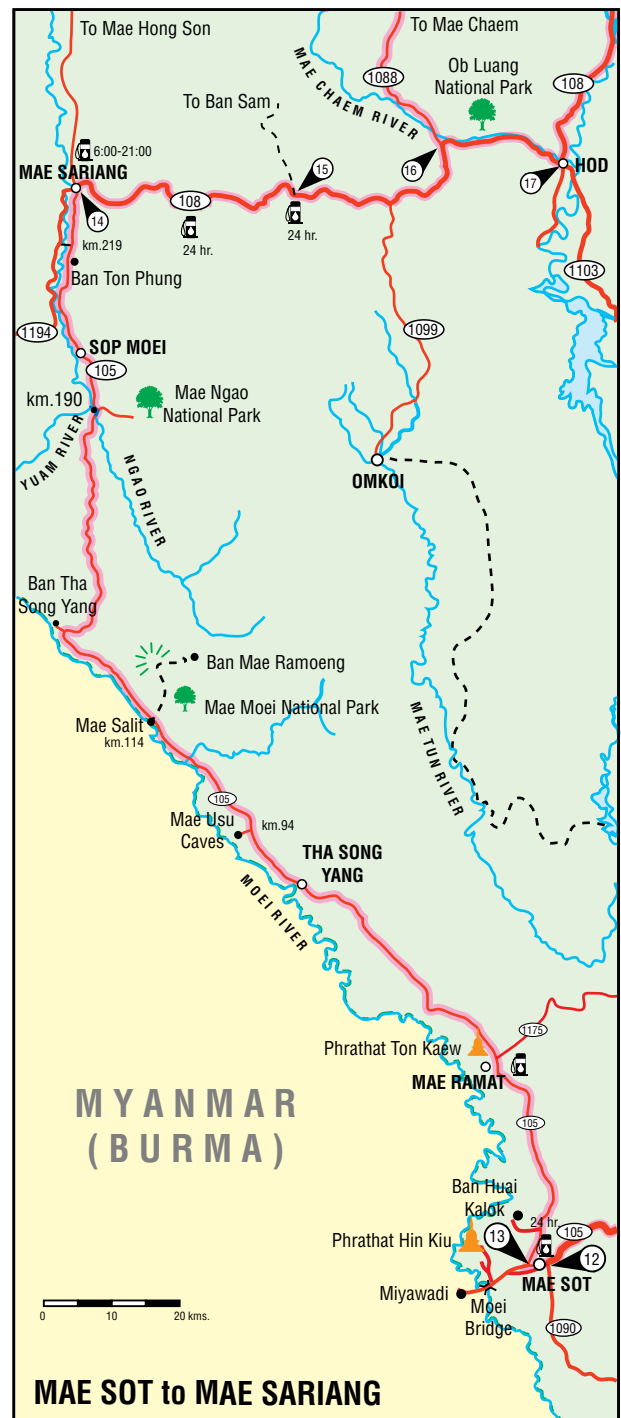
H105 to Mae Sot and H108 Mae Sariang/Chiang Mai

CAUTION:

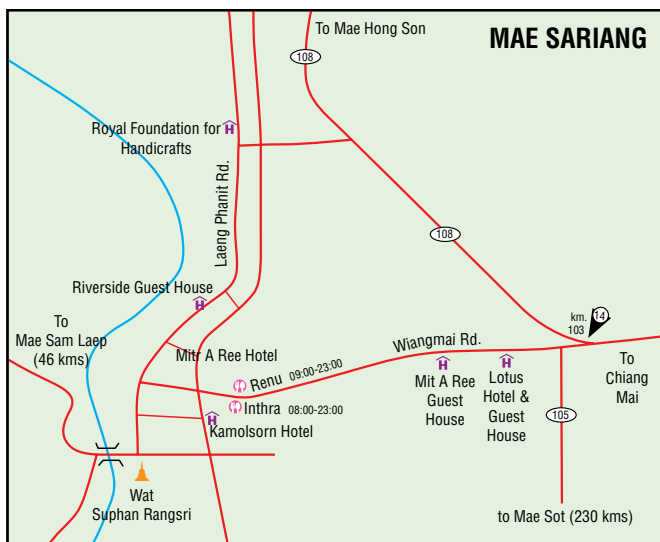
Do not travel H105 between the district towns of Mae Ramat and Sop Moei after dark. Military checkpoints may prevent you from entering remote stretches of road because of recent instability along the border. The route is quite safe during the day, but you should make sure you have a full tank of gas when you leave Mae Ramat or Tha Song Yang district towns.

The Moei river flows north-west into the Salween river in Myanmar through borderlands occupied by the Karen. Until recently the Burmese side of the border was under control of independent Karen, many of whom have fled to Thailand and now live in refugee camps in the Mae Sot area (H105 passes one of these around KM.60.)

Tha Song Yang District town is a small border town, but the scenery is more impressive around the half-way point at Mae Salit (KM.114), where there is a small restaurant (06:00-18:00). You may detour to see life on the



Moei River



river at Mae Salit and Ban Tha Song Yang, before the road turns passes over to the valley of the Mae Ngao and down to Mae Sariang on the Yuam River.

ACCOMMODATION

Kamolsorn Hotel (Mae Sariang Rd).
Tel: (053) 618623. Fax: (66 53) 681203.
Functional downtown hotel
Lotus Guest House (Wiang Mai Rd)

Tel: (053)
681048, 681156.

Functional hotel in entertainment complex.

Mit A Ree Guest House (Wiang Mai Rd) Tel: (053) 681109. Fax: (66 53) 681280. Bungalows at the back of the hotel compound offers the best accommodation in Mae Sariang.

DAY 4: SIDE TRIPS

★ MAE USU CAVES — ST 9

(KM.94. West turn 2 kms.) Part of the Moei River National Park, the caves are about 300m. long. Karen guides (voluntary contribution expected) will show you through the caves.

★ NATIONAL PARKS OFF H105 (4WD) — ST 10

The Moei River National Park HQ is 11 kms. up a dirt road at an east turn north of KM.114. There are two guest houses after 15 kms (check first if they are open. The Monkrating Guest House is run by SP Tour. Mae Sot Tel: (055) 546121-4 Fax: (66 55) 532279. Bangkok Res. Fax: (66 2) 5737942). The road climbs to viewpoints (18-20 kms) over misty valleys in the early morning, before descending to the Karen village of Mae Ra Moeng (35 kms.)

At KM.190 a dirt road goes to Mae Ngao National Park (5 kms.) and to a viewpoint over the morning mists.



Near Ban Tha Song Yang

DAY 5: MAE SARIANG - CHIANG MAI 190 kms.

The main road crosses the high country populated by the Karen and Lawa between the Salween and Ping watersheds before entering the valley of the Mae Chaem River. Routes upstream and downstream along the Mae Chaem Valley offer different approaches to the highest mountain in Thailand, Doi Inthanon.

15 KEY POINT FIFTEEN

(KM.56) The bridge at Ban Kong Loi and the turn off for side trip 11.

16 KEY POINT SIXTEEN

(KM.22) The junction of H1088 at the start of the alternative route to Mae Chaem, the summit of Doi Inthanon and Chom Thong (117 kms.)

17 KEY POINT SEVENTEEN

The clock tower at Hod and the

junction of H1012 to Doi Tao and Li with H108

18 KEY POINT EIGHTEEN

Wat Phrathat Chom Thong

19 KEY POINT NINETEEN

Airport Plaza intersection of H108 and the Om Muang Rd near the Budget Office.

After the climb away from the Yuam River Valley, the route

crosses cleared uplands in a series of passes between small valleys. Side roads lead to Karen and Thai villages in the plateau country.

The road descends from the pine forests of the Bo Luang plateau, reaching the turn off for the alternative route to Mae Chaem on H1088 at KM.22. Go to Ob Luang gorge at KM.17 on H108 for short walks in the National Park on a picturesque part of the Mae Chaem river.

H108 continues to Hot and Chom



DAY 5: SIDE TRIPS

★ BAN SAM — ST 11

(H108 KM.56 Left turn [north] after bridge. 46 kms. 4 hrs). This road follows high ground to the new Mae Tho National Park and the Hmong village of Lao Lee (KM.16). From Lao Lee the road descends passing Karen villages [At Ban Mae Ap walk 1.5 kms to a waterfall at KM.24] in beautiful mountain scenery, eventually reaching the Lawa village of Ban Sam.

Thong. The village of Nong Ap Chang (Pa Saeng Da Textile Museum KM.69 right turn [east]. 500m.) is famous for local weaving. In Chom Thong itself, Wat Phrathat Sri Chom Thong is an important pilgrimage site for Thai Buddhists.

From Chom Thong you may visit Doi Inthanon (KM.60 left turn [west] on H1009. 47 kms.) as well as to the Mae Ya Falls (KM. 60 left turn [west] on H1009 for one kilometre and then left turn [south] again).

From Chom Thong, H108 is a fast route back to Chiang Mai and the Budget Office near Key Point 19.

ACCOMMODATION

Khao Krairaj Resort. KM.17. Hot-Mae Saring Rd. Hod. Tel: (01) 2243818. 🏠 Plank wood rooms in lovely setting at Ob Luang National Park.

Hot Resort. (KM.5 [4 kms. from Hot]) Tel: (053) 460070. Mobile: (01) 9501700. 🏠 Rustic A frame huts by the Mae Chaem River.

Pang Thong Hotel (KM.58 on the north side of Chom Thong). Tel: (053) 826605. Fax: (66 53) 826609. 🏠 Functional new hotel near the town.



Mae Phan Falls, Doi Inthanon



Spaghnum moss on Aangb Kha
(Doi Inthanon)

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO MAE CHAEM & DOI INTHANON

Turn left (north) at KM.22 onto H1088 to Mae Chaem (45 kms.). The road passes the Thephanom hot springs after 9 kms. Beware of trucks carrying lignite using the same road. Mae Chaem is a small rural district town famous for weaving. Surrounding villages are traditional and have some lovely old temples, and the nearby hills are populated by the Hmong and Karen.

H1192 is a narrow road with many sharp curves up Doi Inthanon, joining H1009 after 22 kms. Turn left (north) onto H1009 to reach the royal

chedis at KM.40 before going to the visitor centre and nature trail at the summit.

The journey down to Chom Thong (47 kms. from the summit) passes the park headquarters and three major waterfalls. On H108 a 2 kms. detour south along H108 to Wat Phrathat Sri Chom Thong (Key Point 18) is worthwhile before returning to Chiang Mai.

Lai Hin Guest House (2 kms from Mae Chaem on H1088). Tel: 828258. 🏠 The most comfortable accommodation and restaurant in the Mae Chaem area.

SAFE DRIVING IN THAILAND

THAI ROADS

All main and most minor roads are sealed. Warning signs and reflective arrows mark sharp corners, while temporary signs mark hazards like landslides and road works (these can be extensive where upgrading is in process). Main intersections are illuminated with sodium lighting. The government is firmly in control of the whole country and highway robbery has been unheard of for many years.

ROAD SIGNS AND KILOMETRE STONES

Bilingual (English/Thai) road signs indicate destinations and route numbers before intersections, and show the road number and the distance to the next main destination after the intersection. Kilometre markers show the road number and distance down the road on the front face. Distances to the next destination in the direction of travel are found on the side of the stone.

LOCAL DRIVERS

Most drivers in Thailand are reasonable, if not a little selfish for they tend to give way little. Be careful of oncoming vehicles that overtake and force you to take to the hard shoulder. Be ready to go onto the hard shoulder at a moment's notice, especially on corners and hills! Be careful of vehicles entering from side roads, which may not stop.

AT NIGHT

Many vehicles do not have rear lights, especially carts, motorcycles and bicycles. Do



STOP



NO PASSING



STOP (POLICE) CHECK



SLIPPERY ROAD



STEEP HILL



FALLING ROCKS (LAND SLIDE)

**For reservations, please contact your
travel consultant or call Budget:**

In the U.K.: 0541 56 56 56

In the U.S.: (800) 527-0700

In Germany: 01 80 / 5 24 43 88

In Australia: 13-28-48

In Singapore: 532-4442

In Thailand: 66 2 203-0250

not drive fast just after dusk as lots of local traffic is returning to the villages. Many traffic accidents happen at this time in Thailand! Be careful of oncoming vehicles with one light — they may not be motorcycles! Night driving is not recommended.

FUEL

24 hour service stations are found on main routes and

at the major towns, but rural stations will close in the evening. Prices are around 13 baht a litre, and gas stations will require cash.

ROAD RULES

The maximum speed limit is 60 kph in town and 90 kph on highways, if you can believe it! Seat belts should be worn and driving while drunk is illegal.

DRIVERS LICENSE

All drivers must hold a current, non-probationary license. The license may either be Thai, or from the renter's country of residence (with an English translation), or an international driver's permit. Licenses (and a valid passport) must be carried at all times when driving.

IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT:

If possible leave your vehicle where it came to rest, (so that police can apportion blame for the accident) and contact the police as soon as possible. Dial 191 for a toll free call to the local police or 1699 for the tourist police. Make sure injured parties get to a hospital as soon as possible (other Thais will often take care of this) and set up warnings for other drivers (placing branches of trees on the road); then contact Budget. Stay with your vehicle and take care of your valuables!

DRIVING ON DIRT ROADS

Dirt Roads go all over the mountains, but even Thais can get lost in the maze of cross-roads, so taking a guide (approx. 500 Baht/day) for remote roads is advisable.

The tracks are steep and narrow and very tricky in the rainy season. If you plan an overnight trip on a dirt road trip take the following: torch, candles and matches, warm clothes (especially in winter), water, dry food, insect repellent, and a full tank of gas. Drive very slowly to prevent mechanical problems from stranding you.

Happy safe driving!