

Optional Tours

Saturday 13 October 2018

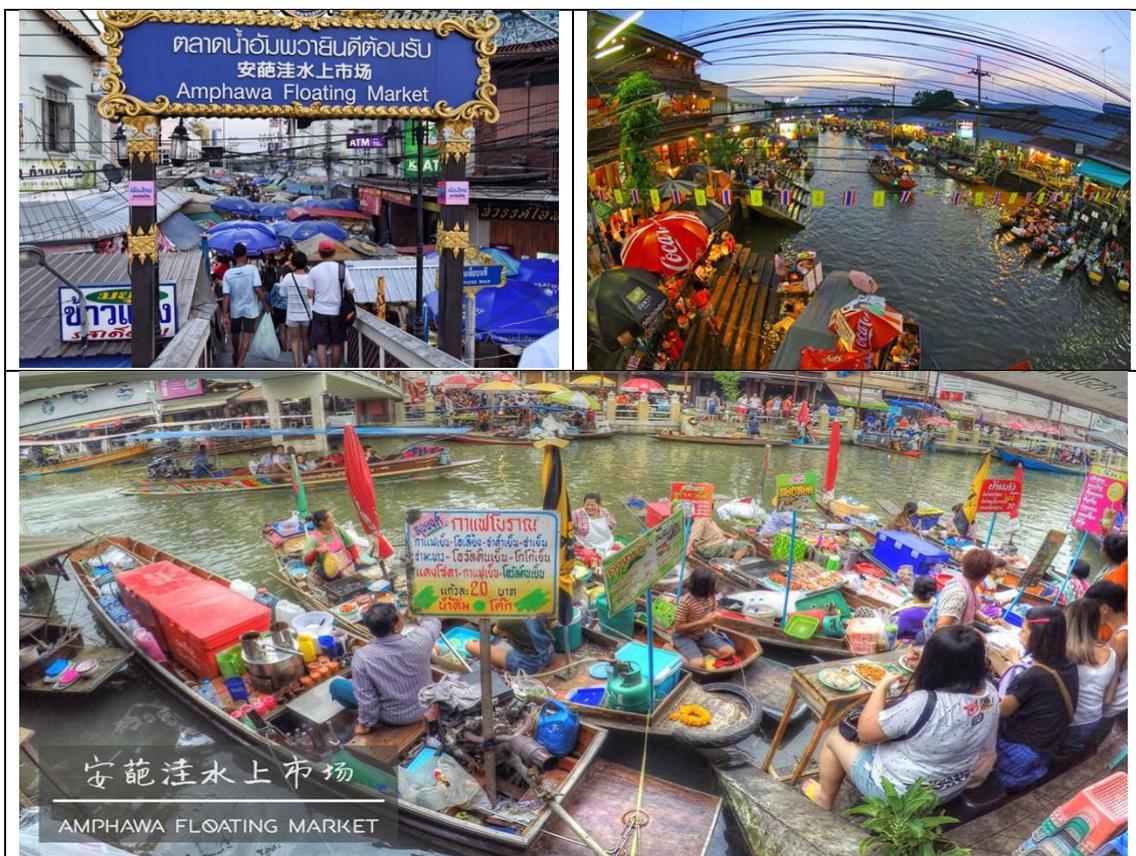
1. Amphawa Floating Market

Located about 60 km from Nakhon Pathom. This once small village was apparently already present in the mid-Seventeenth Century. It has become such a magnet for tourists and Thai weekenders that food stalls have grown from the riverbanks and stretched far into the surrounding streets.

The main draw is of course eating seafood grilled on wooden boats moored around the famous central bridge, serving an appetizing array of huge prawns, shellfish and squid. From noon until late in the evening, the smell is simply irresistible and customers flock to each side of the river all day long.

Customers perch on rows of narrow steps leading down to the water and food is brought directly from the boats onto really tiny tables. If you don't feel like sitting on a concrete ledge very close to brownish waters, walk a bit further from the bridge to find restaurants with real tables and chairs. Even better, try to get a seat on the balcony of the restaurant next to the bridge. The nicest and most quiet restaurant is located at the very end of the broad walk where the canal meets the Mae Khlong River.

All along each side of the canal, old charming wooden shops sell Amphawa souvenirs, from the obvious T-shirt to some more interesting creations, and of course lots of sweets and snacks.



The bus/van will depart from C.U.T. at 09.00 and return to C.U.T. at 16.00.

2. Sanam Chandra Palace

Before ascending the throne, the then Crown Prince Vajiravudh (later H. M. King Rama VI) came to this city to pay homage to the big pagoda. He wished to build a palace here as a retreat and a residence during his pilgrimage trip to the pagoda. The construction began in 1902 by the end of the Fifth Reign (1868 – 1910). It was completed in 1911. H.M. King Rama VI named it Sanam Chandra Palace.

Sanam Chandra Palace is located in the town of Nakhon Pathom, about 2 kms west of Phra Pathom Chedi. It occupies an area of about 355 acres with a big court in the middle, surrounded by ring roads, with water canals on the outer perimeter. The beautiful halls that located in the middle of the Palace include:

Phiman Pathom Hall, the first hall to be built in the Sanam Chandra Palace. A 2-storey European building in which King Rama VI resided before his ascension to the throne.

Vatchari Romya Hall, this is a 2-storey hall. It was built in Thai architecture: multi-layered roof with colourful tiles on the turret; with a swan-like finial on the roof ridge, representing the head of garuda and small finials jutting out of the 2 corners of the gable.

Samakki Mukmat Hall, a Thai style hall. The building is raised 1-metre above the ground with 2 staircases running down on both sides. This hall is connected to the Vatchari Romya Hall by a door. It was a meeting hall for King Rama VI.

Phra Tamnak Chali Monkol-asna, located nearby in the Southeastern direction. The 2-storey building is of European architecture, plastered in caramel-yellow, with roof tile in red.

Phra Tamnak Mari Ratchrat Banlang, a 2-storey wooden building and painted in red. The building is located opposite Phra Tamnak Chali Monkol-asna and are connected via a walk way. This walk way resembles a bridge with a roof, walls, and windows.

Phra Tamnak Tabkwan, this a teak building with a palm leaf roof. It is situated on the opposite side of the road from Phra Tamnak Tabkaeo, a little further away from Phra Tamnak Mari Ratchrat Banlang. Under the royal command of King Rama VI, the teak building was constructed to preserve traditional Thai architecture. It was also used for merit-making and classic Thai performances.

Phra Pikkadesh Shrine, it was built to house the image of Phra Pikkanaesuan (or Ganesh), the Indian god of arts. The shrine is located in a large field, in front of the Sanam Chan Palace and is in the center of the Palace compound.

Ya-Lei Monument This is an actual size iron cast figure. The dog, Ya-Lei, was very close to the heart of King Rama VI. Ya-Lei was a hybrid dog born in the Nakhon Pathom prison. Ya-Lei was a very smart and loyal dog. The King was very fond of Ya-Lei, so much so that Ya-Lei was envied, and was later shot by an envious person. King Rama VI was much saddened when Ya-Le passed away and commanded that a copper statue of Ya-Lei be cast and placed on a pedestal in front of Phra Tamnak Chali Monkol-asna.



Group 1: depart from C.U.T. at 14.00 and return to the hotel at 15.30.

Group 2: depart from C.U.T. at 15.00 and return to the hotel at 16.30.

Remark: The bus/van will leave from the hotel for BBQ dinner at C.U.T. Lake at 17:30.