

— DISCOVER —
PATTAYA



Discovering Mae Pim

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



DISCOVERING MAE PIM

The Discover Pattaya Team recently discovered the delights of Mae Pim.

Mae Pim is a delightful and unspoilt beachside area in Rayong. Sometimes overlooked by visitors to this neighbouring province to Pattaya because of the popularity of the island of Koh Samet for their weekend getaway. However, Mae Pim is just another half an hour 's drive away from Ban Phe Pier and of course when you visit this part of Rayong there's no speedboat or ferry journey to take. Also by having your own car with you there's plenty of opportunity to explore.

What struck us first about this captivating coastal location were the miles and miles of pristine beaches and beautiful blue sea. There's a serene ambiance as you walk along the sand with a lovely, gentle sea breeze day and night and wonderful sunrises and sunsets that can be enjoyed whilst you're there.



Any lover of fish and fresh seafood, will be in seaside heaven. There are numerous seaside restaurants serving dishes crafted from locally caught fish. Crab, Rock Lobster and many varieties of shellfish are available to choose from whilst swimming in the brightly lit tanks at the front. There are also many charming coffee shops and themed restaurants. These often have a Scandinavian flavour as this area is extremely popular with tourists from Sweden. In fact King Gustaf of Sweden actually has a beachfront house here.

On the Saturday evening Discover Pattaya chose to visit the popular thatched roofed Tequila Sunrise restaurant where our dear friend Barry Upton was entertaining the diners with his Kings of Swing set. Barry has been a constant visitor to this region and often plays gigs at both this restaurant and The Dubliner next door. Following a fun filled night the next day, fortified by a very good Full English at The Poem we decided to head inland.

Why name a cafe 'The Poem' you may ask? Well another claim to fame of this area is that it is the birthplace of one of Thailand's most celebrated figures. Sunthorn Phu. Born in 1786 during the Ayutthaya period he is often referred to as the "Shakespeare of Thailand" for his profound impact on Thai literature and culture. So just as we would never dream of visiting Stratford Upon Avon without visiting The Bard's home, a visit to the Sunthorn Phu monument was a must.

The monument sits atop of a grassy mound and features a bronze statue of Sunthorn Phu seated with his writing tools, symbolising his enduring influence on Thai literature and culture. Then scattered around are statues featuring characters from his many poems and ballads. There were many Thai visitors happy to take photographs amongst these.



So with a little culture thrown into the mix of a wonderfully relaxing weekend we were indeed extremely happy to visit Mae Pim and would urge you to also visit.



DISCOVER PATTAYA

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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

As the temperature heats up we're all looking for places to cool down and the air conditioned comfort of the many fine hotels and restaurants you'll find in this month's edition will provide just the escape you need. Or why not try immersing yourself in the sea and go Diving? The kids will love it as you will see from our Discover Diving article on page 32 of the Sporting section.

Before long the extended Songkran will be upon us. Although here in Pattaya the truth is that Songkran has always been an extended holiday in this region. Love it or hate it, you just have to prepare for what is bound to be some full on revelling. If you're not a lover of the water carnage then you should start planning your escape now. Why not head to Mae Pim a lovely part of Rayong and one that I have only recently discovered.

Or even closer to home you might want to visit the charming Pattaya Paradise Beach Resort. Just off the Sukhumvit by Mason in Na Jomtien. There is something so relaxing about this place it almost feels as if you're on an island like Koh Larn or Koh Samed, yet it's only minutes from home. So get planning now and see what you want to do when the streets of Pattaya become a water soaked battle ground!

Have a great month and stay hydrated!

Gloria x

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This year the 36th Annual General Meeting for the Pattaya International Ladies Club was held in the Miners Ballroom at Gems Mining Pool Villas. The PILC is a place for ladies of all nationalities and ages to make friends, have fun and raise money for local charities. The meeting farewelled the 2023/2024 committee and reviewed the audited results. Marj Garrean, the outgoing President, thanked the members and committee for having her as President then handed over to the committee to report on their goals and what they had achieved for the year.



The newcomers' coffee morning was reintroduced to welcome new ladies in a small casual setting. The regular coffee mornings and lunches were well attended with new venues included as well as some member's favourites. Some events at the more popular venues sold out well in advance. A focused social media presence has resulted in an increase in engagement and has attracted many new members to their events (including mahjong and golf) throughout the year. The welfare team thanked all of the members for their support through the raffles and various fundraising activities. From special events, the Christmas Bazaar returned for the first time since 2019, and was well received. There were drinks nights at the popular venue, Royal Varuna Yacht Club, and they celebrated Christmas at The Pullman in late November.

Then it was on to the nominations and introductions of the executive committee for 2024-2025. Sue Saunders, (2023 Treasurer and Special Events) has stepped up to take on the President role. She thanked Marj for her service as President and also thanked Geeta Elliott and Michelle Eddy (outgoing Hospitality team) for their service and Beverly Spencer for conducting the AGM. She then welcomed new committee members and thanked the remaining committee for continuing on this year. Sue is well known within the PILC. She plays mahjong on Mondays, golf on Fridays, welcomes new members every month at the newcomers coffee morning, is always present at special events (as she has organised them) and at coffee mornings and lunches. Sue's focus is about showing women there is a place for them in Pattaya, celebrating what we have in common and ensuring the members know it is their club. The committee is there to administer the club, however they remain open to feedback and welcome suggestions

Sue, who is also continuing as Treasurer, will be supported by Jody Abrams (new Vice President), Wendy Khan (Secretary), Melissa Jenks-Olivit (Membership), Sheila Trudgett (new Hospitality co-ordinator), Lhen Lhen Mortela and Liz Shepherd (Welfare) and Leesa Davidson (Social Media). A last minute surprise was Violette Gauthier volunteering to take on Trips & Activities.



AGM 2024

Ladies, make sure you are following the PILC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/PattayaInternationalLadiesClub>

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Location



Discover a Piece of Paradise right here in Pattaya.

By Gloria Jones

We're more often than not in such a rush that we forget to go look for somewhere to relax and spend time. I noticed this when driving down the newly renovated Sukhumvit stretch from Pattaya into Na Jomtien. The overpasses have really eased congestion around turnings, and meant there are fewer U turn spots to snarl up the traffic. However, the result of this is that we drive along this concrete stretch on our route from A to B without really taking in what's on the way.

For example, just next to the turning for the Mason Hotel is the unprepossessing entrance to Pattaya Paradise Beach Resort. It once had a charming garden but all the road construction soon put paid to that. So now the entrance does not really give a clue as to the delights you will find when you drive down towards the sea and to the resort proper.



Park your car and the first place you will see as you stroll from it is a charming pool villa that sleeps 12 and is ideal for large family or friends' get together. With all the amenities of a hotel but the seclusion of a private house it comes complete with its own poolside barbecue!

Then further down to the main resort where you can choose to stay in a Paradise or Sea View Jr. Suite, Poolside or Sea View room. Wherever you choose you'll find the stunning location right by the beach will make you feel like you've escaped to an island. The beautiful gardens and trees, the sea breeze and the excellent, reasonably priced Thai food make this place feel like its on Koh Samet rather than just a few minutes from home. So go Discover it for yourself.



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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

PADDY'S FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

What is it about St Patrick's Day that makes it so very popular? Certainly it is world-wide, the most popular of all the UK's saints' days and seems to have transcended its religious origins to be more of a celebration of everything Irish. The widespread adoption of the shamrock symbol, the colour green, an association with jokes and good cheer make St Patrick's day a universally embraced and celebrated phenomenon.

Here in Pattaya you definitely don't need to be Irish to get on board with the March 17th celebrations. The vibrant and inclusive nature of St. Patrick's Day appeals to people of all backgrounds fostering a sense of unity. Perhaps also helped along by the drinks associated with the day? Particularly the iconic stout, Guinness, a rich, dark beer with a creamy head which people will seek out on this day even if they never drink it on any other.

I personally enjoy Guinness with a dash of blackcurrant "Black Velvet" or you can try a "Black and Tan" by blending it with pale ale or a "Black and Gold" with champagne. Or Kilkeny, a cream ale that is also brewed by the makers of Guinness and also has a creamy head but more subtle caramel undertones and a red hue. Irish whiskey such as Jameson may also take the spotlight, on this day.

So if you are looking for a place to sink a few and enjoy the craic? Well why not try Paddy's Pub on Lake Mabprachan? It's just the place for the celebration and as you would expect will have plenty of both Guinness and Kilkeny on tap, plus all those silly hats we love to wear on the day.



Also there is sure to be a lively atmosphere with shared laughter and plenty of fun. Music throughout the day will firstly be in the form of live jazz from the pub's saxophone player. Then in the evening the irrepressible Power Jam Duo will certainly get you on your feet and ready to dance.

So this March 17th get ready to kick up your heels, embrace the colour green and raise a pint to the patron saint of Ireland: St Patrick. He is renowned for converting the country from paganism to Christianity and less reliably for banishing snakes from Ireland. For sure you'll be able to find a few like minded souls who will relish being "Honorary Irish" for the day!



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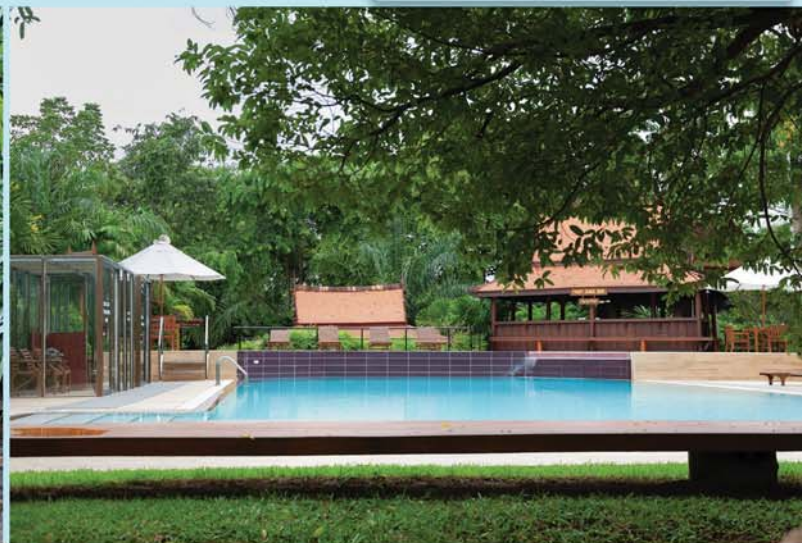




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IS BREXIT RESPONSIBLE FOR LE GAVROCHE CLOSING?

Founded in 1967 by Michel and Albert Roux, Le Gavroche has stood as a bastion of French culinary excellence for over 50 years. The first restaurant in the UK to be awarded three Michelin stars, it played a key role in training and inspiring chefs who went on to put British restaurants on the map. Marco Pierre White, Gordon Ramsay and Marcus Wareing being three of the household names who came through its kitchen. Located in the heart of London's Mayfair the restaurant's culinary philosophy has always revolved around classic French techniques infused with contemporary creativity. The menu showcased seasonal ingredients meticulously sourced from the finest suppliers to ensure a symphony of flavours to tantalise the palate.

Stepping into Le Gavroche was like entering a world of elegance and refinement. When I am asked about my favourite meal I have to stop and think. but when asked about my favourite restaurant meal, I do not hesitate. Without a doubt, dinner at Le Gavroche was an unforgettable dining experience. Although it was many years ago, I can still remember the sublime chicken liver parfait with champagne sauce, followed by wild duck with fresh figs.

Le Gavroche , with its opulent décor and impeccable service exuded a sense of warmth and hospitality, making every guest feel like royalty. It was back in the day when smoking was allowed in restaurants. I remember being struck at how the dedicated serving staff cleared ashtrays almost immediately after ash had hit porcelain. Yet they were never annoying or hovering as they served the food or topped up the wine and water glasses. Like elegant ghosts they seemed to perform their diners every need before being asked and then hover back to keep a watchful eye for the next requirement.

So it is particularly sad for me to hear Michel Roux Jr's announcement that Le Gavroche will be closing. He says this is because he wants to spend more time with his family, but that may be a way to maintain his pride, as there have been prior indications of the restaurant struggling financially. Le Gavroche dropped to two Michelin stars soon after Roux Jr took over from his father, Albert Roux, and uncle Michel Roux Sr in 1991 - two massively respected culinary figures.



Although in 2007 Le Gavroche was awarded: "Most Consistently Excellent Restaurant" at the Tatler Restaurant Awards. So perhaps the demise of this iconic Mayfair landmark has more to do with the dreaded Brexit fallout? Brexit pushed up the price of imported products, a key cost for all restaurants, and has made the hiring of skilled staff more difficult and expensive. Most top restaurants in the UK rely on the fine hospitality skills found over the channel, where waiting is seen as an art, not a dead-end job.

For the next generation of restauranteurs in the UK, Roux Jr has left a warning. It's going to be tough and even Michelin stars nowadays are not enough to keep you afloat.

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ROUTE 66

There's something quite joyful about an American Diner. I have fond memories of the ones I visited during holidays in Florida. The bright colours - the booths to sit at and the memorabilia around the walls. Now, as the only themed American diner in Pattaya, Route 66 Diner is aptly named sitting as it does alongside the big overpass on the approach to Mabprachan lake.

It has been in existence about 3 1/2 years now and during that time has had to survive the pandemic, enforced takeaway only restrictions and road works, whilst the aforementioned overpass was being constructed. So it's a tribute to the owner's resilience and the quality of the food served here that has ensured this eatery has survived all the setbacks.

Recently, when Discover Pattaya went to Route 66 we were pleased to see a steady stream of customers visiting. From single diners, to couples and families with kids being treated to some great Americana fayre. The owner lived in Florida for 20 years which is where he developed his love for American diner food. This is also why the decor and general ambience is so spot on. I personally would prefer the music played to be a little louder and obviously American rock and roll classics would sit very well with the energy of the place. But then I would also like to see waiting staff on roller skates although, I realise that could just be a disaster waiting to happen!

What does sit very well with my memories of American food is the amazing selection in Route 66's menu. The breakfasts look amazing and unsurprisingly are extremely popular, as are the smoked meats, sandwiches, tex mex food and desserts. So much so that a few months ago the selection of desserts was extended to include pies including classics such as Pecan and Apple. Also ice cream dishes such as Sundaes and Banana splits (if you're a Brit) or Banana boats (as I've found out they're called if you're American). There are also specials available every day such as a great Meat Loaf on Mondays, Tacos on Tuesdays, Chicken Parmesan on Thursdays.



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The special on the Friday we visited was a classic Pork Hot Dog with Fries which at just 99 baht had to be tried. You can choose from either Cajun or Hand Cut fries and your dog comes with plenty of mustard and tomato ketchup and a portion of homemade coleslaw plus for me a special request for mayonnaise which was excellent. The Route 66 Burger was succulent and very juicy as the burgers at Route 66 are all made from USDA choice beef, inside, I am delighted to say a Sesame seed bun - I am no lover of the brioche burger!. Chilli Con Carne is available as a bowl for 190 or a cup for just 95 baht which with Nachos adds an interesting side dish.

There are also soups, salads, pancakes, bagels, omelettes. Thai food, pasta, steaks, chops, ribs, BBQ chicken and smoked brisket. You could literally eat here for months and keep trying something new which is great if you have kids as every Wednesday a kid per paying adult can eat free. Route 66 is indeed a treat for Kids.....of any age!

☎ 061 391 4898
Route66pattaya.com



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We will also organize more activities at Funtasea - Kids World, with the following packages for you to choose from.



For more information or to book your place, please contact Funtasea - Kids World by emailing: funtasea@royalcliff.com or calling (+66) 38-250421 ext. 2064

Sunday 31 March 2024
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TOP THAI STIR-FRY DISHES

Phat kaphrao

This traditional Thai stir-fry combines minced meat or seafood with holy basil and various other ingredients such as shallots, garlic, and chili peppers. The dish is flavored with soy sauce, sugar, and fish sauce, and typically comes served with rice, fried eggs, and fish sauce on the side. Interestingly, phat kaphrao is ranked as the fourth most common dish ordered by foreigners in Thailand.



Pad Thai

Pad Thai is Thailand's national dish, a flavorful stir-fry (pad in Thai) dish consisting of rice noodles, tofu, dried shrimp, bean sprouts, and eggs. If it's made with meat, chicken and pork are some of the most popular choices. The flavors are an intricate combination of sweet, sour, and salty, with a well-balanced contrast of textures. Pad Thai is probably one of the most popular Thai dishes abroad. Its origins can be traced to 1932 when there was a public contest to find a new national noodle dish, and the winner was a Pad Thai consisting of noodles, radish, sprouts, peanuts, and eggs.

Phat si-io

Phat si-io is a noodle dish often prepared and served from street stalls. It consists of big noodles which are stir-fried with thinly sliced pork, beef, chicken, or seafood. The dish is popular because of its fragrant aroma coming from fried soy sauce (both light and dark varieties), garlic, eggs, and Chinese broccoli, which are also included in the pan. The dish is also spelled as pad see ew, with pad meaning fried, and see ew meaning soy sauce, so the name literally means fried soy sauce.



Pad kee mao (Drunken noodles)

Pad kee mao (more commonly known as drunken noodles) is a stir-fry noodle dish originating from Thailand, similar to phat si-io. It is made with broad rice noodles, chicken thighs (or breast), garlic, red chilis, kaffir lime leaves, galangal, baby corn, brown sugar, fish sauce, soy sauce, and holy basil. Other versions of the dish use squid or different seafood as the main ingredient. There are many theories as to the origin of its name, but the most commonly accepted one is that pad kee mao is a popular food of choice for late-night drinking. 1

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ASIAN OPTICAL

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Navigating the Thai Education System: A Guide for Parents

By Mr Ashleigh Bignall, Founder of the British Learning Centre

Introduction:

Thailand's education system is rich in cultural nuances and traditions that may differ from those in other countries. For parents living in Pattaya, understanding the intricacies of the Thai education system is crucial for making informed decisions about their children's education. This guide aims to shed light on key aspects of the Thai education system, offering insights and practical tips for parents navigating this educational landscape.

Understanding the Thai Education System:

The Thai education system comprises three main levels: primary, secondary, and further education. Each level has distinct characteristics and features that contribute to a holistic educational experience for students.

Primary Education:

Primary education in Thailand spans six years, starting from Prathom 1 (Grade 1) to Prathom 6 (Grade 6). The curriculum includes subjects like Thai language, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education. It lays the foundation for students' academic journey and emphasises the development of fundamental skills.

Secondary Education:

Secondary education consists of lower secondary (Mathayom 1-3) and upper secondary (Mathayom 4-6) levels. Students typically choose one of two academic tracks: Science-mathematics or Arts-mathematics. Upper secondary education prepares students for university entrance exams and offers specialised coursework aligned with their chosen track.

Further Education:

Further education in Thailand includes universities and vocational institutions. Admission to universities is highly competitive, and students usually take a standardised national examination (O-NET) to determine eligibility for various programs. Vocational education provides practical skills training, offering an alternative path for students not pursuing a university degree.



The Role of Exams:

Examinations play a significant role in the Thai education system. Standardised tests, both national and regional, are used to assess students' academic proficiency. The results often influence academic advancement and university admissions. Understanding the examination system and preparing students accordingly is crucial for parents seeking the best educational outcomes for their children.

School Selection:

Pattaya boasts a variety of schools, ranging from public and private to international institutions. Public schools follow the Thai National Curriculum, while private and international schools may offer different curriculums such as British, American, or International Baccalaureate. Parents should consider factors such as language of instruction, teaching methodologies, extracurricular activities, and class size when selecting a school for their child.



Parental Involvement:

Active parental involvement is encouraged in the Thai education system. Parents often participate in school activities, parent-teacher meetings, and school events. Building a strong relationship with your child's teachers and staying informed about their academic progress fosters a supportive learning environment.

Cultural Considerations:

Thai culture places a high value on respect for teachers and elders. Parents should instill these values in their children, emphasising the importance of showing gratitude and maintaining a positive attitude towards learning. Understanding and respecting cultural norms can contribute to a harmonious educational experience.

Language Challenges:

For expatriate families who choose to place their child in an international school, language differences may pose challenges. While all international schools must offer Thai language lessons as part of their timetables, additional exposure to the Thai language can enhance cultural integration. Consider enrolling your child in language classes to bridge this gap.

Navigating the University Admission Process:

For students approaching the end of their secondary education, the university admission process is a crucial step. It involves preparing for the O-NET examination, researching universities and programs, and meeting admission requirements. Seek guidance from designated staff in your child's school and stay informed about important deadlines to ensure a smooth transition to further education.

Conclusion:

Navigating the Thai education system may seem complex at first, but with a deeper understanding of its structure and cultural nuances, parents in Pattaya can make informed decisions that positively impact their children's academic journey. By actively participating in their child's education, choosing the right school, and embracing the cultural aspects of the system, parents can contribute to a well-rounded and successful educational experience for their children in Thailand.



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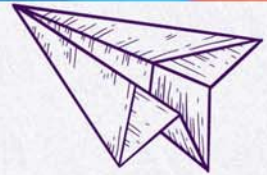
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Sports Update

For March by Steve Wade

First things first. March means Cheltenham. It starts a bit earlier this year, running from the 12th until the 15th of the month and the timings are great for the local horse racing fans, as the first race each day goes off at 1.30, giving us four great evenings of entertainment. It looks very much like the Irish will dominate proceedings again but we do have Constitution Hill, the long odds-on favourite for the Champion Hurdle and still trying to cement its reputation as one of the greatest of all time. The Gold Cup is the big race on Friday and Willie Mullins sends over Galopin Des Champs, last year's winner and in blistering form at the moment. It will take a mighty performance from a rival to dethrone either one of them.

The Formula 1 season is in full swing and there are races scheduled throughout the month. They roll into Bahrain on the 2nd, go on to Saudi Arabia on the 9th and then make the long trip to the iconic leg in Australia, which goes off the grid on Sunday the 24th. Some big news about Lewis Hamilton joining Ferrari recently has been rather overshadowed by the row surrounding Christian Horner over some inappropriate behaviour, which continues to rumble on and the investigation continues.



The Premier League has four full match days in March, with a break coming on the weekend of the 23rd-24th. With due respect to Arsenal, who still have a major chance of lifting the title, the fixture that really catches the eye is the visit of Manchester City to Anfield on the 10th. It would be unfair to describe the match as a title decider as every game is vital at this stage but a victory would deal a huge psychological blow to the losing team. At time of writing Manchester City are on their usual end of season run and Liverpool are plagued by injuries and I feel a victory for City would be a serious message to their opponents. We shall see.



The six Nations concludes on the 10th with a tremendous double bill which starts with the visit of the French to Wales at 10pm local time and then we go straight into the last match of the tournament, between England and Ireland at Twickenham, a great day of sport for rugby fans everywhere.

That's the major events in March, we'll take a good look at the first golf major of the season in April, the Masters, in our column next month, along with the Champions League and the Grand National. Happy viewing everyone.

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SCUBA DIVING FOR CHILDREN

A way for the whole family to enjoy quality time together.

Over the last few decades, with customer demographics changing, the face of scuba diving has changed as well. Luckily the misconception that scuba diving needs to be a macho male activity has largely faded and more and more families are getting involved in diving activities with programs specially designed for younger people. Children as young as eight years old can enroll in the PADI Bubblemaker program and continue their diving experience with more fun activities through the PADI Seal Team program.

Once they turn ten, kids can take the PADI Open Water course and even progress and complete the PADI Junior Adventure Diver course. Seafari Dive Center offers these PADI youth programs and courses not only to families but international schools. This is an ideal way to get young children immersed in diving. This in turn, will make them care more about their islands, their coastlines and their oceans - and they'll want to get others involved too!





Experience the thrill of breathing underwater for the first time with the PADI Discover Scuba Diving program, the world's leading try scuba diving program. This one-day program allows potential new divers to take their first breaths underwater while under the close guidance of a PADI instructor. Not a certification course in itself, but will lead to a fun packed day out. After completing the Discover Scuba Diving program this training can be credited toward the Open Water course. During the day your instructor will brief you on all the equipment and safety procedures needed. After a skills review in water deep enough to stand up in, your instructor will guide you through the shallows to the reefs edge. Here you will see many small fish and corals of many varieties.

About us

Seafari Dive Center in Pattaya opened in the 1970s. It is the longest established dive operator still running and one of the first in Thailand. Proud to be awarded a 40 years membership as a PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Five Star Instructor Development Center. Making us one the very first in Thailand. Having taught 1000's of divers over the many years to successfully participate in the underwater realm. We are still operating today under the watchful eye of Managing Director David Wright, who himself has been a Master Instructor for over 30 years in Thailand. Offering the full range of PADI courses, from first timers to instructors to full Technical Divers. Daily dive trips to the many coral islands and shipwrecks around the Pattaya and Samea Sarn area. Three purpose-built dive boats to choose from, all with new rental dive equipment.

Why dive in Pattaya

Many of you may have taken a trip to Koh Larn and think that is all there is to offer. In fact, from Pattaya to Samae Sarn, Sattahip there are around 30 coral fringed islands and 5 large ship wrecks to choose from. Mostly the islands are off limits to tourists and under the control of the Thai Navy, although divers and snorkelers can enjoy these waters. Turtles are very common sightings here and they return every year to lay their eggs on several of the beaches. The visibility underwater is not as good as some of the southern islands such as Phuket, but this is compensated by the wide selection of the underwater ecosystem.



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ACTION MAN

After shifting from South Africa to Switzerland, Mike Horn embraced life as a land-based adventurer and thrill seeker – and then became a sailor. He has since completed 27 circumnavigations and carved out a career in exploring extreme environments. The Sunreef ambassador is now focused on raising awareness of climate change and the importance of sustainable technologies.

Born in Johannesburg on July 16, 1966, Mike Horn grew up spending a lot of time outdoors, climbing, cycling and fishing, while also excelling at sports including rugby, cricket, athletics and tennis. After school, he did two years of military service with the country's special forces leaving South Africa when he was 24. Due to apartheid, South Africans could only travel to Israel, England and Switzerland so Mike ended up in Switzerland and quickly got known as a guy willing to try everything in the world of extreme sport. Abseiling, canyoning and rafting, jumping out of planes, kayaking down waterfalls, lead to a career as a professional adventurer and in 2023, he began the four-year 'What's Left' expedition. This included the Arctic, Amazon, Antarctica, Patagonia, Australian desert, New Zealand, northern Canada, Alaska and Asia.



Then he was called by Laurent Bourgnon, a Swiss-French sailor who was competing on an Orma 60 trimaran called Primagaz and needed a crew member. Mike was thankful to have the opportunity to be on one of the world's fastest boats, winch, move sails around and participate in racing the boat across the Atlantic and Indian oceans. He loved the Grand Prix season, sailing in the regattas and longed to have his own boat but didn't have enough money to buy one. However, after a journalist wrote an article about Mike's dream of walking and sailing around the equator, a multimillionaire got in touch and said he wanted to help. He bought Mike's first boat, a Corsair F-28, foldable trimaran designed by Farrier in Australia.

"I didn't have time to learn but in a way, getting on the boat without thinking of the storms and the dangers made it easier. I understood wind, how it works, and how a boat gets sucked and not blown in those things, but to be able to properly trim a sail and really know at what heading you must steer comes with time and explanation. So I had a book and read about the angles of sailing and stuff. At the same time, I had Iridium satellite telephone service so if I really needed information, I could call Laurent Bourgnon, or whoever, to help and give me a solution. So, I had an online course when there was no online and that's how I crossed the Atlantic Ocean! The Atlantic gave me a little bit of experience but crossing the Pacific gave me even more. I spent three months on the equator - I was catching rainwater and fishing to survive."

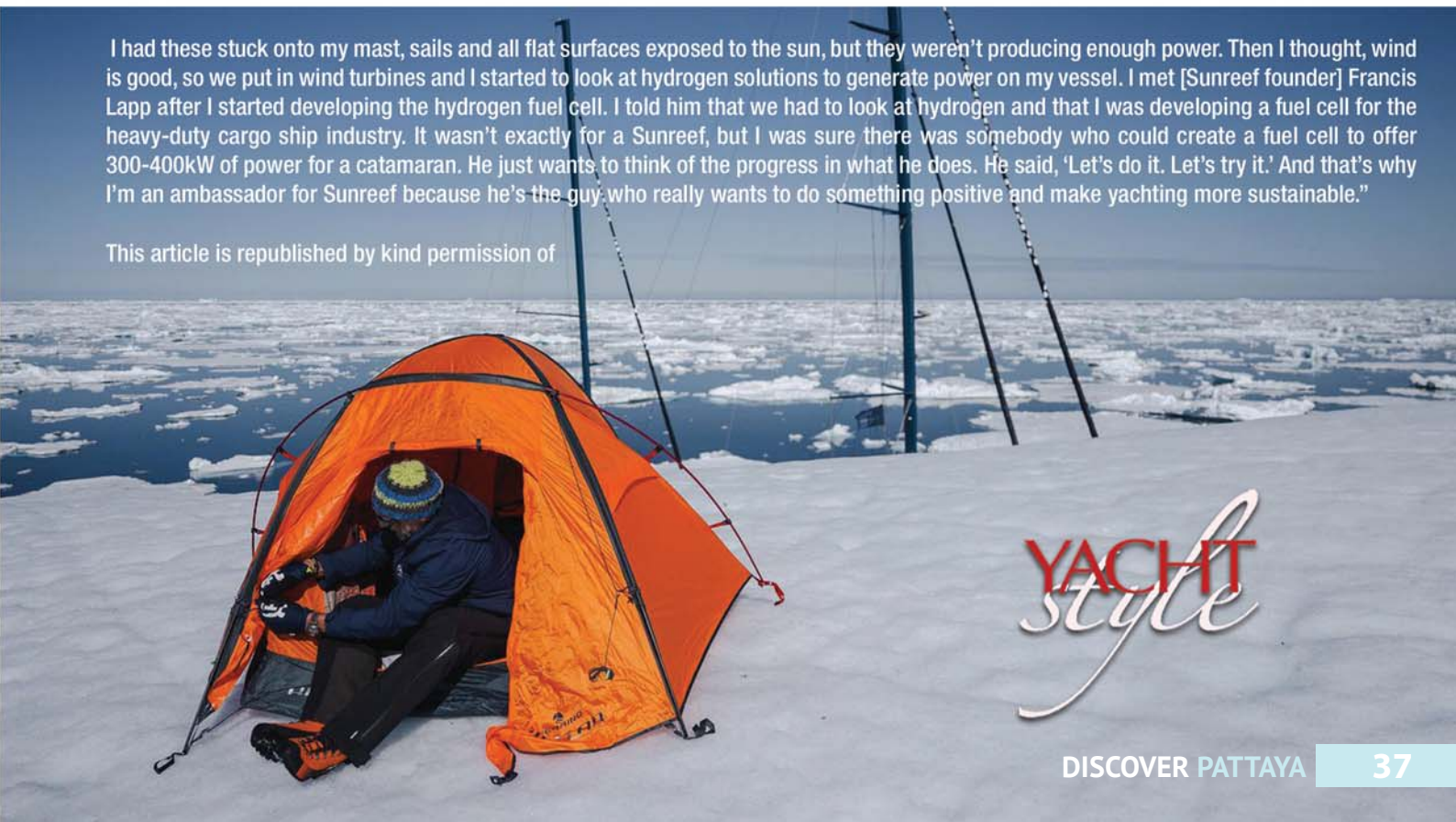


From August 2002 to October 2004, Horn completed a 20,000km solo, non-motorised circumnavigation via the Arctic Circle and in 2006, did his first winter expedition to the North Pole. Whilst there he measured the ice and it was 2.58m thick. Then in late 2019 (as part of the Pole2Pole expedition), he again measured the ice and it was only 8 cm thick. So, it caused him to wonder about the 2.50m of ice that had disappeared in 14 years? Also to realise that, things are happening much quicker there than anywhere else in the world.

"The moment you can see the planet's warming up and the oceans are 1.5 degrees warmer than ever before, we've got to find out why. Part of it is fossil fuel being burned, carbon being sent up into the air, people flying in planes and cargo ships cruising around. I feel the new generation is busy changing that. My generation were petrol heads. We were born thinking we had an abundance of fuel and always wanted bigger, better and faster. But now it's not about bigger, better and faster but how we can get to our destinations a bit slower, more efficiently and with less impact on the environment. I started looking into alternative energy sources at a Swiss company building flexible solar panels.

I had these stuck onto my mast, sails and all flat surfaces exposed to the sun, but they weren't producing enough power. Then I thought, wind is good, so we put in wind turbines and I started to look at hydrogen solutions to generate power on my vessel. I met [Sunreef founder] Francis Lapp after I started developing the hydrogen fuel cell. I told him that we had to look at hydrogen and that I was developing a fuel cell for the heavy-duty cargo ship industry. It wasn't exactly for a Sunreef, but I was sure there was somebody who could create a fuel cell to offer 300-400kW of power for a catamaran. He just wants to think of the progress in what he does. He said, 'Let's do it. Let's try it.' And that's why I'm an ambassador for Sunreef because he's the guy who really wants to do something positive and make yachting more sustainable."

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YACHT
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MERCEDES-BENZ AND FERRARI TAKE POLE POSITIONS.

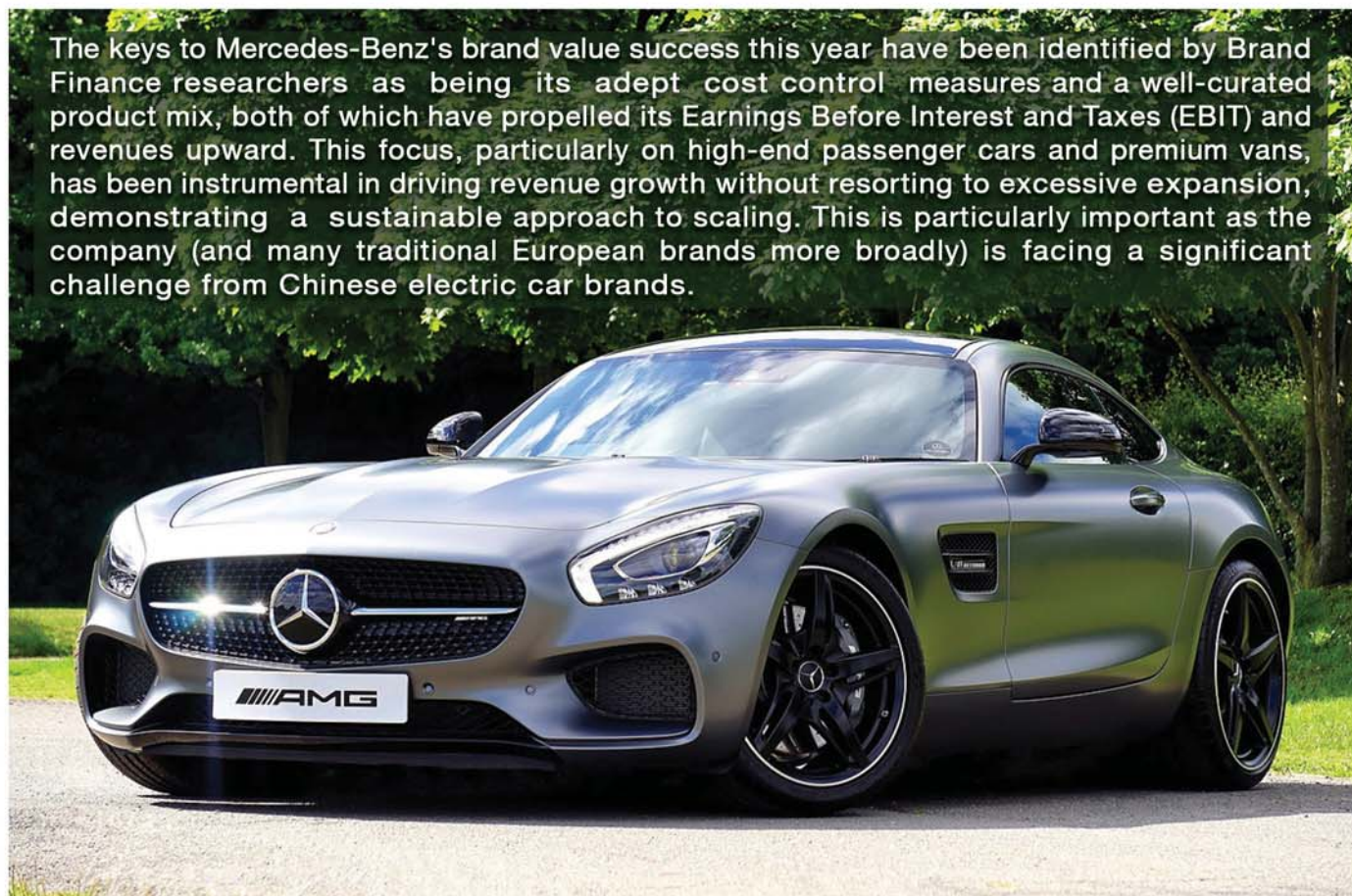
Every year Brand Finance puts 6,000 of the biggest brands to the test and publishes over 100 reports, ranking brands across all sectors and countries. The world's top 100 most valuable and strongest automobile brands are included in the Brand Finance Automotive Industry 2024 report. With Mercedes - Benz and Ferrari leading the way.

Mercedes-Benz has returned to pole position as the world's most valuable Automobiles brand



Boasting a brand value that climbed by 1% to reach \$59.4 billion. This increment is reflective of a brand that has not only maintained its premium status but has also enhanced its operational and financial metrics. A noteworthy upgrade in its brand strength from 81.71 to 85.22, transitioning from an AAA- to AAA rating, underscores the brand's robust and improving health.

The keys to Mercedes-Benz's brand value success this year have been identified by Brand Finance researchers as being its adept cost control measures and a well-curated product mix, both of which have propelled its Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) and revenues upward. This focus, particularly on high-end passenger cars and premium vans, has been instrumental in driving revenue growth without resorting to excessive expansion, demonstrating a sustainable approach to scaling. This is particularly important as the company (and many traditional European brands more broadly) is facing a significant challenge from Chinese electric car brands.



Beyond financials, Mercedes-Benz's brand strength has seen an impressive increase, with Brand Finance research finding robust investment and equity alongside a surge in customer service satisfaction. This satisfaction is not just anecdotal; it is supported by data showing significant improvements across nearly all Brand Investment pillars. Mercedes-Benz has also witnessed strong growth in familiarity, consideration, and reputation. Although there were less pronounced increases in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) hub, the overall brand perception remains overwhelmingly positive.

However, the picture is not without its challenges. The brand's performance metrics reveal a limited growth outlook, despite achieving a perfect score in price premium – largely due to new competitors in the electric car space. This suggests that while Mercedes-Benz commands a strong market position, its future growth may face constraints, potentially due to market saturation or competitive pressures.



Luxury and legacy: Ferrari's stellar reputation and niche appeal drive powerful brand strength as top luxury sports car manufacturer



Ferrari has demonstrated exceptional performance in terms of brand value and strength, with its brand value surging by 43% to USD 10.6 billion and achieving a brand strength index of 90.00, meriting an AAA+ rating and the title as the world's strongest automotive brand. This remarkable growth is underpinned by robust forecasts that anticipate strong further revenue growth. Ferrari's profitability has seen rapid acceleration, particularly over the last two years, with its stock performance notably outstripping the market by a staggering 60% year-on-year. Brand Finance research has found that the brand's familiarity, recommendation, and reputation metrics are unsurprisingly stellar, reflecting Ferrari's prestigious status in the automotive industry.

However, the consideration metric does not reach the same heights, which aligns with Ferrari's strategic niche product positioning – few consumers seriously consider the purchase of a Ferrari. This nuanced dynamic underscores Ferrari's success in maintaining an exclusive appeal while expanding its brand value and strength, consolidating its position as a leading luxury automotive manufacturer.



Brand value is understood as the net economic benefit that a brand owner would achieve by licensing the brand in the open market. Brand strength is the efficacy of a brand's performance on intangible measures relative to its competitors. The full ranking, additional insights, charts, more information about the methodology and definitions of key terms are available in the Brand Finance Automotive Industry 2024 report: <https://brandirectory.com/rankings/automobiles/>

TAX CORNER

CORPORATE INCOME TAX (CIT)

The deadline of CIT filing for the year 2023 shall be 29th.May 2024 or 150 days after year end. In case of online filing, the deadline shall be extended by 8 more days (on 6th.June 2024). This chapter is to give you a checklist of what should not be overlooked before filling in annual CIT return form as follows:

1. Adjustment of taxable expenses that are allowable more than actual payment in bookkeeping (more tax deductible than bookkeeping amount) for deduction from accounting profit.
2. Adjustment of taxable expenses that are less than actual payment in bookkeeping (less tax deductible than bookkeeping amount) to be added back to accounting profit.
3. For the company under VAT system, reconciliation between total revenue in the Income Statement must be the same amount as total revenue per VAT submission forms per year.
4. For the service companies such as construction, architecture, advertising, rental, transportation, and other kinds of services. Upon receipt of customers 'payments, withholding tax from service fee must be done by customers. All withholding tax slips are to be summarized and used as year end tax credit that can be deductible from CIT to be paid.
5. Losses from the previous 5 years can be brought forward to deduct from the current year net profit before CIT calculation.

Anyhow, there are guidelines for CIT calculation issued by the Revenue Department. For online CIT filing, the system will automatically check the data and make all calculations.

CIT rate:

1. General companies that have registered capital of more than Baht 6 million with annual gross income more than Baht 30 million. CIT is 20% of all net taxable profit.
2. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) defined from registered capital less than Baht 6 million with annual gross income less than Baht 30 million. CIT rate shall be: Net profit at Baht 300,000 is tax exemption.
Baht 300,001-3,000,000 tax rate is 15%.
Over Baht 3,000,000 tax rate is 20%

If you need help with your accounting and taxation please contact:

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DO YOU NEED A LAWYER WHEN BUYING A PROPERTY IN THAILAND?

By: Magna Carta Law Firm

Thailand's legal system may be unfamiliar to foreign buyers, making it crucial to retain a lawyer when buying property due to the complexity of property transactions, legal requirements, property ownership laws, and regulations, which require local legal expertise. Here are some of the factors to consider:

Due Diligence

Due Diligence is a crucial process used by lawyers to assess the status of a project and its developer. It ensures clear ownership, no outstanding debts, liens, or legal issues, and the authenticity of the property's title deed. This helps protect buyers from potential complications, making it essential to have a lawyer conduct thorough due diligence before signing a binding contract.

Drafting or Reviewing Sales and Purchase Contract

Lawyers review and draft contracts to ensure fairness, clarity, legal abidingness and most importantly protect your benefits. Lawyers can negotiate on your behalf to secure favorable terms and provide a comprehensive understanding of legal rights and obligations in a binding contract.

Advice on Foreign Ownership Restrictions

Thailand has various restrictions on foreign property ownership, and a lawyer can advise on legal structures like leasehold agreements and alternative options for foreigners.

Guidance on Fee and Tax Obligations

Lawyers can advise on property transactions' tax obligations, such as transfer fees and stamp duties, which are crucial for effective financial planning.

Escrow Services

Escrow is a financial arrangement where an unbiased third party holds an asset or fund until both parties fulfill their agreements. Lawyers can facilitate escrow services for secure, transparent transactions, protecting both buyers and sellers by holding funds until all sale conditions are met.

Translation and Communication with Local Authorities

Legal documents are typically in Thai, and communication with local authorities often requires translation. A lawyer can provide accurate translations and act as an intermediary, ensuring compliance with legal requirements, and can help ensure that you comprehend the terms and conditions before signing any documentations.

Legal Representation and Support

In the event of a disagreement or unanticipated complications during the process, having a lawyer provides legal representation and helps to protect your rights. Lawyers can create a strategic plan for your case, defining the best course of action that will protect your interests.

Consult a lawyer for legal matters or complex situations, as legal professionals offer expertise and guidance to navigate the legal system effectively. In Thailand, having a qualified lawyer can reduce legal issues and provide peace of mind during the buying process.



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What's on The Small Screen



The Regime Season 1

Kate Winslet plays a chancellor working for a fictional authoritarian regime.



Time Season 2

A single mother Orla, a heroin addict and a lifer are all sent to prison.



The Gentlemen Season 1

After inheriting his father's country estate Eddie discovers that it's part of a cannabis syndicate.



Nolly Season 1

Helena Bonham Carter plays the British Crossroads soap star Noele Gordon.



The Signal Season 1

After his wife mysteriously disappears during a space mission her husband investigates.



Animal Control Season 2

Comedy show about a group of Animal Control workers.



What's on The Big Screen



The Bricklayer

Nina Dobrev, Aaron Eckhart, Clifton Collins Jr.

Forced out of retirement a deadly agent has to solve an international conspiracy.



Kung Fu Panda 4

Jack Black, Awkwafina, Bryan Cranston

Po has to defeat a shape-shifting sorceress who is after his Staff of Wisdom.



Marmalade

Aldis Hodge, Joe Keery, Camila Morrone

A new prisoner tells his cellmate about how he met the love of his life and planned a bank heist.



Love Lies Bleeding

Kristen Stewart, Katy O'Brian, Dave Franco

A dedicated bodybuilder starts a relationship with the reclusive gym owner.



Land of Legends

Aleksandr Kuznetsov, Evgeny Mironov, Elena Erbakova

Epic tale about a young man who travels through a magical portal to a hidden kingdom.



Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire

Brian Tyree Henry, Dan Stevens, Rebecca Hall

Godzilla and Kong travel deep inside the earth to fight a deadly foe.

DIY

APPS

Gone are the days of thumbing through thick catalogs and relying on guesswork for your DIY and home decorating projects! Mobile apps have become a treasure trove of resources, empowering you to unleash your inner designer. Imagine virtually painting your walls with different colors to see what suits your space best, thanks to apps like ProjectColor or Sherwin-Williams ColorSnap Visualizer. Need inspiration? Houzz and Pinterest offer endless photo galleries categorized by style, room, and even product, sparking your creativity.

Apps like Planner 5D and Homestyler let you create 3D floor plans, experiment with furniture layouts, and visualize your dream setup before moving a single piece. Feeling handy? The DIY Network app provides step-by-step instructions for projects of all difficulty levels, turning you into a home improvement pro. Whether you're a seasoned decorator or a first-time renovator, these mobile apps offer a helping hand (and a dash of magic!), guiding you toward creating a space that truly reflects your style and personality.



Dive into a sea of color possibilities with the Sherwin-Williams ColorSnap Visualizer app! Visualize different shades effortlessly on your walls through your camera or photos, just like with ProjectColor. Explore their vast library to discover your perfect hue, and create custom palettes to bring your vision to life. Share your color triumphs with friends, family, or contractors for feedback, and easily locate nearby Sherwin-Williams stores for convenient paint and supply purchases. While you won't find other brands represented, the sheer color range and project sharing tools make this app a strong contender. Just remember, you might need to create an account to unlock all its features.

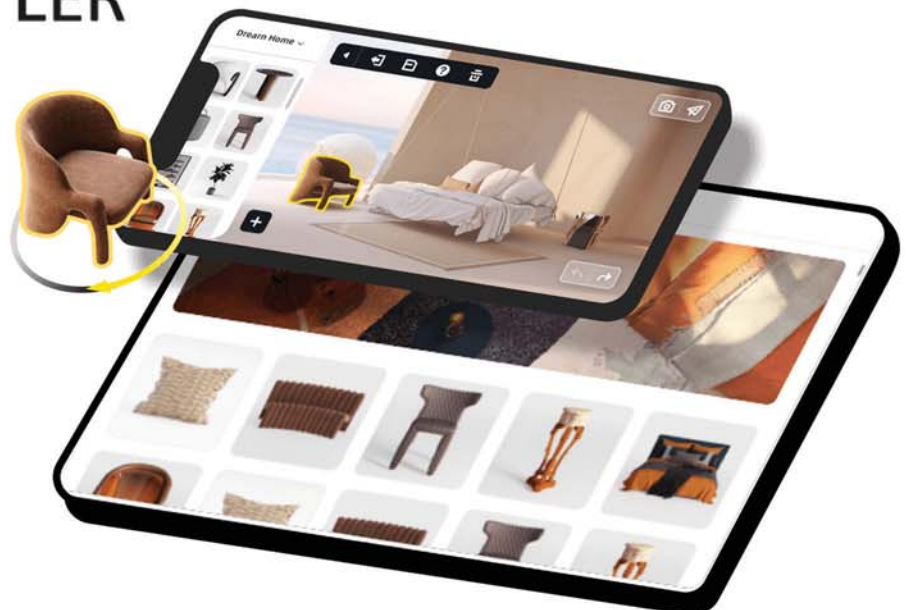


Explore endless home design inspiration with Houzz! Browse through 25 million+ photos of stunning interiors and exteriors, filtering by style, room, or even specific products. Visualize your dream décor using the "view in my room" feature, and connect with professionals for help on larger projects. Houzz is your one-stop shop for creating your perfect home.



HOMESTYLER

Unleash your inner designer with Homestyler! Craft detailed 3D floor plans and experiment with diverse layouts. Explore a vast library of furniture and decor to personalize your vision. While Homestyler is free to play, additional features await for purchase. Let your creativity flourish and bring your dream home to life!





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RIDE ON (into the sunset) – Barry Upton

From now on, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is something that we have to be aware of for good and bad reasons. In the wrong hands it can be a tool for manufacturing fakeness but in the right hands it can make things possible we couldn't have dreamed of previously.

I was recently made aware of an A.I. app which could separate the voices and instruments on a piece of music which is currently a two track stereo audio mix. For many people, this would not be such a useful tool, but for a music producer like myself, it's a gift.

In '97, after my big 'line dancing' party hit with STEPS, '5,6,7,8', I started writing and producing more songs in the same vein as possible follow ups. One such song became a 'line dance' hit in the U.K. and even found it's way into China where dancing instructions in Chinese can be found on YouTube (useful eh?).

It was impossible for me to go back to the original multi-track tape as my, then, analogue studio has been updated on numerous occasions to digital formats.

A few weeks back I suddenly realized I now had the ability to modernize the track using the A.I. app I mentioned, meaning I could add new vocals, drums and extra guitar, then remix the track for a new 2024 version.

No video was ever made for this song and it has existed on YouTube as an audio track with only the title as a visual.

I originally envisaged the video as two lovers heading into a desert on horseback as the sun lowered behind the distant hills.

Filming that scenario was going to be a bit of a challenge so I had a re-think and decided on a motor bike instead.

Hey, why not go the whole hog and make it a Harley Davidson?

The video is now complete and on YouTube at my personal channel FAB BAZ MUSIC TV. If feedback on the song is positive enough, it could well be my next single and I'll be riding on into the sunset, biker chick in tow, all thanks to A.I.

HAPPY FISH (update)

My recent single release 'Happy Fish' which was the main subject of this page in the January edition of Discover Pattaya, was received so well, especially by radio, that it entered a U.K. Legacy chart at number 30. The Beatles latest song was at number 29 ... then, strike me down with a wet lettuce, I leapfrogged the Fab Four and went up to number 20. A box ticked and a dream come true.

STEPS (The Musical)

The original publishers of songs I wrote for STEPS, the pop group that I played a big part in forming and who, 27 years later, are still together with the original line up, contacted me last month to get my permission for usage in a new musical which is about to go into production featuring all STEPS material. I thought about it for about five seconds then replied ... APPROVED!

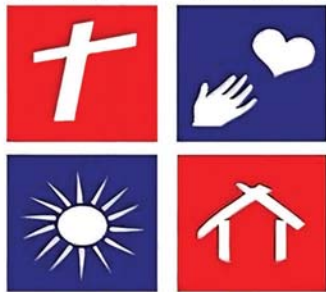
With over 22 million record sales, 4 number one albums and 11 arena tours under their belts, they're now one of the most successful pop groups in U.K. history.

I can reveal that the musical, called 'Here & Now', will be set in a seaside superstore and will open later this year. For me, they're the gift that keeps on giving.

Read the full story about how the group was formed in my online book – Discover Pattaya – 'Confessions Of A Pop Tart'
<https://www.pattayatradet.com/3d-flip-book/barry/>



เมอริซี พัทยา



MERCY Pattaya

MERCY Pattaya

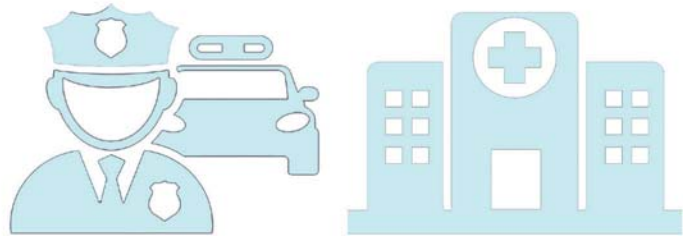
MERCY Pattaya would like to thank all friends, donors and sponsors who provided us the opportunity to bring some hope and happiness into the lives of the less privileged in the city we call home. In particular, we are indebted to those in the newspaper and magazine industry, especially 'Discover Pattaya' and 'Pattaya Mail'; the Pattaya International Ladies Club (who provide 20 educational scholarships for needy students, monthly grocery packs for approximately 80 families, and basic grocery packs for holiday time when schools are not open); plus the amazing team of volunteers and sponsors from Rotary Pattaya-Banglamung, R.C.E.S, Planet Earth, Rugby International School and St. Andrews International School, who assist whenever their expertise is in demand.

There are also many individual donors and helpers who assist in packing, painting, renovating, cooking, cleaning etc. We are just so grateful for everything you enable us to achieve. "Thank You" seems totally inadequate, but we know you understand the depth of our gratitude. Lastly, but by no means least, we thank Santa Claus for his willingness to visit every year from the North Pole, and suffer the extreme heat, in order to bring the magic of Christmas to children (of all ages) in the area. May 2024 bring us all peace, joy and happiness, and may we together continue to bring love, hope and blessing wherever we can.



www.mercypattaya.com Phone: 099-052-2288 Email: Mercypattayapr@gmail.com

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PhoneTel: 038-425-943,
Fire Brigade Naklua
PhoneTel: 038-221-000,

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Marine Police
Phone. 038-423 666
Sea Rescue
Phone 038-488 134

ELECTRICITY

Electricity Pattaya
Phone 0-3842-6463, 0-3842-8502
Electricity Banglamung
Phone 0-3822-1007

WATER

Water Works Banglamung
Phone 0-3822-1463
Water Works Pattaya
Phone 0-3822-2462/5

WASTE DISPOSAL

Garbage Collection
Phone 0-3842-9494

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Pattaya Police Station: Soi 9 Pattaya
Phone: 038 420- 802, 038-420 805 0-3842-9325
Banglamung Police Station, Sukhumvit Highway)
Phone: 038 221 800, 038 221 331
Tourist Police: Phratamnak Road
Emergency Hotline: 1155
Phone 03841 4669, 03842 5937,

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Bangkok Hospital Pattaya
PhoneTel: 038-259-999. 0-3825-9911
Pattaya Memorial Hospital
PhoneTel: 038 488 777. 038-429 422

SUDOKU MARCH 2024

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- Business owners use this credit to purchase products and services within the community to help their business grow "No Cash Outlay"

What's our commitment?

- We will continue to build the BBX Business community providing sustainable opportunities focused on business needs
- We will support business initiatives and partnerships, nurturing them in parallel with new ideas.
- We will provide a secure financial platform for transaction management

Your Commitment?

- Our business community transacts via business trade credits. A willingness to be part of this extra revenue stream
- Our community of business owners connects and supports each other via fair trading terms, an understanding that strong relationships prosper with respect

Reach out to us, we are here to help all business grow!

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SOLUTIONS

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3. บริการรายงานที่พัก ตม. 30
4. บริการรายงานตัว 90 วัน
5. บริการรับจด จัดตั้งบริษัทและทำบัญชี
6. บริการจองรถแท็กซี่
7. บริการให้คำปรึกษาด้านกฎหมาย
8. รับแปลเอกสารและแปลสดตามงาน (แปลไทยเป็นอังกฤษและอังกฤษเป็นไทย)
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Karen Goes to Parliament

To help the people of Baan Laona and Baan Laonang

Karen is known to many of us here in Thailand through her company Karen Services. For years she has helped many in Pattaya with their visa and immigration issues. Recently, however, she has been called upon to return to her home district to help the people there. In her own words she tells us of her travels from Baan Laona and Baan Laonang, to Pattaya and then on to Bangkok to speak in Parliament:

My official name is Panadda Taraponkiree and my nickname is Karen. I was born and lived at Baan Lao-na and Baan Lao-nang, Khaokoh district, Phetchabun province. My home is beautiful and full of jungle. Due to the political situation at the time, the government ordered the villagers to come down from there by promising that the government will re - arrange land for the villagers to live and farm. So the people moved to a temporary village called “Kaknoi” but the people from Baan Lao-na and Baan lao-nang have never got to go back or get help as promised.



I came to Bangkok for schooling and then came to work in Pattaya. As my background is from a very poor family and I became an orphan, I have devoted myself to helping people in both Thai communities, helping children and also working to support myself. As Karen Services I give my best services to help foreigners when they ask for help as well.

Meanwhile, the people from Baan Lao-na and BaanLao-nang have been in a very poor situation with no land to live and farm. They have been seeking help asking the government to return them back to their home as promised. The villagers have contacted the authorities and ask for help to return them back to their home for more than 30 years and there is no hope , no help. The authorities refused every request.

In November 2022, I decided to join the people to see and to learn how to connect with the authorities so I can do something about it as I saw the people are very discouraged, crying and some of them planning to commit suicide because they rent someone else land to live temporary and now the land owners evicted them because they want to use their land for tourist business.

I requested the new team leader to let me join every meeting with the authorities, I told them that I want to learn so I can do something about it. From there, we have the opportunity to propose the situations into the Parliament for the first time in the history of Thailand. After that I get to go to parliament again for the 2nd time to give a 5 minutes speech in both Thai and English. It worked! Senator Poldej Pinprateep has taken Action. He came to survey the land and visit us villagers. He told us that he will find a way to help and make our group to be a top Model so they can learn how to help the rest of the people in Thailand. 24 January 2024, we have 3 organizations sign the MOU to help us at the parliament senators meeting room.. We are so grateful that Senator Poldej Pinprateep and so many others have come to help us and will continue to find land for us to live and to farm. I am very happy to be a part of this project and hope it will succeed within this year.



By Kanchan Nath

Explore Bhutan with ease: Fast visa process, enhanced flight connectivity and year-round seasonality

Bhutan, renowned for its majestic landscapes and unique cultural experiences, is now more accessible than ever for travelers, thanks to several key enhancements in travel procedures. The country has focused on simplifying the visa process, reducing Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) to USD 100, and increasing flight options to improve travel convenience.

Bhutan requires visas for all visitors, with no nationality restrictions. The introduction of an online visa application system has made this process more efficient. Typically, visas are processed within five working days, allowing for easier travel planning. The visa is valid for up to 90 days.



Visitors (except those from India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives*), must obtain a visa prior to arrival. The application involves paying a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) and a USD 40 visa fee. The process is flexible, allowing applicants to apply directly online themselves, or through a tour operator, or via a hotel. There is no cap on visitor numbers to Bhutan, and everyone is welcome.

The Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) serves as a daily contribution by tourists towards the nation's development. The SDF is utilized transparently and responsibly by the Royal Government of Bhutan. This fund aids various sectors such as healthcare, education, environment, culture, and economy, fostering long-term sustainable opportunities for Bhutanese citizens. As a carbon-neutral nation, Bhutan leverages the SDF to uphold its exceptional forest cover and carbon neutrality, ensuring a serene experience for visitors.

Last September, Bhutan introduced a 50% reduction in the SDF rate, effective until August 31, 2027, with incentives for children. The new rates are USD 100 per adult per night; while children between the ages of 6 and who have not yet turned 12 pay a reduced rate of USD 50 per night. Children who have not yet turned six years old do not pay any SDF fee. The revised fee structure enhances Bhutan's appeal as an environmentally conscious and welcoming destination.



Bhutan's airlines, Drukair and Bhutan Airlines, have expanded their flight options, providing India, Singapore, Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh to Paro International Airport. Soon, Bhutan Airlines will also start flights to Paro from Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. It was also recently announced that Bhutan has signed an Air Service Agreement with the Government of the State of Kuwait. The expansion of connectivity aligns with Bhutan's dedication to accommodating the escalating demand from travelers, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience for all.

When planning a trip to Bhutan, consider what you want to experience. The best time of year to visit Bhutan will depend on whether you're interested in trekking, avoiding crowds, the location of the places you want to visit, or attending traditional festivals.

Aligning your visit with one of Bhutan's vibrant religious festivals can enhance your experience. These festivals, determined by the lunar calendar, feature large gatherings of locals in traditional attire, along with a variety of holy men and vendors. While the popular tsechus in Paro and Thimphu attract many tourists, smaller regional festivals offer a more intimate experience. The Royal Highland Festival in October, with its unique blend of horse racing, music, and yak beauty contests, is a highlight. Check the Bhutan Department of Tourism website or major tour operators for up-to-date festival schedules.



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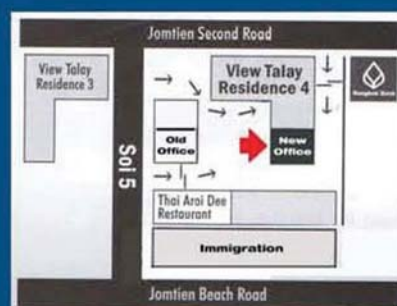
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I've lived in Pattaya For more than 10 years but never visited

THE PANORAMA REVOLVING RESTAURANT

In a new series of articles we look at what is here, or literally on our doorstep, that we have yet to do or see. Last month we decided that a visit to Angkor Wat was an absolute must. If you didn't read this in our February magazine then it's still available to view online at pattayatrader.com.

This month we decided to go somewhere closer to home and visit the Pattaya Park Tower. Which although certainly no Eiffel Tower, has served as an iconic landmark for Pattaya since its opening in 1994. Back then, the tower was conceived as part of a larger entertainment complex and was a real feather in Pattaya's cap for, at that time, its unparalleled height of 55 floors. Be honest when heading out of town from the car, from a boat heading out across the bay, or simply looking out over Pattaya from a high rise vista, how often have you pointed out the tower? Using this tall marker as an indicator of where Pratumnak is, the rest of the sub districts in relation to it, and perhaps even our own homes it's something we all do.



However, for those expecting to see us reinstating the joys of the zip wire with the Discover Pattaya team hurtling down from its summit, I have to tell you that's not going to happen. No, we were there, in a much more sedate capacity to visit the Panorama Revolving Restaurant. This is the restaurant perched atop of the Pattaya Park Tower and despite natural disasters and economic fluctuations, it has stood the test of time as one of Pattaya's enduring tourist destinations.



The Panorama Revolving Restaurant offers a unique dining experience unlike any other. With its breathtaking 360-degree views of the cityscape, beaches, and the Gulf of Thailand, it's fun to look out while you eat as the restaurant slowly rotates providing ever changing vistas. The dinner session we attended starts from 4:30pm and we arrived about an hour later so we could enjoy seeing the sun set and the views transform from day to night.

The cost of the buffet is 700 baht per head and this includes soft drinks - water, orange juice and lemon tea on the evening we were there, plus freshly brewed tea and coffee. To be honest I wasn't expecting too much from the buffet, believing the experience would be more of a feast for the eyes rather than the palate. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the quality of the salads, sushi, sashimi prawns and dim sum. My recommendation would be to fill up on these because the following selection was a little less inspiring. It included only 1 Thai curry, an OK beef option, although everything improved again with the fruits, desserts and 5 different flavours of ice cream.

So get yourself up to the tower. The lift takes you to the 52 floor of the restaurant so quickly that you will forget how high up you are until you look down and see the tiny little "ant people" in the Russian market and the twinkling headlights of the "toy cars". A unique dining experience that the whole family will enjoy.





Transform Your Home into a Haven with Exterior Epoxy Coating: A DIY Guide

In the pursuit of creating a haven, many homeowners overlook the importance of exterior aesthetics. Your home's exterior is the first impression visitors and passersby have, making it a crucial element in establishing the overall ambiance. One way to elevate your home's exterior and protect it from the elements is through the application of exterior epoxy coating. Exterior epoxy coating is a durable and versatile solution that not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of your home but also provides protection against weathering, UV rays, and other environmental factors. Unlike traditional paint, epoxy coating forms a tough, resilient surface that makes it an excellent choice for both functional and aesthetic reasons.

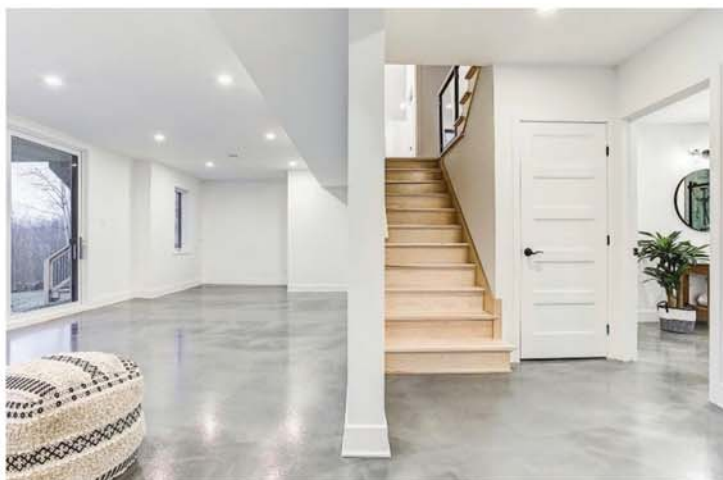
Epoxy coating creates a sturdy shield that protects your home's exterior and floors from harsh weather conditions, preventing damage such as cracks and peeling. It can also be available in various colors and finishes. The low-maintenance nature of epoxy-coated surfaces means you spend less time and effort on upkeep, freeing you to enjoy your home rather than constantly maintaining it. If you want to take it on as a DIY project here are some steps to help you regarding the

Materials Needed:

- Epoxy resin kit (includes epoxy resin and hardener)
- Stirring sticks
- Measuring cups
- Painter's tape
- Drop cloths or plastic sheets
- Sandpaper (various grits)
- Cleaning supplies (degreaser, mild detergent)
- Safety gear (gloves, goggles, mask)

Preparation

You will need to prepare by cleaning the surface thoroughly using a degreaser and mild detergent to remove any dirt, grease, or contaminants. Then sand the surface to create a rough texture, allowing better adhesion for the epoxy. Start with a coarse grit and gradually move to finer grits. Use painter's tape to protect areas you don't want the epoxy to reach, such as walls or edges. Lay down drop cloths or plastic sheets to catch any drips.



Application

You will need to mix Epoxy Resin by following the instructions on the kit. Typically, it involves combining the resin and hardener in specific proportions. Stir the mixture thoroughly but gently to avoid introducing air bubbles. Then you can apply the base coat by pouring the mixed epoxy onto the surface and spreading it evenly using a squeegee or roller. Ensure complete coverage and allow the base coat to cure according to the kit's instructions. If a second coat is desired, lightly sand the cured base coat to promote adhesion and clean the surface afterward. This second batch of epoxy will be applied as the top coat and provide a glossy finish. To eliminate air bubbles, carefully pass a heat gun or propane torch lightly over the surface but be cautious not to overheat. Then allow the epoxy to cure completely based on the kit's recommendations which may recommend this taking several days. Then inspect the surface for any imperfections and if needed, sand lightly and apply an additional coat.



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Inspiration

There are many home improvement websites to inspire you such as Pinterest, Home Solid Home, Instagram, and home improvement forums. Search for terms like "outdoor epoxy projects," "epoxy garage floors," or "epoxy outdoor furniture" to find a variety of images and ideas shared by DIY enthusiasts and professionals. You can also check out home improvement websites and blogs on YouTube. Many DIYers and home improvement experts share their projects with step-by-step guides, photos, and tips. In fact YouTube tutorials are a great resource for visual inspiration with many videos from both Search for epoxy exterior projects and watch video tutorials from experienced individuals or professionals. They often provide insights into the process and share their experiences.

Or you may opt to employ local contractors who specialize in epoxy applications. They may also be able to show you photos of their previous projects. Either way elevating your home's exterior will help to create a solid and beautiful home that stands the test of time.



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Thailand's tranquil destinations rise in popularity amidst tourism shift

By Gynen Kyra Toriano

In 2023, Thailand emerged as a global hotspot for travellers, boasting three of the world's most frequented tourist destinations. This distinction cements its status as a premier destination on the global travel map. Yet, this surge in tourism is not without its challenges. In Phuket, for example, a looming traffic crisis, termed "carmageddon", is anticipated in 2024. This is due to road traffic volumes exceeding the expansion capabilities of the island's transport network. Other popular destinations like Pattaya and Hua Hin are also bracing for significant road congestion in 2024. Moreover, the constant hum of jet skis and banana boats is increasingly at odds with tourists' growing desire for tranquility.



A new trend, featuring isolated nature resorts, tranquil retreats, and peaceful walking tours, is set to define the travel landscape this year. Tranquil destinations such as Sichen have been gaining prominence in Thailand, catering to tourists' growing preference for peaceful and serene environments. This is highlighted by the notable rise in visitors seeking destinations that offer a respite from the hustle and bustle of more crowded tourist spots. In the serene backdrop of Sichen, Urasaya Beachfront Residences, a project developed by Urasaya Property Co., Ltd., has made its mark, having received accolades at the 18th PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards 2023. The project was honoured with the Best Residential Development (Greater Samui) and Best Residential Architectural Design (Greater Samui) awards, subtly underlining its significance in enhancing the region's charm.

Sichen, celebrated by Lonely Planet as one of Thailand's top 10 beaches, is increasingly recognised as a tranquil destination. Urasaya Beachfront Residences complements this serene setting with its exclusive collection of luxurious pool villas. These villas, designed by Oracle Architects, blend modern comfort with elements of Southern Thai design, situated on prime coastal land with extensive beach frontage. Supporting the trend, infrastructure developments in Nakhon Si Thammarat, such as the new international airport terminal capable of handling four million passengers annually, offer easier access to these tranquil locales. This positions Sichen and similar destinations as attractive alternatives to more crowded areas.

As the country continues to attract diverse international visitors, developments like the award-winning Urasaya are poised to provide an unmatched blend of tranquillity, luxury, and cultural authenticity, meeting the evolving desires of global travellers and second home seekers.

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DECIDING ON WHERE TO LIVE - RAYONG



With the investment going into the Eastern Economic Corridor and likely expansion of infrastructure reaching further down the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand, the province of Rayong is appealing as a place to settle in the long term for many people. Whether it be younger people with families who are looking for somewhere that provides all the facilities they require whilst they are committed to work, or older singles and couples who perhaps want to stay clear of the bigger cities but still want access to everything that Thailand has to offer.

It is a little known fact that Rayong is already one of the most affluent Provinces in the Kingdom, possibly due to the money brought in by the major international businesses that have set up in the region, bringing secure jobs and more spending power for the local population. However, as in most places in Thailand outside the major cities, you'll very likely need to drive or have access to a driver. The road infrastructure is good but the inter-city transport is patchy at best and you'll be severely restricted if you don't have a vehicle.

The region has plenty of options as far as private education is concerned with some of the highest quality establishments in the country situated nearby or at least within reasonable traveling distance. An excellent option would be St. Andrews International School, Green Valley, which has a beautiful campus and can take children from 3 years old and upwards. The school produces outstanding results year on year and has a reputation for providing a top quality, holistic education for all children right through to university age.

The town of Rayong itself has expanded over the last few years and has all the shopping outlets and amenities you will need, including a new Central Pattana mall which will have some well known international brand names available to you and of course as in the rest of the country, there are dozens of local convenience stores to choose from. and there's a wealth of leisure and outdoor options available to you. If you're a golfer, it's paradise. You'll have the choice of not just some of the best courses in the region but some of the best in the country to choose from, including the Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed Eastern Star and the Peter Thompson designed Rayong Green Valley amongst many others.

The other great thing about living in Rayong is your proximity to a host of beaches on the mainland and the island of Koh Samet, which is very popular for weekend getaways from Pattaya but can be reached at any time by the locals. Wherever you are in the region, you'll only be a short journey to Ban Phe pier and then a 20 minute ferry crossing away from a genuine island paradise. Samet has been a family favorite for many years and even in high season you can always find a quiet spot to relax by the sea. There is plenty of accommodation to choose from whether it be for one night or longer. Talk to some locals or long term expats and they will guide you to delightful beaches throughout the island and also along the length of the Rayong province.

As far as housing is concerned, you have a wide choice of projects scattered throughout the province. For example the lovely properties at Princess Lake View Village in Mae Phim, as featured on this page. You can find many beautiful properties in Rayong and also have the option of living closer to the beach. Gustaf Real Estate will give you the best service available to find the property that suits you best at a price that suits your budget. Rayong can only prosper in the future and as in most parts of the country outside of Bangkok, you get great value for money you decide to purchase here. It really is a nice place to settle and if you need more information on anything at all as far as living and buying in Rayong, give the team at Gustaf Real Estate a call and they will answer all of your questions.



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