

## TRAVEL INFORMATION OF SI RACHA, THAILAND

**Si Racha** is a district in the province Chonburi, Thailand. Its center is the town of Si Racha, located at the Gulf of Thailand, about halfway between Chonburi and Pattaya.

It is in a heavily industrial zone consisting of manufacturing and shipping industries, supported by the sprawling port of Laem Chabang (20th largest in the world, see List of world's busiest container ports). With Chonburi city to the north and Pattaya, Bang Lamung township, Laem Chabang to the south, it forms the economic zone of the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand, a fast growing zone that is second to only Greater Bangkok in population and wealth. Due to the strong infrastructure, Laem Chabang and the Eastern Seaboard in general is the major hub for international exports, which have become the underpinning of the Thai baht.

Si Racha has a tropical wet and dry climate, which is divided into the following seasons: hot and dry (December to February), hot and humid (March to May), and *hot and rainy* (June to November).

### TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

The town is rather famous for its seafood, mostly served with a very spicy chili sauce called *nam prik si racha* made from chili and vinegar. It has thus lent its name to Sriracha chili sauces. The town is also the main transit point to Ko Sichang.

North of the town is the temple of Wat Ko Loi, located on an island connected with the mainland by a 1.5 km causeway. The temple mixes Thai buddhists and Chinese icons of worship, including a Buddha's footprint.

The main touristical attraction of Si Racha are the zoos **Khao Khew Open Zoo** and **Si Racha Tiger Zoo**.

### EAT AND MEET

The central Night Market has a variety of Thai, Korean and Japanese restaurants nearby. The market itself has a collection of undercover stalls serving fried chicken, noodles and the ultimate Thai dessert: mango and sticky rice.

Across the road, look for Laab Ubon, an Issan restaurant with fiery som tam, laab muu (spicy minced pork) and curries. Cooks chop, fry and grill food in an open kitchen while a jukebox plays country songs. The setting may look basic, but the food is delicious. A menu with food photos helps with ordering.

Yards down the road is the Chill Bar, where Sri Racha's younger crowd hangs out. Downstairs a live band plays nightly, as customers sink into sofa-style seats or perch on cube-shaped chairs, while upstairs is quieter and comes with good views of the town.

Korean and Japanese restaurants are plentiful, but often pricey as they're geared towards the wealthy workers from the nearby port. Some places actually won't let you enter unless you're Japanese. Korean barbecues are popular, and there's a good one just down from the Night Market, on the corner opposite the Cool Club. Here, at Tik Ga To, you get to choose your own meats, buffet-style, then cook them on a hot plate at your table.

A lovely spot for a meal is next to the health park at Tum Show. Sitting out over the water, the wooden design, subtle colours and Bossa Nova music make it an elegant eatery. The menu is just as subtle, with a few changes to traditional dishes. Try the fruit som tam and sun-dried pork.

Sri Racha isn't party central, but the one place where things do get going is Gusto. Follow the road from Chill down towards the seafront and turn right. Gusto is 100 yards away on your right-hand side. This two-storey nightclub is packed with locals every weekend, thanks largely to a live band and dancers. Locals are always happy to see a foreign face, so expect plenty of raised glasses and 'cheers' in your direction.

Laab Ubon: Nakorn 3 Rd, Sri Racha. Daily 09:00-23:00

Chill Bar: Nakorn 3 Rd, Sri Racha. Daily 18:30-01:00

Tik Ga To Korean Barbecue: Nakorn 3 Rd, Sri Racha. Daily 17:00-00:00

Tum Show: Jermjompol Rd, Sri Racha. Daily 10:30-23:00

## GETTING THERE AND AWAY

### Train

Trains stop at Sri Racha Train Station 2km from the town centre, and from there it's possible to hire motorbikes or tuk-tuks for a 50B ride in to town. A journey from Bangkok takes three hours. Only one train a day leaves from Bangkok for Sri Racha, at 6.55am.

### Bus

Buses travel along Sukhumvit Rd, stopping outside Robinson's department store or at the bus station by Tukcom, a shopping mall that sells all kinds of electrical goods. Sample destinations include:

**Bangkok, Ekamai:** Departs every 40 minutes throughout the day, costing 88 THB and taking 2 hours.

**Bangkok, Mochit:** Departs every 40 minutes throughout the day, costing 92 THB and taking 2 hours.

**Bangkok, Southern Terminal:** At 08:00, 10:00, 14:00 and 16:00, costing 88 THB and taking 3 hours.

**Suvarnabhumi Airport:** hourly throughout the day, costing 76B and taking 1.5 hours.

**Pattaya:** Stand outside Robinson's shopping mall, on the other side of the ride, and flag down one of the second-class buses that irregularly pass by. The fare for the 50-minute

journey is 40 THB.

## **GETTING AROUND**

Getting around is simple as motorbike taxis and tuk-tuks are everywhere. Sri Racha isn't Pattaya or Phuket though, so they won't hassle you as you walk by. They also won't speak much English, so it's a good idea to have a guidebook or map handy to point the way. Tuk-tuk trips around town will cost at least 30 THB; for longer journeys agree a price in advance. For those wanting more action, Pattaya is 40kms south.

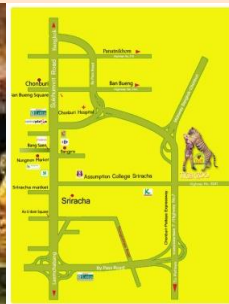
## **REFERENCES**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Si\\_Racha\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Si_Racha_District)

[http://www.travelfish.org/sights/thailand/eastern\\_thailand/chonburi/sri\\_racha](http://www.travelfish.org/sights/thailand/eastern_thailand/chonburi/sri_racha)

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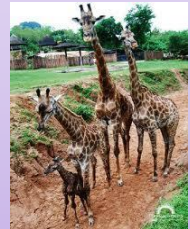
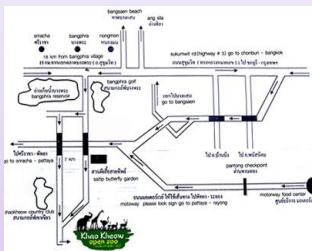
## Si Chang island



## Si Racha Tiger



## Khao Khew Open



# Accommodation

## Si Racha



1



2



3



4



5

- 1 Kameo House
- 2 Cape Racha Hotel
- 3 Kantary Bay Resort
- 4 Karabuning Resort & Spa
- 5 Jasmine Resort & Spa

## Koh Si Chang



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Paree Hut; 2 Malee Blue; 3 Sawasdee Si Chang Resort; 4 Si Chang Resort; 5 Chalie Bangalow; 6 Paungpayorm Sea Beach Resort

## Eating and shopping



1 Pacific Park; 2 Tukcom Si Racha; 3 Si Racha Night Square; 4 Dried Seafood Market