



Population 361,680

Currency Exchange 1 US\$ =32.5 Baht (On 1 Jun'08)



Welcome to Hat Yai

Songkhla's liveliest town is a fun, if slightly dodgy, place with a bit of a buzz to it. The main pastime here seems to be eating critters from the sea. There are literally hundreds of restaurants serving great seafood, prepared either in Chinese, Muslim or Thai style, and every street seems to be packed with shops and street stalls. Markets are also plentiful and several large, air-con shopping malls offer a chilly respite from the heat. The nightlife scene buzzes nightly and you can hang out in some cozy pubs or dance the night away before heading off to the surrounding region.



Most travelers only visit Hat Yai while in transit to Malaysia, but since terrorists started targeting it for bombings within the last few years it's seeing fewer and fewer folks passing through; many people are choosing to fly straight on to Kuala Lumpur or Singapore rather than do the traditional overland route through Thailand's Deep South. Violence comes in spurts, however, so it might very well be quiet again before this book is retired. If you do visit, just be vigilant about your surroundings and stay away from large demonstrations or crowded spaces, which are more likely to be targets, but don't worry too much.

Emergency Calls

Police & Emergency : 191
City Police : 074 243 333, 074 231 645
Tourist Police : 1155, 074 246 733
International Airport : 074 251 008-12
Tourism Authority of Thailand : 074 243 747
Lost or stolen credit cards : American Express : 02 273 0022-44
Master Card : 02 299 1990-2
Visa : 02 299 1990-2

Internet Resource

<http://www.hatyai-today.com>

Day Tripping

Hat Yai is rather short in the attraction department. During festivals and special events, **Muay Thai boxing matches** (admission 200 THB.) are held in the boxing stadium just north of Hat Yai's sports stadium. Times vary, so check with the TAT office to confirm the schedule. If you're interested in boxing, you'll be thrilled with the low admission price - seats at matches, as in other cities can go for as much as 1,500 THB.

Wat Hat Yai Nai

If you're bored, you could hop on a sangthaew and head about 1.5 km out of town to Wat Hat Yai (near Khlong U Taphao Bridge) it features a 35 m reclining Buddha (Phra Phut Mahatamongkon). Inside the image's gigantic base is a curious little museum and mausoleum with a souvenir shop.



Wat Hat Yai Nai

Hat Yai Municipal Park

The park is located on Kanchanawarit Road and is approximately 6 km from the city center on the Hat Yai-Songkhla Highway. A popular recreational spot for the local residents, the park is beautifully decorated with colorful flowers. With a pavilion in the middle of the pond, an aviary, and food stalls, the park is the perfect place to spend a peaceful evening. Additional attractions include a statue of King Rama V that is enshrined at the foot of the hill near the aviary, a hill-top Brahman shrine and a jade statue of Guan-yin, the Chinese Goddess situated, at the southern foothill near the boy-scout camp.



Hat Yai Municipal Park



Ton Nga Chang , Ton Nga Chang Wildlife Sanctuary

Ton Nga Chang Waterfall

Located in the Ton Nga Chang Wildlife Sanctuary, about 26 km from the city, this 7-tiered waterfall is one of the most beautiful waterfalls of the south. The waterfall offers scenic views, with the third level being the most beautiful as the stream is separated into two, resembling the elephants' tusks. Trekking trails are provided for tourists with adventurous hearts.

Eating

Hat Yai is southern Thailand's gourmet Mecca, offering Muslim roti and curries, Chinese noodles and dim sum, and fresh seafood from both the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. Lots of good, cheap restaurants can be found along the three Niphat Uthit Rd., in the markets off side streets, between them and near the train station.

Hong Yok

Place : 31/33-35 Chiwanuson Rd.
Tel : 074 245 124-5



Kan-eng Thai, Chinese Food

Place : Niphat Uthit 3 Rd.
Tel : 074 246 138

The extensive night market

specializes in fresh seafood
Place : Montri 1 Rd.
Price : around 200 THB. /dish

Muslim Ocha

This is one of the few Muslim cafes in town.
Place : Niphat Uthit 1 Rd.
Price : 40 - 210 THB. / dish
Open Daily : 6.00 am. - 7.00 pm.

Post Laserdisc

With an excellent sound system and well-place monitors.
Place : 82/83 Thamnoonvithi Rd.
Tel : 074 232 027
Open Daily : 9.00 am. - 1.00 am.

Phailin Steak House

Place : 18/3-4 Siphuwanat Rd.
Tel : 074 238 562, 074 233 222

