

# offbeat guides™

*An up-to-date travel guide prepared for*

**PRAVEEN RAJAN**

## Krabi

FEB 15 - FEB 18, 2009



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*The travel guide made just for*  
**PRAVEEN RAJAN**

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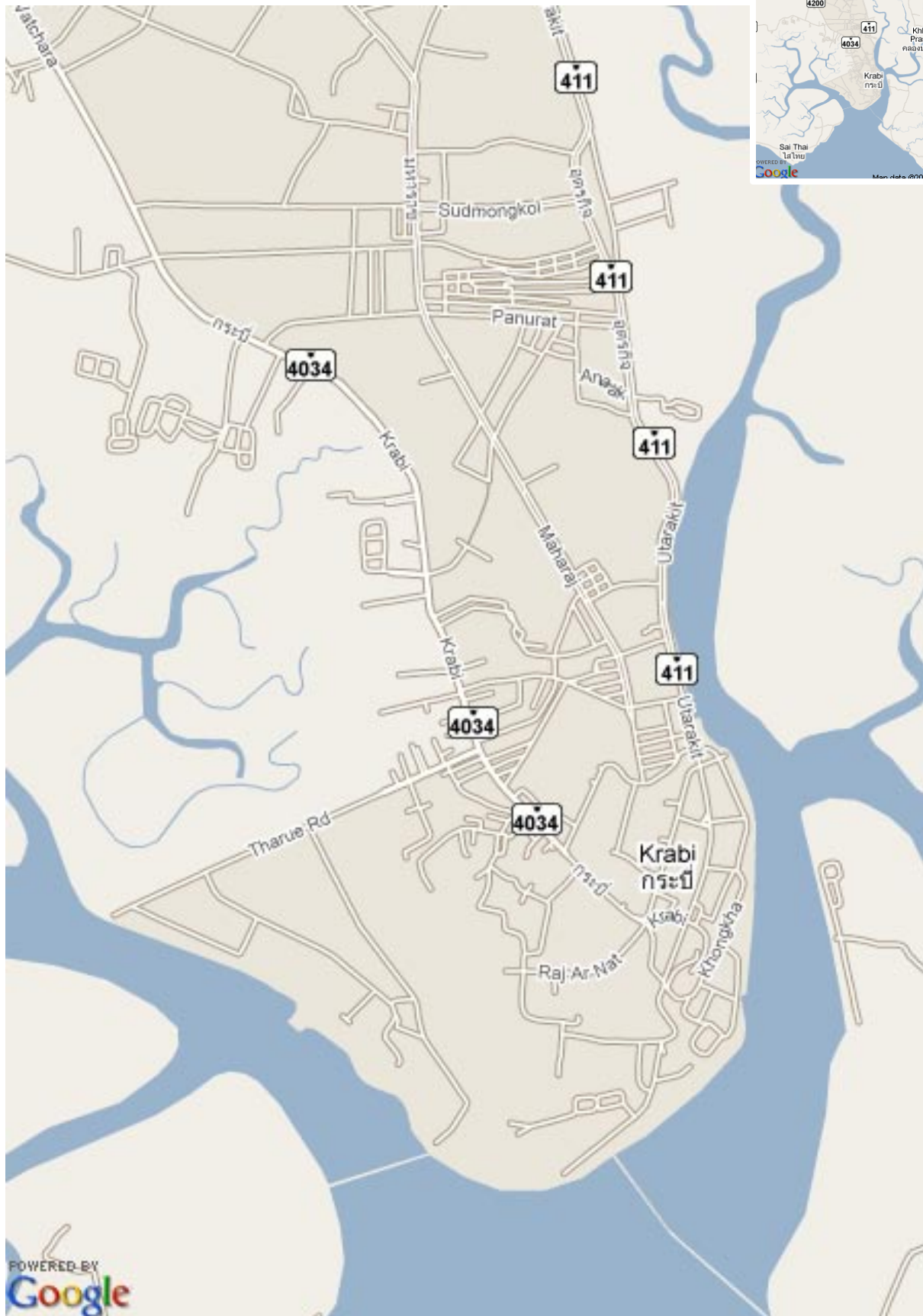
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# CITY MAP



# NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



# STREET MAP



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# Krabi travel guide

**Krabi** (กระบี่) is the provincial capital of Krabi Province, Thailand.

## UNDERSTAND

**Krabi** is a small city with a population of around 18,000. Located just upriver from the coast, it has no beaches and most visitors make a beeline for Had Yao, Ao Nang or Rai Leh (Railay). Nevertheless, Krabi is a relaxed place which is pleasant enough for travellers to spend a night or two and one can certainly better experience Thailand here than in Ao Nang or the other beach resorts.

## GET IN

Direct connections are by air, road and sea from other parts of Thailand.

## BY PLANE

**Krabi International Airport** (KBV) is about 10 km from the city limits, 15km from city centre. It is 40km from Ao Nang and 23km from Had Yao.

### To/from Bangkok

- **Thai Airways** operates daily direct flights to/from Bangkok.
- Budget carriers **Air Asia**, **One-Two-Go** also has daily flights from Bangkok (Don Muang).

### To/from Phuket

- **Destination Air Shuttle**, Thailand's only Seaplane service also routinely flies in and out of Krabi (Au Nang) from Phuket and to a numerous outer islands.
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## To/from outside Thailand

- **Air Asia** has daily flights to/from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **Tiger Airways** flies to/from Darwin on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- **Krabi Airline**, a newly established airline will start its operations in January 2008. Tentative first flight operation from Oslo (OSL), Norway and Munich (MUC), Germany on 19th of January 2008 respectively.

The international departure tax surcharge is 700 baht but is included in most tickets now; domestic departure tax is included in the price of the flight.

National Car Rental has a branch at the airport; motorcycle taxi rides are available outside the terminal. Krabi Limousine (tel. +66-75692073) has a desk inside the terminal and provides "limousine taxi" (using large air-conditioned sedans) transport to Krabi for 500 baht; Ao Nang for 800 baht; Phuket for 2500 baht. Krabi.com offers taxi and minibus (minivans) for less however travellers have to make deposit payment of 200 baht online via credit card. Asia-Reservations.net, a local travel agent, arrange private car transfers to Ao Nang for THB 550

**Getting to/from airport:** An airconditioned airport bus service links the airport with Krabi Town, Ao Nang and Noppharat Thara Beach. Fares are 90baht to Krabi and 150 baht to Ao Nang/Noppharat Thara. Buses meet all flight arrivals. For times to the airport, see Ao Nang page.

Songthaews run from Krabi Town to the airport and cost 40 baht. Going to the airport, they will drop you at the departure terminal. From the airport, you will have to walk out and catch them along the main road to Krabi, a distance of about 200m.

## BY TRAIN

Krabi does not have a railway station. Most travellers head to Surat Thani and transfer onto buses to Krabi from there. See the Surat Thani page for train times and the "By Bus" section below for bus connections between Krabi and Surat Thani.

## BY BUS

**To/from Bangkok:** Buses to/from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal (tel. +66-24351199) take about 12 hours and depart as follows:

- VIP bus at 07:20 (710 baht)
- First class bus at 19:00 (486 baht)
- Second class bus - 07:30, 19:00, 19:30, 21:00 - 378 baht

In Krabi, buses arrive/depart from the bus terminal at Taladkao, about 5km north of town.

**To/from Surat Thani:** Buses run from Krabi's bus terminal at Taladkao. Buses connect Krabi with Surat Thani with connections to ferries to Ko Samui and the other islands. Choose your ticket carefully - the trip should take no more than three hours, but some travellers have endured ridiculous ten hour rides (giving thieves ample time to go through the bags underneath the bus) which included extensive "repair stops" right in front of restaurants coincidentally affiliated with the bus company... such hassles can be avoided by using state/government-run BKS buses instead of dodgy private operators.

**To/from Phuket:** Shuttle buses run between Krabi airport and Phuket airport several times a day. There are also regular buses that make the 2 hour run.

**To/from Ao Nang:** White-coloured songthaews run from Krabi Town to Ao Nang via Klong Jilard, Sai Thai, Ao Nang Junction Village and Noppharat Thara Beach. Fares 50 baht during the day until 18:00, 60 baht between 18:00 and 22:00. They run every ten minutes during the day and every 30 minutes after 18:00. In Krabi, songthaews depart from in front of the 7-Eleven on Thanon Maharat.

## BY CAR

Krabi is located just off Highway 4. It is 946km south of Bangkok, 180km by road to Phuket, and 70km to Phang Nga.

## BY BOAT

Ferries run from/to Ko Phi Phi, Ko Jum and Ko Lanta daily. Most depart in the morning. Tickets can be purchased at the dock or from tourist offices and most local guesthouses and hotels. The normal passenger ferry does not start from the center of town anymore, but from a new passenger port about 3 km outside Krabi. Free taxi transfer to the pier should be included in the price of your ticket. If your boat starts from the old piers in the center of town (Chao Fah pier or Phi Phi pier), you are most likely on a more expensive and longer tourist boat ride. Also, make sure that when you arrive at the airport the taxi driver takes you to the correct pier. Many times they'll take you to a travel agent near the old pier and sell you additional accommodations or ser-

vices. Only ever buy the ticket you need. Prices will often get cheaper the closer you get to your next destination.

Ferry tickets to Ko Phi Phi are 350 baht when purchased from a travel agent.

The large displayed time-tables in the many travel agencies are just for show and the times are not to be taken literally. Ask. As of July 2007, there were two ferries a day from Krabi to Ko Phi Phi a day: 10am and 2:30pm. They add additional ferries during high-season.

The pier at Klong Jilad, for ferries to and from Ko Phi Phi has a taxi desk with posted prices: 150 baht to Krabi town, and 350 baht to the airport.

## SEE

■ *This article is about the town of Krabi. See Krabi province for attractions elsewhere, including Krabi's famous beaches.*

## BUY

Krabi town, too, is far cheaper than any of the tourist resorts - this is reflected in the price of food and drinks especially. There are two night markets in Krabi town that are worth a look, also a vogue department store where real items can be found cheaper than in Ao Nang. Do check out the Tesco Lotus Shopping Mall which is near the airport. Prices are cheap and there are lots of eateries available there.

## EAT

At night there is a charming night market close to the promenade next to the piers. Food is good and cheap, with Muslim influences. From time to time the town organizes shows on a small stage next to the market.

An even better market can be found on Maharat Soi (Lane) 10 in the centre of town. This market has plenty of fresh fruit and lots of authentic cooked food. Only a few places have menus, otherwise point and enjoy. This market does not sell alcohol.

Not to be missed is the covered morning market (the biggest in South Thailand) on Maharat Soi 7 (behind the Shell station). For early birds only. After 8am all the action is subsiding. Exactly at that time you can watch a show of national pride: the national anthem is playing and almost everyone comes to a standstill for a minute. The best place to get all kinds of fresh fruit and vegetable, khao njao (sticky rice), PatongKhoo, ChaThai (sweetened Thai-Tea) or fresh hot soymilk. The section of fresh fish and meat sellers is for hardened stomachs only.

There are several Italian restaurants of varying degrees of authenticity. Viva has Italian management and probably the best food.

The Hotpot Buffet Restaurant on the 2nd floor of the Tesco Lotus shopping is value for money! Pay 139 baht and eat all the crap you can stomach!

## DRINK

There are a number of bars and cafe bars in Krabi town center that cater for tourist, expat and locals. A few of them will have live local bands at the weekend belting out cover songs. Stick to the main areas and it is most unlikely you will have anything but a pleasant time

## SLEEP

■ -75661358-9" *email="info@nadivana.com"*  
*fax="+6675661357" url="" checkin="13:00" checkout="12:00"*  
*price="1,700-7,100">*Nadivana offers fully serviced, luxury apartments. Elegant architecture combines Thai traditions with modern comforts and luxury. Open plan apartments with large windows, high ceilings and private terraces. Spacious living with modern amenities. One bedroom, two bedroom and penthouse apartments; all can be linked together. Swimming pools, Jacuzzis, swim-up bar and an open air restaurant. Convenience store, beauty salon, DVD

rentals, mail and fax facilities, wireless internet and private parking.



■ Chan Cha Lay hotel

■ -75620952" email="chanchalay.krabi@hotmail.com" fax="" url="http://www.chanchalay.com" checkin="" checkout="" price="">A great, highly recommended budget option. This small hotel is clean and well-kept, and the design interesting & tasteful, cosy, cheery. Centrally located, there are endless food options nearby. Rooms 250 baht with shared bath, 350 baht with for private bath (low season). Air-con rooms also available.

■ **Aonang Mountain Paradise**, 26/11 Moo 2, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000, <http://hotels.thailandhotel.name/krabi/aonangmountain/pictures.html>. A one minute walk from the main strip of Ao Nang and the many cateries, bars and activities available there. Thai Villa Bungalow - Spacious, Double/Twin, Fridge, Air, Cable TV., En-suite bathroom, Hot water, Balcony, Traditional Thai styling. Superior Bungalow, Fan Bungalow.

■ **City Hotel**, 15/2-4 Sukon Road, Phone: +66-75611961, Fax: +66-75621282. Standard western style hotel, comfortable but not especially luxurious. Trappings include hot water and cable TV. Double rooms with fan start from 450 baht and rooms with air-con from 550 baht. Annoying free wake-up call at 11AM.

■ **Good Dream Guesthouse**, 83 Uttarakit Road, Phone: +66-75622993, [kravidream@gmail.com](mailto:kravidream@gmail.com), Fax: 75622993. Centrally located budget guest house with many foreigner options for food and drink nearby and free Internet/Wi-Fi for guests. All rooms have hot water. Price: 120-450 baht.

■ **Phanom Bencha Mountain Resort**, Phone: +66-75660-501, [info.pbmr@gmail.com](mailto:info.pbmr@gmail.com), <http://www.phanombenchamountainresort.com>. This garden resort is a 15-min-

ute ride from downtown Krabi and the airport, and has a natural swimming pool and trekking opportunities in the adjacent Phanom Bencha National Park. Low/high season prices are: double bungalows for 4 people 1000/1300 baht; single bungalows 500/800 baht; tents 350 baht. This is an eco resort.

■ **Swallow Guesthouse**, 31 Maharaj Soi 4. One of the longest running guesthouses in Krabi, right in town, minutes from all markets, shopping, etc. Extremely clean fan rooms only and friendly service. Price: 200-350 baht.

## GET OUT

- Koh Phi Phi
- Koh Lanta
- Railay
- Phuket
- Khao Lak
- Ko Siboya
- Koh Payam

## Krabi Krabong

**Krabi Krabong** is a Thai weapon-based martial art closely related to Burmese Banshay and Malay Silat.

It was seen in the James Bond movie, “The Man with the Golden Gun” when an unconscious Bond is left at Hai Fat’s dojo. In the scene, 007 watches two fighters fight against each other using the styles, complete with the two swords. The weapons techniques include training in these weapons:

- ดาบ *Daab*, single-edge sword
- กระบอง *Krabong*, staff
- โล่ *Loh*, buckler
- พลอง *Plong*, stick
- ง้าว *Ngao*, halberd
- ดาบสองมือ *Daab Song Mue*, two handed swords, one in each hand
- ไม้ศอก *Mai Sawk*, or *Mai Sun Sawk*, a pair of clubs which are worn on the forearms.

Aside from weapons, Krabi Krabong incorporates unarmed techniques as well. The empty-handed form is kick-based but also uses pressure points, locks, holds, and throws.

One school of Krabi Krabong today is the Buddhai Swan Sword Fighting Institute in Thailand, which was led by Ajarn Sumai until his death in 1998. Khru Ajarn Pramote Mesamana studied Krabi Krabong from the age of 6 from his father Semai Mesamana. This tradition of teaching father to son has a long history line of warriors going back to the time Ayutthaya. Today at 68 he runs the Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong in Lad Prao.

It has been said that the royal bodyguard corps of His Majesty King Rama IX of Thailand are all highly trained experts in krabi krabong.

## Amphoe Nuea Khlong

**Nuea Khlong** (Thai – เหนือคลอง) is a district (*amphoe*) in Krabi Province, Thailand.

### HISTORY

The minor district (*King Amphoe*) was created on April 1 1992 by splitting off 8 *tambon* from Mueang Krabi district. It was upgraded to a full district on December 5 1996.

### GEOGRAPHY

Neighboring districts are (from the northwest clockwise) Mueang Krabi, Khao Phanom, Khlong Thom and Ko Lanta. To the west is the Andaman Sea.

### ADMINISTRATION

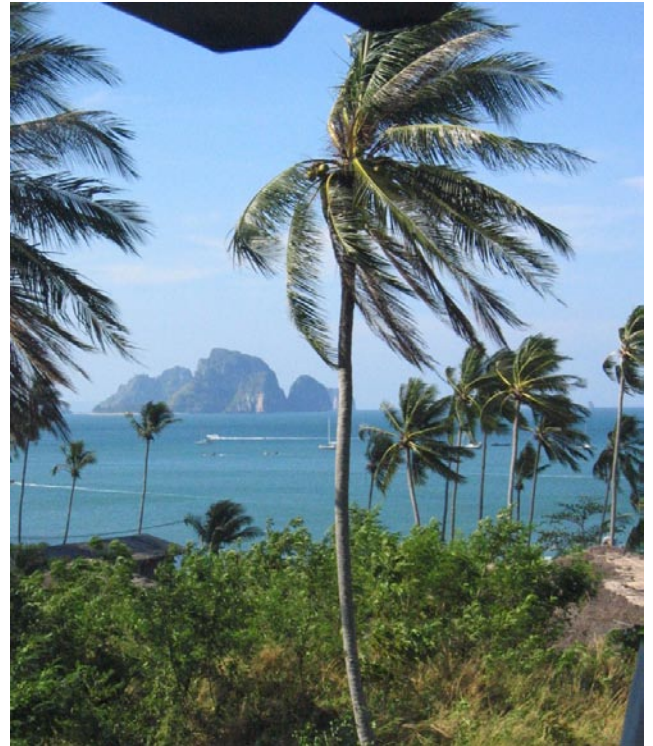
The district is subdivided into 8 subdistricts (*tambon*), which are further subdivided into 56 villages (*muban*). Nuea Khlong is a township (*thesaban tambon*) which covers parts of the *tambon* Nuea Khlong. Each *tambon* has a Tambon administrative organization (TAO).

**HMS *Strongbow*** was an S class submarine of the Royal Navy, and part of the Third Group built of that class. She was built by Scotts, of Greenock and launched on August 30 1943.

She served in the Second World War, spending most of it in the Pacific Far East, where she sank the small Japanese army cargo ship *Toso Maru No.1*, the Japanese merchant cargo ship *Manryo Maru*, four Japanese sailing vessels, a Japanese tug and a Japanese barge, three small unidentified Japanese vessels, three Siamese sailing vessels and six other small Siamese / Japanese vessels.

*Strongbow* was detected on the surface off Port Swettenham, Malaya on 13 January 1945. Japanese escorts soon arrived to attack her. *Strongbow* managed to escape but sustained such depth charge damage during a 14-hour attack that she was rendered unfit for further service. She was decommissioned at Falmouth in June 1945, and scrapped at Preston in April 1946.

## Ao Nang



■ Sea view from Ao Nang hotel

**Ao Nang** is a central point of the coastal province of Krabi, Thailand. The town consists chiefly of a main street, which is dominated by restaurants, pubs, shops and other commerce aimed at tourists. The main beach is used by sunbathers to a certain extent, but there are hundreds of longtail boats which offer access to other beaches on the mainland and on nearby islands.

There are a number of scuba diving centres, most of which offer basic diving courses. The islands outside Ao Nang are relatively easy to access and uncrowded compared to many of the diving sites around Phi Phi Island. Climbing is another activity widely available through centres in Ao Nang, although most of the climbs are actually in the areas around the Railay, Tonsai and Phra Nang beaches.

The main beach at Ao Nang is the main departure point for boats to a number of places, including the nearby resort of Railay (or Rai Leh), which cannot be accessed by road, Poda Island and Chicken Island.

## Krabi Airport

**Krabi Airport**, is the airport serving Krabi, Thailand - about 7 km (4.35 miles) from the city center.

### AIRLINES AND DESTINATIONS

#### INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

- AirAsia (Kuala Lumpur)
- Krabi Airline (Oslo 21 Feb 2009, Munich 24 Feb 2009))

#### DOMESTIC AIRLINES

AirAsia

- Thai AirAsia (Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi)
- Bangkok Airways (Samui)
- Thai Airways International (Bangkok-Don Mueang, Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi)

### STATISTICS (2007)



■ Krabi Airport

- **Movements** - 7,820
- **Passenger departures** - 395,902
- **Transit** - 427
- **Passenger arrivals** - 373,353
- **Total Passenger** - **769,255**
- **Outgoing cargo** - 482,696 kg
- **Incoming cargo** - 526,244 kg
- **Outgoing Mail Cargo** - 0 kg
- **Incoming Mail Cargo** - 0 kg

## Amphoe Khlong Thom

**Khlong Thom** (Thai – คลองท่อม) is a district (*amphoe*) in Krabi Province, Thailand.

### GEOGRAPHY

Neighboring districts are (from the west clockwise) Ko Lanta, Nuea Khlong, Khao Phanom and Lam Thap of Krabi Province, and Wang Wiset and Sikao of Trang Province. To the southwest is the Andaman Sea.

### ADMINISTRATION

The district is subdivided into 5 subdistricts (*tambon*), which are further subdivided into 65 villages (*muban*). There are two townships (*thesaban tambon*) - Khlong Thom Tai and Khlong Phon, each covering parts of the same-named *tambon*. Each *tambon* has a Tambon administrative organization (TAO), responsible for the area not belonging to any of the townships.

## Amphoe Khao Phanom

**Khao Phanom** (Thai – เขานพนง) is a district (*amphoe*) in Krabi Province, Thailand.

### HISTORY

The minor district (*King Amphoe*) was created on December 1 1967 by adding together the *tambon* Khao Phanom, Khao Din and 2 villages of Khok Yang of Mueang Krabi district and *tambon* Sin Pun from Khlong Thom. It was upgraded to a full district on June 29 1973.

### GEOGRAPHY

Neighboring districts are (from the north clockwise) Chai Buri and Phrasaeng of Surat Thani Province, Thung Yai of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, and Lam Thap, Khlong Thom, Nuea Khlong, Mueang Krabi, Ao Luek and Plai Phraya of Krabi Province.

The Khao Phanom Bencha National Park protects the forests around Phanom Bencha, with 1,397 m above sea level the highest elevation of Krabi Province.

### ADMINISTRATION

The district is subdivided into 6 subdistricts (*tambon*), which are further subdivided into 54 villages (*muban*). Khao Phanom is a township (*thesaban tambon*) which covers parts of the *tambon* Khao Phanom. Each *tambon* has a Tambon administrative organization (TAO).

## Amphoe Ko Yao

**Ko Yao** (Thai – เกาะยาว) is a district (*amphoe*) in the province Phang Nga in the south of Thailand.

### HISTORY

The minor district (*King Amphoe*) Ko Yao was established in 1903 as a subordinate of Mueang Phang Nga district. On January 1 1988 it was upgraded to a full district.

### GEOGRAPHY

The district covers several islands of the Ko Yao archipelago within the Phang Nga Bay, near the island of Phuket. The two main islands are named Ko Yao Yai and Ko Yao Noi (big long island and small long island).

The northern tips of the islands are part of the Ao Pang Nga National Park.

### ADMINISTRATION

The district is subdivided into 3 subdistricts (*tambon*), which are further subdivided into 18 villages (*muban*). Ko Yao itself has township (*thesaban tambon*) status, which covers parts of *tambon* Ko Yao Noi. There are further 3 Tambon administrative organization (TAO).

## Railay Beach



■ Railay Beach

**Railay Beach** (Thai – อ่าวไร่เลย์) is a small peninsula located between the city of Krabi and Ao Nang. Accessible only by boat due to the high limestone cliffs cutting off mainland access. These cliffs attract rock climbers from all over the world, but the area is also popular due to its beautiful beaches and quiet relaxing atmosphere. Accommodation ranges from inexpensive bungalows popular with backpackers and climbers, to the renowned jet-set resort of Rayavadee. The three main areas of Railay consist of West Railay, East Railay and Tonsai, with Tonsai catering more to climbers.

Railay beach was not severely hit by the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

## Krabi Province

**Krabi** (Thai – กระบี่) is one of the southern provinces (*chang-wat*) of Thailand, at the shore of the Andaman Sea.

Neighboring provinces are (from north clockwise) Phang Nga, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Trang. The Phuket province to the west is also neighboring, but without any land boundary. The capital of the region is the city of Krabi.

### SLOGAN

### GEOGRAPHY

The province is located at the shore to the Andaman Sea. Most notable are the solitary limestone hills, both on the land and in the sea as islands. Rock climbers from all over the world travel to Railay Beach to climb. Of about 130 islands belonging to the province, Ko Phi Phi Lee is perhaps the most famous, as it was the set of the movie *The Beach*. The coast of the province was badly damaged by the tsunami on December 26 2004.

Other islands include: Ko Phi Phi Don, part of the Phi Phi Islands, and Ko Lanta, a larger island to the south.

The limestone hills contain many caves, most having beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. Tham Chao Le and Tham Phi Hua To, both in Ao Luek district, contain prehistoric rock-painting depicting humans, animals as well as geometrical shapes. In Lang Rong Rien cave in 1986 archaeologists found 40,000 year old human artifacts - stone tools, pottery as well as bones. It is one of the oldest traces of human occupation in all South-East Asia. The caves of Krabi are also one of the main sources of nests of the Edible-nest Swiftlet, used to create bird's nest soup.

### HISTORY

The first human remains in the province date back to 25,000 - 35,000 B.C., but the first recorded history dates back to Kingdom of Ligor in 1200, when the city Ban Thai Samor was part of this kingdom. In modern Thailand, Krabi was administered from Nakhon Si Thammarat, even after 1872 when king Chulalongkorn gave Krabi the status of a town. In 1875 it was made a direct subordinate of Bangkok, thus becoming what is now a province. In 1900 the gover-

nor moved the center of the province from Ban Talad Kao to its present location at the mouth of the Krabi river.

It is believed that this town may have taken its name after the meaning of Krabi, which means sword. This may have stemmed from a legend that an ancient sword was unearthed prior to the city's founding.

## SYMBOLS

The seal of the province shows two crossed ancient swords (Krabi is also the name of an ancient Siamese sword) in front of the Indian Ocean and the Phanom Bencha mountain, with 1397 m above sea level the highest mountain of the province. The provincial tree is the *Thung-Fa* (Thai: ทุ้งฟ้า) or *Alstonia macrophylla*.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS



■ Map of Amphoe

Krabi is subdivided into 8 districts (*amphoe*), which are further divided into 53 communes (*tambon*) and 374 villages (*muban*).

## TRANSPORTATION

### Airplane

**Krabi International Airport (KBV)** This recently opened airport is about 10 km from the city limits and operates regular flights to many foreign destinations. Thailand's only Seaplane service also routinely flies in and out of Krabi's islands and Ao Nang Beach to numerous destinations.

### Train

Trains from Bangkok and the North, and Malaysia and the South, stop at Surat Thani from where a transfer by road is necessary.

### Bus

There are both non air-conditioned and air-conditioned buses to Bangkok and other southern provinces. There are also non air-condition inter-provincial buses.

### Roads

There are five major highways linking Krabi's districts and neighbouring provinces.

### Ferry Boat

There are frequent ferry boats to Ko Phi Phi, Ko Jum and Ko Lanta. These usually carry passengers as well as vehicles across the sides.

### Boat

There are numerous companies on the island offering boat services around the islands and for those going diving.

### Songthaew (public passenger pick-up vehicles)

The public passenger pick-up vehicles, also called Songthaew, are very common in Krabi. People usually use this facility cover their distances within the province.

## TOURISM

### SIGHTS



■ Ao Railay West Beach

■ **Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park** (อุทยานแห่งชาติหาดนพรัตน์ธารา - หมู่เกาะพีพี) Covering the areas of Tambon Nong Thale, Tambon Sai Thai, Tambon Ao Nang and Tambon Pak Nam, Amphoe Mueang, Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park has an area of 242,437 rai in which 200,849 rai is water. There are 3 distinctive kinds of forest here: moist evergreen forests, mangrove forests and peat swamp forests.

**Mu Ko Phi Phi** (หมู่เกาะพีพี) Located 42 kilometres from the provincial town of Krabi, Mu Ko Phi Phi (Phi Phi Islands) are an archipelago, formerly called Pulau Piah Pi. The surrounding sea is home to a variety of underwater anemones, coral reefs, and colourful marine life. The area is also a popular destination for snorkelling. Attractions of Mu Ko Phi Phi:

■ **Ko Phi Phi Don** (เกาะพีพีดอน) Ko Phi Phi Don (Phi Phi Don Island) covers an area of 28 square km. Popular attractions are the twin bays with curving beaches of Ao Ton Sai and Ao Lo Da Lam.

■ **Ko Phi Phi Le** (เกาะพีพีเล) Covering an area of only 6.6 square kilometres, Phi Phi Le Island is surrounded by limestone mountains and sheer cliffs plunging hundreds of metres to the sea. The sea is 20 meters deep and the deepest point in the south of the island is around 34 meters. Ko Phi Phi Le has bays such as Ao Pi Le, Ao Maya, and Ao Lo Sa Ma. In the north-east of the island is a large cave called Tham Viking.

■ **Hat Noppharat Thara** (หาดนพรัตน์ธารา) Situated 17 km from the provincial town of Krabi, Hat Noppharat Thara (Noppharat Thara Beach) is a 3-km long sandy beach lined with dense casuarinas. The beach, paved with tiny seashells, was formerly called Hat Khlong Haeng. The area is

a long beach and stretches all the way to the island of Ko Khao Pak Khlong.

■ **Su-san Hoi (Shell Cemetery)** (สุสานหอย) Once a large freshwater swamp, the habitat of diverse mollusks of about 2 cm in size, Su-san Hoi features a slab formed from a huge number of embedded various types of mollusks which can be dated to approximately 40 million years ago. With changes on the surface of the earth, seawater flooded the freshwater swamp and the limestone elements in the seawater enveloped the submerged mollusks resulting in a homogenous layer of fossilized mollusk shells forty centimetres thick known as Shelley Limestone. With geographical upheavals, the limestone layer is now distributed in great broken sheets of impressive magnitude on the seashore.

■ **Ao Nang** (อ่าวนาง) Ao Nang Beach, is Krabi's most developed beach. Fringed by palms, the long beach is backed by a wide range of accommodation including resorts, bungalows and guesthouses. There are more than 83 offshore islands, which some of them are shaped like a boot, junk, or parrot's head. Ko Poda, Ko Mo and Ko Thap are popular destinations among tourists for their beaches and coral reefs. They are popular islands for diving and snorkelling.

■ **Hat Rai Le (Rai Le Beach)** There are in fact two beaches at Hat Rai Le which are surrounded from both sides by towering limestone cliffs, making the area isolated from the mainland - only accessible by boat. Hat Rai Le is a recently found popular 'hippy' hang-out. Pra Nang Beach (Princess Cave Beach) next door to Rai Le is an area with limestone scenery, which dominates the entire region offering a fascinating network of cave systems, both inland and along the coastline. Phra Nang Beach (Princess Cave Beach) is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and so many Hollywood movies have been shot there.

■ **Thale Waek or Separated Sea** (ทะเลแหวก) During the lowest tide of the day, the sea is gradually separated by the white sand and limestone beach that will appear to connect two islands. From being the site of a meditation centre, it is also a place of archaeological interest, dating from the prehistoric into proto-historic times. Stone tools, potsherds, and unbaked clay votive tablets have been found.

■ **Than Bokkhorani National Park** (อุทยานแห่งชาติธารโบกขรณี) The park covers an area of 121 square km. The landscape is dominated by a series of limestone mountains, evergreen forests, mangrove forests, and numerous islands. The main flora is evergreen forest, peat swamp forest, strand forest, and mangrove forest, as well as, various types of marine flora. Other attractions include: Than Bokkhorani (ธารโบกขรณี) which is home to various flowing streams and numerous pools of different cascades among a shady forested area and two caves Tham Lot and Tham Phi Hua To (ถ้ำลอดและถ้ำผีหัวโต)

■ **Namtok Ron Khlong Thom** (น้ำตกร้อนคลองท่อม) This area is full of hot springs in a shady forest. The temperature

is not too hot at 40-50 degrees Celsius. The hot springs and cool streams converge on a slope to form lovely cascades with warm water.

- **Khao Pra - Bang Khram Wildlife Sanctuary** (เขตรักษาพันธุ์สัตว์ป่าเขาประ - บางคราม) This is located at Tambon Khlong Thom Nuea. Comprising lowland forest, this area features the Emerald Pool or Sa Morakot, which are 3 hot springs with a temperature of 30 - 50 degrees Celsius. The forest is home to numerous flora and rare birds like Gurney's Pitta, Rufous-collared Kingfisher, and Black Hornbill. There is also a 2.7-km nature trail known as the Tina Jollife (Thung Tiao) Trail, named after an English activist wanting to conserve this batch of rainforest.
- **Mu Ko Lanta National Park** (อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะลันตา) Covering a total area of 152 square kilometres, Mu Ko Lanta National Park is located in Amphoe Ko Lanta and consists of many islands. Some major islands are Ko Lanta Yai, Ko Lanta Noi, Ko Taleng Beng, as well as, other surrounding islands like Mu Ko Ha, Mu Ko Rok, and Ko Ngai.
- **Pa Phru Tha Pom Khlong Song Nam** Pa Phru or peat swamp forest of the canal of Tha Pom features a number of water sources, which originate from the Chong Phra Kaeo pool. Tha Pom is called Khlong Song Nam by the locals, which in Thai literally means "two water canal", because of its special feature location where crystal clear freshwater, which the pool's floor and the roots of Lumphi palm (*Eleiodoxa conferta*) are virtually visible, meets seawater from the mangrove forest. Tha Pom features a natural trail made of lath.

## ACTIVITIES

Apart from its natural attractions, Krabi is also a popular place for scuba diving and snorkelling, kayaking, rock climbing, and jungle treks by foot, mountain bike or elephant. Famous spots for kayaking include Ko Hong, Ko Karot, Ko Phak Bia, Ko Ku Du, and Tha Len, while Tham Phra Nang and Hat Rai Le are a mecca for climbers from all over the world. Abseiling has currently become another popular sport in Krabi.

Located 35 kilometres from the provincial town, Ban Tha Len, abounds with mangrove forests and ghost crabs. Tham Khangkhao or the bat cave has impressive stalactites and stalagmites. There is a panoramic view of Krabi's sea, offshore islands, and mangrove forests are visible.

- **Diving & Snorkeling** Diving in Krabi is one of the favorite pastimes of tourists because the waters are home to the

likes of friendly leopard and whale sharks, turtles, moray eels and dolphins.

- **Rock Climbing** in Krabi has grown very popular over recent years.
- **Sea Kayaking** With a coastline composed of mangroves, limestone, small coves, caves and islands, and an interior with rivers lined with cave systems. Krabi provides a popular environment for kayaking.
- **Bird Watching** There are many hard-to-find birds such as: Gurneys, Finfoots, Bigwinged Brown Kingfishers, Egrets, Bitterns and Herons etc.
- **Sailing & Cruising** Krabi has plenty of anchorages but usually deserted.
- **Fishing** Fishers catch the likes of marlin, sailfish barracuda and tuna.
- **Jungle Trekking** Krabi's forests with attractive flora and fauna are popular for trekking. The Khao Phanom Bencha National Park and the Khao Pra-Bang Khram are regarded as the two of the favorites among trekkers.
- **Golf** Krabi has one 18-hole golf course to the south of Krabi town with a new development currently underway by an international group including Colin Montgomery.
- **Spa** There are plenty of spas located in the major hotels and resorts. The treatment normally includes both traditional remedies and modern techniques.
- **Thai Massage** Traditional Thai massage, characterized by its holistic approach to health is aimed at enhancing not only one's physical and emotional state but also to allow one to grow spiritually. Massage parlors can be found at all major hotels and outside at private enterprises.

## SHOPPING / SOUVENIRS

Souvenirs of Krabi include turtle-dove cages, Toei Panan mats made from pandanus plants, shrimp paste, dried fish, and dried shrimp.

Most of the goods sold to tourists in Krabi are just the same as what is found in Bangkok, such as: Thai silk scarves, carved wooden objects, silver jewellery, sarongs, leather goods etc.

## NIGHTLIFE

Krabi's touristic areas have all the usual types of foreign-orientated beer bars. The provincial town is home to, again, the same type of Tha-style entertainment which can be found all over Thailand. That is: karaoke lounges, live music venues and discotheques.

## POPULATION AND CULTURE

Krabi's population includes Buddhists, Thai-Chinese, Moken (sea gypsies) and around 42% of Muslims, which form a majority in the rural areas. Krabi however, has been little affected by the muslim militant insurgency that has plagued other southern provinces of Thailand since 2003 and its population lives in peace and harmony. Outside of the provincial town, the rural folk speak with a thick Southern dialect which is difficult for even other Thais to understand.

Traditionally Krabi's inhabitants were mainly engaged in works related to agriculture, for the province is rich in rubber, palm, oil, and oranges. In recent years tourism has become an important source of income.

## EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Owing to the varied ethnic and religious backgrounds present in Krabi, the local people are always celebrating some religious festival, whether part of Thai Buddhist, Thai-Chinese or Thai-Islamic tradition. Visitors can also enjoy the annual boat-launching ceremonies of the sea gypsies and various long-tail boat races.

■ **Krabi Boek Fa Andaman Festival** (งานกระบี่เบิกฟ้าอันดามัน) This is annually held in November to inaugurate the province's tourist season. Water sports competitions, cultural shows, and good-natured fun are the schedule.

■ **Laanta Lanta Festival** (เทศกาลลานดาลันตา) The festival is usually held in March every year at the Old Community in Ko Lanta called Lanta Old Town, which has a very old history of more than 100 years. Ancient Chinese style houses can still be seen here. In this festival, tourists can see the traditional culture, previously unseen ceremonial demonstrations, Southern local performances, folk games, water sports competitions and enjoy the tastes from various kinds of food booths which are provided by prestigious hotels on the island.

■ **Sat Duean Sip Festival or Festival of the Tenth Lunar Month** (งานประเพณีสารทเดือนสิบ) This is the southern traditional merit making occasion to honour one's ancestors. Food offerings such as Khanom La, Khanom Chohu, Khanom Phong, Khanom Ba, and Khanom Kong or Khai Pla, are made offer to Buddhist monks.

■ **Chak Phra Festival** (งานประเพณีชักพระ) The original waterborne procession, where Buddha images are put on elaborately decorated pulpits on boats are pulled along on the river, has been replaced by a land procession. The festival was formerly accompanied with a performance of

traditional boat songs. However, the traditional waterborne songs have since disappeared.

■ **Loi Ruea Chao Le Festival** (ประเพณีลอยเรือชาวเล) This old ritualistic tradition takes place on Ko Lanta during the full moon of the sixth and eleventh month in the lunar calendar. This is a religious rite performed by the sea gypsies of Ko Lanta, as well as, from other neighbouring areas, who gather on the beach near Sala Dan Village. They dance their famous "rong ngeng" round the boats of misfortune to be set adrift. Ceremonies feature singing and dancing. This festival is expected to bring prosperity and happiness to the participants.

## FOLK ENTERTAINMENT

**Like Pa** (ลิเกป่า) An adapted play, Like Pa follows the adventures of an Indian merchant from Calcutta who married a local girl named Yayi. The story is then followed by other plays. Like Pa is accompanied by the music of folk instruments such as various kinds of drums, cymbals, and gongs. The lyrics are a mixture of the traditional Manora and Buranyawa songs. With its long history of popularity in Krabi, Like Pa performers are abundant here. It is believed that the play originated in this province. Many companies are still performing this dramatic art such as Mr. Truek Plo-drit who won a cultural award.

**Shadow Plays** (หนังตะลุง) This is an Indian influence. There are many shadow play or nang talung companies in Krabi.

**Manora** (มโนราห์) The performance is native to southern Thailand, which truly reflects its traditional culture.

**Rong Ngeng** (รองเง็ง) and **Phleng Tanyong** (เพลงตันหยง) A Malaysian adaptation, which is of Portuguese origin, rong ngeng is a traditional folk dance and music customarily performed in noble houses. It was later performed by the locals with Thai lyrics called phleng tanyong.

## ART

Even though it is Malay in origin, the art of batik has embedded itself within the local culture.

## TRADITIONAL CUISINE / FOOD

In general, Southern Thai food is renowned for its spiciness. Much of the cuisine has its origins in Malay, Indonesian and Indian food. Favourite dishes from the south include Indian-style Muslim curry (massaman), rice noodles in fish curry sauce (Khanom Jeen) and chicken biryani.

As for Krabi, seafood is obviously what most tourists long for when visiting a coastal province like Krabi. In this connection, the wing shell (หอยชักตีน) is Krabi's famous cuisine. In addition, stirred fried Spotted Babylon (หอยหวาน) is found in mangrove forests with chilies and basil; it is also famous.

Many foreign tourists regard Krabi Town as having one of the best food Night Markets in Thailand.

## MEDICAL HEALTH CARE

There are three main hospitals in Krabi: Krabi Hospital, Koh Lanta Hospital and Ao Lak Hospital. Besides those, there are plenty of clinics and pharmacies scattered all over the place.

## RETIREMENT

There are currently more than 1,000 foreigners living in Krabi, many of them retirees. A favourite spot for them is Ao Nang Beach.

## MEDIA/CONTACT

Nationwide television, cable TVs, local cable TV channels are available in Krabi province especially in tourist spots. International newspapers and magazines are available at some bookstores in downtown and tourist spots.

Landline telephones, satellite phones, all mobile phone systems, high-speed internet (ADSL), post offices and parcel services are available in Krabi province.

# Amphoe Mueang Krabi

**Krabi** is the capital district (*amphoe mueang*) of Krabi Province in southern Thailand.

## GEOGRAPHY

Neighboring districts are (from the north clockwise) Ao Luek, Khao Phanom and Nuea Khlong. To the south and west borders the Phang Nga Bay.



■ Ao Nang

Also belonging to the district is the Phi phi archipelago and several smaller islands. The karst landscape at the coast created several popular touristical places, like the beaches of Ao Nang or Railay, famous for rock climbers.

Khao Phanom Bencha National Park in the north of the district protects the forests around Phanom Bencha, the highest elevation of Krabi Province. That hills are also the source of the Krabi River, which empties into the Phang Nga bay at the town Krabi. Its estuary with mangrove forests and mudflats is a Ramsar protected wetland.

## ADMINISTRATION

The district is subdivided into 10 subdistricts (*tambon*), which are further subdivided into 66 villages (*muban*). Krabi itself is the only town (*thesaban mueang*) of the district, covering the *tambon* Pak Nam and Krabi Yai. The remaining *tambon* each have a Tambon administrative organization (TAO).

The missing numbers 4, 7-10 and 12-14 were split off as Nuea Khlong district

## Exchange Rates

RM1 Ringgit is equal to ฿9.76 Baht as of February 13, 2009.

฿1 Baht is equal to RM0.1 Ringgits as of February 13, 2009.

RM1 Ringgit	฿9.76 Baht
RM5 Ringgits	฿48.8 Baht
RM10 Ringgits	฿97.6 Baht
RM20 Ringgits	฿195.21 Baht
RM50 Ringgits	฿488.02 Baht
RM100 Ringgits	฿976.04 Baht

# Weather

## HISTORICAL WEATHER

### FEBRUARY

**High:** 90° F

**Low:** 68° F

**Average:** 79° F

## WEATHER FORECAST



### Day of Sunday, February 15

Partial sunshine.

**High:** 95° F, feels like 108° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NW

**Precipitation:** 5% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:42 AM

**UV:** 9



### Night of Sunday, February 15

Patchy clouds.

**Low:** 75° F, feels like 78° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NNW

**Precipitation:** 9% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



### Day of Monday, February 16

Some sun.

**High:** 93° F, feels like 104° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NW

**Precipitation:** 5% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:42 AM

**UV:** 10



### Night of Monday, February 16

Low clouds.

**Low:** 76° F, feels like 76° F

**Wind:** 4 MPH, NW

**Precipitation:** 8% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



### Day of Tuesday, February 17

Mostly cloudy with a shower in places in the afternoon.

**High:** 91° F, feels like 105° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NNW

**Precipitation:** 17% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:41 AM

**UV:** 9



### Night of Tuesday, February 17

Considerable clouds with a shower.

**Low:** 76° F, feels like 80° F

**Wind:** 6 MPH, NNW

**Precipitation:** 21% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



### Day of Wednesday, February 18

Mostly cloudy with a shower in the afternoon.

**High:** 89° F, feels like 102° F

**Wind:** 4 MPH, NNW

**Precipitation:** 31% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:41 AM

**UV:** 8



### Night of Wednesday, February 18

Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers.

**Low:** 75° F, feels like 83° F

**Wind:** 3 MPH, NW

**Precipitation:** 31% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



### Day of Thursday, February 19

Partly sunny and very humid.

**High:** 92° F, feels like 115° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NNE

**Precipitation:** 14% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:41 AM

**UV:** 9



### Night of Thursday, February 19

Partly cloudy and humid.

**Low:** 76° F, feels like 84° F

**Wind:** 6 MPH, NE

**Precipitation:** 26% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



#### Day of Friday, February 20

Partly sunny with a shower in the afternoon.

**High:** 90° F, feels like 101° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, NE

**Precipitation:** 39% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:40 AM

**UV:** 10



#### Night of Friday, February 20

Partly cloudy and humid with a passing shower.

**Low:** 75° F, feels like 84° F

**Wind:** 4 MPH, NE

**Precipitation:** 35% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



#### Day of Saturday, February 21

Rain.

**High:** 89° F, feels like 99° F

**Wind:** 5 MPH, ENE

**Precipitation:** 35% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:40 AM

**UV:** 9



#### Night of Saturday, February 21

Partly cloudy.

**Low:** 76° F, feels like 82° F

**Wind:** 7 MPH, ENE

**Precipitation:** 44% chance

**Sunset:** 6:35 PM



#### Day of Sunday, February 22

Partial sunshine.

**High:** 88° F, feels like 97° F

**Wind:** 7 MPH, ENE

**Precipitation:** 26% chance

**Sunrise:** 6:40 AM

**UV:** 9



#### Night of Sunday, February 22

Partly cloudy.

**Low:** 74° F, feels like 79° F

**Wind:** 6 MPH, ENE

**Precipitation:** 17% chance

**Sunset:** 6:36 PM

## Events

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

#### FRAMING ON A BUDGET

<b>DATE:</b>	Sunday, February 15, 10:30am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Pitlochry Festival Theatre
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	Ban Pi Pi, Krabi
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="http://eventful.com/events/framing-budget-EO-001-015735690-9">http://eventful.com/events/framing-budget-EO-001-015735690-9</a>

Listing courtesy of Eventful, <http://eventful.com>

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# Travel Notes

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