

In Hat Yai

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CHAPTER 5

Hat Yai City



The city of Hat Yai is about 60 km from the Malaysian border, one hour and 15 minutes flying from Bangkok and 30 km from the beautiful tropical long beaches of Songkhla. It is a modern city, with a vibrant mix of Thai, Chinese, and Malay influences, making Hat Yai a thrill to visit with many cultural and modern entertainment attractions.

Map of Hat Yai City



❖ Going to PSU Hat Yai Campus

How can I get from Hat Yai airport to PSU?

If you are flying to Hat Yai, you will reach [Hat Yai International Airport \(HDY\)](#), located at about 15 km southwest of the city center and at around 40 minutes from PSU by car.

To ensure that you will easily find your way to PSU Hat Yai Campus, please pre-arrange an airport pick-up with your faculty at PSU or see below how to arrange your own transportation.



1) Airport pick-up

There are several ways to travel from the airport to PSU, but generally, PSU faculties provides an airport pick-up service for their new coming international students. If you already made arrangements for an airport pick-up service, your trip will be very simple. A PSU representative will wait for you at the exit gate holding a PSU sign. Please note that the representatives will only be at the airport at the previously informed time and day for the airport pick-up service. If you arrive at the airport earlier, please wait around the exit gate.

So, be sure that you let your contact person at the faculty know way in advance about your exact arrival date and time to Hat Yai International Airport.



2) Arrange your own transportation from Hat Yai airport to PSU

If you arrive at PSU when the airport pick-up service is not available, you will need to arrange your own alternative transportation. It is a good idea to make these arrangements when you book your flight.

Please watch our handy [Soft Landing video](#) to ensure that you easily find your way to Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus.



Taxi

Taxi rides to Hat Yai city can be found at the airport entrance for which the drivers will ask around 300 baht. You also can use the airport limo service. There are four limousine service counters in the passenger hall.



Car Rental

The Car Rental counter is situated in the domestic arrival hall near the limousine counter.

A minivan service into the city costs 100 baht.

A blue colored Songthaew runs into town for 30 Baht and can be found at the far end of the parking lot.

Hat Yai Train Station

[Hat Yai Train Station](#) is the southernmost major rail hub, depot, and junction on Thai Railways Southern Line. The trains stopping in Hat Yai follow the paths: Bangkok – Sungai Kolok and Bangkok-Yala for national connections, as well as Bangkok – Butterworth and Hat Yai – Kuala Lumpur for the Malaysian links.



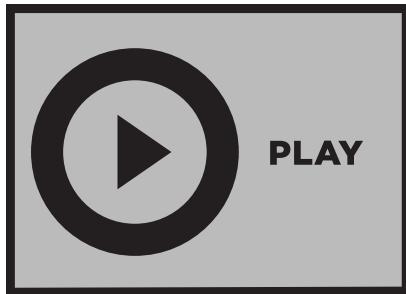
The easiest way to go to PSU from the train station is to take a tuk-tuk, the most common type of transportation while you are in Hat Yai. The driver knows all the important locations in Hat Yai and surrounding areas. There are tuk-tuks everywhere in Hat Yai. Just go to the roadside and wave and you will see a few tuk-tuks coming. A ride in tuk-tuk may cost from 30-100 Baht per person, depending on the distance, but you can bargain for less if there are more persons sitting in. Tell the driver where you want to go and agree about the price.



How can I get from Hat Yai Bus Terminal to PSU?

If you arrive Hat Yai by bus, please see our handy Soft Landing video to help you easily find your way to Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus.

Hat Yai Bus Terminal 1 is located near the Diana Department Store and Central Festival shopping center. This main terminal serves buses from and to Bangkok and other destinations, as well as the Southern Minivan Terminal for minivans to Songkhla city, Padang Besar, Betong, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, etc.



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❖ Getting around Hat Yai

The city center itself is quite compact and it is practical to get around on foot, but getting to most attractions will require some kind of transportation.

- **By tuk-tuk or motorbike taxi**

Tuk-tuks and motorbike taxis are abundant in Hat Yai. Fares should be negotiated beforehand and often can be overpriced, so bargain if possible. A ride within the city may costs 20-100 Baht per person. If possible, ask a Thai person to write down the location in Thai for you and show it to the driver. Rides to places outside the town are negotiable.

Tuk-tuks and motorcycle taxis can be found near the Rong Chang (Elephant Canteen), by the PSU Hospital entrance, or outside the main Hat Yai Campus entrance.



• By metered taxi

Metered taxi (known as “taxi meter”) is a good option if you want air conditioner and don’t like to bargain with tuk-tuks.

Taxi Meter Hat Yai: tel. 082 266 2010, 082 416 8814



• By songthaew

Songthaew is a pickup truck with rows of seat and metal bars attached in the back running in the city. The word songthaew itself means two rows. That is why most of songthaews just have two rows of seat in the back. As the main public transportation in Hat Yai, songthaew is also the best way for people to get around the city. It has several different routes based on its color. The routes are actually written on the front and side, but, it is all in Thai alphabet. It can be stopped at any point along the route by pressing the buzzer. The fare may be from 10-40 Baht.



- **Blue songthaew** runs between Hat Yai International Airport and Central Festival, passing Tesco Lotus 2 (in Hat Yai Nai), Hat Yai Minivan Station (Talat Kaset), the intersection near Kim Yong Market, Clock Tower, Namphu (fountain) roundabout, Siam Nakarin, Big C Extra, sam yaek Kohong (Kohong T. junction), Prince of Songkhla University, Tesco Lotus 1 (opposite PSU), Green Way Market, ASEAN Trade Market, Hat Yai Bus Terminal 1 and ends at Central Festival. It runs the same route back to the airport.



- **Red/Maroon songthaew, numbered 33**, runs between Hat Yai Bus Terminal and Koh Mee, passing Central Festival, Diana mall, Kim Yong Market, Clock Tower, Namphu roundabout, Siam Nakarin, Big C Extra, sam yaek Kohong (Kohong T. junction), Hat Yai Municipal Park and ends at Koh Mee. Make sure it's numbered 33 since there are similarly-colored songthaews with different routes. The service ends at around 18:00.



- **White songthaew** runs between Kuan Lang and Koh Mee market, passing Hat Yai Immigration Office, Kim Yong Market, Clock Tower, Namphu roundabout, Siam Nakarin, Big-C Extra, sam yaek Kohong (Kohong T. junction), Hat Yai Municipal Park and ends at talaat Koh Mee (Koh Mee market).



- **White stripped by yellow and green songthaew** runs between Hat Yai Bus Terminal and Big-C Supercenter, passing Hat Yai sport center, Hat Yai Immigration Office, Kim Yong Market, Clock Tower, Namphu roundabout, Siam Nakarin, Big-C Extra, Sam Yaek Kohong (Kohong T. junction), Prince of Songkla University, Tesco Lotus 1, Greenway Shopping, Asean Market and ends at Hat Yai Bus Terminal.



- **Green songthaew** runs between Clock Tower and Talaat Songkhla (Songkhla market), passing the Clock Tower, Siam Nakarin, Big-C Extra, sam yaek Kohong (Kohong T. junction), Hat Yai Municipal Park, talaat Koh Mee (Koh Mee market), Tesco Lotus Songkhla, Thaksin University, Rajabhat University and ends at gas station (opposite Anuban Songkhla school) near Talaat Songkhla (Songkhla Market).

Notes:

- Everyone can get the songthaew from any point along the route. We just need to wave our hand and it indicates that we want to hop to the songthaew, and when we want to get off, just press the buzzer inside the cab.
- There are some songthaews that can take passengers to their exact destination (outside the set routes). But of course they have to pay extra for it. And if you want to do it, you just need to ask the driver directly after no other passenger in the cab.
- When the songthaew is overcrowded, male passengers are automatically standing outside grabbing the metal bar.

• By car or motorbike

If you do have the opportunity to drive a motor vehicle, you should keep in mind that in Thailand one drives on the left side of the road. Also, you should be aware that driving behaviors of Thai motorists are somewhat less restrained than what you may be accustomed to, so remain alert at all times. A pedestrian's right of way is not always acknowledged in Thailand, so caution is strongly advised when crossing a road.

Car rental is available at the airport from Avis, Budget, and Master Car Rental, but one can also rent a car or motorbike from several locations around the city. Just ask a Thai friend or make a quick search on the internet.

Important: Never, ever give your passport as a deposit in Thailand or anywhere else! A copy, signed with a note indicating the purpose of the copy has to do it. If you give your passport away you will have to pay whatever they ask to get it back in the event something happens. Not even the police will get the passport back to you before you have paid. And they may ask for a lot more than just repair costs!

Shopping

There are many Thai banks, ATMs and currency exchange offices around the city. However, most of them, as everywhere in Thailand, charge around 200 baht fee for foreign card transactions.

Minimarts, such as 7-Eleven are abundant and open 24 hours. They are convenient for quick meals, stocking up food and personal items. There are many big markets and shopping malls in Hat Yai, as well as huge number of small shops and restaurants everywhere around the city.

Markets:

- **ASEAN Trade Market** (Talat Poet Tai) (Next to Hat Yai Bus Terminal.). W-Su 17:00-22:00 hrs. Wide market famous for second-hand designer clothing, bags, and shoes, but interesting locally-designed new clothes and some vintage decorative stuff can be found here as well. Lots of food stalls inside.
- **Greenway Market** (Near the Hat Yai Bus Terminal but along the main road to Songkhla). W-Su 17:00-22:00 hrs. Very similar to ASEAN Market.
- **Kim Yong Market**, Supasarn Rungsan Rd. This is one of the most attractive places for shopping. There are plenty of foods, home appliances, chocolates, cosmetics, watches, CD games.
- **Suntisuk Market**, Nipatutid 1, 2, 3. This famous market sells electric appliances, gadgets, gaming consoles, IT devices and accessories, clothes, shoes, bags, cosmetics, imported food.

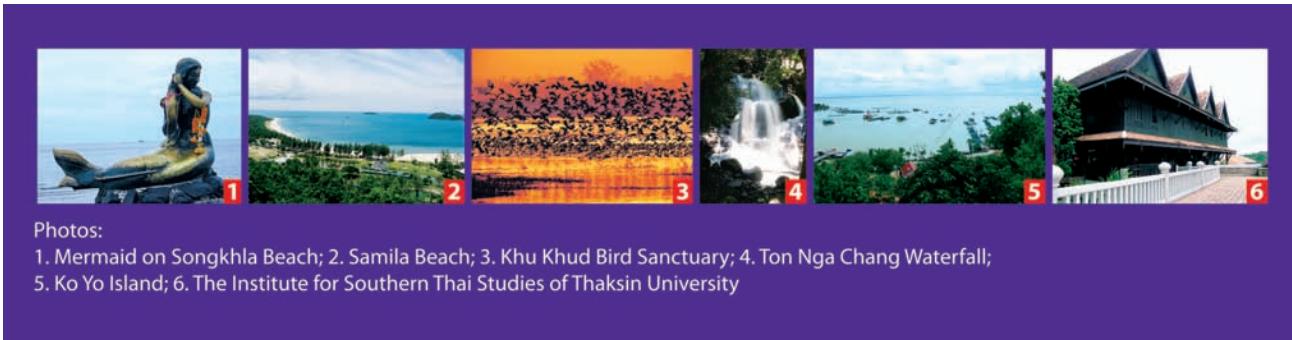
Shopping malls:

- **Tesco Lotus Hat Yai 1**, 1142 Karnjanawanich Rd. (Across the road from Prince of Songkla University) Daily 08:00-23:00 hrs. A large supermarket that sells food, clothes, household items. There are also a number of restaurants and smaller shops just outside the main supermarket.
- **Central Festival Hatyai**, 1518, 1518/1-2 Kanchanavanich Rd (Near ASEAN Trade Market and opposite Makro) M-F 10:30-21:00 hrs. Sa-Su 10:00-21:30 hrs. It's one of the largest shopping complexes outside Bangkok. You can find fashion clothes, restaurants and cafes, Hatyai Cineplex with 10 cinemas including an IMAX and a 4DX theatre, bowling alley, karaoke, ice skating rink, all major banks, Tops Market, IT and electronics, service centers of all major mobile network operators, and more. There are also shuttle buses from the Central Department Store in the city.
- **Big C Extra**, 677 Phetkasem Rd. Daily 09:00-23:00 hrs. . A large supermarket that sells food, clothes, household items. It has HomePro, Office Depot, and several restaurants.
- **Big C Supercenter**, 111/19 Moo 4 Klonghae (Near Klonghae floating market). Daily 09:00-22:00 hrs. A large shopping mall that sells food, clothes, household items. It has many restaurants and retail shops.
- **Central Department Store**, 1 Sanaehanusorn Rd. M-Th 11:00-21:00, F-Su 10:30-22:00. One of Hat Yai's most upmarket stores. One can find clothes, cosmetics, books, household goods, and a TOPS food supermarket on the highest floor.
- **Lee Gardens Plaza (opposite Central Department Store)**. One of the most popular malls for Thai teenagers. It has many restaurants and shops selling books, clothes, mobile phones, and souvenirs. There is a multiplex cinema and a games complex which also includes karaoke booths.
- **Odean Shopping Mall**, 79/7 Thammanoonvithee Rd. Mostly clothes.
- **Siam Nakarin Complex**, 488/88 Phetkasem Rd (Near Hatyaiwittayalai School). Office supplies, furniture, restaurants, food court, IT/mobile phones, and other small shops.
- **Diana Complex Shopping Center**, 55/3 Sripoowanart Rd. Here one can find clothes, mobile phones, restaurants, multiplex.
- **Robinson Department Store**, 9 Thammanoonvithi Rd (Near Hat Yai Train Station). Daily 10:30-21:00.
- **Makro**, 345 Moo 5, Korhong. Cash & carry wholesale.
- **HomePro**, 33/40 Moo 5, Kanchanavanich Rd. Daily 09:00-21:00. Home appliances, furniture and improvement.
- **Tesco Lotus Hat Yai 2**, 1318 Phetkasem Rd (In Hat Yai Nai area). Daily 08:00-22:00.



❖ Places to visit in Hat Yai and Songkhla

The South of Thailand is famous for its beautiful tropical islands and beaches, coral reefs with colorful marine life, picturesque fishing villages, serene national parks, waterfalls, historic cities, scenic wildlife sanctuaries, temples and mosques. The beautiful tropical long beaches of Songkhla are located only at 30 km from Hat Yai.



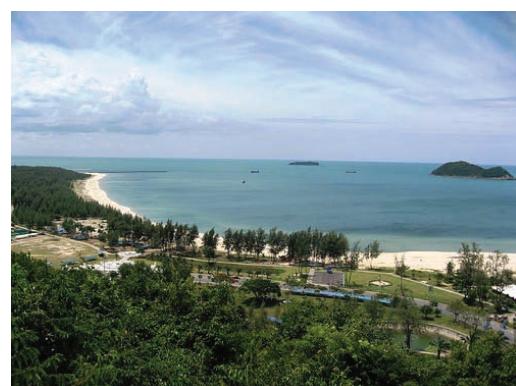
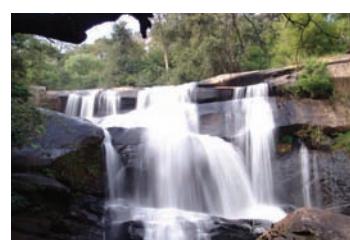
In Hat Yai city:

- [Hat Yai Municipal Park](#) is a major recreational center for the people of Hat Yai and surrounding areas. The park is full of beautiful flowering plants, with a pavilion in the middle of the pond and several food stalls. There is a big Buddha statue at the hilltop, as well as a statue of Guanyin (Kuan-im), the Chinese Goddess.
- [Hat Yai Cable Car](#) is a recent addition to the Hat Yai Municipal Park. There is also a tram service running between Hat Yai Municipal Park and the cable car station for 50 Baht/ person. A one-way cable car ride takes only a few minutes. The round trip costs 200 Baht/ person.
- [Hat Yai Lantern Festival](#) is yearly organized in the Hat Yai Municipal Park. Free entrance.
- [Khlong Hae Floating Market](#), located at about 6km from the city center, is the first floating market in southern Thailand and sells many local foods.
- [Songkhla Central Mosque](#) is 400 m off the new road from Hat Yai to Songkhla.
- [Stainless Steel Pagoda](#) (Phra Maha Chedi Traipob Traimongkhon) is a unique pagoda made of stainless steel.
- [Wat Hat Yai Nai temple](#) is the site of a large reclining Buddha measuring 35m long, 15m tall, and 10m wide, named Phra Phuttha Hattha Mongkhon, and believed to be the third-largest reclining Buddha in the world.

Outside the city:

- **Samila Beach** located at 30 km from Hat Yai, in Songkhla city.
- **Khao Nam Khang National Park**, Na Thawi (64km from Hat Yai) has two waterfalls: Ton Dat Fa and Ton Lat Fa.
- **Khao Nam Khang Historic Tunnel**, Moo 1, Na Thawi (4km from the park office) is a large, long man-made tunnel, which was once inhabited by Communist insurgents. It is three levels deep and contains several rooms.
- **Khu Khut Waterfowl Park**, Khu Khut, Sathing Phra (70 km from Hat Yai in the central part of the Songkhla Lake). You can hire a boat for birdwatching (200 baht/hrs.) and have a pleasant meal at the restaurants beside the serene lake.
- **Thale Noi Waterfowl Reserve**, Khuan Khanun, Phatthalung (northern area of Songkhla Lake, 125 km from Hat Yai) is home to staggering 287 bird species. The best time for bird watching and seeing a sea of blooming pink water lilies is during January-April.
- **Ton Nga Chang Waterfall** (Follow the Hat Yai-Rattaphum Road for 13km, then turn left at Ban Hu Rae for another 13 km) is in the Ton Nga Chang Wildlife Sanctuary. It is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the south, at about 26km from the city. This waterfall has seven levels. The third level is the most beautiful and is named after the waterfall. At the third level the stream separates into two, resembling to an elephant's tusks. One can hire a tuk-tuk to the waterfall, which is one hour ride; however, the price must be bargained. One can also take a songthaew or a minibus from the fresh market (Talat Sot Thesaban Hat Yai).

For more information, please visit the website of the [Tourism Authority of Thailand, Hat Yai Office](#). Maps and brochures are available from the Tourist Information Center at the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Hat Yai Office, 1/1 Nipatuthit 3 Rd Soi 2 (Near Juladis Bldg.), +66 74 231055, fax: +66 74 245986, e-mail: tatsgkhl@tat.or.th. (M-F 08:30-16:30).



Travelling around Thailand

From Hat Yai, you may choose to travel around Thailand by plane, train or road.

• By Plane:

Hat Yai International Airport (HDY) is the major southern hub airport in Thailand near the city of Hat Yai. There are several domestic flights, as well as direct flights to Singapore and Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru).

Airlines and Destinations at Hat Yai International Airport

Airlines	Destinations	Terminal
AirAsia	Kuala Lumpur–International	International
Tigerair	Singapore	International
Bangkok Airways	Phuket	Domestic
Nok Air	Bangkok–Don Muang	Domestic
Thai AirAsia	Bangkok–Don Muang, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Khon Kaen, U-Tapao-Pattaya	Domestic
Thai Lion Air	Bangkok–Don Muang, Udon Thani	Domestic
Thai Smile	Bangkok–Suvarnabhumi	Domestic

• By Bus / Van:

Hat Yai Bus Terminal is a large station located near Central Festival and Diana Department Store (N 06° 59.699 E 100° 28.962).

Buses can be taken to all major towns in the south of Thailand and up to Bangkok. Depending on the route, different classes of bus are available. These range from local orange colored buses without air-conditioning to luxurious 24-seat coaches with toilets and reclining seats. From PSU it takes about 20 minutes by car to reach the bus terminal.

Other scheduled, inter-provincial buses from Hat Yai to: Surat Thani, Phuket, Satun, Trang, Krabi Town, Nakhon Si Thammarat.

The bus to Songkhla goes past the Clock Tower along Phetkasem Road, at the intersection close to Montri 1 Road.

This main station also includes the **Southern Minivan Terminal** for minivans to Songkhla city, Padang Besar, Betong, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat.

There is also the **Hat Yai Minivan Station**, located near Tesco Lotus Hat Yai 2 in Hat Yai Nai area called Talat Kaset. It is designated as the **Northern Minivan Terminal** for minivans to Satun, Phatthalung, Trang, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani, Krabi, Phang Nga, Phuket.

Important:

Buy tickets only from the ticket counters; do not allow yourself to be directed to agencies by touts (this includes tuk-tuk drivers in the bus terminal); otherwise, you will pay more and most likely get a later time.

◆ Emergency numbers while in Hat Yai

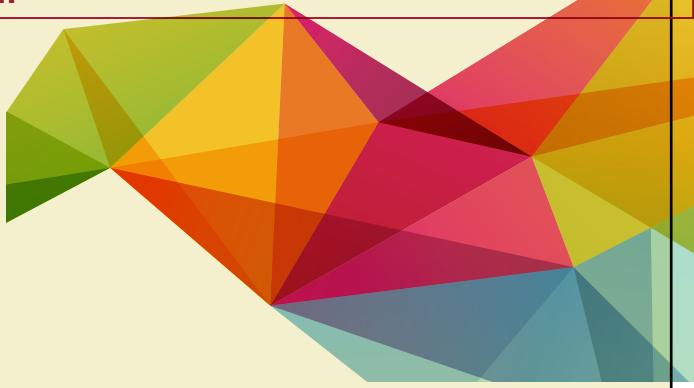
Police (General Emergency)	191, 074 243333, 074 231645
Medical Emergency	1669 (nationwide)
Fire Brigades	199, 074 243111
Tourist Police	1155, 074 246733
Tourist Service Centre	1672
Highway Police	1193
Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Hat Yai Office	074 23 1055

Other useful numbers

Songklanagarind Hospital (at PSU)	074 455000
Emergency Room (at PSU hospital)	Ext. 1700-1701
PSU Dental Hospital	074 287620
Hat Yai Hospital	074 273100
Bangkok Hospital Hat Yai	074 272800
Rajyindee Hospital	074 200200
Sikarin Hat Yai Hospital	074 366966
Hat Yai Immigration Office	074 25 7019
Hat Yai International Airport	074 22 7131
Hat Yai Train Station	074 23 8005, 074 24 6267
Hat Yai Bus Terminal	074 23 2789, 074 23 2404
Thai Airways International Hat Yai Office	074 22 3775, 074 23 3433
Taxi Meter Hat Yai	082 266 2010, 082 416 8814
Songkhla Land Transportation Office (for Thai Driving License)	074 33 3707



CHECKLIST



- I arranged an airport pick-up with my faculty at PSU or
- I know how to go to PSU by myself
- I learned how to go around Hat Yai and travel within Thailand
- I read about various attractions to visit in Hat Yai and Songkhla
- I noted the emergency numbers while in Hat Yai

NOTES:



<https://en.psu.ac.th>



<http://interaffairs.psu.ac.th>

