

Wat Suwan Dararam

Found on the south - west point of the island (near Pomphet fort), it was constructed by the grandfather of King Rama I in Ayutthaya period. Its former name was called "Wat Thong". The temple was destroyed by the Burmese during the destruction of Ayudhaya in 1767. An officer in the Ayudhayan army took to the task of its rebuilding. After ascending the throne in Bangkok, King Rama I had the monastery restored and renamed it "Wat Suwan Dararam" for honors of his parents.



The temple's main Buddha image is a large stone copy of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok. The foundations dip in the center in emulation of the graceful deck line of a boat. This typical Ayutthayan decoration is meant to suggest a boat that carries pious Buddhists to salvation. Delicately carved columns support the roof, and the interior walls are decorated with brilliantly colored frescoes. Still used as a temple, the wat seems embraced in a magical aura in the early evening as the monks chant their prayers.





Inside the ubosot, there are mural paintings of celestial beings on the upper part of the wall and the Jataka Stories on the lower part and image portray of the Buddha subduing the Mara with Mother Earth as his witness; the rear wall depicts scenes of haven and hell. The mural paintings have been continuously renovated by Chakri Dynasty so they are still in good.

