

Wat Traphang Thong

Wat Traphang-Thong is situated to the east of Wat Nahathat. Many monuments and magnificent scenery are visible from this location. The monastery is located on an island in the middle of a large lotus-filled pond. A ruined late rite Singhalese-style chedi is on the island. In front of it, a new mondop contains the Lord Buddha's Footprint slab that was created by King Lithaiin 1390 on Samanakutor Phra Bat Yai Hill. This footprint was removed to the new mondop some years ago. An annual fair to worship this sacred Lord Buddha's Footprint takes place at the same time as the Loi Krathong Festival.

Wat Traphang Thong decorated with remarkable stucco figures in niches. A square mondop is the main sanctuary. In front of the mondop to the east, is the viharn and beyond the viharn stands an ubosot. The flat relief on the southern side is the masterpiece of Sukhothai art; it shows Buddha, striding over steps, coming down from Tavatimsa Heaven. Buddha, protected by two parasols, is accompanied by the Hindu goddesses Indra and Brahma together with worshippers. This is assumed to be the first visual representation of the stepping Buddha from the Sukhothai period. To the west portrays the Lord Buddha preaching to his father and relatives. Another flat relief on the north side of the bot depicts, less artistically, Buddha taming the elephant Nalagiri, which his cousin Devadatta had set upon him. The northern side depicts the episode when the Lord Buddha returned to preach to his wife. The relief on the west wall shows Buddha under a mango tree at the miracle of Sravasti. Painted interpretations of this kind are in Polonaruwa (Sri Lanka) and Pagan (Burma).



A large lotus-filled pond



The chedi is on the island



The Mondop of Wat Traphang Thong



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The exterior of this temple is decorated with stuccoes depicting certain events in the history of the Lord Buddha and are considered masterpieces of Sukhothai art.