

The Ancient Royal Palace



History of Ayutthaya

This ancient capital of the Kingdom of Ayutthaya, founded in 1350 by King U-Thong, had thirty three kings of different dynasties and reached its peak in the middle of the 18th century. A magnificent city with three palaces and over 400 magnificent temples on an island threaded by canals Ayutthaya was truly an impressive city that attracted both Europeans and Asians. After a 15-month siege the Kingdom of Ayutthaya was conquered and completely destroyed by the Burmese in 1767. When King Taksin the Great finally liberated the Kingdom, a new dynasty was established and the capital was moved to Thonburi.



The Ancient Royal Palace

The Ancient Royal Palace can now be seen in the old ruins. It was constructed by King U – Thong, who founded Ayutthaya in 1350 when he was at Wiang Lek. After the capital had been completed in 1353, he moved to the new Royal Palace at Nong Sa No which is now Wat Phra Si Sanphet. Every pavilion was made of wood. Later on, King Borom Trai Lokanat, the Eighth King of Ayutthaya, dedicated the Royal Palace for Wat Phra Si Sanphet in 1448. He had the new Royal Palace constructed at the north of the Lopburi River and now it is known as “The Ancient Royal Palace” the residential palace of every king was located close to the city wall of Ayutthaya. A road passes by from Chankasem Palace, which is 2 kilometers away to the north. Important buildings inside the Grand Palace compound are

[Wihan Somdet Hall]



The top of this hall has been decorated in a unique style of architecture called Prang. It has longer space in front and rear gabled rooms, and shorter space in the side gabled rooms. It was surrounded with a three-sided cloister and utilized for various royal ceremonies such as coronations. This was the first building ever constructed in Ayutthaya to be affixed with gold leaf.

[Chakkrawat Phaichayon Hall]

With a three - gabled roof, it is on the inner eastern city wall in front of the Grand Palace. It was used to view processions and military practice.

[Sanpet Prasat Hall]



This is the middle building constructed in the same design as Wihan Somdet Hall. Kings used it to welcome foreign envoys and visitors.

[**Banyong Rattanat Hall**]

Formerly known by the name of "Phra Thinang Thaisa", it is located in the back compound of the Grand Palace on an Island in a pond. It has four - gabled roof architecture.

[**Phiman Rattaya Hall**]

A group of buildings located amidst the compound of the grand palace, which once served as government offices and the Provincial Administrative Building for several years.

[**Chaturamuk**]

This wooden four - gabled roof pavilion is near the east gate of the palace. Originally, a residential place of King Mongkut during his visit to Ayutthaya.

[**Trimuk Hall**]



This is located behind the Sanphet Prasat Hall. It is believed to have been the residential area of the consort members and is also the royal relaxing place in the garden.