

DISCOVER PATTAYA



COMPLIMENTARY COPY

JANA

*The Fashionable Face of The Rotary Club
of Pattaya Center International (RCPCI)*





JANA THE FASHIONABLE FACE OF RCPCI

The Rotary Club is a humanitarian organization founded in 1905 that today has over 1.4 million members. Through more than 46,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary focuses on 7 areas of focus: Peacebuilding and conflict prevention, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, Economic and community development, and Supporting the environment. Members, known as Rotarians, engage in fundraising and volunteer efforts with the motto "Service Above Self." Being a Rotarian involves using personal and professional skills to support the community and those in need.



Jana is seen here with Past District Governor Pantida Rojwannasin & Her husband Khun Nantachai Rojwannasin President of RC Vientiane 2025-2026 Club khun Chinda Phontesa Asst. Governor Dr.Somsouk



Discover Pattaya spoke to Jana about her passion for Rotary and all it stands for. She told us that she became a Rotarian in 2016 and 2 years ago founded The Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International (chartered on June 1, 2023). The club focuses on doing good work for the local community's environment, education and health. To date the club has delivered hundreds of rice packs, launched a dental-care program for children in the area, and initiated RCPCI tree planting. This initiative has seen hundreds of trees planted around Buddha Hill and throughout Pattaya City. There is also a drive to plant many thousand more and add plaques to the trees to educate children as to the trees' names and their importance to the environment.

Jana has also been a long-time supporter of helping with the stray dog problem in Pattaya and its surrounding areas. She personally loves and supports many in her area whilst working towards reducing the problem of Soi Dogs with City Hall and area Governors for sterilisation programmes that can reduce the problem. She also sees it as an important environmental issue because left unchecked Soi Dogs can be a menace to the community. Again through education, she wants to put the message out to children that dogs are not just a present to have when they are a cute puppy and then abandon, but should be a commitment to the full life of the animal.

Young people are important to Jana and in the club's charity event at The Hilton this month she includes both young male and female models to participate in the fashion show. Wanting to show them that being a Rotarian can be fun as well as worthwhile hard work. She wants to bring them into the world of Rotary to pass on the values of Rotary. To teach the next generation about the importance of helping others. At her club she actively encourages both Thai and International members to join together and regularly support other Rotarian clubs, even outside of Pattaya such as in Bangkok and Laos.



CHARTER President of RC Kabkeaw Nongboalumphu (CP Thunyaluck Panuwatakul - Khun Ole)
And PDG District 3350RI Mr. Wichai Chivakanit and fellow Rotarians



Although Jana will always be there to give her support, experience and encouragement she is happy to pass on the baton to future Presidents of The Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International. To allow more time for her other passion that for 37 years now her been fashion with the very successful JANA's Boutique Pattaya. Specialising in bespoke, made-to-order and one-off unique garments. Jana's Boutique Pattaya is the go-to place to buy fabulous dresses and evening attire. Now there is an exciting move to add a rental area to the 2nd floor. This will give her existing and new customers the chance to hire wonderful, glittering evening gowns for the many functions they have to attend without the worry of having to keep or store them.

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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

July is certainly the month for Rotarians. Featuring Jana on our cover there are also more Pattaya clubs with installations and fund raising events this month. We will be attending as many as we can. Always happy to support the good work they do, and we will report back to you in next month's edition.

Good to also see environmental sustainability happening here in Pattaya with the Pullman Hotel's beach cleaning initiative and Chem Perez of The Good News #planet clean up- this month's Pattaya Patriot. In a world of uncertainty it's good to see the Pattaya community coming together to do good stuff.

Something else we're always happy to feature is art and culture. In this month's magazine we have painting, music and culture a plenty. Also some great ideas for places to visit both in Thailand and abroad.

Finally, let me welcome Anthony Justice from Magna Carta (on page 32) with salient advice on purchasing a property in Thailand. For future articles if you have a subject you would like Magna Carta to give advice on please write and let me know. Always happy to hear from you, preferably by email: gloria@pattayatrader.com.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy month ahead

Gloria x

gloria@pattayatrader.com

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INTERCONTINENTAL
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AVANI

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Olivier Rousteing's Collaboration with Johnnie Walker



We've written before about how the Designer World has embraced coffee with many in house cafes. Now it seems at least one designer has gone on to get involved with the "hard stuff". Balmain's creative director Olivier Rousteing has become the first designer invited to collaborate with Johnnie Walker on a new collection titled Couture Expression. He was able to work with the iconic brand's team and choose from 500 rare and aged whiskies housed in the Johnnie Walker Vault under the brand's flagship store on Princes Street Edinburgh.



'Fall' features a blend of Teaninich chocolate malt and smoky 1978 Port Ellen whisky

Such was Rousteing's passion for the creative project, he helped produce not just one but four limited-edition, bespoke blends in striking new bottles. "When I started to try the whiskies we were making], I realised that I wanted to create one whisky for every season, for every kind of taste," shares Rousteing. "My vision in fashion is about inclusivity, and creating an incredible community of people. So I thought, Why create only one whisky? Let's do four in the most incredible bottles and create this incredible journey of emotions for different tastes!"

Rousteing made his name in the world of fashion with collections that are bold, dramatic and glamorous and this translated well into the bottles that he designed to house the collaboration's limited-edition blends. The decanters are handcrafted in crystal by the artisans of the French luxury brand Baccarat to echo the silhouette of Johnnie Walker's signature square bottle. Each bottle features metallic draping, not unlike what you'll see in Balmain's collections, topped with a sculptural wing stopper.

Rousteing also gave each a bottle a metallic hue, turning them into trophies: gold was assigned to the smoky 'Fall' whisky, his favourite; silver for the vibrant and tropical 'Summer' whisky; rose gold for the refreshing and floral 'Spring' blend; and black for 'Winter', which boasts a deep and rich malt taste balanced with mulled wine sweetness.

He wanted to create a structured armour reflecting strength but to be swathed, like silk, to reflect the softness of the liquid inside.



The Johnnie Walker Vault was only open to the public in 2021 and is not a place that many people get to see. Whiskies there date from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Rousteing was impressed by all the stories that Johnnie Walker has. "It's not even a brand. It's an institution from the 19th century" he says. "I went to Scotland, I discovered the incredible Johnnie Walker team, and enjoyed every single moment because as an artist, I am always curious to discover things.

It was not so far from fashion because it's about ingredients. It's about balance. For whisky, it's about what ingredients are you going to include? A bit of pepper, a bit of chocolate. And you start to create your whisky, and you feel like, "Okay, that was the emotion that I wanted to bring to it."

I hope these bottles will remain as pieces of art in the legacy of Johnnie Walker Vault."



As the first-ever collaborator for the Johnnie Walker Vault Rousteing says "When Johnnie Walker called me it was a dream come true. I remember my dad and granddad drinking whiskies so for me, whisky has a smell that I associate with being close to the fireplace in my childhood home in Bordeaux. Or with my grandma making crêpes, which is a traditional dessert in France. She would pour in a bit of whisky to the crêpes so the smell always reminds me of my childhood. For me, drinking whisky is always about enjoying the moment. It could be with family or friends. The four whiskies that we created are really unique you drink them neat, or with ice. You don't mix them. And just enjoy the emotions of each of them."



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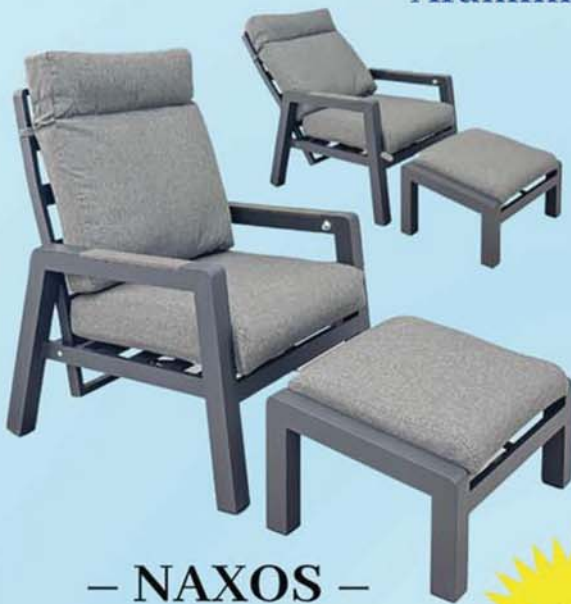
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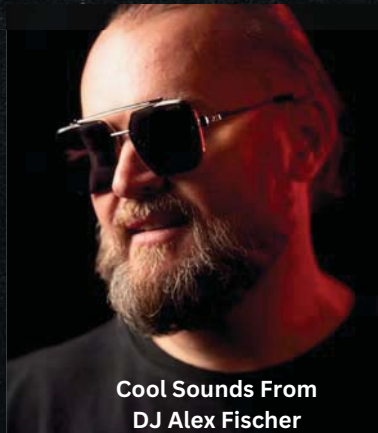
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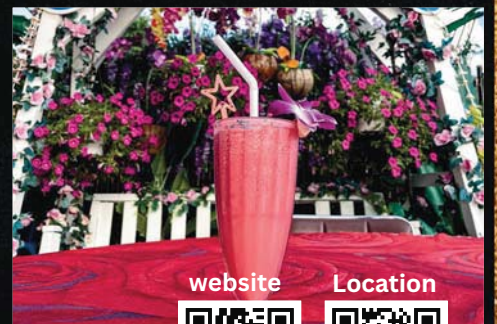
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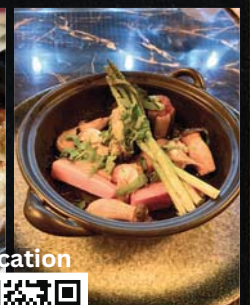


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CAJUN LIFE CAFE:

PATTAYA'S HEALTHY HOTSPOT DELIVERS ON FLAVOUR AND FLEXIBILITY



It was a pleasure to return to Cajun Life Cafe and reconnect with Paola, their lovely manager who has now been there for eight months. After our last visit (which appeared in our January 2025 Magazine - to read it go to the Dining Reviews page pattayatradetrader.com) it's great to see them doing so well, especially when other restaurants are struggling in the low season.

The friendly staff informed us that some regulars visit up to two or three times a day. This speaks volumes, as these patrons care about their health but also enjoy high-quality, tasty food at reasonable prices. It's truly the go-to destination for Pattaya's fitness crowd and clean eaters. With free Wi-Fi, it's also a great, relaxed spot for people to use their phones and laptops while enjoying what's on offer. Whilst doing our review we also noticed a constant stream of Grab bike drivers busily collecting food for delivery.



We were surprised at how generous the portions are at Cajun Life Cafe, you certainly get value for your money and what makes this establishment unique is the flexibility you have when ordering. It allows you to modify dishes to suit your dietary needs. Bodybuilders, runners, athletes, or those just looking to lose weight will find it very easy to track their macros here. Most dishes are protein-packed, so you can get all the grammes of fresh, high-quality protein you need whilst you are training.

If you visit the Cajun Life website (cajunlifecafe.com/menu), check out the custom meals section; it details calories, protein, carbohydrates, and fat for all ingredients. This allows you to adjust your meal prep to suit your fitness goals, whether you're dining in or arranging a delivery. Plus, there's a great selection of seasonings and sauces, offering variety if you're on a strict regime of the same ingredients but crave some different flavours. Cajun Life Cafe's focus on healthy, customizable meals makes it a popular choice for Pattaya's active community, including those involved in local running groups.

For our review, we chose a variety of dishes:

Drinks: For our drinks, we each chose a smoothie. I opted for the Chocolate Peanut Butter one, made with almond milk and whey protein delicious, and a great choice if you're looking to make some gains. My partner selected the Vanilla Berry, a lower-calorie option also containing whey protein but with low-fat milk, and it was equally delicious. Cajun also offers a great choice of other beverages, including different coffees, teas, fruit juices, and sodas.

Starter: We began with the Salmon & Avocado Quinoa Salad, featuring smoked salmon, quinoa, red beans, cherry tomatoes, radishes, and avocado with a healthy honey mustard salad dressing. This variety of ingredients is excellent for your gut microbiome and overall health. Notably, the smoked salmon was soft and delicious. I also liked how the dressing was served separately, allowing you to add as much or as little as you want.

Main Course: We went with the Cajun Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap, all wrapped inside a flour tortilla and served with sweet potato fries, priced at only 230 baht. My associate had the Cajun Grilled Chicken breast served with mashed sweet potatoes. The chicken used in both dishes was good quality, well-prepared, and not at all dry.

Dessert: For dessert, we chose protein-packed pancakes made with fresh egg whites, oatmeal, vanilla protein powder and blueberries, served with maple syrup and strawberries on the side. Cajun certainly provides plenty of these pancakes per serving. We would certainly recommend this as a sharing dish. We also had a mixed berry smoothie bowl, which had bananas, mixed berries, pumpkin seeds, and granola on top of a delicious yoghurt. Both of these choices would make really great breakfast choices.

We found the staff warm, attentive, and willing to accommodate dietary preferences, which, along with the decor, gives the cafe its relaxed and welcoming feel.



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DISCOVERING THE DELIGHTS OF DAISY D'S



For those who remember the TV Series "The Dukes of Hazzard" you can now relive the nostalgia right here on Jomtien beach road where there's a fabulous new Sports bar/Restaurant called Daisy D's. It even comes complete with a Dodge Charger - suspended above the bar and the girls serving here are clad in shorts with pretty gingham blouses.

As well as having an amazing location - right on the beach front, the place (only just opened) is destined to be so much fun with all the plans the energetic team have for it. They recently made the most of their huge interior with a Salsa night which was extremely popular. Karaoke looks to be coming soon and I suggested a Line Dancing night as a natural for this place. Why not? We could all dress up - who doesn't love a Cowboy themed fancy dress? But I'm running away with myself as this place just has so many possibilities it's hard not to get enthusiastic.

Daisy D's is an impressively spacious bar and restaurant, featuring plenty of sports screens and a wide range of seating options including tables, booths, and bar stools. I particularly love the ones at the front where you can just sit, stare out to sea and watch the world go by. There's also an upstairs terrace and a really large expanse at the back with pool tables and room for events and parties.

The food as you would expect (the professional team from The Sportsman are involved in this venture) is lip smacking good. From July 1st they will have breakfasts starting at 8 a.m. which we shall return to try, and an extensive menu from which we selected some already popular dishes. For example the sizzling Fajitas are really tasty, great for sharing and come complete with all the necessary salsa, sour cream guacamole and grated cheese that you have to have to make up your pancakes.



Then there's the chicken wings that have so many options. You can choose to have them "Naked" (no breadcrumbs) or "Dressed" (with breadcrumbs) 6,10 or if you're really going for it 20 pieces with a choice of 5 dipping sauces

Obviously the burgers are a great choice here so we went for the 3 slider Combo. You get 1 chicken, 1 pork and 1 beef all with salad and dressing inside the bun - the pulled pork was particularly good. As I mentioned before there are plenty of great places to just sit with a cold drink (prices are very good with bottled beer and house spirits just 80 baht), look out to sea or watch the sports. So there are plenty of tasty accompaniments you can choose from the menu. We went for the Combo Popcorn Bites which were chicken and shrimp hand buttered in buttermilk and southern spices - addictively good!



Pizzas are also extremely popular Daisy D's even sell them by the slice. Their St Louis Style Pizza caught our attention because of its square shape and we were told that this is particularly favoured by families as it's easy to share. With plenty of options to choose from (also available in the traditional round shape) we were given an excellent recommendation of the Cajun Shrimp. With Cajun tiger shrimp, bell peppers, woodchip bacon, red onion, and fresh basil on a tomato base I can really attest to the tastiness of this pizza. It was of course too much to finish but don't worry take out is available as will Grab deliveries be.

Also available are Thai dishes, desserts, salads, pastas and many other dishes. It's also a good idea to keep an eye on the daily specials posted outside. We may just have to return one Monday for the excellent value Burger and Beer at only 250 baht! Daisy D's is at.



Location
356/67 M12 Jomtien Beach Road,
Just after Grand Jomtien Palace Hotel

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<https://daisyd.com/>

Ethereal Botanica – The Soul of the Lotus at Once Upon a Hotel Pattaya – a perfect pairing.

Art Exhibition by Jeanett



Ethereal Botanica explores the poetic dialogue between nature's quiet strength and human artistic expression. The lotus leaf—a symbol of purity, resilience, and transcendence—is the central motif. With the exhibition featuring both natural leaf-based artworks and also bold abstract paintings. The lotus leaves are collected, preserved, and dyed by hand literally becoming integral to the canvas with their natural imperfections, veins and textures ensuring that every piece is absolutely unique..

Jeanett originally from Copenhagen, Denmark. First came to Thailand in 2015 for 3 years with her family. They then left for Germany but returned in 2020. She paints using bright colors and specialises in abstract and lotus-themed art. Working in oil and acrylic, she sometimes puts a resin on top to transform natural lotus leaves into vibrant pieces.

A social worker, and therapist Jeanett has found her own particular therapy through art which she says helps clear her mind when she paints. She has also recently learned about sound healing which is how she found Once Upon a Hotel.





Attending a workshop here given by Shantika, from the Sound Healing Sanctuary of Koh Samui, Jeanett spent some time talking to Ken. At first not even realising he was the hotel owner she found he was interested in the fact that she loved to paint. So she showed him some of her work and he asked if she would like to do an exhibition at his hotel.

Ken told us that OnceUpon a Hotel Pattaya only opened recently and Jeanett's exhibition is exactly the type of event he is happy to host here. Certainly the lotus art fits very well with the overall ethos of the hotel, especially its beautiful gardens where Ken himself has chosen every individual plant. It's a really beautiful, tranquil space with fountains, Koi carp and beautiful statues. A location much appreciated by the ensemble guests who came to enjoy the art and the location.



We were delighted to see one of our Pattaya Patriots Margie Granger here because Jeanett is a dedicated supporter of the organization Hand2hand, focused on helping the poorest families and children in Pattaya. She regularly donates proceeds from her artwork to support those in need.





ASIAN OPTICAL

When did you last have your eyes tested?



Like regular trips to the dentist having your eye tested is something we often forget to do and yet we should get them checked at least once a year.

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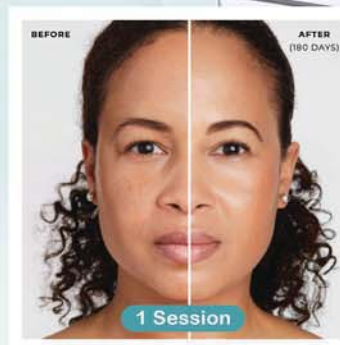
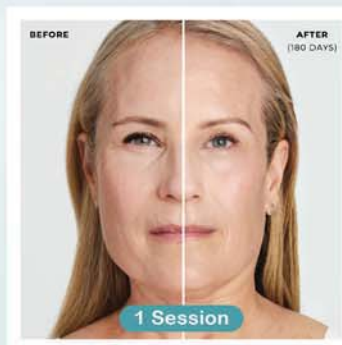
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I am using the term Patriot for a series of articles to feature in the magazine. Firstly because I love the alliteration, and secondly because I wanted a word to describe some very special people who live amongst us here in Pattaya. Sometimes given a military connotation, the word patriot actually describes someone who deeply loves, supports and defends their country (or, for the purposes of this article, their city). They often demonstrate loyalty through service, sacrifice, or civic engagement. True patriotism goes beyond mere pride—it involves striving to make improvements for all, for freedom, and for progress. To see the previous Pattaya Patriot articles go to pattayatradetrader.com.

Restoring Humanity Through a Cleaner Planet: The Good News #planetcleanup

Chem Perez, (an English teacher from the Philippines) founded *The Good News #planetcleanup* here in Pattaya. A grassroots movement aimed at raising awareness about our global garbage crisis, Chem's journey began with a moment of quiet reflection, a realization that we live in an increasingly materialistic world. Everywhere he looked, people were chasing possessions: bigger homes, faster cars, the latest gadgets, all in pursuit of happiness that never seemed to last. Chem Perez was no different until asking a powerful question: What truly endures? The answer hit with clarity—nothing material. We spend our lives accumulating things we cannot take with us when we die. In that moment, Chem understood that the true legacy we leave behind lies not in what we collect, but in what we give, in the lives we touch, and in the future we help build.

That awakening inspired Chem to shift focus from investing in things to investing in people. Chem wanted to empower others to see the same truth and to act on it. Believing deeply in the idea that if we want to see change in the world, we must first become that change, he launched *The Good News #planetcleanup* in 2019. Pattaya, with its stunning beaches and bustling tourist life, was the perfect place to begin. But beneath its beauty, the city was struggling with a problem shared by many places around the world: GARBAGE. Littered streets, plastic-choked waters, and polluted public spaces were becoming the norm. Rather than complain, Chem decided to act.



Cleanups were organized, Chem invited students, friends, neighbours, tourists, and even strangers to join in. What began with just a handful of people quickly grew, as more and more individuals saw the impact—not just on the environment, but on each other. The cleanups became more than just acts of environmental activity; they became gatherings of hope, connection, and purpose. Children joined in with smiles, parents brought their families, and volunteers from all walks of life contributed their time. People who had never spoken before became friends and through it all, everyone began to remember something important: that we all share responsibility for this planet we call home.

However, in 2020, the momentum was temporarily disrupted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. As lockdowns and restrictions on social gatherings were enforced, *PlanetCleanup* activities had to be put on hold. But this didn't stop Chem Perez from creating good news. In fact, it marked the beginning of something even more profound. Instead of organizing cleanups, *The Good News* shifted focus toward humanitarian aid. Recognizing the growing number of people who had lost their jobs, become homeless, and were struggling with hunger due to the pandemic, Chem began organizing feeding programs for the less fortunate. This new direction gave birth to #planetcleanuphumanity, an extension of the original mission—still centered on healing the world, but this time through compassion, food, and solidarity in crisis. Volunteers and donors came together, and thousands of meals were served to those most in need.

What began as a local initiative in Thailand slowly evolved into a global movement. By 2023, *The Good News* #planetcleanup has expanded into six additional countries: the Philippines, Malaysia, Uganda, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Dubai. Each location brought its own challenges, but the spirit remained the same—cleaning the planet, restoring humanity, and spreading good news.



Through all of this, Chem Perez has continued to harness the power of social media—not as a tool for fame, but as a platform for mobilization, storytelling, and inspiration. In a digital world dominated by negativity and division, *The Good News* offers a breath of fresh air—real stories of people taking real action, proving that even in the darkest times, kindness and collective action can shine through.

At its core, *The Good News* #planetcleanup and #planetcleanuphumanity—is more than just a campaign. It is a movement to reawaken our sense of responsibility, not only for the Earth but for one another.

Every piece of trash collected, every meal served, and every life touched is a step toward restoring balance, compassion, and connection in our world. Today, Chem Perez continues to lead with purpose, reminding people around the world that real wealth lies not in what we accumulate, but in the good we do. In the face of climate change, pollution, and social division, *The Good News* #planetcleanup stands as a testament to what is possible when ordinary people unite around a common goal.

Chem asks us all what legacy will we leave behind? A world weighed down by waste and indifference—or a world lifted by care, hope, and responsibility? Let us be the change. Let us protect our communities, our planet, and each other. Because this planet is not just where we live—it is our home. If you would like to find out more go to their website planetcleanup.org or their Facebook page: [thegoodnewsoftheworld](https://www.facebook.com/thegoodnewsoftheworld)



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Keeping Fit and Safe in Thailand's Condos

by Richard Martin



When planning to spend many years in Thailand, especially as a long-term resident or retiree, it makes good sense to look after your health. That means trying to eat well, staying active, and finding a regular form of exercise that fits your lifestyle. Over the years, I've joined several gyms in Pattaya. Some are very well run, keeping their equipment in top condition. Others, however, don't seem to invest in maintenance. Instead of fixing faulty machines, they simply slap on a "Do Not Use" sign and leave it at that. It's not just frustrating, it's unsafe.

One of the perks of condo living in Thailand is the often-included gym. It's a real bonus: no membership fees to worry about, and you can skip the sweaty drive or rainy-season hassle of commuting to a fitness center. Some condo gyms offer a surprisingly good selection of equipment, but others may only have a handful of machines squeezed into a spare room. Unfortunately, however, regardless of the setup, one thing many condo gyms have in common is the fact that after the initial outlay they often skimp on maintaining their equipment.

From personal experience, I've noticed that the treadmill is often the first to show signs of neglect. Slipping belts, inconsistent resistance, and odd noises are common, especially when you increase the pace. Exercise bikes can become too stiff (or too loose), and strength machines often suffer from worn cables or dry pulleys that badly need lubrication.

Of course, it's not just about comfort. Equipment that's regularly serviced is also safer to use. A loose cable or faulty treadmill could lead to serious injury. If you're part of your building's committee, I strongly recommend budgeting for at least an annual service. It's a small investment that improves safety, preserves your equipment, and adds value to your condo community.



Another option, which more and more people are choosing, is to buy your own exercise equipment. It gives you full control over your workout environment, and you can tailor it to your preferences. We bought a Reebok exercise bike from Seara and it has served us brilliantly. Easy to move, comfortable to use, it quickly became part of the weekly routine especially when you can use it whilst watching favourite TV shows. Eventually though the tension controls became unreliable, and we noticed an odd noise from the casing that signaled something wasn't right. So it was time for a service and we got in touch with Seara.

Their team was prompt, professional, and punctual. a refreshing experience in a world where service windows often stretch for hours. The technicians arrived exactly on time, quickly diagnosed the issue, and got to work. Impressively, the repair was carried out on-site, with no need to remove the bike or wait days for its return. They tested everything before reassembling it, and soon enough, our bike was back to running quietly and smoothly — just like new. Best of all, the service fee was very reasonable.



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Sports Update

For July by Steve Wade

July promises to be a thrilling month for sports enthusiasts with a diverse array of events spanning tennis, golf, football, cycling, motorsports, horse racing and cricket

Cricket

India's Tour of England has its 2nd Test from 2nd-6th July at Edgbaston in Birmingham. The 3rd test is at Lord's, the 4th at Old Trafford in Manchester. The fifth and final test of the series returning to London to take place from July 31st at The Kia Oval.



The Open

The world's top golfers will return to Royal Portrush, County Antrim, Northern Ireland for the 153rd Open Championship. Rory McIlroy, Xander Schauffele, Scottie Scheffler, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka headline a field of 156 with spectator figures expected to exceed 278,000.



Football's FIFA Club World Cup and UEFA Women's Euro

Held across 12 U.S. cities from June 14 to July 13, this expanded 32-team tournament features top clubs like Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, and Inter Miami. The final will take place at MetLife Stadium on July 13. Also, Switzerland will host the UEFA Women's Euro 2025 Featuring 16 teams, including defending champions England.



Sports Update

Tour de France

From July 5 to 27, this iconic race traverses France, including challenging stages in the Alps and Pyrenees, culminating on the Champs-Élysées. Tour de France Femmes will also run from July 26 to August 3. The women's race following a route parallel to the men's and highlighting the growing prominence of women's cycling.



Formula 1 British Grand Prix

Taking place from July 4 to 6 at Silverstone Circuit, this race is a highlight of the F1 calendar. Whilst for fans of 2 wheels MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship (UK Round) is at Donington Park and the final race of Formula E London ePrix at the Excel Exhibition Centre and Royal Victoria Dock, London.



Wimbledon

The Wimbledon Championships, will take place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club through to July 13th. All eyes will be on Carlos Alcaraz, especially after his historic 5 hour 28 minute French Open Final success against Jannik Sinner. Alcaraz, the defending Wimbledon champion from 2023 and 2024 will be chasing a Wimbledon hat-trick and is certainly the one to beat. Whilst Aryna Sabalenka the World No. 1 Women's player enters Wimbledon as the favourite after winning both the Australian and US Open titles.



LEGAL ADVICE IN PURCHASING A PROPERTY IN THAILAND

by Anthony Justice

Buying property in Thailand can be an exciting investment, but it also involves important legal points to consider to protect your interests. Whether you're a foreigner or a local buyer, conducting due diligence helps ensure a safe, transparent, and legally sound transaction. Property due diligence is a thorough process to confirm all legal, financial, and factual aspects of a property before purchase. It is advisable to begin the thorough, detailed due diligence before signing a binding contract. Here are the key points to consider in purchasing a property:

1. Title Deed

The first thing to do is check the title deed. Make sure there are no registered liens or obligations on it. If there is a registered lien, like a mortgage with a bank, you can still purchase the house. You just need to make sure that the mortgage is removed at the same time the house is transferred to you.

2. Right-of-Way

This is very important—you must be able to legally access the property. In some cases, you may find that a part of your land is being used by others. One common example is when your land inevitably becomes the only pathway or walkway of entrance and exit for your neighbors. You must ensure there's legal access to get to the house. Normally, this would be through a public road or a private road with a servitude (legal right of access) registered against it.

3. Construction Permit

Check if the house is legally built with a properly registered construction permit. Commencing any construction work without the proper permit is illegal. It must be built in accordance with the construction permit.

4. Housing Project vs. Stand-Alone Group

Determine whether the property is a part of a registered housing project or just a group of stand-alone houses. **A housing project** has rules and regulations listed at the Land Office and a juristic person to manage it. If bills aren't paid, sanctions can be imposed.

A **stand-alone group** is simply a group of people who agree to pay shared costs. If one person doesn't pay, the system can break down because there's no legal enforcement. Therefore, it's usually best to buy a property within a registered housing project.

5. Local Area Tax

There's a building tax that City Hall can claim retroactively for up to 10 years. This tax is against the building, not the owner. So even if you bought the house only 6 months ago, you could still be liable for unpaid tax from 10 years ago. It would be best to visit the City Hall to confirm that this tax has been paid.

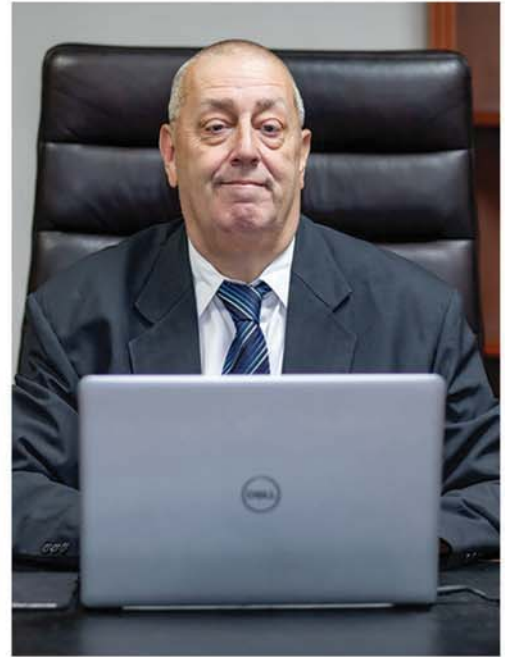
6. Court Cases

Check with the local courts to ensure there are no pending legal cases or disputes involving the property.

7. Sales Contract

Check the contract terms for fairness and make sure that there are no hidden costs or obligations. Allow a Thai lawyer to thoroughly review the contract details. A lawyer will help to ensure that the sales contract is legally binding, transparent, and do not contain unfavorable terms that could put you at a disadvantage.

If you follow these steps and everything checks out, then you've likely found a good property to purchase. Failure to conduct the necessary safeguard usually results in terrible consequences, such as serious financial and legal distress on the part of the buyer. This is why buyers must remember that almost always, after completing the transfer, the seller will not hold responsibility for problems the buyer did not discover. Doing your due diligence before buying property in Thailand isn't just a smart move—it's essential. From verifying land titles to checking for hidden liabilities, these steps can save you from costly mistakes and legal trouble later on. Our legal team at Magna Carta Law Firm specializes in Thai property due diligence. We can help to check and confirm that the property is clean, the title is valid, and your rights are protected.



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SCAN TO APPLY



Game Time: Should Schools Embrace Esports?

Exploring Thailand's digital revolution in education and what it could mean for our classrooms.

Walk through any international school in Thailand and you'll likely see a familiar sight; projectors hum, fingers swipe rapidly on tablets, you may even hear some shouts from a particularly heated game of Kahoot. Technology is already transforming the learning experience. Yet increasingly, one form of digital engagement is standing out - not for its novelty, but for its unexpected educational potential: esports.



Esports, or competitive gaming, is now officially recognised as a professional sport by the Thai government. Since 2021, this recognition has enabled formal support from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, with the Thailand E-Sports Federation (TESF) overseeing the sport's development nationally. As a result, athletes benefit from improved infrastructure, funding and legitimacy, while schools are being encouraged to explore their place in education. This shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity for schools. Are we ready to take esports seriously? More importantly, are we willing to engage with it in a way that adds meaningful value to our students' learning?

The Impact on Students: More Than Just Games

Young people are already immersed in gaming culture. For many, this is more than a pastime, it is a digital social space, a creative outlet and a competitive environment that demands quick thinking and collaboration. Ignoring this reality can create a disconnect between school and the world students live in. In contrast, structured esports programmes offer an opportunity to bridge that gap. When implemented thoughtfully, esports can support:

Teamwork and Communication: Many games require teams to plan strategies, communicate under pressure and evaluate performance together. These skills are transferable well beyond the screen.

Leadership and Responsibility: Esports roles go beyond players. Team captains, coaches, analysts and managers all contribute, creating opportunities for students to take ownership and lead their peers.

Digital Literacy and Media Skills: Students involved in esports often engage with streaming, content creation and shout casting, video editing, data analysis, and digital marketing, all highly relevant in today's job market.

Inclusion and Equity: Unlike traditional sports, esports is less dependent on physical ability, gender or language. Students from diverse backgrounds can compete on equal footing, building confidence and connections in ways that traditional models sometimes fail to offer.

Mental Agility and Resilience: Competitive gaming is intense. Success requires fast decision-making, persistence after failure and managing the highs and lows of performance, key attributes in both academic and personal life. It's important to acknowledge the risks too. Excessive screen time, sedentary habits and online safety concerns remain real. These can, however, be mitigated through clear boundaries, supportive adult guidance and holistic programming that includes physical wellbeing, digital citizenship and offline activities.

A Curriculum Students Actually Care About

Introducing esports into schools should not mean simply creating a club and walking away. The deeper opportunity lies in how it can shape a curriculum that feels relevant, exciting and genuinely future-facing. For example, schools might incorporate esports themes into:

Computer Science and ICT: Programming, game development or understanding the algorithms behind matchmaking and game engines.

Business Studies and Entrepreneurship: Branding, sponsorship, event management and the economics of the gaming industry.

Media and English: Writing reviews, producing streams, shout casting, commentating matches, or scripting in-game narratives.



Wellbeing and PSHE: Conversations around healthy online behaviour, screen-life balance and managing digital identity. This is where schools can genuinely innovate. Rather than viewing esports as an isolated activity, it can act as a lens through which to make broader learning more meaningful. Students are more likely to engage with content when they see its relevance to their passions and potential futures.

Where We Go from Here

This is not a call to replace sports fields with gaming chairs. Physical activity, outdoor learning and human connection remain vital, as I argued in my article 'Tech or Trees?' However, schools must also evolve alongside the world students inhabit. Esports may be a surprising vehicle, but it could also be one of the most effective for helping students thrive in a digital age.

By James Kemp Deputy Head of Mooltripakdee International School



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Pullman Pattaya Hotel G led successful beach cleaning initiative, fostering sustainable tourism practice in Wongamat Beach, Pattaya

Pullman Pattaya Hotel G proudly hosted a successful beach cleaning activity on 18 June (Wednesday), leading the **"Beach Lover Campaign"** to preserve the pristine beauty of Wongamat Beach, Pattaya. The initiative saw an overwhelming turnout of over 90 dedicated participants, from Pullman Pattaya Hotel G and neighboring business organizations, including Long Beach Garden Hotel & Pavilions Pattaya, Cosi Hotel, and Prima Hotel. This collaborative effort shows the commitment of local hospitality community to environmental stewardship and sustainable tourism goals. By working together, we removed a significant amount of waste, contributing to a cleaner and healthier ecosystem for both residents and visitors.

The **"Beach Lover Campaign"** directly supports **Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water**, specifically targeting the reduction of marine pollution. A total of 90 kg of debris was collected by participants, effectively preventing it from harming marine life and degrading the coastal environment. This effort significantly contributes to the goal of reducing plastic pollution, with a focus on mitigating its impact on marine ecosystems in **Wongamat beach area** through sustained efforts.



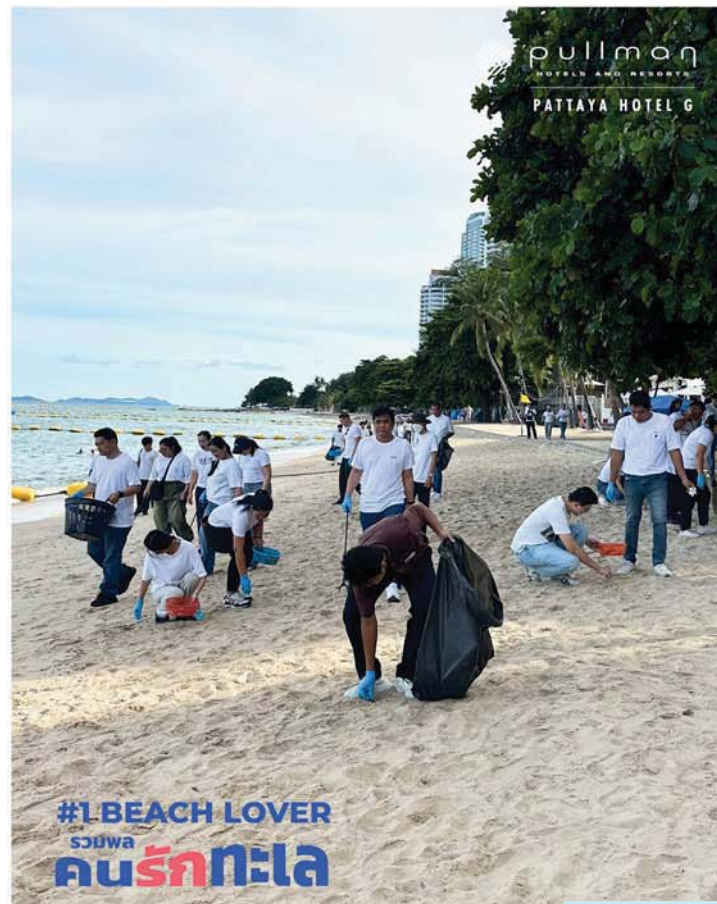


"We are incredibly proud to have led this initiative and to see such a strong commitment from our neighboring businesses and the community" said Mr. Simon Angove General Manager of Pullman Pattaya Hotel G. "Our beautiful beaches are the heart of Pattaya's tourism. By working hand-in-hand, we are not only sustaining our natural resources for future generations but also promoting a better living environment for our community, aligning perfectly with our sustainable tourism objectives."

This activity highlights the growing awareness and proactive steps being taken by businesses in Pattaya to promote responsible tourism practices. Pullman Pattaya Hotel G extends its sincere thanks to all participating organizations and volunteers for their invaluable contribution to a cleaner, more sustainable, Pattaya.

About Pullman Pattaya Hotel G

5 Star Beachfront Hotel in Pattaya. You can dream or you can live your dreams at Pullman Pattaya Hotel G, a culmination of traditional Thai and cutting-edge designs suited for every lifestyle. Nestled away in a lush landscape with serene tropical gardens and a private Beach Club Bar with direct access to the beach. Cool yet contemporary all-day dining outlet featuring an "open kitchen" offering both local and international cuisine. With beautiful sea views and an exclusive spa complex, treatments at inspiring Aisawan Spa to fulfill every relaxing dream of well-being. 16 event spaces with stylish decor, state-of-the-art equipment, and full support team to tailor events and meetings and ensure that they are a resounding success.



What's on The Small Screen



The Sandman Season 2 Volume 1

Tom Sturridge, Gwendoline Christie, Donna Preston

As the Dreaming continues to rebuild, Morpheus faces new challenges that threaten the delicate balance between his realm and the waking world. With the consequences of his long imprisonment still rippling through existence, Dream must confront ancient entities and forgotten siblings, all while navigating the complexities of destiny and the ever-shifting nature of humanity's dreams and nightmares. Old alliances are tested, and new threats emerge from unexpected corners, forcing the Lord of Dreams to make difficult choices that will shape the future of his realm and beyond.



Too Much

Will Sharpe, Megan Stalter, Aylin Scott

A workaholic American woman who moves to London and falls for a British man, exploring the complexities of modern love.



Untamed

Eric Bana, Sam Neill, Wilson Bethel

A dedicated National Parks Service agent investigates a brutal death in the wilderness in Untamed.



Star Trek: Strange New Worlds

Anson Mount, Ethan Peck, Christina Chong

Captain Pike and the Enterprise crew explore new worlds and face challenges in the years before Kirk.



Washington Black

Ernest Kingsley Jr., Charles Dance, Tom Ellis

a young man escaping slavery on a Barbados sugar plantation, embarking on a remarkable global journey for freedom and identity.

What's on The Big Screen



Jurassic World Rebirth

Scarlett Johansson, Gareth Edwards, Kelly McCormick

Five years after Jurassic World Dominion, dinosaurs are largely confined to isolated equatorial islands. Scarlett Johansson stars as Zora Bennett, a covert operations expert leading a team to a forbidden island—a former Jurassic Park research facility—to extract DNA from the largest prehistoric species for a medical breakthrough. Their mission goes awry when they encounter a stranded civilian family and face mutated, terrifying dinosaurs, uncovering a sinister secret hidden for decades. The film promises a return to the franchise's horror roots.



Superman

David Corenswet, Rachel Brosnahan, Nicholas Hoult

Clark Kent balances his alien origins with his human life as he embraces his destiny as Superman.



Fantastic Four: The First Steps

Pedro Pascal, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Matt Shakman

Four astronauts gain extraordinary powers after a cosmic ray exposure, becoming the Fantastic Four.



Eddington

Pedro Pascal, Joaquin Phoenix, Emma Stone

In May 2020, a small-town sheriff clashes with the mayor, sparking a powder keg of division in Eddington, New Mexico.



Heads of State

Idris Elba, John Cena, Paddy Considine

Rival world leaders must set aside their differences to thwart a global conspiracy in Heads of State.



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Travel in ultimate comfort with the BUYUE 360° Head Support Neck Pillow. Engineered for long flights, this skin-friendly and breathable pillow provides complete head and neck support, ensuring restful sleep no matter your position. The comprehensive kit includes a 3D contoured eye mask for total darkness, noise-reducing earplugs, and a convenient storage bag, making it your essential companion for stress-free journeys. Ideal for adults weighing 90+ lbs.

MUSICOZY



You know how tough it is to get comfortable on a long flight? Well, the MUSICOZY Sleep Headphones are here to change that. Imagine a super soft, breathable headband that's also your Bluetooth 5.2 headphones and an eye mask all in one! The cool part is the headphones are 3D designed, so they're incredibly flat – perfect for side sleepers who usually struggle with uncomfortable earbuds.



AQUA Portable Nano Mist Humidifier

Combat the harsh, dry cabin air of long-haul flights with the AQUA Portable Nano Mist Humidifier. This compact, battery-operated device uses advanced nano mist technology to deliver an ultra-fine, hydrating mist that deeply moisturizes your skin and helps alleviate dry eyes, nasal irritation, and overall discomfort often experienced during air travel..

The Autovlography

BARRY UPTON

A couple of years ago, I wrote my autobiography wistfully entitled 'Confessions Of A Pop Tart'. My life in the music and entertainment business has, not just been thoroughly enjoyable, but full of great stories as I crossed paths with numerous recording artists and celebrities.

Sometimes it wasn't an easy ride, but the harder I worked at songwriting, production and performance, the luckier I got and the more opportunities were presented to me. My choice of media for recent creativity has been the wonderful world of YouTube, of which I am an enormous fan.

So, last year I tasked myself with turning my autobiography into an 'autovlography' (I made up that word ... wonder if it will end up in the Oxford English dictionary one day?) with myself talking about my life accompanied by visuals in the form of black & white photos from the 60s, Super 8 film from the mid 70s and from then on colour pics and videos, analogue and digital.

I felt the most entertaining form of presentation for this would be as an interview, relaxing at my home by the pool, so an interviewer was sought and manifested itself in my friend, Discover Pattaya's own editor in chief, Gloria Jones who did a great job, asking all the right questions. (Script? What script?) Crazily, I thought we could knock out the various episodes in a short space of time but, as usual with many of the projects I dream up, it took much longer due to the gathering of photos, videos, etc., plus the heavy workload of video editing.



I can now reveal that 'Confessions Of A Pop Tart' the autovlography is now complete and up to date, starting from my early years growing up in the U.K. through to turning professional as an entertainer, then to songwriting and joining a world famous hit band, Brotherhood Of Man, to becoming one of the U.K.'s top nightclub DJs and then putting together a million selling pop act together called 'Steps'.

There are so many stories related to many entertainers, some new artists and some very well known, that are interesting and sometimes a bit shocking, but always in a good way.

Interspersed between tales of myself as a professional music business 'pop tart', there are also a few controversial personal adventures featuring 'moi' as a womanizing 'pop tart'. The whole debarcle finishes up (spoiler alert) with myself finding contentment, excitement and happiness here in Thailand.



I'm really pleased with the final results and, now that my life is finally catalogued and recorded for posterity, if memory starts to fade, I can reach for an instant recall and retrospectively relive the many happy moments that have made up my amazing time on this planet.

If you think you might like to see myself and Gloria chatting about my life and times, please do take a look on YouTube - FAB BAZ SUNSHINE TV - 'Confessions Of A Pop Tart'.

Confessions Of A Pop Tart

BARRY UPTON



All thirteen episodes can be viewed on YouTube at my FAB BAZ SUNSHINE TV channel - 'Confessions Of A Pop Tart'.

The episodes are: 1. The Early Years - 2. The Pro Scandinavian Years - 3. The Brotherhood Of Man Years - 4. The DJ Nightclub Years - 5. Simon Cowell & the 90s - 6. Creating STEPS - 7. Life after STEPS & more hits - 8. The Cheeky Girls etc. - 9./10./11./12./13. Paradise Thailand.



WHAT MAKES THIS MUSICAL SO ENDURINGLY POPULAR?

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA COMES TO BANGKOK AUGUST 2025

Since its debut in 1986, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical has captivated audiences around the world. With over 160 million people enchanted in 195 cities across 47 countries it is a theatrical phenomenon like no other. Phantom of the Opera has permeated popular culture and its iconic mask has become a symbol recognized around the world.

Adapted from Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel, the musical tells the haunting story of a mysterious, disfigured musical genius who lurks beneath the Paris Opera House and falls tragically in love with a beautiful young soprano, Christine Daaé. But what makes it so enduringly popular? Maybe its timeless themes and emotional resonance?

It is a story of love, obsession, rejection, and redemption. The Phantom is not a conventional villain but rather a deeply tragic figure, driven by a desperate yearning for love and acceptance. Like Puccini's *Pagliacci* or Shakespeare's *Othello* the pain and loneliness of the central protagonist strikes a chord with audiences, who can empathize with his humanity even as they recoil from his actions.

Another significant factor to Phantom's lasting success must be its musical score. Andrew Lloyd Webber's compositions: "The Music of the Night," "All I Ask of You," and the titular "The Phantom of the Opera" have become classics in their own right. Blending classical opera with contemporary musical theatre ensures its appeals to a broad audience with fans of both traditional opera and modern musicals.

Contributing to its wide and lasting appeal must also be its grandiose production design. From the elaborate sets to the intricate costumes and dazzling special effects (most famously, the crashing chandelier) the show offers an immersive theatrical experience. With many audience members attending the show as much for the spectacle as for the story. The subterranean lair of the Phantom, the candlelit boat ride across an underground lake, the masked ball, and the Paris Opera House are all brought to life. These elements heighten the sense of fantasy and drama, making the show a feast for the senses.

In an age of digital entertainment, the tangible magic of live theatre, especially one as technically ambitious as Phantom, retains an enduring allure. So if you have yet to experience *The Phantom of the Opera*, a live production will be staged at the Muangthai Rachadalai Theatre in Bangkok from 5 – 24 August 2025. Go see what all the fuss is about!





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PTEL

Pattaya Trader - Discover Pattaya Expat
Ladies Group

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Pattaya City Center 1337 then 9 for English



Emergency Hotline: 191
Pattaya Police Station: Soi 9
038 420 - 802
Tourist Police 1155



Fire & Rescue 199
Pattaya Fire Station
038 425 943



General Emergency 191 or 911
Bangkok Pattaya 038 259 999
Pattaya International 038 428 374
Pattaya Memorial 038 488 777



Electricity Pattaya
038 426 463
Water 1416 Press 9
For English
Garbage Collection
038 428 100



Airport Flight Information
Suvarnabhumi (02) 132 1888
U-Tapao Airport 038 245 593



Traffic accidents
medical assistance 1669
Highway Police 1193

MEDIUM

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Bringing Businesses Together

Are you looking for a partner to help your business or business community thrive?

At BBX we are an experienced and committed team, designed exclusively to help businesses grow

Who we are?

BBX is a community of business owners with a solution to immediately help with business cashflow needs.

How do we do it?

- We provide interest free credit to business owners in our community
- Business owners use this credit to purchase products and services within the community to help their business grow "No Cash Outlay"

What's our commitment?

- We will continue to build the BBX Business community providing sustainable opportunities focused on business needs
- We will support business initiatives and partnerships, nurturing them in parallel with new ideas.
- We will provide a secure financial platform for transaction management

Your Commitment?

- Our business community transacts via business trade credits. A willingness to be part of this extra revenue stream
- Our community of business owners connects and supports each other via fair trading terms, an understanding that strong relationships prosper with respect

Reach out to us, we are here to help all business grow!

www.bbxworld.com



SOLUTIONS

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LAMPANG, THE HISTORIC AND TIMELESS CITY

Chapter 7 – Unseen Lampang

By: Songpone Siriwanlert

Introduction: After you have seen so many aspects of Lampang, in this chapter we are going to make you amazed at Lampang with the other sides.

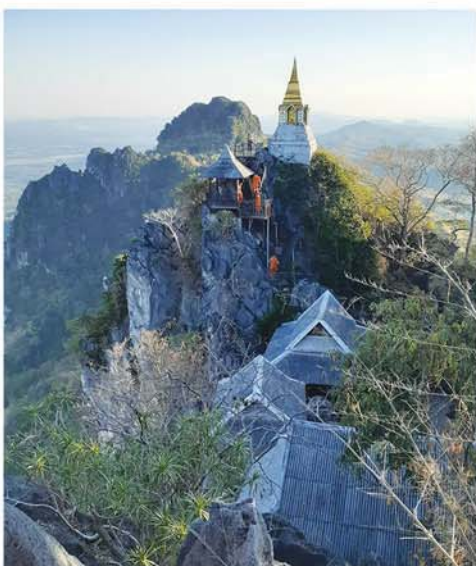
Daibutsu, the Great Buddha Image of Kotokuin Temple, Kamakura Town of Japan

Looking at this picture of Daibutsu at the first sight. Do you think you see the temple of Daibutsu in Kamakura Town of Japan? Just follow us to Wat Phra Thart Doi Phra Shan or Doi Phra Shan Temple, located in Mae Tha District, around 15 Km. southeast of Lampang City. When you see the environment around the temple, it completely looks like the original one in Japan. This is the temple Abbot's inspiration for imitation of Daibutsu. At one in night of 2013, he had a dream of the Great Buddha of Kamakura Daibutsu flew from the sky and landed on the top of Doi Phra Shan Hill, and he heard a voice saying, "Please build me here, I will come here to be with you". Therefore, one year later, the abbot decided to build the great Buddha that was made of a metal by forming method that assembled with steel frames using metal weighted at 32 tons in total. The Buddha dimension is 14 meters width and 23 meters height. The foundation laying ceremony was held on June 19, 2014 and construction completion was September 21, 2021.



THE SKY PAGODA

Located at Phra Bat Suthawas Temple in Chae Home District, about 60 Km. north of Lampang City taking about 1 hour driving to get there. This temple was built to commemorate King Rama IV for his 200th. Anniversary on October 18, 2004. In order to get to the mountain ridge where the line of many different sizes of pagodas are situated on the ridge, all tourists must take a minibus from the ground of the temple passing the narrow and steep road that is about 800 meters above the sea level that take about 30 minutes of time to reach the walk ways on to the summit which are steel staircases of over 300 steps with the length of 540 meters. Upon reaching the peak, there is a first aids unit for anyone who might faint from the sick of long walking steps. At the viewpoint, you can see the wonderful panorama of the mountain with many pagodas on the ridge and down to ground where many villages laying in wide angle of sight.



ลำปาง นครแห่งประวัติศาสตร์ที่อยู่เหนือกาลเวลา

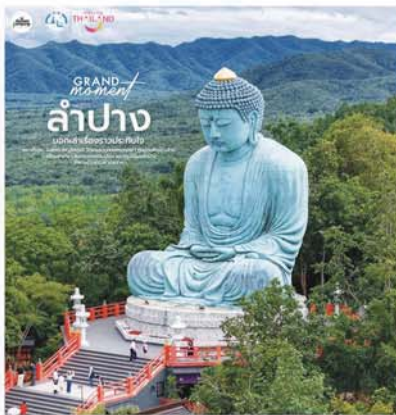
บทที่ 7 – ลำปางที่ยังไม่เคยเห็น

โดย ทรงพล ศิริวรรณเลิศ

หลังจากที่ท่านได้เห็นลำปางในแง่มุมต่างๆแล้ว เราขอพาท่านไปชมความทึ่งของลำปางในอีกด้านหนึ่งที่ท่านอาจยังไม่เคยเห็น

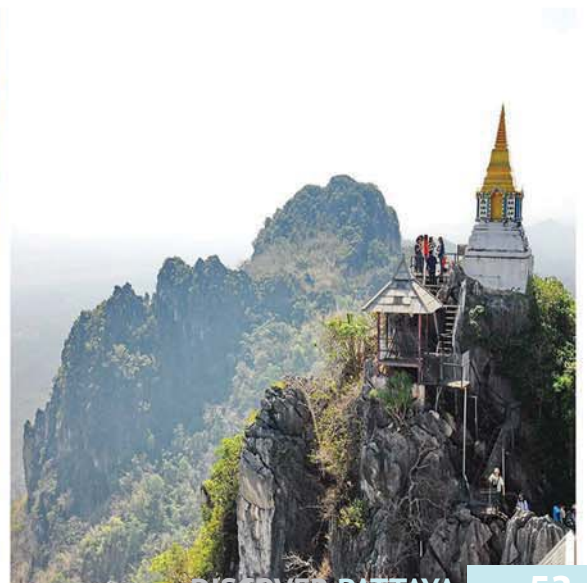
โอบอุ้ม พระพุทธรูปองค์ใหญ่แห่งเมืองคามาคุระ อันถือเป็นสัญลักษณ์หนึ่งของประเทศญี่ปุ่น

ถ้าท่านเห็นภาพนี้ในแวบแรก ท่านอาจจะคิดถึงพระพุทธรูปโอบอุ้มแห่งวัดโคโคคุอินเมืองคามาคุระ ในประเทศญี่ปุ่น หากท่านตามเรามาถึงวัดพระธาตุดอยพระฌาน ซึ่งตั้งอยู่ที่อำเภอแม่ทะ ประมาณ 15 กม.ทางทิศตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ของตัวเมืองลำปาง และเห็นสิ่งแวดล้อม ณ สถานที่ตรงนั้น จะเห็นว่าเหมือนกับวัดโคโคคุอินที่มีพระพุทธรูปโอบอุ้มประดิษฐานอยู่จริงๆ นี่คือการบังเอิญของท่านเจ้าอาวาสวัดดอยพระฌานที่เกิดจากความฝันของท่านในคืนหนึ่งของปี พ.ศ. 2556 ในฝันนั้นท่านเห็นนิมิตว่า พระพุทธรูปโอบอุ้ม ลอยมาจากปากฟ้าแล้วลงมาตั้งอยู่บนยอดดอยพระฌาน พร้อมกับมีพระสุรเสียงเปล่งออกมาว่า “ท่านสร้างเราไว้ที่นี่ แล้วเราจะมาอยู่กับท่าน” จากนั้นอีก 1 ปีต่อมา ท่านเจ้าอาวาสจึงตัดสินใจสร้างพระพุทธรูปโอบอุ้มเพื่อประดิษฐานบนยอดดอยพระฌาน ซึ่งใช้แผ่นทองแดง เคาะขึ้นรูปเป็นองค์พระ แล้วหุ้มโครงเหล็กซึ่งมีน้ำหนัก 32 ตัน องค์พระมีขนาดหน้าตัก 14 เมตร สูง 32 เมตร มีพิธีวางศิลาฤกษ์ในวันที่ 19 มิถุนายน 2557 การก่อสร้างแล้วเสร็จในวันที่ 21 กันยายน 2564 นับเป็นสถานที่ท่องเที่ยวสำคัญแห่งใหม่ของลำปาง

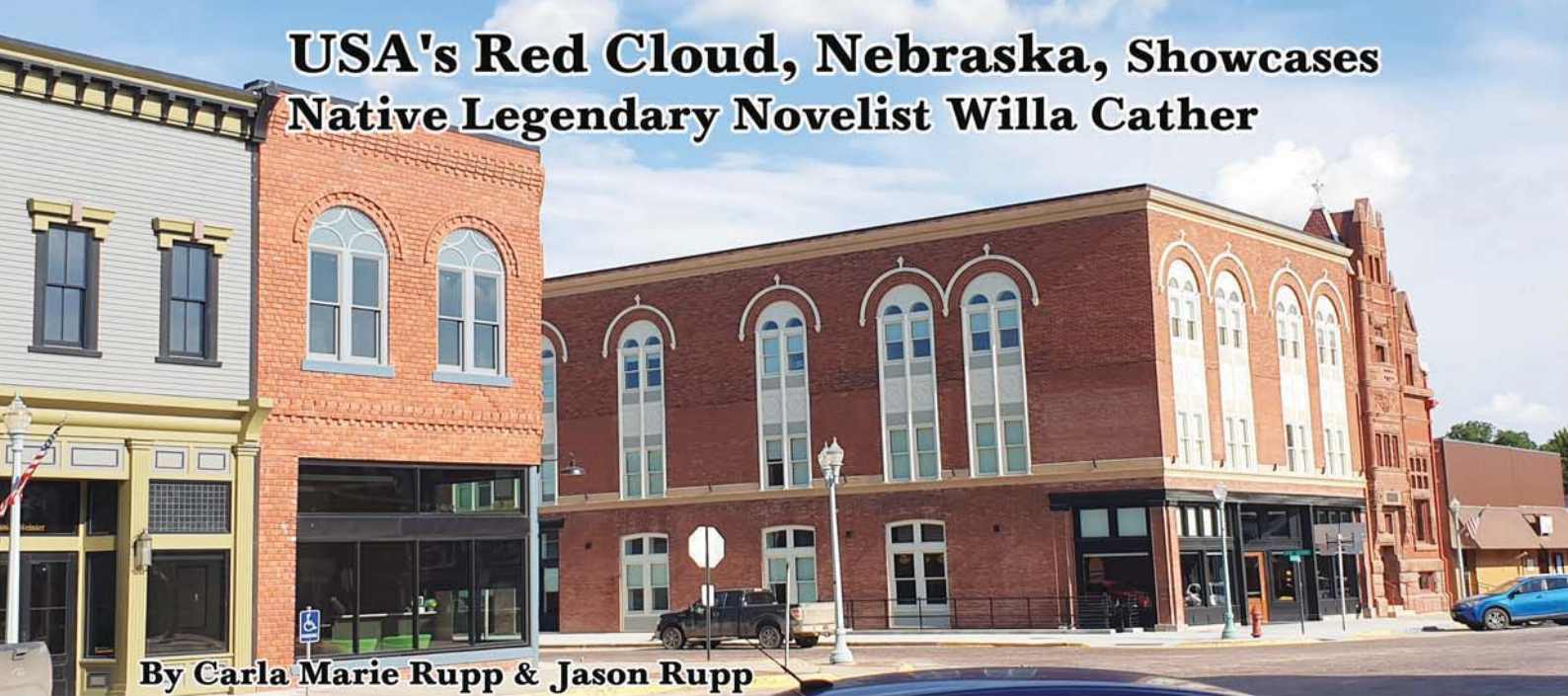


เหล่าพระธาตุนยอดเขา

ตั้งอยู่บนยอดเขาที่วัดพระพุทธบาทสุทธาวาสหรือวัดเฉลิมพระเกียรติ ในอำเภอแจ้ห่ม ห่างจากตัวเมืองลำปางขึ้นไปทางทิศเหนือประมาณ 60 กม. ใช้เวลาประมาณหนึ่งชั่วโมงโดยการขับรถไป วัดแห่งนี้ สร้างขึ้นเพื่อเฉลิมพระเกียรติพระบาทสมเด็จพระจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 4 เนื่องในโอกาสครบรอบ 200 ปีพระราชสมภพของพระองค์ท่าน ตัววัดและพระอุโบสถ ตั้งอยู่เชิงเขา การเดินทางขึ้นชมส่วนของพระวิหารและเจดีย์บนยอดเขา ต้องเดินทางโดยรถสองแถวเล็กที่ทางวัดจัดไว้ให้บริการ โดยท่านต้องจอดรถไว้ในบริเวณวัด เส้นทางรถขึ้นไปสู่บันไดทางขึ้นเขา เป็นทางแคบ คดเคี้ยว และสูงชัน ซึ่งต้องใช้คนขับรถที่ชำนาญทางเท่านั้น โดยใช้เวลาประมาณ 20 นาที เมื่อถึงทางขึ้นเขาซึ่งเป็นบันไดเหล็ก มีจำนวนประมาณ 300 ขั้น ระยะทาง 540 เมตร อยู่เหนือระดับน้ำทะเล 800 เมตร และมีที่พักเหนื่อยเป็นระยะๆ เมื่อถึงยอดแล้ว จะมีหน่วยปฐมพยาบาล บริการนักท่องเที่ยวบางท่านที่อาจเหน็ดเหนื่อยจากการเดินเท้าขึ้นบันไดเป็นระยะทางยาว อาจมีอาการหน้ามืดเป็นลม เมื่อถึงจุดชมวิวแล้ว จะรู้ว่าคุ้มค่าเหนื่อยจริงๆ ท่านจะเห็นภาพและสามารถถ่ายภาพมุมกว้างแบบพาโนรามาของเหล่าเจดีย์น้อยใหญ่ที่เรียงรายอยู่บนสันเขาอย่างงดงามตื่นตา รวมไปถึงภาพด้านล่างซึ่งเป็นหมู่บ้านเล็กๆหลายหมู่บ้านจากมุมสูง



USA's Red Cloud, Nebraska, Showcases Native Legendary Novelist Willa Cather



By Carla Marie Rupp & Jason Rupp

Travel escapes to the beautiful rural town of Red Cloud in the State of Nebraska, USA are being promoted to explore the history and life of a renowned woman writer. Born around 150 years ago, the literary great Willa Cather: (Dec. 7, 1873-April 24, 1947) is known for her uniquely American prose, still relevant today. Travelers to Red Cloud can learn about Cather by taking tours at sites related to her, including visiting the home where she lived. There are also many activities in the town and surrounding areas, such as shopping, hiking, golf, bowling, dining, swimming, and sightseeing.



Hotel Garber is the newest thing in Red Cloud with its multi-million dollar restoration of the historic Potter-Wright structure. The extraordinary new hotel has 27 well-furnished rooms, and hallways are filled with photographs from the last century. From the lobby, you can sit on colorful sofa chairs, relax, and admire the beauty of Hotel Garber, a nod to Silas Garber, a character in Cather's book "A Lost Lady". Forrester is also mentioned in a Cather book. We were invited to stay overnight at the extraordinary boutique Garber and try the tasty food for dinner in its restaurant Forrester's. Chef Mark Tucker oversees a delicious menu in this lovely, hip dining and bar area. It's well worth a drive from Interstate Highway 80, which goes east and west across the United States. A stay at Hotel Garber makes for the perfect stop on a road trip.

In 1871, Garber and a group of locals named the town "Red Cloud" after the Ogala Lakota Native American: Chief Red Cloud. A prominent figure in the 19th-century conflicts between Native Americans and the U.S. government, he was an admired leader. The region had also been used as a hunting ground by the Pawnee Native Americans. Today with about 1,000 residents this awesome small town is in the center of the country and draws U.S. and international visitors to check out the hometown of noted Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather.



In 1923 Cather was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for "One of Ours," a novel set during World War I. "My Antonia" is another of Cather's famous books. The National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. included it in its Big Read program, sparking even more recent interest in her work. Some of her other many books include "Alexander's Bridge", "The Song of the Lark", and "O Pioneer". She loved her little Nebraska frontier town, with an impressive Opera House, and referenced Red Cloud in speeches and in her writings. The community still celebrates her with conferences; famous actors such as Jessica Lange have starred in movies made from Cather novels.

"Great Stories Grow Here" is one of the tourism sayings of Red Cloud. The National Willa Cather Center is among important sites, located across the street from Hotel Garber, to immerse in the author's life. There is so much here about Cather, and visitors can go into the archives room to find out more. The Willa Cather Memorial Prairie is outside of town, with roughly 612 acres to enjoy. You can hike the trails, delight in the unbroken horizon, and experience the prairie as it was more than one hundred years ago. It's especially beautiful at sunset time for pictures, and even later for star-gazing!

Visitors come from all over the world to tiny Red Cloud because of the significance of the legendary author. A new "Cather Immersion Package" includes several days of excursions to connections with the writer and a night's stay in Red Cloud. Celebrities such as civil rights activist Maya Angelou and American media personality Garrison Keillor have slipped into Red Cloud because they were fans of Cather's 12 novels, six collections of short fiction, and several volumes of poetry.



Around town and in the surrounding area are fun things to do. There's a huge unique Starke Round Barn, the largest true round barn in the world, with a tour from Liz by appointment from jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com. The Shute Bison mural is another sight. A 19-mile drive will take you past the Nebraska border and into the State of Kansas (before reaching the town of Lebanon). Here you can take pictures at the exact geographical center of the Continental United States.

In town near the Garber, Alley Cat is a bowling alley operated by friendly couple Don and Tami Mullen, who moved to Red Cloud from Montrose, Colorado, to get a new start. They looked all over the U.S. and finally found this place that was going to go out of business. So they saved the cute retro bowling alley and added a lot of atmosphere and great food. Alley Cat has a big breakfast following with huge portions of yummy pancakes, eggs any style, and the works. Nearby is craft beer & cocktail bar On the Brix, matching the sophistication of any city bar. Relax at Corner Nook for soft beverages, browsing books and clothing. There's a lot to do in and around Red Cloud.



Much thanks to Jarrod McCartney, Heritage Tourism Development & Red Cloud Creative District Director, a big help to show us around. More information is at VisitRedCloud.com and at WillaCather.org. Carla Marie Rupp and Jason Rupp are freelance travel journalists, and are reached at carlaruppy@gmail.com and at jasonruppy@gmail.com



Summer in the City of London

Gloria Rediscovered The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

It has been many years since I last visited The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, usually simply referred to as Kew Gardens. It is a wonderful place to go, especially on a summer's day in London. Spanning over 300 acres and serving not only as a place of immense natural beauty but also as a global leader in plant science, conservation, and education. With its rich history, diverse plant collections, and commitment to safeguarding the future of plants, it's a truly unique place to visit and one I thought I should rediscover.

Kew Gardens' dates back to 1759 when it was created as a royal garden for Augusta the Princess of Wales. Later in 1840 Queen Victoria endorsed the decision to transform Kew from a royal pleasure place into a public park, on the understanding that it would also be used as a scientific institution dedicated to botanical research. Sir William Hooker was then appointed its first official Director and during his time there the gardens grew in size. Many glasshouses were constructed including the iconic Palm House, the building most people associate with Kew. A masterpiece of Victorian engineering, it is made of wrought iron and glass and inside designed to replicate a rainforest environment. Visitors can experience a vast array of tropical plants. By climbing the spiral staircases you can get an even closer view of varieties of exotic plants including towering palms, banana trees, orchids and rare ferns. The humidity and warmth create an immersive experience that feels like stepping into another world.



More orchids can be found within The Princess of Wales Conservatory, opened in 1987 by Princess Diana. As well as orchids it's home to vast array of plants, including cacti and even carnivorous species like Venus flytraps. I remembered it from an earlier visit some years ago although this visit time I have to say the conservatory was outshone by the Waterlily House smaller but stunningly beautiful this was a new discovery for me only found because we had been able to explore more of the gardens via the Kew Explorer.



The Kew explorer costs £6.50 for adults and £2.50 for children and is very well worth the ticket price. With it you are really able to appreciate the actual size of Kew and the parts it would take far too long to walk to. For example the impressive Redwood trees area, rare and endangered species and the famous and majestic Kew oaks. In fact there are more than 14,000 trees here from over 2,000 different species. There is also a tour guide on the explorer to alert you to amazing facts like the fact that around 90% of the world's entire plant species can be found in Kew Gardens. Home to one of the most diverse plant collections on Earth, with over 50,000 living plants spread across its vast landscape, glasshouses and gardens, the specimens here represent nearly every corner of the globe.





Today, Kew is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site that inspires millions of visitors annually, it is also a major global centre for scientific research and plant conservation. The Kew Science department employs hundreds of botanists, mycologists, and researchers who work to discover, catalogue, and conserve plant diversity. Kew's Herbarium houses over 7 million preserved plant specimens and is one of the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world. These specimens, some dating back centuries, are used by scientists around the globe to identify plant species, study biodiversity, and track ecological changes over time. The library and archives are similarly impressive, containing more than 750,000 volumes and thousands of botanical illustrations, maps, and manuscripts.

Kew is deeply committed to educating the public about the importance of plants and the need to protect them. Exhibitions, guided tours, seasonal festivals, and art installations further engage visitors, helping to raise awareness about critical issues such as climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. As a leading authority in botany, it collaborates with more than 100 countries to support sustainable development, protect endangered species, and train future plant scientists. Its work supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to climate action, life on land, and food security.



So if you are travelling to London remember that Summer brings Kew gardens into full bloom with colorful borders, lush lawns and so much to see and do. Easily accessible by just a short walk from the Kew Gardens Tube Station on the District line it offers a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and is both an enriching and rejuvenating experience.

A large photograph of Plácido Domingo, an older man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit. He is captured in a dramatic pose, singing with his mouth wide open and his right hand gesturing. The background is dark and out of focus.

THINGS TO DO IN THE BIG MANGO

Bangkok's 27th International Festival of Dance & Music
features the legendary **Plácido Domingo**

Established in 1999, Bangkok's International Festival of Dance & Music is Asia's largest and most prestigious performing arts festival. Featuring top-tier talent from across the globe in opera, ballet, orchestral music, contemporary performance, and cross-cultural showcases, the festival strives to elevate the Thai arts scene and provide unforgettable experiences for local audiences.

A once-in-a-lifetime performance in Thailand, Plácido Domingo

This year there are 14 stunning performances from over 10 countries including the Thai debut of Plácido Domingo, the iconic opera superstar, and one of The Three Tenors. With over 150 operatic roles in 4000 performances and 12 Grammy awards, Domingo has redefined opera for global audiences and remains one of the most influential figures in classical music history. This historic night becomes even more extraordinary as he shares the stage with two stars in classical music: Monica Conesa, the radiant American soprano captivating international stages, along with Beatrice Venezi, the groundbreaking Italian conductor hailed as one of the most powerful women in classical music. Together, they will create an unforgettable operatic masterpiece; this is more than a concert; it is a piece of musical history.

India's epic Mahabharata comes to life in a dazzling contemporary spectacle

Also for the first time in Thailand, audiences will witness the grandeur of the Mahabharata, India's greatest epic reimagined for the global stage. "Mahabharata: 18 Days, Dusk of an Era" is a live, large-scale performance by Prabhat Arts International, founded in 1946, a renowned artistic institution known for breathing new life into ancient literature through modern artistic forms.

This visually stunning production brings to life the 18-day war between the Pandavas and Kauravas, the cosmic clash of dharma (righteousness) versus adharma (unrighteousness) with a cast of over fifty performers. The show is a gripping infusion of Indian dance, drama and live dialogue with elaborate costumes brought out through levitation, aerial stunts, martial arts and immersive visual effects.



Chinese classic reimagined: A Dream of Red Mansions by the National Ballet of China

Also taking center stage is the breathtaking ballet interpretation of *A Dream of Red Mansions*, one of the Four Great Classical Novels of China, originally penned by Cao Xueqin in the 18th century. Often called “a mirror of Qing Dynasty society,” the story remains one of the most poignant literary works in Chinese history.

This year, the acclaimed National Ballet of China reinterprets the tale through the elegance of Western ballet, capturing themes of love, longing, and the inevitable decline of a noble family. More than eighty dancers will bring the tragic love triangle to life with expressive choreography and powerful stage presence. The production arrives in Bangkok with six full containers of set pieces, lighting, and lavish costumes from Beijing, an awe-inspiring fusion of Chinese storytelling and Western ballet tradition, delivered with grace and grandeur on a single stage.



Russia's Samara Opera & Ballet Theatre kicks off the festival with 4 grand productions

Get ready for an unforgettable second half of The Festival as Russia's prestigious Samara Opera & Ballet Theatre takes the stage in Bangkok with 4 spectacular productions. Renowned for its breathtaking performances and grand-scale productions, the company brings a diverse lineup of opera and ballet masterpieces to Thai audiences. Leading the charge are two legendary operas: *Tosca* and *Aida*, timeless tales of love, loss, and power brought to life with stunning sets, soaring vocals, and a cast of over 250 performers.

The magic continues with a brand-new production of *The Nutcracker* made just for their visit to Thailand, Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Rounding off their lineup is the emotionally charged contemporary ballet *Three Marks of the King*, a dramatic reflection on power, identity, and the courage to embrace one's true self, showcasing the precision and grandeur of Russian ballet at its finest and the only theatre in the world who performs this ballet.

Heart-stopping acrobatics and futuristic dance collide

The excitement doesn't stop there. This year's festival brings high-octane energy and universal appeal with China National Acrobatic Troupe, performing in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Thai-Chinese diplomatic relations. With over 50 acrobats and more than 74 international gold medals, prepare to be amazed by gravity-defying stunts and jaw-dropping feats of athleticism. Then, step into the future with *Pixel*, a groundbreaking French production that merges street, hip-hop, roller blading and contemporary dance with state-of-the-art visual technology. Featuring 3D graphics, projection mapping, and interactive special effects, this performance is a visual spectacle that will leave you breathless.

The festival also features an eclectic lineup of international performances, namely, *Cuba Vibra!*, a vibrant journey through Cuban dance from past to present, *Nocturna*, a contemporary flamenco performance from Spain, pulsing with passion *NINA*, a *Gatsby*-style dance drama paying tribute to female strength and the pursuit of dreams *Energy ∞ Infinite*, a percussion show that redefines rhythm and movement, and The Prague Philharmonia, one of Europe's top orchestras and a Grammy recipient, will deliver classical brilliance and also features 29 year old American pianist George Li from the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Book your tickets up until July 14, 2025, at all Thai Ticket Major branches and at www.thaiticketmajor.com. For full program details, visit: www.bangkokfestivals.com

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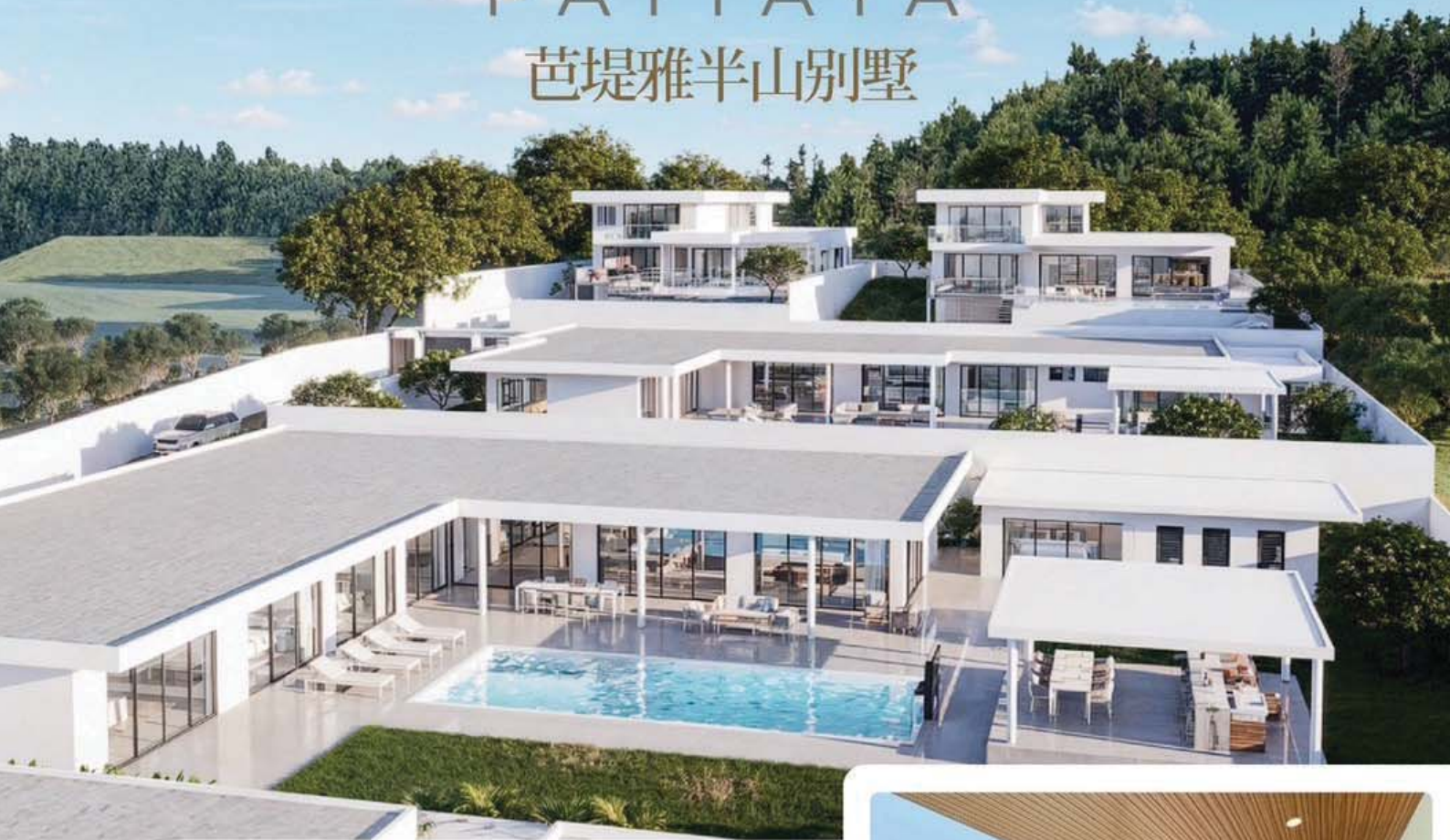
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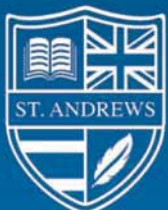
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