Are you looking for a quick escape from the busy city, where you can find some peace and quiet in nature? Or are you looking for a weekend discovery tour, just across the Chao Phraya River close to Bangkok? If yes, then Bang Kachao is the oasis you seek!

Bang Kachao (alternatively called Bang Krachao or Bang Kra Jao) is located just outside of the city, and is often described as the “Green Lung of Bangkok”. It is located in Phra Pradaeng district in Samut Prakarn Province, and is composed of six sub-districts – Bang Kachao, Bang Korbua, Bang Nam Phueng, Bang Krasop, Bang Yo and Song Khanong.

The area was named “Best Urban Oasis” by TIME Magazine in 2006 and has a lot of natural and scenic beauty to absorb; with numerous parks, orchards, palm trees and fresh air. Cycling paths are also available for bicycle tours, offered by a number of tour operators in the area. It is also possible to explore this area on your own by renting a bicycle at one of the piers located along the Chao Phraya River. Walking tours are available for you to enjoy exploring Bang Kachao at your own pace.

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, started working in Bang Kachao on biodiversity conservation in 2013. Together with the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (APFNet), and various other stakeholders such as community groups and academic institutions, IUCN aims to strengthen the management of urban forestry and biodiversity through landscape and biodiversity surveys, the establishment of demonstration sites, and the promotion of ecotourism activities that benefit the local community.
Some activities in Bang Kachao

- **Bang Nam Phueng weekend market**: Located in Bang Nam Phueng sub-district, this lively riverside market gives a great taste of local food and culture. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 8am to 2pm.

- **Wat Bang Nam Phueng Nok**: Located near the banks of the Chao Phraya River, this is one of the numerous old temples located in Bang Kachao. Its old chapel and ordination hall are definitely worth a visit!

- **Suan Sri Nakhon Khuen Khan Park**: This large green expanse offers plenty of space for those who like cycling, jogging, strolling along the park’s trails, bird watching, boat rides, or simply some peace and quiet. The park has several large ponds, as well as beautiful landscaped gardens and pathways. Open daily from 6am to 8pm.

- **Bang Krasop Cork Tree Forest Park**: This forest park was set up several years ago with the main goal to plant cork trees (“lamphu”; a mangrove species) in order to conserve fireflies. The cork tree forest park is also a learning site for different tree species and an important growing area for Nipa palms. Firefly-sighting is a unique pastime here. Located on Soi Petchahueng 20; it can easily be reached by bike.

- **Herbal Joss Stick Home**: Visitors can see how incense sticks are produced and learn interesting facts about local food and desserts. Located in Soi Petchahueng 52, contact number 0-2815-0729.

- **Integrated Agriculture Farm**: The Integrated Agriculture Farm is based on the principles of the ‘Sufficiency Economy’, a philosophy developed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. Located in Soi Petchahueng 57.

About the IUCN-Marriott partnership in Thailand

As part of Marriott’s global commitment to sustainability and IUCN’s Business and Biodiversity Programme, Marriott Hotels & Resorts Thailand and IUCN are working together to protect the environment and support Thailand’s local communities through mangrove reforestation, the use of sustainable seafood sources, and local procurement practices. Through this initiative, IUCN aims to support Marriott Hotels & Resorts Thailand in their efforts to value and manage biodiversity and to contribute to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity, while at the same time encouraging the mainstreaming of sustainable business practices in the Southeast Asia region.

You can support the mangrove project in Thailand by making a donation at your Marriott hotel in Thailand. Your support is much appreciated!

Ecotourism in Bang Kachao

In Bang Kachao, this initiative aims to provide incentives to preserve the area by promoting ecotourism and by supporting local conservation efforts such as planting trees to rehabilitate forest areas. IUCN aims to support its partners in the establishment of demonstration sites to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation.

Marriott guests visiting Bang Kachao can contribute to the conservation of the area by providing income to local communities through visits to the Bang Nam Phueng market and other attractions. By using a bicycle as your means of transportation, you can help reduce air and noise pollution in Bang Kachao, and reduce your carbon footprint.

For more information on IUCN-Marriott initiatives

- [www.iucn.org/sea-group](http://www.iucn.org/sea-group)
- [www.marriottthailand.com](http://www.marriottthailand.com)
How to get there?

By Taxi or Car
Bang Kachao can be reached by car by crossing the Chao Phraya River at the Rama IV Suspension Bridge.

By Ferry in Khlong Toei
You can take the ferry (small boat) at the Pier next to Wat Khlong Toei Nok by the Chao Phraya River. Bicycles can be loaded on the boat. At the opposite pier, you can rent a bike for 50 baht per hour or 100 baht per day.

On IUCN’s work in Thailand
IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN’s work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN, and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries.

Thailand was one of the 14 countries that created IUCN in 1948. During the 1950s and 1960s, IUCN worked with the Royal Thai Government to establish a network of national parks and protected areas, and to formulate management regimes for these areas. In the 1980s, IUCN gave support to the Royal Thai Government on the development of a watershed classification system. In the late 1990s, IUCN provided information and discussion on the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and a review of the Thai Forest Master Plan.

IUCN Thailand is currently working on a number of national and regional projects related to coastal protection, transboundary water issues, climate change adaptation, and helping local communities to create sustainable livelihoods. [www.iucn.org/thailand](http://www.iucn.org/thailand)