



## Welcome to Wat Plai Laem

Wat Plai Laem (Thai: วัดปลายแหลม ) which was built in 1945 (2488 in Thai solar calendar year) is a Buddhist temple compound on Samui's northeast coast, which features:

- 18-armed image of Guanyin the Goddess of Mercy and Compassion.
- A large, white laughing Buddha statue.
- Beautifully carved teak entry doors, and an elaborate *ubosot* (ceremonial hall) set on an island in a lake.

Wat Plai Laem is open to visitors all day during daylight hours and is particularly lively during Chinese festivals such as the Lunar New Year. Since this is a sacred place, polite dress and conduct is a must. Be sure to wear shirts or scarves that cover the shoulders, trousers or long shorts, and avoid wearing beachwear. Worshipers often don white clothing when visiting the temple.

**Guanyin** is believed to be a source of unconditional love and a protector of all beings. Her multitude of arms is seen as an illustration of her ability to reach out and provide help across the world. She is also seen as a fertility goddess and



many who come here pray for her help in bearing healthy children. As well, Guanyin is believed by some to help protect sailors at sea.

**The Happy Buddha** statue depicts a stout, pot-bellied man with a contented smile on his face. It is considered a symbol of good luck, happiness, and plentitude.



**The Prayer Hall** is a serene space where visitors can offer their prayers and make offerings. The interior is adorned with beautiful murals depicting Buddhist teachings and stories.



## 5 Hindu Gods around Happy Buddha



### **Vishnu**

is the god of preservation, the great maintainer who often appears in various incarnation (avatara) to provide salvation for humanity.



### **Ganesha**

Is "Lord of the People". He guides worshipers in their protection, blessings, good luck, and the triumph over difficulties and obstacles.



### **Shiva**

is described as a destroyer because unless you destroy what is most valuable to you right now, what is beyond will not happen.



### **Indra**

is the god of rain & storm. He is associated with the sky, lightning, weather, thunder, storms, rains, river flows, and war.



### **Brahma**

The four faces represent the Four Immeasurable minds, also known as loving-kindness, compassion, rejoice and equanimity.

## Fortune sticks or “Seam Si”

Fortune sticks, also known as "Seam Si" in Thai, are a traditional form of divination used in Chinese and some



Southeast Asian cultures, including Thailand. The fortune sticks consist of a container filled with sticks, each of which bears a number on one end.

To use fortune sticks, the person will first make an offering of incense or a small donation to the temple or divine. They will then kneel or sit in front of the container and shake it until a stick with a number falls out.

The stick will match the number on a corresponding fortune card one can rip off a block or read off a board nearby. The fortunes or advice can be general or specific, and relate to matters such as health, wealth, career, or relationships.

### **Here's how to do it Step-by-Step (The Thai Way):**

1. Finish your worship, prayers or meditations first before doing fortune sticks.
2. Pick up the container with the fortune sticks & go back to a kneeling position.
3. Bow one time towards the Buddha, holding the container to your forehead.
4. Hold the container in front of you, lightly shaking & tilting until a stick falls out.
5. Check the number on the stick and match with the corresponding fortune card.

## What is your birthday of the week?

As a Buddhist culture, one of the most common birthday traditions in Thailand is to visit a local temple and offer food to the monks there.

According to ancient customs in Thailand, there is an astrological rule (which has influence from Hindu mythology) that assigns a color to each day of the week based on the color of the God who protects the day or Navagraha.

Many Thais will ask each other when their birthday is, meaning the actual day of the week they were born. They do this because they associate different attributes and luck to people born on certain days so this is important information for Thai people.

Day	Thai name	Color of the day	Celestial Body	God of the day
Sunday	วันอาทิตย์	Red	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Surya</u>
Monday	วันจันทร์	Yellow	<u>Moon</u>	<u>Chandra</u>
Tuesday	วันอังคาร	Pink	<u>Mars</u>	<u>Mangala</u>
Wednesday	วันพุธ	Green	<u>Mercury</u>	<u>Budha</u>
Thursday	วันพฤหัสบดี	Orange	<u>Jupiter</u>	<u>Brihaspati</u>
Friday	วันศุกร์	Blue	<u>Venus</u>	<u>Shukra</u>
Saturday	วันเสาร์	Purple	<u>Saturn</u>	<u>Shani</u>

## **Blessing:**

Light the 3 insense sticks with a candle & offer a flower  
(3 insense sticks for Buddha, Buddha's teaching & Monk.  
Candle for the enlightenment & a flower for the purity)

Recieve a blessing from the monk

## **Offering Saṅgha Dāna**

**Imāni mayam bhante, bhattāni, saporivārāni,  
bhikkhu-saṅghassa, oṇojayāma.**

**Sādhu no bhante, bhikkhu-saṅgho, imāni,  
bhattāni, saporivārāni, paṭiggaṇhātu,  
amhākaṃ, dīgha-rattaṃ, hitāya, sukhāya.**

We present these foods of ours, together with these accompanying articles to the Bhikkhu Sangha. May the Bhikkhu Sangha accept these foods, together with these accompanying articles, for the long-term welfare and happiness of ourselves, our parents, our relatives living and deceased, beings we have harmed in the past, and all beings.