

TRAVEL TITBITS

■ KARNJANA KARNJANATAWE

Easier train tickets

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has joined hands with Krung Thai Bank (KTB) to allow passengers to pay for their tickets via debit and credit cards as well as via KTB's e-wallet app.

About 140 electronic data captures (EDCs) will be implemented in 56 major train stations nationwide, including Hua Lamphong. SRT expects this will help passengers and further facilitate a cashless society.

Visit railway.co.th or call 1690.



Airport hearing passed

The Satun airport project has passed a second public hearing.

The forum was recently organised by the Department of Airports and attended by representatives of public and private groups as well as local communities. The DoA conducted a feasibility study around the fourth quarter of 2018. It took about a year to be completed. The objective of the project is to boost the economy in the South and to increase tourism.

During the public hearing, a 3,500 rai site in tambon Jebilang in Muang district was chosen. It is located in the northeast of the city, about a 30-minute drive to the city centre.

The location is also about a 45-minute drive from the Pak Bara Pier, where locals and tourists can take ferries or speed boats to Koh Tarutao, Koh Lipe and Koh Adang, famous islands for snorkelling and diving activities in the Deep South. Parts of the southern province are also named the first Unesco Global Geopark in Thailand.

The initial budget for the project is about 3 billion baht. The airport is expected to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year and up to 5 million passengers within the first 20 years of operation.

The project will be submitted to the Transport Ministry, which will forward it to the cabinet for approval next month.

Highway to Rayong

The Department of Highways will open the extension of Highway 7 from Pattaya to Rayong in May.

During the opening period, it will offer the service for free until the official opening in August.

The project is expected to help logistics and tourism. The department invested about 20.2 billion baht for the extension, which is about 32km in distance.

The fee for four-wheel vehicles on the motorway from Bangkok to U-Tapao exit in Rayong will be 130 baht. The exit is close to U-Tapao Rayong Pattaya International Airport and Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate.

AIRLINES UPDATE

■ Bangkok Airways has launched their "Samui Super Sale" promotion.

One-way domestic fares start from 1,990 baht (excluding taxes and fees). It also offers special prices for international flights from Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Koh Samui. The promotional fares are available on some selected flights and with limited seats.

Reservations can be made until March 31 for travelling from May 1 until June 30 or Sept 1 until Dec 15.

Visit bangkokair.com or call 1771.

■ Thai Airways has joined hands with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to launch the "60 Happiness Routes @ Muang Thai The Series Campaign" to celebrate the 60th anniversary of both parties.

The campaign will also help boost tourism in 60 destinations. THAI and Thai Smile will offer special ticket prices under three promotional themes — "Winter Sweet", "Summer Zap" and "Mom & Me In The Rain".

The series campaign starts with "Winter Sweet". The airlines will offer special ticket prices starting from 2,300 baht for a round-trip ticket for a passenger when booking for at least four passengers, and 2,600 baht per round-trip ticket when purchased for at least two passengers.

Choices of destinations are Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani, Khon Kaen, Surat Thani, Krabi, Phuket, Hat Yai and Narathiwat. The promotion will last until March 15.

Visit thaiairways.com.

HOTELS DEALS & UPDATE

■ Dusit International has signed a long-term agreement with Vietnamese real-estate developer General Technology Joint Stock Company to develop and operate Dusit Tu Hoa Palace in Hanoi.

Scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of 2023, the property will feature 207 rooms, a restaurant, rooftop bar, meeting rooms and a swimming pool.

The hotel is about a 30-minute ride from Noi Bai International Airport.

■ Cape and Kantary Hotels introduce "Songkran Room Promotion" for its 14 properties.

The rates start from 1,500 baht per night for a Studio Suite for two guests with breakfast.

Booking is available until Feb 29 for a stay from April 10-16.

Visit capefahnhotel.com.

Email karnjanak@bangkokpost.co.th if you have any comments to share.