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Koh Chang in Thailand is the country's second biggest island. 70% of its hinterland is surrounded by virgin rainforest which provides ample tourist opportunities. In fact, it is now considered the country's new tourist retreat. Located in the Trat province, this island is on the eastern side of the country, bordering Cambodia. The airport near Trat makes it convenient for international tourists.

## Koh Chang Beaches

The eastern coast of Thailand has secluded beaches and though not as fine as those on the western coast, they are still very beautiful. The most popular beach in Koh Chang is the †White Sand Beach' which obviously has white sand bordered by coconut palms, and palm trees. Sunbathing and playing volleyball on the beach are common; however, you cannot expect to have a parasol, jet-ski or banana-boat on this island as they are not permitted due to its status as a national park. Koh Chang has few other beaches, Klong Prao being the biggest beach. This is perfect for people who love a serene environment. Although, up-market resorts have come up, they have not disturbed the peace and quiet of this beach. The Lonely Beach, Kia Bae and Bang Bao are the other beaches.

# Major Attractions in Koh Chang

Koh Chang in Thailand has numerous attractions besides the beaches. The †Marine National Park' relatively new; hence, not many people know about it. This 52-island park is untouched by modernization. The †Naval War Memorial' is an important landmark. The fishing village in Bang Bac is interesting as the houses here are constructed on stilts embedded into the sea.

The Tan Mayom and the Klong Plu waterfalls have three levels. Bird watching is a relaxing activity you can engage in. There are over 80 species of birds here. The verdant forest enables closeness to nature. By kayaking and canoeing you can explore the coast. Elephant trekking can be had in the fruit orchards and forests. Firefly watching in the mangroves of Koh Chang is a must-do in the winter when swarms of fireflies light up the trees. Boating and fishing are other activities that you would enjoy.

### Accommodation in Koh Chang

When you holiday in Koh Chang in Thailand, you don't have to worry about accommodation because you can select from a range of places; simple beach cottages, bungalows, apartments, luxury resorts and suites are available. You also have the option of renting motorbikes, cars or jeeps to help you reach the beaches or restaurants. High-end resorts such as the  Siam Beach Hotel' are places where you can unwind and get rejuvenated. Relax with a cocktail and watch the magnificent sunset on the island. Authentic Thai cuisine can be relished with other delicacies.

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