



# Muang Boran - The Ancient City

by Orawan Everett



Just outside Bangkok's city limits is a place called Muang Boran (Ancient City). If you only have a limited time in Thailand, a visit here will whet your appetite for further travels in the kingdom.

Spread out over 320 acres (approx 130 hectares) in the shape of a map of Thailand, it faithfully recreates some of the country's finest landmarks. Although built to scale some of the monuments are only marginally smaller than their original inspiration.

The first ground was broken in 1963 and I was taken there by a Thai friend in 1980. I never realised then how large the property really was. We were walking around the site in those days and as I realise now, never really saw much at all. If you hope to see the majority of the exhibits you will need a full day to take it all in.

There are ample restaurants and kiosks scattered around the site for refreshments and at reasonable prices.

The best way we found to get around was by bicycle. For 50 baht for the day plus 50 baht entrance fee you can cycle around at your leisure.

The site is very popular with locals and tourists alike, but the size of the place ensures that none of the 110 exhibits is crowded. Just avoid the ones that have the occasional tour bus out the front. The buses, filled with Chinese or Japanese tourists the day we were there, descend on an exhibit, stay for five minutes and then move on, so the wait is not too long.

The Ancient City is at the 33km peg on the old Sukhumvit Rd., Bangpoo. It's open from 8am to 5pm everyday.

