

## Archaeological remains of Phuket and Bodhgaya: A cultural study of India and Thailand๒

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### Chapter 6

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Phuket as the site of heritage is accountable owing to the visitors from Asia and the wider western world more than 3 million that come to Phuket and growing up every year. Rubber: First introduced from Malaya in 1903, the orderly ranks of rubber trees soon came to define much of the local landscape. Rubber plantations are still much in evidence, but soaring real estate values and the boom in tourism has meant that land is being turned to other uses.Tin: This mineral has been mined on Phuket from time immemorial; however the demand for tin has declined. Tin dredging in offshore waters has slowed in the past few years, moreover, by zoning regulations designed to help protect the coral reefs and beaches of the west coast.

Old tin-mine workings on land, meanwhile, are being converted from unsightly scars in the landscape to beautiful resort hotel developments, yacht marinas, golf courses and bungee-jumping facilities.Fishing: Fishing still constitutes an important part of life for the people living along the coast, however small-scale fisheries are being hurt by modern trawling, some of it illegal. Large-scale fisheries, meanwhile, are threatened with the depletion of commercial fish stocks from over-fishing.Phuket PeopleThe people in Phuket are charming and friendly1.

They are very kindness for visitors, and want others love of their country and trust to their culture like them too. Remember that smile can use in every situations: thank you, you’re welcome, sorry, pardon or not at all.There are many group of people in Phuket : Thai, Chinese, Muslim, Chao Le-sea nomads-sea gypsy, European,๒ Indian and Arab.๒ And they can live together in balance way of life as a melting pot of different culture.Thai : Thai people in Phuket is come from the province nearby or native-born, and married with the other.Chinese : Many of Chinese families in Phuket came to here in the early part of this century to work as a labor in the tin-mining industry.

Most of them married with native-born and their children were called Baba and Nyonya, their culture is mixed of Chinese and Malayan. Muslim (originally of Malay descent) :๒ The Muslim villagers that living in Amphur Talang and islands such as Koh Raya Yai. Many of these people originally came from Malaysia with their cultue. Chao Le (sea nomads-sea gypsy) :๒ Chao Le are the native people that across several archipelagoes and sea around Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Trang, Ranong and Satun. There are three group of Chao Le: Sing-ta-le (Moken Pulau), Sing-bok(Morken Tamub) and Uraklawoi, they living on Koh Sire ( 4km east of Phuket Town ), Rawai village, Sapam vilage and Leam Lar ( Maikao district-Amphur Talang ) Europeans :๒ They come to Phuket since Ayutthaya period in reign of King Naray, the first is Portuguese traders and missionary. There are three important Christian churches in Phuket : at Chao-Fa Rd., Talang Rd. and near Mission Hospital.Indians and Arabs :๒ Arabs and Indians lived in Phuket since the World War II.

There is a Brahmin temple on Montri Rd. Public HolidaysThailand has adopted the western calendar to divided the year into days, weeks and months, using Thai names for these units. Years are numbered according to the Buddhist era (BE) which commenced 543 years before the Christian era. Therefore 2003 AD is BE 2546 and 2004 is BE 2547.Thailand’s national public holidays are linked to religious or agricultural traditions and follow the lunar calendar, therefore the dates for some of the holidays change each year2. On those days government offices, banks and almost everything else will be closed. The following are national public holidays in Thailand : ท๒

New Year’s Day๒ : Jan 1 ท

Makha Bucha Day ๒ : late January to ๒ ๒ ๒ early March

Chakri Day ๒ : April 6 ท๒

Songkran Day ๒ :๒ April 13

National Labour Day : May 1

Coronation Day ๒ : May 5 ท

Asanha Bucha Day ๕ : July

HM the Queen's Birthday : August 12 ทบ ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย ย Chulalongkorn Day ย : October 23 ทบ

New Year's Eve ๒ : December 31

Banks are open Mondays to Fridays from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm except on public holidays. Voltage The electric current is 220 volt AC (50 cycles) throughout the country. Many different types of plugs and sockets are in use, but two pin flat (US type) or round (European type) are pretty universal. Travelers with electric shavers, hair dryers, tape recorders and other appliances should carry a plug adapter kit. The better hotels will make available 110-volt transformers. Transportation Car Rent Rent a car and drive around is the best ways to see Phuket. There are many of good viewer roads, particularly on the West Coast. It's fun, easy and inexpensive. 3. (reminds that you must follow the laws) The rule about driving in Phuket :

1. Driving on the left side of the road (as in the UK, Singapore and numerous other countries)
2. International License and Thai Driving License is the same.
3. Seat belt wearing and drink driving laws apply, and are occasionally enforced. Full Comprehensive Insurance is necessary. BusThere are 2 lines of the bus that go around in Phuket Town. One is leave from Archeewa collage(The Vocational Education collage) to Big C and back. And the other is leave from Laem-chan government clinic to Rajabhat Institute and back.

Motorbike Rent๓ There are many road side vendors that offer motor bikes for rent, from the zippy 100cc - 750cc road race variety. You must remember that no motorbike is insurable, regardless of what the vendor tells you, and many person have an accident on a bike here. If you have an accident you almost pay everything by yourself (bike repairs or costly replacement, yourself and third party injuries or damage)Motorbike taxis๓ Motorbike taxi can be found throughout Phuket๓ s main arteries. Drivers wearing colored vests with numbers on their backs generally bargain the price. It is always best to agree on a sum before napping on the back. This way of getting around is quick and easy. It๓ s must to hang on; these guys like to go fast.SongtaewsThese trucks with benches in the back serve both locals tourists in need of a ride. Songtaews travel designed routes, leaving the central market area in Phuket๓ Town strating at 7 a.m. and stopping at 6 p.m. They frequent the various beach every half-an-hour5.

The average cost is between 10฿ – 40 bath. Taxi There are some taxis in Phuket too, you can take them by call 0-7625-0297, 0-7625-0333, 0-7625-0345. The rates are international standards and although tipping is not customary. Course of they are metered cabs so there are usually present no significant problems for tourists. Tuk-tuks Tuk-tuks are abundant in Phuket, and its offers more safety and comfort than motorbikes taxi. A set fare is between 20 to 40 baht for travel in Phuket Town, in other areas the price is exchangeable. Phuket Festival

Seafood FestivalHeld around May yearly, is designed to publicize the delicious seafood of Phuket and attract visitors during the rainy season. Activities include a Marine Tourism Resources Parade, seafood stalls, demonstrations of regional cuisines and cultural shows.

**Phuket Vegetarian Festival** Held on the first day of the 9th lunar month (usually October). Phuket islanders of Chinese ancestry commit themselves to a 9-day vegetarian diet, a form of purification believed to help make the forthcoming year trouble-free. The festival is marked by several ascetic

displays, including fire-walking and ascending sharp-bladed ladders<sup>6</sup>.

**Phuket Travel Fair**Held on November 1st, was first initiated in 1985 at Patong to welcome in the tourist season and designed to foster co-operation among tourism-related operators both in the private and public sectors. Many colorful and interesting activities are organized, such as merit-making in the morning; water sports contests, a Miss Visitor Contest, among others.

**Phuket King's Cup Regatta**Held in December. The Phuket Yacht Club hosts international yachtsmen, largely from neighboring countries who compete in the Nai Han Beach area for royal trophies.

**Laguna Phuket Triathlon**Held in each December. The triathlon (a 1,000-metre swim, a 5-kilometre bike race and a 12-kilometre run) attracts world-class athletes from all over the world.

**Turtle Release Fair**Held on Songkran, the nationwide Thai water festival, on April 13 which is also National Fisherman's Day. Baby turtles are released into the sea at various locations.**Chao Le (Sea Gypsy) Boat Floating Festival**Falls during the middle of the sixth and eleventh lunar months yearly<sup>7</sup>.

The sea gypsy villages at Rawai and Sapam hold their ceremonies on the 13th; Ko Si-re celebrates on the 14th; and Laem La (east of the bridge on Phuket's northern tip) on the 15th. Ceremonies, which centre on the setting adrift of small boats similar to the Thai festival of Loi Krathong, are held at night and their purpose is to drive away evil and bring good luck.

**Por Tor Festival**This is an ancestor's festival of the ethnic Chinese that falls on the seventh Chinese lunar month, which is the same as the ninth lunar month of the Thais. Special foods, flowers and candles are presented to the ancestor's altars. Cakes in the shape of turtles are made from flour. This is done because turtles live to great age and it is believed that by making such offering worshippers may extend the length of their lives. It is an important merit-making festival. **Phuket architecture**Architecture in Phuket shows to the design that merges between belief and art with China, England, India, Holland and Malayu together.<sup>๘</sup> The figure of buildings is prominent with two designs. They are Chinese art that can show about their belief since an ancient time. Other one is the art which blends between Western and Eastern style, called Sino-Portuguese. First architecture that has a rule in Phuket is Chinese architecture because almost of Chinese people were a big cluster in Phuket at that time<sup>8.๙</sup>

Most of these people moved from the South of Hokkien province and then worked in Phuket at the flourish era of tin mine. When there were building constructions in Phuket, Chinese people often used their old believes to mix with the modern style. You can see at the top of poles, above window frames etc. so design of Chinese belief will be there also such as Nam Tao pattern, fire pearl, flower, bat and so on. The Western architecture which is Portuguese, Holland and England had many influences on colonialism era. Colonists changed to occupy the colony and find for their advantages. A dominant feature of this architecture style is in front of the building often has a long curve hole to be a path. (Ngor Kar Khee) with 5 feet width and brought wires in Greek period such as a horseshoes curve window frame or head pole in Yonic (Ionic) architecture and Corinthian (embellish with big leaves) etc. Sino-Portuguese architecture is a merging between Western and Eastern cultures for example design a building in Western style but a pattern follows by Chinese belief and so on.

**Phuket local food**The local food of Phuket has its own character. Even nearby provinces don't have the same kind of dishes of food Phuket has. With so many different restaurants in Phuket so we choose the list of dishes and shops below for examples.<sup>๙</sup>

**Kanohm Jin Phuket** : Noodles often compared to spaghetti served with a spicy curry sauce, the original made from fish. It is usually eaten as breakfast. It comes with a range of fresh vegetables and boiled eggs. And often found with the fried pastry called Pah Tong Go and the curried fish mousse called Hor Mohk, both of them are very tasty. Look for a shop that has many curries to choose from if you are sensitive to spicy cuisine course there are some of the curries that not spicy too. The most famous shops in Phuket Town from many shops:๙ - Kwan Kanohm Jin on Tungka Rd. - Pah Mai on statun Rd. - Pha Ri on Pahtiphaht Rd.

**Lo Bah** : Fried sausages served with fried tofu and spicy sweet or sour sauce. For this try in Phuket Town : - On The way to span Hin.๙ - On Poonphol Rd. Oh Tao : Oysters fried with eggs, flour, and taro root. The best known places in Phuket Town are : - near the circle by the Fresh Market.๙ - At Sapam village- Near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao School on Takua Tong Rd- On Vichit Songkram Rd., near the entrance to Soi Lorong. Tao Sor or Kanohm Bia Phuket Spring rolls, Chinese crepes. Have two kinds: sweet or salty. The best known are found at:๙ - Kaeng Tin near Ruam Paet Hospital on Phuket Rd. - On Soi Suhn Utit, Yaowarat Rd., in Phuket Town. - Kuhn Mae on Thep Krasatri Rd., in the village of Sapam. - Mae Boon Tahm on Surin Rd., Soi 4. ๙๙

Oh Aew A dessert made of banana-flour, and a little seaweed (from China). Look for it at: - On Soi Soon Utit, Yaowarat Rd. - On Ranong Rd., at the entrance to Soi Lorong- On Vichit Songkram Rd., near the entrance to Soi Lorong ๗๕

Nam Phrik Kung Siap is a mixture of red-onion, chili and smoked shrimps taken with various fresh vegetables. Cashew nuts : are widely grown in Phuket. Cashew nuts are available dried, fried or coated<sup>9</sup>. Pineapples : Phuket pineapples are some of the most delectable, sweet and firm. ๕

Fried or Boiled Noodle Dishes usually with shrimp, pork or chicken. There are many noodle shops in the town such as Mee Ton Pho, Mi Sapam, Mi Ao Ke, Mi Hun Pa Chang, and etc. Fried Noodle Dishes There are many fried-noodle shops in the town.- Mee Ton Poh : in Phuket Town , near the clock tower traffic circle on Phuket Rd., - Mee Sapam : in the Sapam village. - Mee Ao Geh : in Phuket Town on Phunphol Rd., \*Yellow noodles are also cooked in both ๑ dry๑ and ๑ wet๑ versions, serve with prawn soup. Look for it at: - Mee Somjit : in Phuket Town , near the clock-tower traffic circle on Phuket Rd. - Mee Jirayuwat : in Phuket Town , near the Pearl Cinema on Phang-nga Rd. (the old Phuket theater๑ now is closed) \*Dry Fried noodles eaten with pork bone soup called ๑ Mee Huhn Pah Chahng๑ For this try: (all in Phuket Town): - On Thanon Yaowarat.๕ ๕ ๕ - Near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao School on Takua Tong Rd. - On Vichit Songkram Rd., near the entrance to Soi Lorong Mee Sue Breakfast noodles served with the boiled rice dishes Khao Tohm or Johk.

Phuket was known as Bukit, Junk Ceylon, or Muang Talang, in the variety of reason. Bukit is the name that derives in meaning from the Tamil manikram, or Crystal Mountain. Junk Ceylon is the name that found on the old maps (Ptolemy's Geographical, written by the Alexandrian geographer in the Third Century A.D.) and Muang Talang is called since the part of the Srivichai and Siri Tahmarach empires. It was first called Monton Phuket in Rama V's reign.

Phuket is a town with a long history. In centuries past, Phuket was an important trading post on the eastern shore of the bay of Bengal, handing shipping and dealing with sailors from the Arab and Malay worlds, India, Burmar, China and, of course, Siam. By the 16th century, the island was also well-know to Europeans, as first Portuguese and Dutch, then English and French sailed to its fabled shore. The island enjoyed an unprecedented surge in wealth when tin was found to be available in large quantities in the nearby shadows. Ambitious, hardworking miner and business flocked to the island from the province of south China (the 19th century), adding a considerable Chinese element to the island's already mixed population.๕

The most important historic event is the story of two heroines: Thao Thep Kasatri (Kunying Jan) and Thao Sri Sunthon(Kunying Mook) that people in Phuket were assembled led by the two heroines to fight with the Burmese that come to attack them. After a month's siege the Burmese were forced to depart on 13 March, 1785. Kunying Jan and her sister were credited with the successful defense. In recognition King Rama I bestowed upon Kunying Jan the honorific Thao Thep Kasatri, a title of nobility usually reserved for royalty, by which she is known today. Her sister (Kunying Mook) became Thao Sri Sunthon<sup>10</sup>.๕

Location & MapPhuket is located about between 7๑ 45" and 8๑ 15" north latitude, and from 98๑ 15" to 98๑ 40" east longitude on the map, and well below the latitudes of destructive tropical cyclone. Time is + 7 hours ahead of GMT. Phuket is Thailand's largest islands (550 square kilometers / 212 square miles) surrounded by 32 smaller islands. Its widest is 21.3 kilometers; longest is 48.7 kilometers.Phuket is mainly granite, with low forested mountains and many of beautiful white-sand beaches (mostly on the west coast). The borders :North: The Pak Prah strait, spanned by two bridges; Sarasin Bridge (the older) and Thao Thep Krasatri Bridge (the newer).South: The Andaman Sea.East: Phang-nga Bay (Phang-nga Province).West: The Andaman Sea.

ClimatePhuket has two major seasons ,the Rains Season and the Hot Season. The Rains Season from May through October. However there are many sunny days throughout the Rains Season: showers customarily last little more than 2 or 3 hours. The Hot Season from November through April. Temperatures are highest in March and April.

The best months for travel are November through February.Average temperatures range between 22 and 34 degrees Celsius. December is the peak tourist month , if you want to avoid the crowds and enjoy off-season hotel rate come during the summertime-they may carry some heavy rains but these quite often occur during late evening and overnight and unlikely to spoil your enjoyment. (Take note that August and September are the wettest month. How to get there Private carFrom Bangkok, take Highway 4 through Nakhon Pathom, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, then through the southern of Thailand by Ranong , Kra Buri (Kaper districts), Phangnga (Takua Pa and Takua Thung districts) and onto Phuket island across the Thao Thepkasattri Bridge. The total distance is 862 kilometers.BusThere are 3 types of Air-conditioned coaches depart from Bangkok๑ s Southern Bus Terminal arrival to Phuket every day. TrainThere is no railway station in Phuket so it doesn't have direct train services to Phuket.

Travelers by train must get off at Phun Phin railway station in Surat Thani and take buses to continue to Phuket๕ has various daily flights connecting the Bangkok-Phuket route. In addition, they have daily flights connecting Phuket with Hat Yai, Surat Thani, and Narathiwat.

Though, there are Phuket no archaeological operation was carried out yet we have countless heritage remains therein. There is the need to make exploration and excavation perfectly on scientific method to get more authentic history of the past Phuket<sup>11</sup>.

๕ The name of Taradih, Bodhgaya do not occur in the Vedas but is mentioned in later works like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Samhita and the religious codes of Atri Vasistha and Yajnavalkya, Among the sacred sites in Gaya- Kshetra, as enumerated in the Gaya-Mahatmaya section of the Vayu-Purana is mentioned Dharmaranya which, as its name implies, constituted a jungle tract and may be identified, at least in part, with what the Buddhists call the forest of Uruvela or Uruvilva (Bodh-Gaya). It represents a sanctified boundary inside which is enshrined the image of Dharmesvara or Buddha and the Bo-tree (Asvatha) of World-wide fame.

The enshrinement of the image of the Buddha-Dharmesvara and the presence of the famous Bo-tree suffice to indicate that the Dharmaranya of the Gaya Mahatmya is at least in part, the sacred site, the precincts of the Bodhgaya temple representing the Jungle of Uruvela or Uruvilva of the Buddhist literature. And the Bodhidruma Asvatha of the Vayu-Purana is undoubtedly the famous Pipala tree at Bodhgaya at the foot of which lord Buddha attained enlightenment or Buddhahood.

๕ Magadha came into prominence in the sixth century B.C., and it included Patna, Gaya, Bodhgaya and parts of Hazaribagh. Bodhgaya formed a part of great political entity of Magadh, and from the time of Asoka, Bodhgaya came to acquire special significance. Asoka's love for Buddhism and Bodhi tree roused up jealousy and revengeful spirit in the heart of his second queen Tishyarakshita who had cut down the Bodhi tree.

It is said that the tree was miraculously brought to life, the two Bharhut carvings represent the Bodhi tree and an Asokan pillar surmounted by an elephant. The Barabar and Nagarjuni Hill caves contain Mauryan Inscriptions and are dedicated to the Ajivikas by Asoka and his grand son Dasharatha. These caves are the earliest examples of cave architecture of Bihar. These caves are excavated in the hardest granite with infinite care, and the interior surface are furnished like glass. The Sitamarhi caves are (Dist. Nawada) similar to that of Barabar caves and contains several sculptures. But the Sunga sculptures. But the Sunga sculptures at Bodhgaya have a place of lasting interest in the history of Indian Art.

๕ Kharavela of Kalinga took advantage of the fluid political situation of Magadha and invaded the area. He led an expedition into Gorthagiri (Barabar Hill) and defeated the king of Magadha. The Mitras appear to have been connected with Bodhgaya as their names appear on the stone railings of Bodhgaya. Whether the Mitras were connected with the Sungas or were independent ruling dynasties, it is difficult to say in the present state of our knowledge. We have the name of Kaushikiputra Indragiri Mitra, Brahmani Mitra and others. The name of Kurangi, wife of Indragiri Mitra, has been inscribed as a donor of the fifteen of the Surviving pillars and the two coping pieces of the old stone railing. Her munificence was responsible for the erection of the old sand stone railing, the old diamond throne and Jewel walk shrine. The name of Sirima occurs with that of Kurangi as a joint donor of two of the surviving coping pieces of the sand stone railing. Nagadevi, wife of Brahmani-Mitras also erected a Yaksha pillar. Bodhgaya formed a part of the Kushana Empire. According to Cunningham, Huvishka furnished funds, for the building of Mahabodhi.

๕ Under the Imperial Guptas, Bodhgaya attained prominence. In one of the inscriptions of Samudra Gupta (the so-called spurious Gaya copper plate was issued from Ayodhya), Gaya is mentioned as a Vishya. It was an administrative headquarter under the Guptas. During his reign Mahananda had installed an image of Lord Buddha with inscription and it was done with the permission of the king Samudragupta. Samudragupta is famous in the history of Gaya and Bodhgaya for the exchange of letters between him and Meghavarmana of Ceylon (c. 330 A.D.). The king of Ceylon had sent two monks and his brother to pay homage to the Vajrasana and also to visit the monastery built by Asoka when on their return they complained that they could not stay in comfort. Meghavarmana decided to found a monastery at Bodhgaya<sup>12</sup>.

๕ Meghavarmana dispatched a mission to Samudragupta with invaluable gifts and requested for permission to found a monastery at Bodhgaya. The permission was granted. However, a splendid convent known as Mahabodhi Sangharama was constructed to the north of the Bodhi tree. When Hiuen-Tsang visited this monastery in the seventh century A.D., it was occupied by a thousand monks of the Sthavira school of Mahayana sect.

๕ Dated sculptures of the Gupta period have been noticed from Gaya and two figures of Buddha, standing and the other sitting, from Bodhgaya are supposed to be earliest dated sculptures of the Gupta period (corresponding to A.D. 383) and stylistically belong to the Mathura school of Art of the earliest centuries. Thirteen inscriptions belonging to the period between A.D. 100 and 400 are set forth in a chronological order and these mark some distinct stages in the growth and development of the life of the Buddhist holy land. According to Fa Hien the three monasteries<sup>8</sup> at Bodhgaya were surrounded by Jungles and the city was empty and desolate. Towards the last day of the days of the Gupta rule some of the Kumaramatyas seem to have asserted their independence as we find Kumaramatya Maharaja Nandana issuing a land grant in Gaya district in his own right. The Maukharis were also ruling at Gaya and Bodhgaya as feudatories of the Guptas but they also asserted their independence.

๕ The Maukharis, exercised their suzerainty up to this Ksetra. Three Maukhari inscriptions in the Barabar and Nagarjuni Hills, in the Lomesh-Rishi and Gopika caves are important for the study of the contemporary history. These inscriptions supply us with the name of Yajna Varmana, Shardulavarmana and Anantavarmana. The latter installed the image of Krishna in the Barabar cave near Gaya. He also set up images of Bhutapati (Shira), Parvati (Devi)

and Katyayani in Barabar and Nagarjuni Hill caves. One of these three inscriptions refers to a temple of Siddheswara which is still in situ on the Barabar peak<sup>13</sup>. It seems that Maukharis ruled over Gaya and Bodhgaya first as feudatories<sup>10</sup> of the Guptas, and later as independent rulers.

Whether the Buddha images seen by Fa hien at Bodhgaya exist now or not are still a matter of conjecture. But there is one image which may be safely relegated to the later Kushana age or early Gupta age. In the opinion of Cunningham "The earliest figure of Buddha which has yet been found at Mahabodhi." It bears an inscription of four lines on its pedestal which is written in the Kushana style. The Sanskrit of its text is not entirely free from such Prakrit forms as Upasikaya, Achadhammasahaya, and mata-Pituna. The image was installed in Samvat 65 (143 A.D.). The work of installation was done by a Buddhist monk with the aid of a Buddhist lay woman named Achadhamma. Presently this statue is in Indian Museum at Calcutta. However the date of this Buddha image is placed in early Gupta or the post Kushana's period. At the time of Fa-Hien's visit the great temple at Bodhgaya had not then come into existence, and the sacred area with the growing shrines presented but a simple and decent show.

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