



## Local Museum in Chinese Shrine: Tourist Site and Possibility in Rural Thailand Context

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### Abstract

In Indochina, Thailand is a tropical country. It is a nation with a Buddhist background. For the local Thai population, pilgrimages and tourism associated to Buddhism are well-known. There are additional noteworthy objects in addition to the pilgrimage destination for the Buddhist pagoda. There are local museums in a few Chinese shrines in Thailand. The author discusses the current state of neighborhood museums in Buddhist temples in Thailand as well as potential future opportunities for tourism development.

**Keywords:** Museum, Buddhist, Pagoda, Thailand.

### Introduction

In Indochina, Thailand is a tropical nation. It is a nation with a Buddhist background with other religions as minors. For the native Thai population, pilgrimages and tourism tied to religion are well-known. Both Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism are practiced in Thailand. Chinese shrine is a kind of Mahayana – Taoism religious place that is commonly seen in the country. There are more noteworthy objects in addition to the pilgrimage site for the Chinese shrine. There are local museums in a few Chinese temples in Thailand. In this article, the author discusses the current state of the local museums at the Chinese temple in Thailand as well as the potential for future tourism marketing.

### Current Status of the Local Museum in Chinese Shrine in Thailand

Thailand currently has a large number of Chinese shrines. For the local Thai Buddhist population, they are all sacred places. Specific museums can be found in several Chinese shrines. There are a few hundred museums housed in the Chinese shrine in Thailand, according to the website for the local museum database in Thailand ([www.sac.or.th/museumdatabase/](http://www.sac.or.th/museumdatabase/)). The archeological museum, which exhibits ancient religious objects, is a typical local museum type in Chinese shrines in Thailand.

## Case Study

### A. Juitui Taobokeng, Phuket

This is an old and most famous Chinese shrine in Phuket, the famous sea resort. The museum has just opened for a few years. It is a small museum opposite to the shrine. However, this museum is rarely open.

### B. Jaomaelingorneaw, Pattani

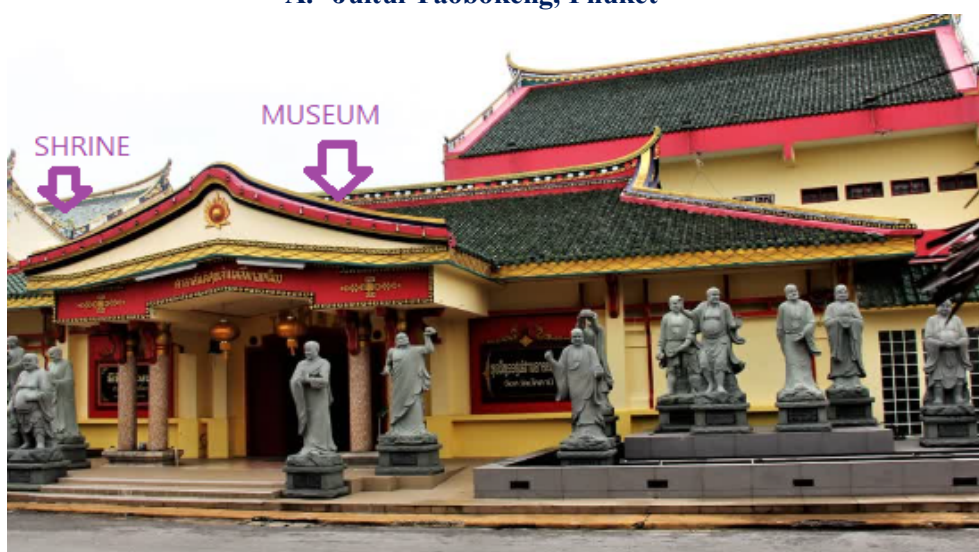
This is another famous old shrine in a province in southern region of Thailand. This is one of the oldest Chinese shrine that locates in the Muslim community. The museum is next to the museum and it usually open to the public. Inside, several religious artifacts are displayed and there are displays of local legend of the shrine.

### C. Pooyah, Udonthani

This is museum and cultural center locate in a province in northeastern region of Thailand. The display in this museum is modern and beautiful.



A. Juitui Taobokeng, Phuket



B. Jaomaelingorneaw, Pattani



C. Pooyah, Udonthani

Figure 1. Museums in Chinese shrines in Thailand.

### **Present Problems of the Local Museum in Chinese Shrine in Thailand**

The main issues are a lack of financing for the museum's upkeep after its initial installation and a lack of specialised personnel to work there. There is no one who can tell the history of the object in the museum because many museums are funded by the funds of nearby shrines. Furthermore, a lot of places are typically closed. As a result, very few visitors go to the museums. Due to the aforementioned causes, several museums must cease operations.

### **Future Perspective for the Development of the Local Museum in Chinese Shrine in Thailand Aiming at Tourism Purpose**

It's intriguing to stimulate visitor activities at a museum in a Chinese shrine. In reality, several museums, particularly those housed in Buddhist pagodas, are already well-known tourist destinations in Thailand [1]. The tourism-related activities frequently involve religious pilgrimage. Standardization and regulation of these pilgrimage tours can enhance tourism-related activity. For instances of other types of museums having issues. To help promote and sustain the museums, it needs assistance from local governmental and non-governmental organizations. Indeed, the issue of funding is one that affects museums all throughout the world [2].

Local markets or floating markets may be a part of the co-activity at the Chinese shrine, making for an intriguing package for visitors. On the other side, it is necessary to regulate visitor activity at the well-known museum location. Without proper control, it is possible that the pagoda will have unintended side effects [3].

**Conflict of Interest:** None

## References

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