



Tidal Island Pagoda: A Specific Unique Kind of Buddhist Pagoda

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Abstract

When the tide is low, tidal islands are connected to the mainland and accessible on foot. The tidal island is typically a fascinating location. There are many tidal islands in the world, and they are typically used to build holy sites. The authors of this article give examples of well-known tidal island pagodas in Southeast Asia and discuss them.

Keywords: pagoda, tidal island.

Introduction

Tidal islands are pieces of land that are connected to the mainland at low tide and can be reached on foot. However, at high tide, it is completely blocked off from the mainland and becomes a true island. Tidal islands are often linked to the mainland by a man-made causeway, allowing visitors to pass easily, but even these can be submerged by the water. Always check the tide times before visiting, or prepare to swim back.

The tidal island is usually an interesting place. Many tidal islands exist around the world and it is usually place for construction of a holy place. In this article, the authors present and discuss on examples of famous tidal island pagodas in Southeast Asia.

Case studies

A. Malik Chedi, Koh Mattapone Island

Malik Chedi (local word “พระมาลิกเจดีย์ เกาะมัดโปน”) is an ancient pagoda located at Koh Mattapone Island in Chumphon province in the southern region of Thailand. It is a little island with a lengthy sandbar that is just 500 meters offshore from Pak Nam Chumphon, permitting us to travel by foot from the coast to the island. Only at low tide, albeit travel by boat is required if the tide is not low. Alternatively, if it's gone, the high tide can be trapped on an island.

There is a little peak on the island that is between 10 and 15 meters high, and it is topped with a tiny chedi. Architecturally speaking The "Malik Chedi" is most likely a chedi from the early Rattanakosin period. 94 stairs make up the ascent. It is a chedi with a 3.70 x 3.85 meter square base. A lotus foundation makes up the lower base. The pagoda is approximately 9 meters tall.

B. KyaikHneYele Pagoda

The KyaikHneYele Pagoda (local word “ကျိုက်နဲ”) is a historic pagoda in Myanmar's Mon state. This pagoda has a yearly celebration for locals to attend. The pagoda festival is conducted every year in Myanmar from January 1 to March 3 during the Waning of Tazaungmon (in November). when there is a low tide.



A. Malik Chedi, Koh Mattapone Island



B. KyaikHneYele Pagoda

Figure 1. Some important tidal island pagodas in Indochina

Discussion

There are several pagodas in Buddhist countries. Several kinds of pagodas are seen. For example, island pagoda is a pagoda located on the island in the sea or river. Mountain pagoda is a pagoda that is constructed in the high pagoda. Cave pagoda is the pagoda located within the cave area. Many pagodas at unique places become famous pagodas for pilgrimage. However, in the present report, the authors present the case of tidal island pagoda which is very unique. The pagoda sometimes locates within the sea and sometimes tie to the mainland. It might be daily or seasonally ties to the mainland. The similar case in Southeast Asia is the case of seasonal Buddhist pagoda during drought where pagoda exists over water of the dam during summer [1].

The construction of the pagoda by the local ancestor was very interesting. Those islands are usually famous and become pilgrimage tourist spot. Sometimes, the annual festival is set for pilgrimage visitor at the time that the tide is extremely low.

Conflict of interest: None

References

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