

CHEOWLAN UNTOLD · SEASON 2026-27

Planning Khao Sok around a fixed weekly schedule

A short guide for travellers putting two to four days together at Cheow Lan Lake and in Khao Sok National Park: which day runs when, how many nights to allow, which side of the park to sleep on, what the gate charges, how long the drive is and what goes in the bag.

Five shared day experiences on fixed days of the week. Two guests minimum, fifteen at the top. Book on the website, pay once by card, bring cash for the park gate.

How the week works

Each of our five experiences has its own place in the week, and that place does not move. The full lake day leaves every morning. The sunrise boat sails on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The three land days share the remaining slots between them. Because the pattern is fixed, planning becomes a matching exercise: lay your dates over the grid below and read off what runs on each one.

EXPERIENCE	TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
The Cheowlan Everyone Dreams Of	09:30–16:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
The Khao Sok Way	12:00–18:30			●			●	●
Life Around Cheowlan	12:00–18:30	●			●			
The Khao Sok Adventure Worth Taking	09:30–17:30		●			●		
Before the World Wakes	06:30–08:30					●	●	●

A departure needs at least two guests and never carries more than fifteen. Every day is a shared group, and the booking window shuts at 16:00, Bangkok time, the previous day.

Two things the grid cannot show. We take one experience per guest per day, so a morning boat and an afternoon on land are never stacked on the same date. And the two boat days, the full lake day and the sunrise boat, are never placed on consecutive dates for the same guest; at least one other day sits between them.

How many days to plan

Two days is the floor. With two, the usual shape is the full lake day plus one land day, and the grid on the previous page tells you which land day falls on your second date.

Three or four days is where the trip stops feeling squeezed. A third day makes room for the sunrise boat on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, with a land day between it and the lake. A fourth day gives you a free morning, a second land day, or a morning with nothing booked.

Five days covers all five experiences in one visit, and the arrival day does not matter: any five dates in a row hold all five, one a day, and the two boat days still get a land day between them. The order changes with the starting weekday, and the itinerary page on cheowlanuntold.com lists it for each; many travellers settle on three or four and keep an evening free instead.

Two worked examples

- Arrive Wednesday, leave Monday: Thursday on the lake, Friday the trek and the river, Saturday the sunrise boat, Sunday the elephants. Four days, every rule respected.
- Arrive Sunday, leave Thursday: the village afternoon on Monday, the trek on Tuesday, the lake on Wednesday. Three days, with the water saved for last.

A day-matcher on cheowlanuntold.com does the same reading for any arrival and departure date.

Which side of the park to sleep on

There are two places to stay, about 45 minutes apart by road. The Khao Sok side is the village by the park headquarters, with cafés and places to walk to after dinner. The Cheowlan side is the village next to Ratchaphapha Pier, where the boats leave.

Hotel pick-up and drop-off are included from both sides on four of the five experiences: the full lake day, the elephants, the village afternoon and the trek. The exception is Before the World Wakes. The sunrise boat collects guests on the Cheowlan side alone; anyone sleeping on the Khao Sok side joins it at 06:20 at Ratchaphapha Pier for the 06:30 departure.

So the decision is simple. If the sunrise boat is in your plan, sleep on the Cheowlan side for that night. If it is not, either side works; the Khao Sok side has places to walk to after dinner and the Cheowlan side has the pier a few minutes away.

	KHAO SOK SIDE	CHEOWLAN SIDE
Pick-up on four of the five days	Included	Included
Sunrise boat pick-up	Meet at the pier, 06:20	Included
Distance to the pier	About 45 minutes	A few minutes
Evenings	Cafés, a night market	The village, the lake

The park fee rule

Khao Sok National Park charges an entrance fee that is separate from our prices: 340 THB an adult, 170 THB a child between 5 and 11, settled in cash (Thai baht) at the gate itself on the day. No advance ticket exists, the gate takes no cards and the pier has no cash machine, so the notes come with you from your hotel.

Three of the five days cross the park boundary and carry the fee: The Cheowlan Everyone Dreams Of, The Khao Sok Adventure Worth Taking and Before the World Wakes. The other two, The Khao Sok Way and Life Around Cheowlan, never enter the park, so no gate is passed and nothing is paid on those days.

EXPERIENCE	INSIDE THE PARK?	CASH AT THE GATE
The Cheowlan Everyone Dreams Of	Yes	340 / 170 THB
The Khao Sok Adventure Worth Taking	Yes	340 / 170 THB
Before the World Wakes	Yes	340 / 170 THB
The Khao Sok Way	No	Nothing
Life Around Cheowlan	No	Nothing

It is charged per day of entry. Three park days in one visit means three payments, 1,020 THB per adult in total.

Travel times from the coast and the airports

The times below are approximate road times in ordinary traffic. Add time for a ferry crossing, a late flight or a stop for lunch, and treat them as a planning aid rather than a timetable.

FROM	APPROXIMATE ROAD TIME
Phuket Airport (HKT)	About 2.5 hours
Phuket Town, Patong, Kata or Karon	About 3 hours
Krabi Town or Ao Nang	About 2.5 to 3 hours
Khao Lak	About 1 to 1.5 hours
Donsak ferry pier (Samui, Phangan, Tao)	About 2.5 hours
Surat Thani Airport (URT)	About 1 hour to the pier on the Cheowlan side; 1.5 to 2 hours to the Khao Sok side

Surat Thani airport is the near one. From there the Cheowlan side and Ratchaprapha Pier are about an hour away, and the Khao Sok side is roughly 45 minutes beyond that. From Phuket, Krabi and Khao Lak the road reaches the Khao Sok side first.

Arrive the day before your first experience. The morning days collect guests early, and bookings close at 16:00 the day before, so arriving and sailing on the same day does not work. Fixed-price transfers, charged per vehicle rather than per person, are listed at cheowlanuntold.com/how-to-get-to-khao-sok.

Rain, and what it changes

Khao Sok is rainforest, so it rains in every month of the year. May to November is the wetter stretch; January and February are the driest months. Showers tend to come in the afternoon and move on.

Rain alone does not cancel a day. The boats go out, the trek walks and the elephants are fed whether the sky is grey or blue. A day is cancelled when conditions are genuinely unsafe and not otherwise: a storm warning on the lake, say, or flooding on a trail. If that happens, you choose between a full refund and a free move to another date.

If dry weather is what you care about, look at January and February. If a particular date is what you care about, September and October are low-season months and open seats are common then. High season runs from about mid-November to April; in those months, book the fixed-weekday days before the lake day.

Month-by-month rainfall is on cheowlanuntold.com/best-time-to-visit-khao-sok.

What to bring

Drinking water is provided on every day, and a packing list arrives by email after you book. This is the short version, by type of day.

The full lake day

- Cash for the gate: 340 THB each adult, 170 THB each child
- Swimwear and a towel
- Sunscreen and a hat
- A dry bag for your phone, if you own one

The sunrise boat

- Cash for the gate: 340 THB each adult, 170 THB each child
- A camera
- A light layer for the early air

The trek and the river

- Shoes you are happy to soak
- Dry clothes to change into at the end
- Insect repellent
- Cash for the gate: 340 THB each adult, 170 THB each child

The elephants and the mountain kitchen

- Clothes that can get muddy
- Something to change into afterwards
- Sandals or river shoes: the afternoon ends in the river

The village afternoon

- Walking shoes and a hat
- Clothes that can get splashed on the bamboo raft
- Sunscreen

How to book

Everything is booked at cheowlanuntold.com. Open the experience, pick a date on its calendar, enter the number of guests and pay once by card at checkout. Prices are per person and the same all year. You see the group total before paying, and nothing is added afterwards; the park fee is the one amount settled separately, in cash, on the day.

- The booking window shuts at 16:00, Bangkok time, the previous day.
- Minimum two guests per booking; a departure never exceeds fifteen.
- Minimum age five. Under-18s travel with an adult. The child price covers ages 5 to 11.
- Cancel ten days or more ahead and the whole amount comes back. Between nine and three days ahead, half comes back. Inside three days, or if you do not show, nothing does.
- Moving to another date costs nothing when asked ten days or more ahead, as long as seats are open.

Within 24 hours of booking you receive the time we collect you, who your guide is and how to reach them, and a packing list.

Each experience in one line

EXPERIENCE	DAYS	TIME	ADULT / CHILD	FEE
The Cheowlan Everyone Dreams Of cheowlanuntold.com/ cheow-lan-lake-day-tour	Every day	09:30–16:00	3,800 / 2,900 THB	340 / 170
The Khao Sok Way cheowlanuntold.com/ khao-sok-elephant-experience	Wed, Sat, Sun	12:00–18:30	7,900 / 5,900 THB	None
Life Around Cheowlan cheowlanuntold.com/ cheow-lan-village-tour	Mon, Thu	12:00–18:30	5,900 / 4,400 THB	None
The Khao Sok Adventure Worth Taking cheowlanuntold.com/ khao-sok-jungle-trekking-tubing	Tue, Fri	09:30–17:30	5,900 / 4,400 THB	340 / 170
Before the World Wakes cheowlanuntold.com/ cheow-lan-sunrise-tour	Fri, Sat, Sun	06:30–08:30	2,500 / 1,900 THB	340 / 170

Every price is per person, in THB, adult / child (ages 5 to 11). The fee column is the park entrance fee, settled in cash at the gate and never part of the price.

Questions, and where to ask them

If a date, a pick-up point or a rule is unclear, ask before you pay. Pin answers personally.

- WhatsApp: +66 92 547 4862
- Email: cheowlanuntold@gmail.com
- Web: cheowlanuntold.com
- Not travelling for a while? cheowlanuntold.com/guide has an email form that returns the days running in your month.

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This guide was checked against cheowlanuntold.com on 22 October 2026. The website is the current version of every number in it.