

## Baan Bayan Heritage Hotel

Hua Hin, rock head in Thai, used to be a peaceful fishing village not far from Bangkok. Before that, its name used to be “Smor-Rieng” which means “rocks which are lined up”. Hua Hin became popular due to the health of King Rama the 6th. His doctor advised him to move to a place where the air was clean to convalesce.

At the time, big houses by the beach did not feature in Hua Hin but only small fisherman’s huts. When King Rama 6th needed a place to convalesce, he built a palace by the beach in the colonial style called “Marukatayawan Palace”. The construction of The Marukatayawan Palace was the start of the popularity of Hua Hin as a destination for Royals and Thai elites, firstly, for convalescing purposes, then later on, as a fashionable holiday destination.

Baan Bayan (previously names Baan Plub Pa) was originally built in the early 20th century for Prince Thevavongvaropakarn, the originator of the Dhevakul family line, and completed in 1921. The Railway Hotel only opened its doors in 1923 as the first Western Standard hotel in Thailand, acting as the main ‘summer clubhouse’ for Bangkokians.



The houses that once lined Hua Hin beach were big, luxurious and designed specifically for Hua Hin - a colonial architectural style house with a Thai touch. Influenced by western architecture and culture, Hua Hin’s colonial beach houses incorporated a Thai style roof called “Panya” or the “hipped roof” on top of a western house structure such as bungalows and villas. The Thai style raised house on stilts and high floor to ceiling height responds to Thailand’s climate, encouraging cross ventilation and natural light throughout the house to provide comfort to its residents.



Baan Bayan was built in the 1900’s and was one of the first Boutique Hotels in Hua Hin. Mrs. Prapa Chaiyawat acquired the property as a vacation home for the Chaiyawat family in April 1952, It has remained in the Chaiyawat family from that time. Currently, the property is owned by the great grandchildren of Mrs. Chaiyawat.

Mrs. Prapa Chaiyawat was a successful entrepreneur with a significant perfume and cosmetic business she named “Bayan”. She extended this successful brand name to the family vacation house at the time of the acquisition. Hence the name Baan Bayan.



The Chaiyawat grandchildren who are dedicated to helping preserve the culture and history of Thailand, decided to allow people with a similar interest the chance to enjoy Thai culture by opening Baan Bayan Heritage Hotel in 2004. They have restored the property completely, maintaining almost all the original features while upgrading the facilities so that the unique heritage of this beautiful building can be enjoyed in comfort by guests to this day.

It is important not only to conserve the house but also the original atmosphere, culture, lifestyle and memories of the old days for guests to experience. Baan Bayan was designed to act as a link between Hua Hin in the past and Hua Hin in the present day.

Baan Bayan's design centred around restoring the house to its former glory, maintaining the essence of Hua Hin in the past as much as possible. The main characteristic of Hua Hin colonial beach ouses is the Verandah, a wide and open space in front of the guest rooms. It serves a variety of purposes such as the main living area of the house, for entertaining guests and as a bedroom for the younger generations of the family. The guest rooms are preserved so that guests are able to experience the same levels of natural light and wind flow as in the old days.



The main entrance to Baan Bayan was originally from the beach. Thus, the two staircases, one leading up from the beach and another leading up to the Verandah, act as the axis to the whole property. Likewise, they also act as a communal space and meeting point for its owners and guests who can meet there to talk about matters of the day.

Aside from the house itself, the landscape also plays an important part for Baan Bayan. Throughout the property, memories of Hua Hin in the past can be seen in everyday objects such as the foot cleansing pools, the original underground water tank (under the main house) which was another gathering space for the family as it is situated where wind flows regularly and the 13 original rainwater jars. These objects, although very simple and mundane, reflects the lifestyle and the importance of water for the residents of the house

The Chaiyawat family would love for you to join them in enjoying this beautifully restored family owned hotel.

