

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2023

HELLFIRE PASS, KANCHANABURI, THAILAND



TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023

Every year, Anzac Day in Thailand is commemorated by conducting a Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast at the Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre.

03.00 am

Thai Army Base where Hellfire Pass is located will be opened to the public.

05.00 am

Guests should be in position at Hellfire Pass Memorial no later than 05.00 am

05.30 am

The Ceremony commences at 05.30 am sharp and lasts approximately 40 minutes.

VENUE

Konyu Cutting, Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre (80 Km from Kanchanaburi township)

The journey from town will take approximately 50 minutes by road. All guests should be aware this is a winding country road with very limited lighting and vehicle accidents are not uncommon.

ACCESS

The ceremony site is located 20 minutes walk from the Centre down to the pass. This involves numerous steps and the path along the old railway bed is uneven under foot. Suitable footwear is highly recommended.

SEATING & LIVE BROADCAST

Members of the public not wishing to transit down to the pass are welcome to make use of the live broadcast screen option in the main carpark opposite the Centre which has covered seating and close to the public toilets.

Strongly recommended for elderly visitors and those with limited mobility.

GOLF BUGGY SERVICE

The Centre will provide golf buggies on request to the public who are elderly and or incapacitated (one minder or family member may accompany as a passenger if required)

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

All guests are welcome to join the Gunfire Breakfast with complimentary food and refreshments immediately after the completion of the service located in the main carpark opposite the Centre.



SERVICE & OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The service follows a similar format to those services conducted in Australia and New Zealand.

For those visiting Hellfire Pass and Kanchanaburi for the first time, the following additional information is provided:

- Extremely hot weather conditions normally prevail in the province of Kanchanaburi during late April, well into 40 degree Celsius+
- Access to the old railway cutting at Hellfire Pass is difficult for people with mobility issues.
- Insect repellent should be worn when visiting Hellfire Pass for the Dawn Service.
- Sensible footwear is recommended as there are numerous steps and loose rocks on the path to the Memorial.
- Bringing a small torch may be a good option for the walk into the site of the Dawn Service.
- Toilet facilities are limited along the railbed with none at the Memorial site itself.
- Smoking is not permitted once leaving the Interpretive Centre area due to the extreme risk of bushfires.
- Complimentary drinking water will be available at all locations throughout the event.

TRAVEL TO KANCHANABURI

The Australian Embassy, Defence Section and Hellfire Pass's DVA staff in Thailand are unfortunately unable to assist with personal travel arrangements or endorse any particular service-providers.

Many commercial agencies offer travel services between Bangkok and Kanchanaburi. Kanchanaburi Province has substantial accommodation options that cater to a wide range of personal requirements which can be found through internet searches both in Kanchanaburi township and Bangkok itself.

HELLFIRE PASS INTERPRETIVE CENTRE LOCATION & CONTACT DETAILS

207 Moo 11, Thasao, Sai Yok, Kanchanaburi Thailand

Website: www.dva.gov.au/thailand

Facebook: @HellfirePassThailand



Please scan for our
Google Map location

FOR ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES

Any further questions related to the Anzac Day Dawn Service should be directed to the Defence Section of the Australian Embassy Bangkok at email: austembassy.bangkok@dfat.gov.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)



ADVANCE BOOKING & SEAT RESERVATION

1. Do I need to book in advance to join the Dawn Service?

Attending the Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass does not require advance booking. All members of the public are welcome to participate on the early morning of 25th April 2023.

2. Is there seating provided and can I reserve a seat in advance?

There is a limited seating at the ceremony in Hellfire Pass which is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Members of the public can enter the front gate of the Thai Army base where Hellfire Pass is located from 03.00 am onwards.

The Interpretive Centre building will be open for anyone arriving early on the day to tour the building prior to moving down to the service at visitor discretion.

ACCESS TO THE SERVICE BY VISITORS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

3. How can I access the Hellfire Pass?

The Hellfire Pass (Konyu Cutting), where the service is being held, is approximately 400 metres walk from the Interpretive Centre building. There is a timber stairway and a gravel path on the railbed leading to the cutting which will take about 20 minutes on foot.

4. Is there a golf buggy service and do I need to book in advance?

The Centre will provide golf buggies to take guests down to the pass for the elderly and or incapacitated visitors on request. Should you wish to use the service, please proceed to the designated shuttle bus to take you from the car park to the golf buggy service point.

Our staff and volunteers will be pleased to help you onsite should you need any assistance. This is free of charge and no advance booking is required.

LOCATION & GETTING TO THE EVENT AT THE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

5. Where is Hellfire Pass located?

The Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre is located in Sai Yok district, Kanchanaburi Province. It is approximately 3.5 hours (200km) to drive directly from Bangkok. However, due to the early hours of the Dawn Service, many guests find it more convenient to spend the night before the service in Kanchanaburi township (80km) or in Thasao area (up to 20km) from the Centre itself.

6. If I do not have my own vehicle, how do I get to the event?

The Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre will not be providing a transfer service from Kanchanaburi to the Centre so guests will need to self-arrange their own transport. Many hotels and tour operators in Kanchanaburi township will be organising transport to attend the Dawn Service. Please kindly contact your hotel or tour operators for further details.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)



MEMORIAL SERVICE & WREATH LAYING

7. Is this an official Dawn Service by the Australian and New Zealand Governments?

The Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass is the only official Anzac Day Service in Thailand, jointly hosted by the Australian and New Zealand Governments.

8. Can I bring a wreath and when can I lay it?

Members of the public are most welcome to bring flowers or wreaths on the day. Please wait for an announcement by the MC after the ceremony should you wish to lay your wreaths at the obelisk.

9. Is there a service at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery?

No, the Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass is the only official Anzac Day Service in Thailand. However, the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors will pay their respects and lay a wreath on behalf of the Governments and the People of Australia and New Zealand at the Cross of Sacrifice at approximately 09:30 am.