

25 April - ANZAC Day in Kanchanaburi, Thailand



Each year on 25 April, ANZAC Day in Thailand is commemorated by conducting a Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast at Hellfire Pass and a Commemorative Service and Wreath Laying at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Details for these events are:

Dawn Service – Hellfire Pass (Sai Yoke)

Time: Commences at **0530 (5.30 a.m.)** and lasts approximately 40 minutes.

Venue: Konyu Cutting, below the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, Kanchanaburi Province. The trip from Kanchanaburi town to Hellfire Pass is approximately 80 kilometres and takes about 45 minutes by road. Visitors for the Dawn Service should be aware that this is a winding country road with very limited lighting and that road fatalities have occurred. The access gates to Royal Thai Army camp at Sai Yok where Hellfire Pass is located will be open for general public access from 0300hrs on ANZAC Day.

Notes: Walking into the site takes approximately 20 minutes via steps and along the old railway line. The track along the old railway line is rocky and uneven in areas and suitable footwear is highly recommended. The area has very limited seating arrangements and the ground is covered by blue metal gravel.

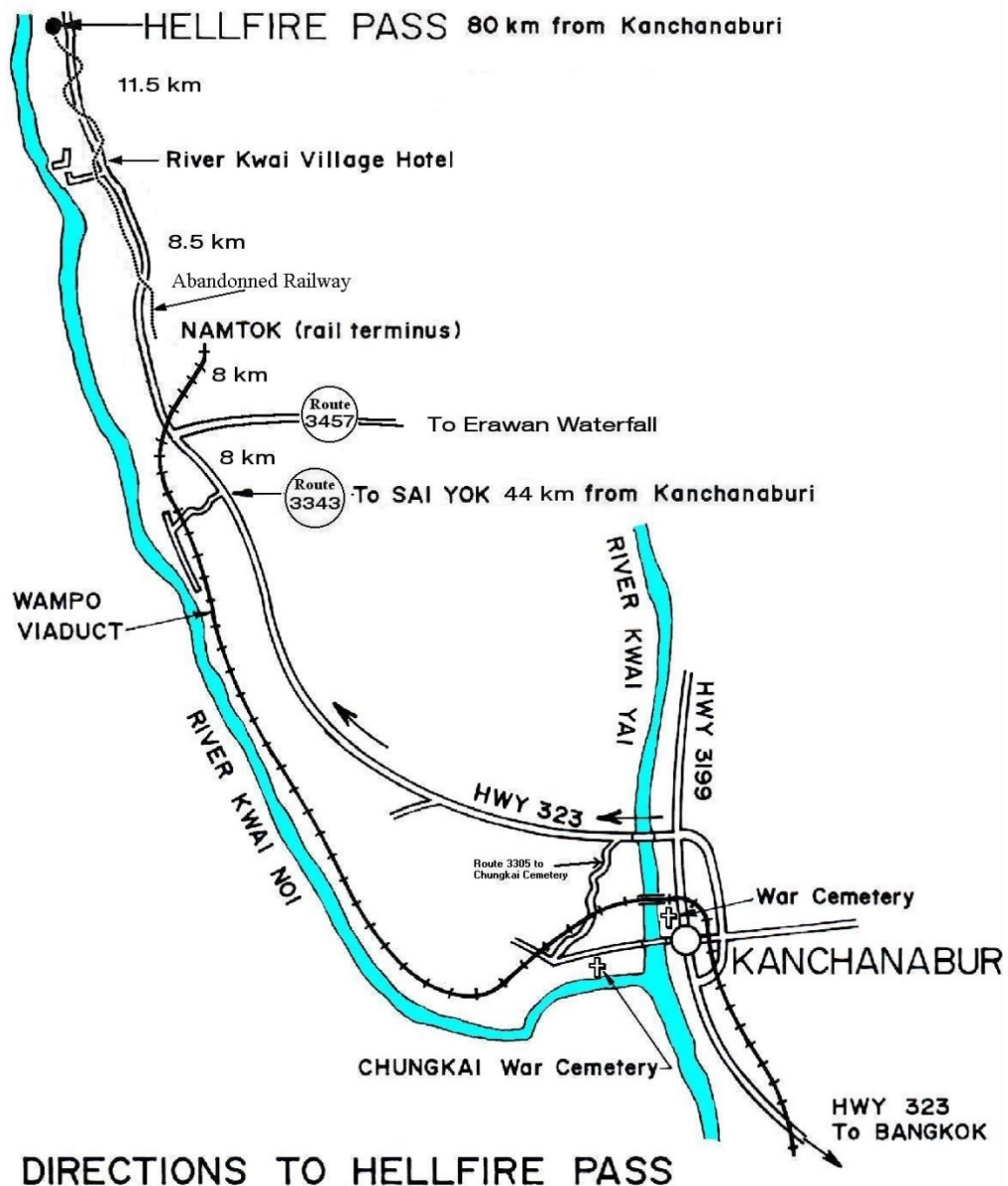


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Gunfire Breakfast – Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum

On completion of the Dawn Service in Konyu Cutting enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee with traditional ANZAC Biscuits and a tot of Bundaberg Rum at the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum.

Point of contact for Hellfire Pass is:
Mr. Michael Clarke
Manager, Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum:
Tel: +66 (0) 34 919 605
E-mail: hellfirepassoawg@gmail.com



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– Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Time: Commemorative service commences at **1100 (11.00 a.m.)** and lasts approximately 50-60 minutes.

Venue: Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Kanchanaburi. The journey from Bangkok to Kanchanaburi is approximately 175 kilometres and takes about two hours by road.

Post Service BBQ: All service attendees are invited to attend a barbeque to be held directly after the service from 1200 – 1500 in a clearing to the east of the War Cemetery. Generous local sponsors have provided a limited amount of food free of charge, and refreshments are available for purchase with all proceeds to be directed towards service charities.



Point of contact for the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery is:

Mr. Michael Newbatt

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Thailand)

E-mail: michael.newbatt@cwgc.org



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Notes

Services at both locations mostly follow the same format as those conducted in Australia. 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;
- Access to the old railway cutting at Hellfire Pass is difficult for disabled persons;
- 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 at Hellfire Pass;
- A small torch should be brought for walking into the site of the Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass;
- Toilet facilities at both sites are limited and rudimentary at best;
- Smoking is not permitted at Hellfire Pass and the surrounding environs;
- An umbrella or sun protection is highly recommended for the Commemorative service at Kanchanaburi;
- Mobile phones are to be switched off when entering Hellfire Pass and Kanchanaburi War Cemetery when attending the services;

Travel to Kanchanaburi

The Australian Embassy and Defence Sections in Thailand are unable to assist with personal travel arrangements or endorse any particular service-provider. 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.