

# 13<sup>th</sup> World Wai Kru Muay Thai Ceremony

17 March 2017, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park

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For the Muay Thai training, the first thing for all boxers to do is to perform the “Wai Kru” or respect paying ceremony which has long been observed until this day. The Wai Kru ceremony is to show the boxers’ regard and gratitude for their parents, the sacred objects, and the masters who have taught them, which brings auspiciousness to the boxers and makes their minds calm and mindful.

As for Muay Thai dance, it is to convey the specific characteristics of a Muay Thai master or camp. Muay Thai boxers who perform the same style of Wai Kru and Muay Thai dance will usually not fight each other since they understand that they have the same master. Moreover, the dance serves as a way to observe the adversary’s tactic, and warm up the boxers to relax from stress in body and mind and be ready for a fight or competition.

The ancient capital of Ayutthaya is home to the annual World Wai Kru Muay Thai Ceremony and Miracle Muay Thai Festival. For individuals trained in the ancient Thai art of boxing or ‘Muay Thai’, the annual Wai Kru Muay Thai Ceremony held during the annual Thai Martial Arts Festival is the most important date on their calendar. Muay Thai boxers from around the world return to Ayutthaya to pay respect to their teachers, and to pay homage to the legendary Muay Thai folk hero, Nai Khanom Tom.

Each year, Thai boxer from around the world will participate in the World Wai Kur Muay Thai Ceremony and Miracle Muay Thai Festival and show their appreciation for the beautiful art of Muay Thai at Ayutthaya World Heritage Site. There will also have many activities.

## Programme

01.00 pm Professional Muay Thai boxing, the “Miracle Muay Thai Festival” is held at Wat Langka Khao, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park, including a fight for the World Professional Muay Thai Federation Championship Super-welterweight Title, a fight to defend the World Professional Muay Thai Federation Championship Welterweight.

On the fair grounds, items and products relating to Muay Thai as well as Muay Thai training courses by famous Thai boxing camps are on offer. Besides, visitors can sample the taste of Ayutthaya typical Thai food from a vast array of dishes, for example, Pad Thai, Rice Noodles in Curried Fish Sauce, Ayutthaya Dishes with Rice, Herbal Jelly and Coconut Milk Ice Cream, etc.

- 03.00 pm. Demonstrations of Thai handcrafts including talisman inscriptions and making of Aranyik swords, shows of Thai martial arts, a power test in the ancient form of Muay Thai training (by kicking banana trees), and a visit to the Muay Thai Gallery where there is a collection of photos depicting Muay Thai fighting tactics that perfectly combine the beauty and fierceness of fighting in the form of self-defence.
- 05.00 pm. Meet and Greet with Buakaw Banchamek
- 06.00 pm. Welcome to The 13<sup>th</sup> World Wai Kru Muay Thai Ceremony.
- 07.30 pm. Welcoming reception and the “Amazing Thailand” performance.

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