The Great Buddha of Wat Muang, Thailand

If you come to the province of Ang Thong in Thailand, you will behold an amazing and awe-inspiring sight. It’s the Great Buddha Statue of Thailand which is located in the Wat Muang Monastery in Ang Thong province. This temple is situated at Moo 6, Tambon Huataphan which is approximately eight kilometers from downtown. If you drive along Ang Thong Wiset Chai Chan route, you will see the temple on the left side. This place is about 130 km away from Bangkok.

The Big Buddha Statue of Wat Muang

The Great Buddha Statue of Wat Muang overlooking the valley*

The Buddha statue is 92 meters high and 63 meters wide. These are truly gigantic measurements! Hence, it is the ninth
tallest Buddha statue in the whole world. This Buddha is also referred to as the Big Buddha of Thailand, Phra Buddha Maha Nawamin or Mahaminh Sakayamunee Visejchaicharn. The Great Buddha is made of cement but painted with gold. It is a relatively new statue since the construction started in 1990 and was completed in 2008.

In fact, there is another giant Buddha image in Phuket, Thailand. It’s called the Phra Puttamingmongkol Akenakkiri Buddha. This Buddha is 45 meters high.
An impressive giant Buddha image*

The province Ang Thong is located in central Thailand (Changwat). ‘Ang Thong’ can be translated as “golden bowl”. This is because the province is relatively prosperous since it has many rice fields. What is more, the Big Buddha now watches over and oversees the valley of Ang Thong. Thus, the Buddha also seems to be a kind of tourism magnet ☝
The Great Buddha against the blue sky*

Even though the Big Buddha is the main attraction of Wat Muang (in Thai: วัดม่วง), the temple has some more important points of interest. For example, the ubosot of the temple (i.e. the ordination hall) is surrounded by the largest pink lotus petals in the world. The ordination hall is used for the ordination ceremonies of monks and for rites concerning monastic discipline.
Big lotus leaves surround the ordination hall*

In addition, there is also a museum on the ground floor of Wihan Kaeo where sacred objects, antiques and figures of venerated Thai monks are displayed. However, the museum is only open on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) from 9am to 5pm.
The temple compound & museum*

In the upper floor of the museum you find the first and largest silver Buddha image in Thailand. This silver Buddha was constructed in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of H. M. the King’s throne ascendancy.
Nonetheless, Wat Muang has plenty to offer. For example, in the temple compound there are also figures of heaven and hell. In addition, you can also find there a large statue of Guanyin which is the female depiction of Avalokiteshvara, the Buddha of compassion. The Guanyin is a Buddha image with 1000 hands that stand for her helpful and compassionate being.
The golden Guanyin statue is the female depiction of Avalokiteshvara, the Buddha of compassion*

What is more, there are also figures which narrate the history of the Thai-Burmese battle in Wiset Chai Chan. Finally, there are also examples of fine architecture.
In fact, I find the figures of hell very scary, unpleasant and intimidating. Thus, I won’t insert a picture of them here but rather continue with an amazing video that shows an aerial shot of Wat Muang and the Great Buddha statue!

Enjoy watching!

Yours, Sirinya

(*photo credit: Amporn Konglapumnuay)