



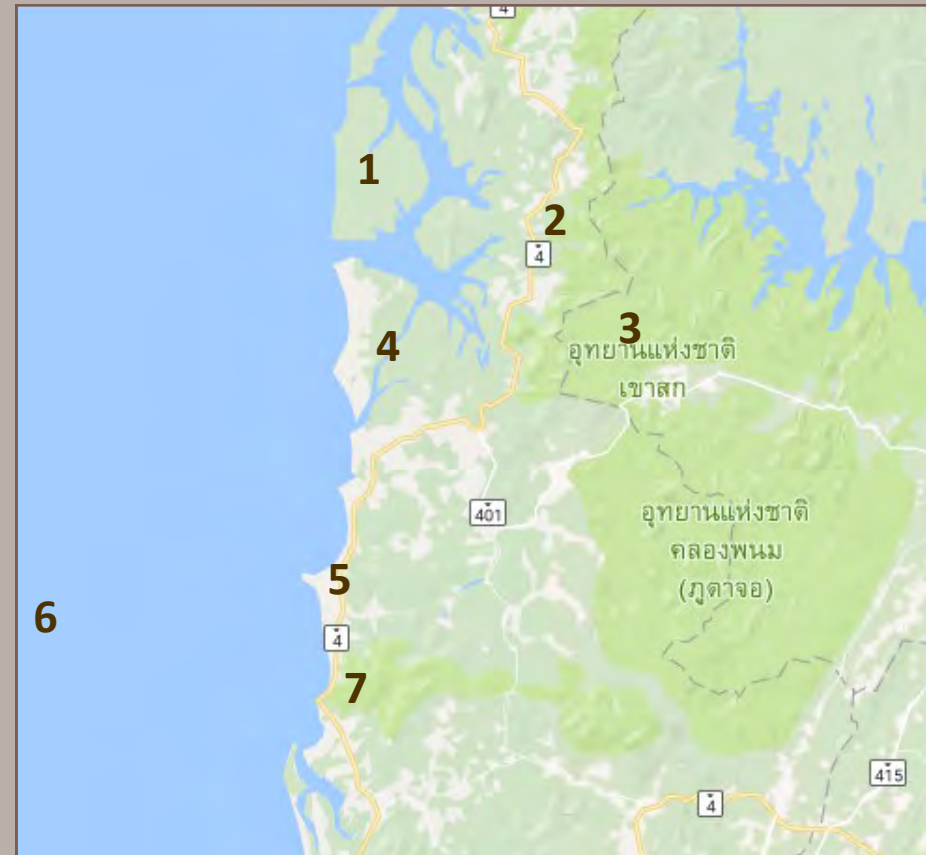
Fauna & Flora at The Sarojin

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thailand is renowned for its exotic wildlife and vegetation and as you walk around the gardens of The Sarojin you will see a plethora of this flora and fauna. we are all proud of our gardens and the housekeeping team are dedicated to keeping them alive and thriving.

in this beautiful country there are known to be at least 300 species of mammals, 300 species of reptiles, 100 different types of reptiles, a staggering number of bird species—in excess of 1000, and the number of insects is also astounding, estimated to be around the 6000 mark!

In the south of Thailand the type of vegetation is rainforest and mangrove forest. Khao Lak is nestled between rainforest national parks and the largest mangrove forest in Thailand. our location is ideal for nature lovers, being placed on the edge of the Andaman sea and under the khao lak lamru mountains. This means that there is a huge variety of flora and fauna around.



Places of interest for nature lovers:

- 1: Koh Prathong—arid savannahs and untouched jungle
- 2: Sri Phang Nga—an excellent location for seeing interesting birdlife
- 3: Khao Sok National Park—a spectacular rainforest older than the amazon
- 4: Nam Keam/Takuapa—one of the largest mangrove forests in Thailand
- 5: Cape Pakarang—one of the best local locations for bird watchers
- 6: Similan Islands National Marine Park—a vast array of beautiful marine life
- 7: Khao Lak Lamru National Park—our local rainforest spanning the shore and mountains

Reptiles and Amphibians of The Sarojin

around the garden you will come across a number of reptiles and amphibians both small and large. although these are shy creatures, there are a few species that you will undoubtedly see. as long as you keep your distance, none of them will be a danger to you.

Monitor Lizards



the water monitor is a large lizard native to South and Southeast Asia. they are one of the most common monitor lizards found throughout Asia.

in Thailand, the local word for a water monitor is not polite, it is used as an insulting word for bad and evil things, including bad people. the word is also thought to bring bad luck, so some people prefer to call the animals 'silver-and-gold' (ตัวเงินตัวทอง) to avoid the jinx.

the origin of this offensive meaning can be traced back to a time when Thai villagers lived in two-story houses; the top floor was for living, while the ground floor was designed to be a space for domestic animals such as pigs, chickens, and dogs. water monitors would enter the ground floor and eat or maim the domestic animals, also hence the other name *dtua gin gai* (ตัวกินไก่ 'chicken eater').

Oriental Garden Lizards

the oriental garden lizard, eastern garden lizard or changeable lizard is an agamid lizard found widely distributed in Asia. it has also been introduced in many other parts of the world.

it usually measures over 10 cm (3.9 in) in length snout-to-vent. total length including the tail can be up to 37 cm (14.5 in). it has two small groups of spines, perfectly separated from each other, above each tympanum. it has a dorsal crest moderately elevated on the neck and anterior part of the trunk, extending on to the root of the tail in large individuals, and gradually disappearing on the middle of the trunk in younger ones.

during the breeding season, the male's head and shoulders turn bright orange to crimson and his throat black. males also turn red-headed after a successful battle with rivals. both males and females have a crest from the head to nearly the tail, hence their other common name "Crested Tree Lizard".

changeable lizards are related to iguanas (which are found only in the New World). unlike other lizards, they do not drop their tails (autotomy), and their tails can be very long, stiff and pointy. like other reptiles, they shed their skins. like chameleons, changeable lizards can move each of their eyes



Skinks



skinks are lizards belonging to the family Scincidae and the infraorder Scincomorpha. with more than 1,500 described species, the Scincidae are one of the most diverse families of lizards.

Skinks look like true lizards, but most species have no pronounced neck, and their legs are relatively small; several genera (e.g., Typhlosaurus) have no limbs at all. other genera, such as Neoseps, have reduced limbs and with fewer than five toes (digits) on each foot. in such species, their locomotion resembles that of snakes more than that of lizards with well-developed limbs.

most species of skinks have long, tapering tails they can shed if predators grab onto them. such species generally can regenerate the lost part of a tail, though imperfectly. species with stumpy tails have no special regenerative abilities.

some species of skinks are quite small; *Scincella lateralis* typically ranges from 7.5 to 14.5 cm (3.0 to 5.7 in), more than half of which is the tail. most skinks, though, are medium-sized, with snout-to-vent lengths around 12 cm (4.7 in), although some grow larger; the Solomon Islands skink (*Corucia zebrata*) is the largest known extant species and may attain a snout-to-vent length of some 35 cm (14 in).

Tokay Lizards

the tokay gecko (*Gekko gekko*) is a nocturnal arboreal gecko in the genus *Gekko*, the true geckos. it is native to Asia and some Pacific Islands.

the Tokay is a large gecko, reaching up to 35 centimeters in length. it is cylindrical but somewhat flattened in body shape. The eyes have vertical pupils. the skin is soft to the touch and is generally gray with red speckles, but the animal can change the color of its skin to blend into the environment. the species is sexually dimorphic, the males being more brightly colored.

the male is territorial, attacking other Tokays and other intruders. the female lays clutches of one or two hard-shelled eggs and guards them until they hatch. the Tokay feeds on insects and small vertebrates. it has strong jaws with which it bites through the exoskeletons of rainforest insects. it is a strong climber with foot pads that can support the entire weight of the body on a vertical surface for a long period of time. compared to other gecko species, the Tokay has a robust build, with a semi-prehensile tail, a large head and muscular jaws.

Tokay geckos are culturally significant in many East Asian countries. regional folklore has attributed supernatural powers to the gecko. in Southeast Asia it is a symbol of good luck and fertility. it is believed to be descended from dragons.

the Tokay is a lizard 6 to 9 inches long, named for the sound it makes. as the Tokay is commonly found in houses, people believe that they may be reincarnated relatives.



Common house gecko



the common house lizard ("CHINGCHOK" - จิ้งจก) can be found everywhere in Thailand; they mostly appear at night time and make shrill sounds. if their tail is cut, it will grow again. whatever the homeowner does, house lizards will always find a way to enter inside.

if a "CHINGCHOK" falls in front of somebody going out, it means that he is going to have serious problems. this belief is based on that house lizards should never fall from ceilings or walls.

the common house gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*), is a reptile native of Southeast Asia. it is also known as the Pacific house gecko, the Asian house gecko, house lizard, or Moon Lizard.

most geckos are nocturnal, hiding during the day and foraging for insects at night. they can be seen climbing walls of houses and other buildings in search of insects attracted to porch lights, hence their name "house gecko". spread around the world by ships, these geckos are now common in the Deep South of the United States, large parts of tropical and sub-tropical Australia, and many other countries in South and Central America, Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. they grow to a length of between 75–150 mm (3–6 in), and live for about 5 years. these small geckos are non-venomous and harmless to humans. a tropical gecko, *Hemidactylus frenatus* thrives in warm, humid areas where it can crawl around on rotting wood in search of the insects it eats. the animal is very adaptable and may prey on insects and spiders, displacing other reptiles.

Asian common toad

this species of toad grows to about 20 cm (8 in) long. the species breeds during the monsoons and their tadpoles are black. young toads may be seen in large numbers after the monsoons.

the top of the head has several bony ridges, along the edge of the snout (canthal ridge), in front of the eye (pre-orbital), above the eye (supra-orbital), behind the eye (post-orbital), and a short one between the eye and ear (orbito-tympanic); the snout is short and blunt and the space between the eyes is broader than the upper eyelid width. the ear drum or tympanum is very distinct and is at least as wide as two thirds the diameter of the eye. the first finger is often longer than the second and the toes at least half webbed. a warty tubercle is found just before the junction of the thigh and shank (sub-articular tubercle) and two moderate ones are on the shank (metatarsus). there is no skin fold along the tarsus. the "knee" (tarso-metatarsal articulation) reaches the tympanum or the eye when the hind leg is held parallel along the side of the body. the dorsal side is covered with spiny warts. the parotoids are prominent, kidney-shaped or elliptical and elongated. the dorsal side is yellowish or brownish and the spines and ridges are black. the underside is unmarked or spotted. males have a subgular vocal sac and black pads on the inner fingers that help in holding the female during copulation.



Asian common toad



the Asian common toad can grow up to 8cm long. it is a heavyset, short-legged frog with a short broad head and blunt snout. the adults are dark brown with a broad tan or cream stripe on each side. the underbelly is a dirty white. juveniles are grey with various black and brown markings and tadpoles are dark and fat with a very thin tail and transparent tail-fins.

the call of the Asian common toad is loud, easily-recognizable and resembles a cattle bellow. they can be found almost anywhere with sufficient moisture and spend the day buried under rocks, logs, leaves, trash, or within underground burrows. it is active at night, often wandering into homes as it forages for insects. because its tadpoles develop quickly, it is able to reproduce even in areas with temporary puddles that only last a few weeks.

the Asian Painted Frog helps control ant and termite populations. it is a food source for snakes, monitors, and humans.

during the mating season the male frogs float in the water making loud cow-like "honks" to attract the females. the air they suck in in order to make this noise, combined with their already rotund appearance, gives the impression of floating beach balls with legs.

Common Green Frog

the Common Tree Frog is known under numerous common names, including common tree frog, four-lined tree frog, golden tree frog or striped tree frog.

it can grow up to 8cm long and is a medium-sized frog with smooth skin. their bodies are green, brown, or both, with a narrow cream-to-yellow stripe extending from behind each eye to the rear legs and a white stripe lower down along the sides. the upper stripe can sometimes have black edges, their undersides are white and their heads are long and narrow. notably their legs are especially long, with long half-webbed toes.

Common Tree Frog tadpoles are up to 5cm long, they have oval bodies and deep tails that taper to a tip. their bodies and tails are green or brown with dark speckling, and the tails sometimes have a cream stripe.

these frogs live in and near lakes, rivers, marshes, and especially disturbed habitats such as city ponds, irrigation ditches, and rice paddies. they are usually found within a few jumps of the water. Common Green Frogs help to control the populations of insects and millipedes and provide food for birds, snakes, monitors, and fish. they are wary of humans, and when disturbed on land will often take several jumps of a meter or more in order to seek refuge under vegetation or in the water.



Furry Friends of The Sarojin

there are just a few furry creatures around the hotel, but if you look closely up at the trees you will see a number of different squirrels. the Burmese Striped Squirrel is often eating coconut around the trees at the pool hut.



Burmese striped squirrel

the Burmese Striped Squirrel, also known as the Western or Himalayan Striped Squirrel, is mainly a species of montane, forested areas above 700 metres elevation, though in some parts of Burma and Thailand it is reported as being found at lower elevations. it is almost exclusively arboreal in habits, preferring tall forests, fruit trees and coconut palms.

the species is quick and small: it can easily be overlooked as it frantically moves from tree to tree searching for their food source - mainly insects. the striped pattern serves as an effective camouflage on fissured tree trunks.

Finlayson's Squirrel

Finlayson's squirrel, or the variable squirrel, is a species of rodent in the family Sciuridae. it is found in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. the subspecies *C. f. floweri*, which is adapted to urban parks and gardens around Bangkok, has been introduced in the Serangoon area of Singapore. there are also two introduced populations in Italy, probably a result of the species' popularity in the pet trade.

the pelage colour in this species is extremely variable; currently 16 subspecies are recognized.

like other squirrels of its genus (the "beautiful squirrels", *Callosciurus*), Finlayson's squirrel is normally a canopy-dweller, feeding mainly on fruit. field evidence suggests that it has the usual form of dichromatic mammalian colour vision, which may enable it to discriminate ripe from unripe fruits.



Birds of The Sarojin

to the south of The Sarojin, along the beach, you can find the coral cape. this is a well renowned bird watching site for keen ornithologists. when the tides are low you can find a large variety of shore dwelling birds here. the gardens around the hotel are also home to over 50 species.



Myna

the myna bird is a member of the starling family (Sturnidae). this is a group of passerine birds which are native to southern Asia. Several species have been introduced to areas like North America, Australia, South Africa, Fiji and New Zealand, especially the common myna which is often regarded as an invasive species.

the term myna is used for any starling in the Indian subcontinent, regardless of their relationships. Mynas are medium-sized passerines with strong feet. their flight is strong and direct, and they are gregarious. their preferred habitat is fairly open country, and they eat insects and fruit. some mynas are considered talking birds, for their ability to reproduce sounds, including human speech, when in captivity.

Spotted Dove

the spotted dove (*Spilopelia chinensis*) is a small and somewhat long-tailed pigeon which is a common resident breeding bird across its native range on the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. the species has been introduced into many parts of the world and feral populations have become established.

this species was formerly included in the genus *Streptopelia* with other turtle-doves, but studies suggest that they differ from typical members of that genus. this dove is long tailed buff brown with a white-spotted black collar patch on the back and sides of the neck. the tail tips are white and the wing coverts have light buff spots.

there are considerable plumage variations across populations within its wide range. the species is found in light forests and gardens as well as in urban areas. they fly from the ground with an explosive flutter and will sometimes glide down to a perch. it is sometimes also called the mountain dove, pearl-necked dove or lace-necked dove.



White Throated Kingfisher



the white-throated kingfisher, also known as the white-breasted kingfisher, is a tree kingfisher widely distributed in Asia from Turkey east through the Indian subcontinent to the Philippines.

this kingfisher is a resident over much of its range, although some populations may make short distance movements. it can often be found well away from water where it feeds on a wide range of prey that includes small reptiles, amphibians, crabs, small rodents and even birds. during the breeding season they call loudly in the mornings from prominent perches including the tops of buildings in urban areas or on wires.

this is a large kingfisher, 27-28 cm (10.6-11.0 in) in length. the adult has a bright blue back, wings and tail. its head, shoulders, flanks and lower belly are chestnut, and the throat and breast are white. the large bill and legs are bright red. the flight of the white-throated kingfisher is rapid and direct, the short rounded wings whirring.

Blue Eared Kingfisher

the blue-eared kingfisher is found in Asia, ranging across the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. it is found mainly in dense shaded forests where it hunts in small streams. it is darker crowned, with darker rufous underparts and lacking the rufous ear stripe of the common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) which is found in more open habitats. a number of subspecies have been described that differ in measurement and colour shade. adult males have an all dark bill while females have a reddish lower mandible.

this 16 centimetres (6.3 in) long kingfisher is almost identical to the common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) but is distinguished by the blue ear coverts, darker and more intense cobalt-blue upperparts with richer rufous under parts. the juvenile blue-eared kingfisher has rufous ear-coverts as in the common kingfisher but it usually shows some mottling on the throat and upper breast which disappears when the bird reaches adulthood. young birds have a reddish bill with whitish tip.



Brahminy Kite



the brahminy kite, also known as the red-backed sea-eagle in Australia, is a medium-sized bird of prey in the family Accipitridae, which also includes many other diurnal raptors, such as eagles, buzzards, and harriers. they are found in the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Australia. They are found mainly on the coast and in inland wetlands where they feed on dead fish and other prey. adults have a reddish-brown plumage and a contrasting white head and breast which makes them easy to distinguish from other birds of prey.

the brahminy kite is distinctive and contrastingly coloured, with chestnut plumage except for the white head and breast and black wing tips. the juveniles are browner, but can be distinguished from both the resident and migratory races of black kites in Asia by the paler appearance, shorter wings, and rounded tail. the pale patch on the underwing carpal region is of a squarish shape and separated from Buteo buzzards.

the brahminy kite is about the same size as the black kite and has a typical kite flight, with wings angled, but its tail is rounded unlike the Milvus species, red kite, and black kite, which have forked tails. The call is a mewing keeyew.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

the chestnut-headed bee-eater, otherwise known as the bay-headed bee-eater, is a near passerine bird in the bee-eater family Meropidae.

this species, like other bee-eaters, is a richly coloured, slender bird. it is predominantly green, with blue on the rump and lower belly. its face and throat are yellow with a black eye stripe, and the crown and nape are rich chestnut. the thin curved bill is black. both sexes are alike, but the young birds are duller. this species is 18–20 cm long; it lacks the two elongated central tail feathers possessed by most of its relatives.

it is a bird which breeds in sub-tropical open woodland, often near water. as the name suggests, bee-eaters predominantly eat insects, especially bees, wasps and hornets, which are caught in the air by sorties from an open perch.

these bee-eaters are gregarious, nesting colonially in sandy banks. they make a relatively long tunnel in which the 5 to 6 spherical white eggs are laid. both the male and the female take care of the eggs. these birds also feed and roost communally. the call is similar to that of the European bee-eater.



Herbs and Spices of The Sarojin

Thailand is renowned for its delicious culinary creations, flavoursome and aromatic from the herbs and spices used. at The Saorjin we have a number of these plants in our herb garden.



Galangal

Alpinia galangal is a plant in the ginger family. it is an herb used in cooking, especially in Thai cuisine. it is one of four plants known as galangal. the galangals are also called blue ginger or Thai ginger.

while all varieties of galangal are closely related to common ginger, and all exhibit some resemblance to the hot, spicy flavor of ginger, each is unique in its own right, and galangals are not typically regarded as synonymous with ginger or each other in traditional Asian dishes.

the plant grows from rhizomes in clumps of stiff stalks up to 2 m in height with abundant long leaves that bear red fruit. the robust rhizome has a sharp, sweet taste and smells like a blend of black pepper and pine needles. the red fruit is used in traditional Chinese medicine and has a flavor similar to cardamom. the rhizome is a common ingredient in Thai curries and soups, where it is used fresh in chunks or cut into thin slices, mashed and mixed into curry paste.

Thai Basil

Thai basil is a type of basil native to Southeast Asia, its flavor, described as anise- and licorice-like and slightly spicy, is more stable under high or extended cooking temperatures than that of sweet basil. Thai basil has small narrow leaves, purple stems, and pink-purple flowers. Thai basil may sometimes be called anise basil or licorice basil, in reference to its anise- and licorice-like scent and taste.

three types of basil are commonly used in Thai cuisine. first, Thai basil, or horapha, this is widely used throughout Southeast Asia. it is also the cultivar most often used for Asian cooking in Western kitchens. second, holy basil, or kaphrao, which has a spicy, peppery, clove-like taste, may be the basil Thai people love most. Holy basil is also known as Thai holy basil. finally, lemon basil, or maenglak, as its name implies, has undertones of lemon in both scent and taste. Lemon basil is the least commonly used type of basil in Thailand.

Thai basil leaves are a frequent ingredient in Thai green and red curries.



Birds eye Chilli



Bird's eye chili, or Thai chili is a chili pepper, is commonly found in Ethiopia and Southeast Asia. it is used extensively in Thai Malaysian, Singaporean, Lao, Khmer, Indonesian, and Vietnamese cuisine. some English speakers also refer to this cultivar as Thai hot, Thai dragon, and boonie pepper.

the bird's eye chili is small, but is quite hot (piquant). it measures around 100,000–225,000 Scoville units, which is at the lower half of the range for the hotter habanero chili, but still many times more spicy than a jalapeño.

all chilis found around the world today have their origins in Central and South America. they were spread by Spanish and Portuguese colonists, missionaries, and traders, together with many other now common crops such as maize, tomatoes and pineapples. the chili varieties found in Southeast Asia today were brought here in the 16th or 17th century.

in Thai cuisine these chilis are highly valued for their fruity taste and extreme spiciness. they are extensively used in many Thai dishes, such as in Thai curries, salads, or they can just be eaten raw on the side, with for instance, khao kha mu (stewed pork trotter served with rice).

Wild betel Leaf

Piper sarmentosum is a plant in the Piperaceae family used in many Southeast Asian cuisines. there is no "official" English name for it, but it is sometimes called wild betel. it is known as cha phlu in Thai. the leaves are often confused with betel, but they lack the intense taste of the betel leaves and are significantly smaller.

this plant is a perennial herb with creeping rhizomes, and a striped stem that grow to 40 cm high. its leaves are thin, heart-shaped, and 8–10 cm long and 8–11 cm wide, with 5 main veins from the base of the blade, oil glands on the upper surface, and finely pubescent veins on its under side. its petioles are 2.5–3 cm long. erect white spikes of 1–2 cm long emerge at the axils.

in Thai cuisine, the leaves are used to wrap miang kham, a traditional snack; they are also one of the ingredients of the Kaeng khae curry of Northern Thailand. the curry is named after these leaves, which are known as khae in Northern Thailand.



Lemon grass



lemongrass is a genus of Asian, African, Australian, and tropical island plants in the grass family. Some species are commonly cultivated as culinary and medicinal herbs because of their scent, resembling that of lemons (*Citrus limon*). it is widely used as a culinary herb in Asian cuisines and also as medicinal herb in India. it has a subtle citrus flavor and can be dried and powdered, or used fresh. it is commonly used in teas, soups, and curries. it is also suitable for use with poultry, fish, beef, and seafood. it is also used as an addition to tea, and in preparations such as kadha, which is a traditional herbal brew used in Ayurvedic medicine.

lemongrass oil is used as a pesticide and a preservative. research shows that lemongrass oil has antifungal properties.

Lemongrass can be found around the pond at the main entrance to The Sarojin. we use this herb in many dishes at The Edge, in particular the very popular Tom Yum Goong.

Kaffir Lime Leaves

the kaffir limes fruit and leaves are used in Southeast Asian cuisine and its essential oil is used in perfumery. its rind and crushed leaves emit an intense citrus fragrance.

it is picked from a thorny bush, 6 to 35 feet tall, with aromatic and distinctively shaped "double" leaves. these hourglass-shaped leaves comprise the leaf blade plus a flattened, leaf-like stalk. the fruit is rough and green, and ripens to yellow; it is distinguished by its bumpy exterior and its small size, approximately 2 in wide.

the leaves are the most frequently used part of the plant, fresh, dried, or frozen. they are widely used in Thai cuisine (for dishes such as tom yum) and the rind (peel) is commonly used in Thai curry paste, adding an aromatic, astringent flavor. the juice finds use as a cleanser for clothing and hair in Thailand.

the compound responsible for the characteristic aroma was identified as citronellal, which is contained in the leaf oil up to 80%; minor components include citronellol (10%), nerol and limonene.



Flowers of The Sarojin

Walking around the garden of The Sarojin is similar to a visit to a tropical flora section of one of the world's best botanical gardens. Stunning orchids adorn the ficus tree and pathway to the spa, water lilies greet you on entry to the hotel and beautiful birds of paradise flowers fringe the edges of the garden residences.



Water Lily

nymphaeaceae is a family of flowering plants, commonly called water lilies. they live as rhizomatous aquatic herbs in temperate and tropical climates around the world. the family contains five genera with about 70 known species. Water lilies are rooted in soil in bodies of water, with leaves and flowers floating on or emergent from the surface.

horticulturally, water lilies have been hybridized for temperate gardens since the 19th century, and the hybrids are divided into three groups: hardy, night-blooming tropical, and day-blooming tropical water lilies.

White Orchid

the Orchidaceae are a diverse and widespread family of flowering plants, with blooms that are often colourful and fragrant, commonly known as the orchid family.

along with the Asteraceae, they are one of the two largest families of flowering plants. the Orchidaceae have about 28,000 currently accepted species, distributed in about 763 genera. the number of orchid species nearly equals the number of bony fishes and is more than twice the number of bird species, and about four times the number of mammal species. The family also encompasses about 6–11% of all seed plants.

the family also includes Vanilla, Orchis, and many commonly cultivated plants such as Phalaenopsis and Cattleya. moreover, since the introduction of tropical species into cultivation in the 19th century, horticulturists have produced more than 100,000 hybrids and cultivars.

Thailand is known as the land of orchids because the typical plant of this country is the orchid. there are about 1300 orchid species growing in Thailand and they grow especially well in the south.



Birds of Paradise

Strelitzia reginae is a monocotyledonous flowering plant indigenous to South Africa. Common names include crane flower or bird of paradise, though these names are also collectively applied to other species in the genus *Strelitzia*. The plant grows to 2 m tall, with large, strong leaves 25–70 cm long and 10–30 cm broad, produced on petioles up to 1 m (39 in) long. The leaves are evergreen and arranged in two ranks, making a fan-shaped crown.



The flowers stand above the foliage at the tips of long stalks. The hard, beak-like sheath from which the flower emerges is termed the spathe. This is placed perpendicular to the stem, which gives it the appearance of a bird's head and beak; it makes a durable perch for holding the sunbirds which pollinate the flowers.

Spider Lilly

The Amaryllidaceae are a family of herbaceous, mainly perennial and bulbous flowering plants in the monocot order Asparagales. The family takes its name from the genus *Amaryllis* and is commonly known as the amaryllis family. The leaves are usually linear, and the flowers are usually bisexual and symmetrical, arranged in umbels on the stem. The petals and sepals are undifferentiated as tepals, which may be fused at the base into a floral tube. Allyl sulfide compounds produce the characteristic odour of the onion subfamily (Allioideae).

The family, which was originally created in 1805, now contains about 1600 species, divided into about 75 genera, 17 tribes and three subfamilies, the Agapanthoideae (agapanthus), Allioideae (onions and chives) and Amaryllidoideae (amaryllis, daffodils, snowdrops). The family is found in tropical to subtropical areas of the world and includes many ornamental garden plants and vegetables.



Frangipani



Plumeria is a genus of flowering plants in the dogbane family, Apocynaceae. Most species are deciduous shrubs or small trees. Common names for plants in the genus vary widely according to region, variety, and whim, but frangipani or variations on that theme are the most common.

There are more than 300 named varieties of Plumeria. The common name "frangipani" comes from a sixteenth-century marquis of the noble family in Italy who claimed to invent a plumeria-scented perfume. The name lilawadi (originating from Thai) is found occasionally.

Frangipani has the old name as doklantom. In the past, Thai people thought that this kind of plant is an unlucky plant and must not plant it in the house area as it grows in the temple area or grave, also the name of the flower 'lan tom', has a similar sound to the word 'ra tom' in Thai language which it means "gloomy, sad, and depressed". So the name was changed to 'lilawadi'.

Lotus Flower

Nelumbo nucifera, also known as Indian lotus, sacred lotus, bean of India, Egyptian bean or simply lotus, is one of two extant species of aquatic plant in the family Nelumbonaceae. the lotus is often confused with the water lilies

the roots of lotus are planted in the soil of the pond or river bottom, while the leaves float on top of the water surface or are held well above it. the flowers are usually found on thick stems rising several centimeters above the leaves. the plant normally grows up to a height of about 150 cm and a horizontal spread of up to 3 meters, but some unverified reports place the height as high as over 5 meters. the leaves may be as large as 60 cm in diameter, while the showy flowers can be up to 20 cm in diameter.

an individual lotus can live for over a thousand years and has the rare ability to revive into activity after stasis. in 1994, a seed from a sacred lotus, dated at roughly 1,300 years old \pm 270 years, was successfully germinated.



Trees of The Sarojin

There are a number of different types of tree at The Sarojin, from fir trees lining the edge of the beach to fruit trees dotted around the gardens. The most iconic tree, however, is the Ficus Tree—situated at the heart of The Sarojin.



Pandanas

There are approximately 750 species of Pandanas plant, ranging from tall trees at almost 20m tall to smaller shrubs, less than 1m high.

the trees produce an individual fruit which is a drupe, and these merge to varying degrees forming a multiple fruit, resembling the fruit of the pineapple. typically, the fruit changes from green to bright orange or red as it matures. the fruits can stay on the tree for more than 12 months and are eaten by animals including bats, rats, crabs, elephants and monitor lizards.

at The Sarojin you can find Mountain Pandanus and Sea Pandanus trees scattered, as well as a common variety of pandanus which is used for cooking. all three varieties grow in abundance around the gardens.

Ficus Tree

Ficus is a genus of about 850 species of woody trees, shrubs, vines, epiphytes and hemiepiphytes in the family Moraceae. collectively known as fig trees or figs, they are native throughout the tropics with a few species extending into the semi-warm temperate zone.

Ficus is a pan-tropical genus of trees, shrubs and vines occupying a wide variety of ecological niches; most are evergreen, but some deciduous species are endemic to areas outside of the tropics and to higher elevations.

the specific identification of many of the species can be difficult., but many have aerial roots and a distinctive shape or habit.

it is estimated that Ficus is a relatively ancient genus of tree, being at least 60 million years old, and possibly as old as 80 million years.

an hour north of The Sarojin you can find 'Little Amazon', a river lined with ancient ficus and banyan trees. ask our Adventure and Discoveries team for more information.



Sea Almond Tree

the Sea-almond tree grows to 35 m tall, with an upright, symmetrical crown and horizontal branches. it has corky, light fruit that are dispersed by water. the seed within the fruit is edible when fully ripe, tasting almost like almond. as the tree gets older, its crown becomes more flattened to form a spreading, vase shape. its branches are distinctively arranged in tiers. the leaves are large and broad, ovoid, glossy dark green, and leathery. they are dry-season deciduous; before falling, they turn pinkish-reddish or yellow-brown.

the trees are monoecious, with distinct male and female flowers on the same tree. both are 1 cm in diameter, white to greenish, inconspicuous with no petals; they are produced on axillary or terminal spikes. the fruit is a drupe 5–7 cm long and 3–5.5 cm broad, green at first, then yellow and finally red when ripe, containing a single seed.



Pong Pong Tree

Cerbera odollam is a plant species in the Family Apocynaceae and commonly known as the suicide tree, pong-pong, and othalanga. It is a species native to India and other parts of southern Asia, growing preferentially in coastal salt swamps and in marshy areas, but also grown as a hedge plant between home compounds. It yields a potent poison that has been used for suicide and murder and the plant as a whole yields a milky, white latex.



Its fruit, when still green, looks like a small mango, with a green fibrous shell enclosing an ovoid kernel measuring approximately 2 cm × 1.5 cm and consisting of two cross-matching white fleshy halves. On exposure to air, the white kernel turns violet, then dark grey, and ultimately brown, or black.

Banana Tree



Banana trees are one of the most common trees that comes to mind when dreaming of the tropics; however, it's not really a tree, it is actually the world's largest herb. While most species grow best in the warmer climates, there are cold-hardy banana trees too. They make good houseplants with enough light and water.

An interesting fact is that Bananas are classified as a berry. While the fruit of many species are full of seeds and possibly inedible, cultivars have been created over time that eliminated the large seeds and made the fruit palatable. Sizes range from 2.5-12" long. The colours are yellow, pink, green or red. The fruit grows in a cluster, called a hand. Banana tree leaves are huge - depending on the variety, they can be up to 2' wide and 9' long.

Bananas are used in a number of Thai desserts, such as with sticky rice or bananas and coconut milk - a warm sweet dessert. The flowers are also common in Thai cooking; at The Edge restaurant you can find the flower used in a delicious spicy salad.

Coconut Tree

The term coconut can refer to the whole coconut palm or the seed, or the fruit, which, botanically, is a drupe, not a nut. The term is derived from the 16th-century Portuguese and Spanish word *coco* meaning "head" or "skull", from the three indentations on the coconut shell that resemble facial features.

Coconuts are known for their great versatility, as evidenced by many traditional uses, ranging from food to cosmetics. They form a regular part of the diets of many people in the tropics and subtropics, especially in Thailand. Here coconut is used in both savoury and sweet cuisine.

Coconuts are distinct from other fruits for their large quantity of water (also called "juice") and when immature, they are known as tender-nuts or jelly-nuts and may be harvested for their potable coconut water. When mature, they can be used as seed nuts or processed to give oil from the kernel, charcoal from the hard shell, and coir from the fibrous husk. The oil and milk derived from a dried coconut are commonly used in cooking and frying, as well as in soaps and cosmetics. The husks and leaves can be used as material to make a variety of products for furnishing and decorating.

In Thailand trained pig-tailed macaques are used to harvest coconuts, they have been raising and training pig-tailed macaques to pick coconuts for around 400 years.

