

Pattani Malay



POPULATION
2,390,000

The Pattani Malay form an ethnic community in the provinces of southern Thailand. The Pattani, a devout Muslim people, are the descendants of Malaysian Muslims. Due to their dedication to the Islamic faith, the Pattani have a distinct identity in Thailand.

Over the years, their unique Muslim culture has led to many separatist movements against the Thai government. Because the Pattani region is located a great distance from the centre of the Thai government, the Pattani have developed a strong feeling of independence.

However, each time the government tries to centralise control in the state, Pattani Malay independence is threatened. This has resulted in a resentment towards the government.

Language

The Pattani Malay have their own language, distinct from both Thai and Malay.

Pattani Malay is an oral language and widely spoken in the community, although the official language of the region is Central Thai.

Religion

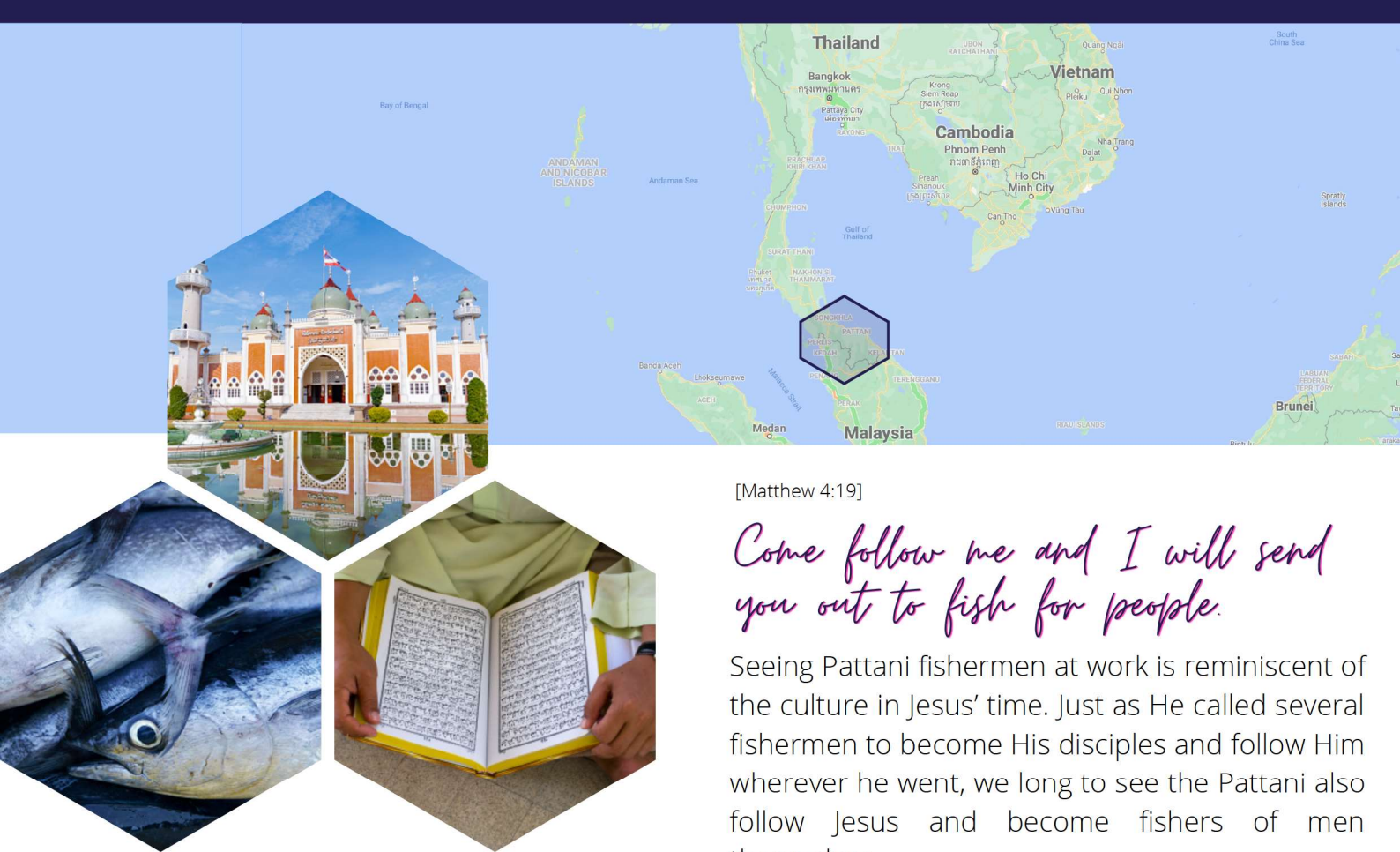
Unlike the majority of the population of Thailand, who are Buddhist, the Pattani are Muslim and practice Sunni Islam.

They closely adhere to Islamic law, or sharia, which is taught in the traditional Islamic schools, called pondoks.

Economy

The economy in Southern Thailand is struggling and poor in comparison to the rest of the country. As a result, the Pattani lead a subsistence type lifestyle. Most Pattani Malays are self-employed either as farmers or fishermen.





[Matthew 4:19]

Come follow me and I will send you out to fish for people.

Seeing Pattani fishermen at work is reminiscent of the culture in Jesus' time. Just as He called several fishermen to become His disciples and follow Him wherever he went, we long to see the Pattani also follow Jesus and become fishers of men themselves.

Is God calling you to live amongst the Pattani Malay in south Thailand?

There are lots of opportunities to serve the community and build meaningful Christ-centred relationships.

Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- English Teachers
- Social Workers
- Youth Workers
- Agriculturists
- Prayers
- Students

Visas are available through a local foundation. Student visas for under graduate and post graduate studies is another possibility.

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAY

Very few Pattani Malay are known to follow Jesus. Most of them struggle with poverty and concerns about unemployment, ongoing unrest in their region, and drug addiction among young people.

- Pray for God's peace to reign in southern Thailand.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal Christ to Pattani Malay leaders through dreams and visions.
- Ask the Lord to raise up people of peace among the Pattani Malay who will receive the gospel and pass it to many others.
- Pray God will protect the Pattani believers and give them boldness to share Christ with their people.
- Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will intercede and 'soften the soil'.
- Pray for more workers to live amongst the Pattani Malay and share the love of Jesus.