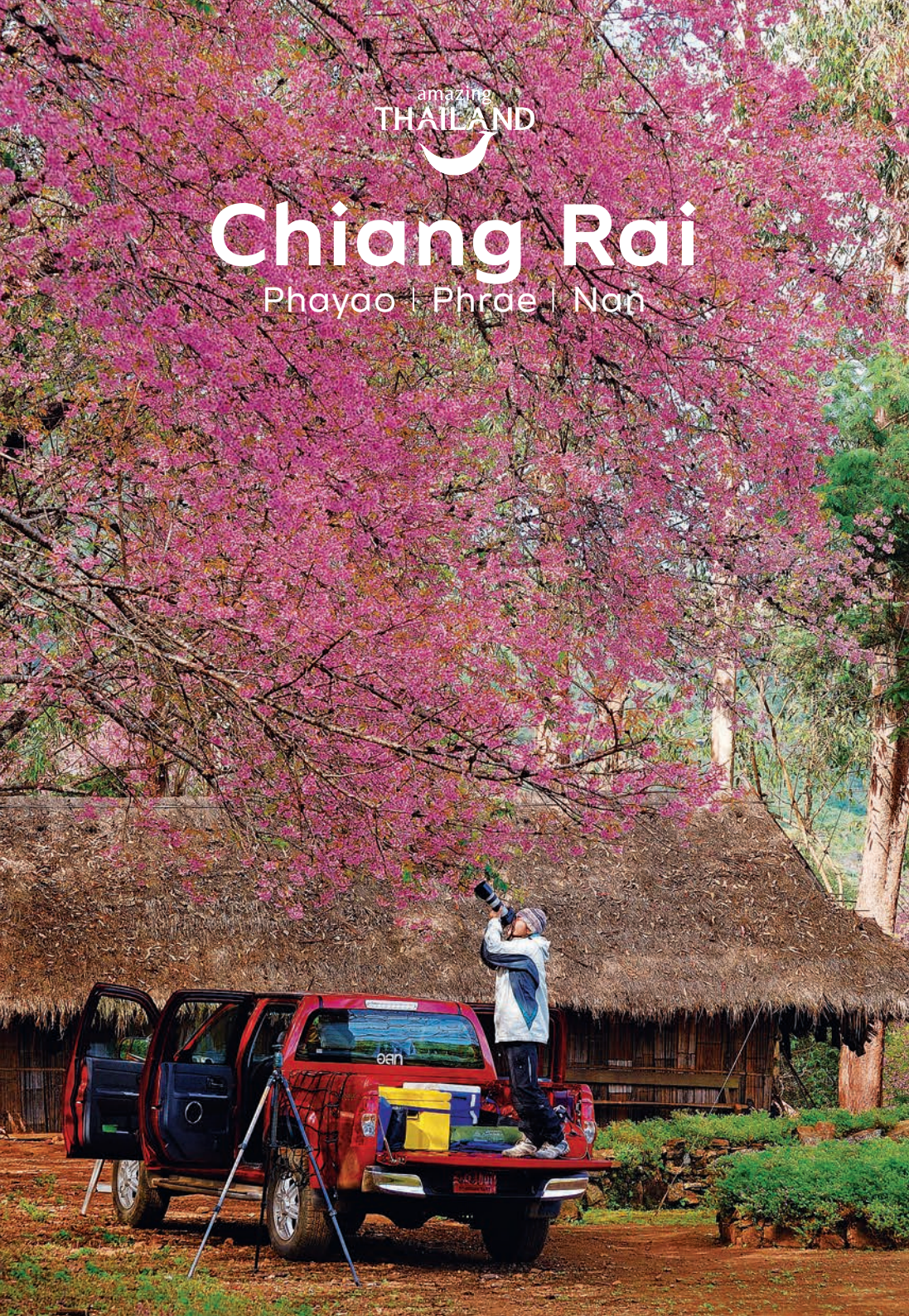


amazing
THAILAND

Chiang Rai

Phayao | Phrae | Nan





Rong Khun Temple

CONTENTS

CHIANG RAI	8
<i>City Attractions</i>	9
<i>Out-of-city Attractions</i>	13
<i>Special Events</i>	22
<i>Interesting Activities</i>	22
<i>Local Products</i>	23
<i>How to Get There</i>	23
PHAYAO	24
<i>City Attractions</i>	25
<i>Out-of-city Attractions</i>	27
<i>Local Products</i>	38
<i>How to Get There</i>	38
PHRAE	40
<i>City Attractions</i>	41
<i>Out-of-city Attractions</i>	42
<i>Special Events</i>	44
<i>Local Products</i>	45
<i>How to Get There</i>	45
NAN	46
<i>City Attractions</i>	47
<i>Out-of-city Attractions</i>	48
<i>Special Event</i>	54
<i>Local Product</i>	55
<i>How to Get There</i>	55

Chiang Rai

Chiang Rai

Phayao | Phrae | Nan





amazing
THAILAND

The logo features a stylized, colorful graphic element resembling a smile or a traditional Thai motif, transitioning from yellow to orange to pink.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar







Doi Pha Tang

Chiang Rai

Located 785 kilometres north of Bangkok, Chiang Rai is the capital of Thailand's northern most province. At an average elevation of nearly 600 metres above sea level and covering an area of approximately 11,700 square kilometres, the province borders Myanmar to the north and Lao PDR to the north and northeast. The area is largely mountainous, with peaks rising to 1,500 metres above sea level. Flowing through the hill ranges are several rivers with the most important being the Kok River, near which the city of Chiang Rai is situated. In the far north of the province is the area known as the Golden Triangle, where the Mekong and Ruak Rivers meet to form the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Lao PDR. Inhabiting the highlands are ethnic hill-tribes like the Akha, Lahu, Karen, and Hmong.

The region boasts a long history with small kingdoms dating back to the pre-Thai period, while the city of Chiang Rai was founded in 1262 by King Mengrai. It was temporarily the capital of Mengrai's Lanna Kingdom until being superseded by Chiang Mai. Today, Chiang Rai is a charming city that provides the perfect base for exploring the scenic and cultural attractions of Thailand's far north.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

King Mengrai Monument

Commemorating the founder of Chiang Rai, the monument should be the first place to visit, since locals believe that respect should be paid to King Mengrai before travelling further. It is located at the intersection that leads to Mae Chan in the middle of the Chiang Rai city.

Oub Kham Museum

Oub Kham Museum is located near Den Ha market, around one kilometre from the town



Oub Kham Museum

centre. The extensive collection of valuable artefacts at this museum includes objects from the areas once belonging to or affiliated with the Lanna kingdoms encompassing northern Thailand and some parts of northeast Myanmar, southwest China and Vietnam. Apart from objects used in rituals, the collection mainly consists of objects used at the royal courts including lacquer ware, silver jewellery and clothing with the most notable one being a golden bowl. It is open daily from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Tel. +66 5371 3349 or www.oubkhammuseum.com

Wat Phra Kaeo

Wat Phra Kaeo, located on Trairat Road on the northwest side of town, is the best known of the northern temples. It once housed the Emerald Buddha, Thailand's most important Buddha statue which was discovered in 1444. The statue had been moved by various state rulers to be placed in their capitals including Lampang, Chiang Rai and Vientiane before finally being enshrined in Bangkok's royal



Wat Phra Sing



Wat Rong Khun

Wat Phra Kaeo. The Chiang Saen style ubosot is now housing a green jade replica of the Emerald Buddha image, along with the 700-year old bronze statue of Phra Chao Lan Thong.

Wat Phra Sing

Wat Phra Sing is located near the town hall and it was used to house a major Buddha statue, the Phra Phuttha Sihing, which is now enshrined in Chiang Mai. The special feature of this temple is the Lanna-style Ubosot and the wooden door panels carved by Chiang Rai contemporary craftsmen.

Wat Phrathat Doi Chom Thong

The temple sits atop a hill above the north-west side of town, up a steep staircase off Kraisonrasit Road, offering a panoramic view of the town and Mae Kok Valley. Situated on the bank of the Kok River, this location is believed to be chosen by King Mengrai the Great as his new Lanna Capital. Its chedi containing what is believed to be the oldest Holy Relic was probably renovated at the same time that the town was being built. The circle of columns

at the top of the hill surrounds the new city pillar, built to commemorate the 725th anniversary of the city and King Bhumibhol's 60th birthday.

Wat Rong Khun

Wat Rong Khun is also known as the White Temple. Whereas most temples visited by tourists have a history going back many centuries, this magnificent place of worship was built only recently. It is the realisation of a dream for Thailand's noted artist, Chalermchai Kositpipat, who designed and is supervising the construction of this beautiful white temple and its many statues of figures based on religious beliefs. In addition, there is a gallery nearby exhibiting his paintings. To get there from the city of Chiang Rai, drive north along Asia Highway.

Singha Park

Situated just 12 kilometres from Chiang Rai International Airport, this agro-tourism attraction is home to one of the largest tea plantations in Thailand. The site also provides a wide range



Rai Mae Fah Luang

of interests, be they fun tours around the farm and open zoo, a fine restaurant to enjoy savoury international and local dishes plus stunning views, picnic areas, and scenic cycling routes. Besides, adventure enthusiasts are invited to get excited with the exhilarating Singha Park zipline and a rock climbing tower. For further information, please contact Tel. +66 5317 2870, +66 6 2594 2862, +66 9 1890 7394 or www.singhapark.com.

Baandam Museum

Baandam Museum is where the famous Thai artist, Thawan Duchanee, resides and exhibits his intriguing creation of arts in black. The cluster of 35 houses within the area of is decorated with exquisite carved wood, horn and unique structural designs. The masterpiece of this museum is the Maha Wihan displaying a collection of rare artefacts. Open everyday from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Tel. +66 5377 6333

To get there, from the city of Chiang Rai, take Phahonyothin Rd. and turn left at the Baandam Nanglae sign.

Kok River

Being one of the most scenic attractions in Chiang Rai, this 130-kilometre long river is a major transportation artery from neighbouring Chiang Mai province, especially the town of Tha Ton. It runs from Thathon in northern Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai City and then flows on to meet the Mekong River at Chiang Khong. From Ban Tha Ton, boats, rafts and treks leave daily venturing into the surrounding mountains where the jungle dips into the river's cool waters. A long-tailed boat can be hired to ferry visitors up and down the river. Stops can be made at Akha or Iko, Lisu and Karen hill-tribe villages. Alternatively visitors may stop by at an elephant camp, a hot spring, a riverside Lahu village, and



Doi Wawi

the Buddha cave, which is a temple within a cavern.

Rai Mae Fah Luang

Rai Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park is a centre of Lanna Studies, featuring beautiful Lanna architecture and valuable artefacts in order to conserve and promote Lanna heritage. The 5 exhibit areas are Botanical Gardens and Nature Park, Ho Kham or the Golden Pavilion, Ho Kham Noi (Small Golden Pavilion), Sala Kaeo (a ceremonial space for Lanna rituals), and Ho Kaeo (the gallery that displays Lanna Cultural Arts). Open daily from 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. except Monday.

Art Bridge Chiang Rai

Art Bridge Chiang Rai is a privately funded art gallery that boasts a variety of art collections elaborately created by renowned local and foreign artists. Art workshops, a cozy restaurant, and choices of souvenirs are waiting to create

for you a very impressive experience. For further information, please contact Tel. (6653) 16 6623, (668) 8418 5431 or www.artbridgechiangrai.org.

Namtok Khun Kon Forest Park

Namtok Tok Khun Kon Forest Park can be reached by taking Highway No.1211 from Chiang Rai town. After travelling 18 kilometres turn right and proceed for another 12 kilometres. Alternatively, you can drive along Highway No. 1 (Chiang Rai-Phayao) for about 15 kilometres, turn right and proceed for another 17 kilometres, then take a 30-minute walk to the waterfall. The 70-metre high Khun Kon or Tat Mok Waterfall is the highest and most beautiful in the province. Surrounded with dense woods, the area is an ideal spot for hiking.



Doi Chang



Chiang Khong

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Doi Wawi

Once an outpost for the Kuomintang soldier (93 division), Doi Wawi is the location of Wawi Village in Mae Suai District which is one of the most renowned U-long tea plantations in Thailand. Doi Wawi is also a home to several hill-tribe groups; such as, Yunnan, Karen, Lahu, Mien, Lisu, and Tai Yai. A visit to Doi Wawi takes visitors to enjoy the beautiful winter flowers planted at the Highland Agricultural Station and to witness the spectacular view of Chiang Rai city, sea of fog, as well as the magnificent sunset. The best time to visit Doi Wawi is during November to February, as the Thai Sakura and Mexican Sunflower are in full bloom.

Doi Kat Phi

A new travelling destination of Mae Suai District, Doi Kat Phi is about 1,500 metres above sea level, located at Doi Chang Mountain Range and is characterised by an overhanging

cliff. This place is especially beautiful during winter when visitors can see the spectacular sea of fog over the valley below the mountain range. A four-wheel drive is required to get there as the 20-kilometre driveway from Doi Lao-li to get to the top of the mountain is quite rough, but visitors will get to observe the Akha and Yao village along the way.

Doi Chang

Situated at Ban Doi Chang, Mae Suai District, this mountain is famous for the Pha Hua Chang or the Elephant's Head Cliff which is 1,800 metres above sea level. Doi Chang is well-known for being the location for Arabica coffee plantations, along the coffee roasting and grinding facilities which enable visitors to enjoy the taste of freshly brewed coffee. Apart from the hill-tribe village where visitors can observe the unique way of life of the hill-tribe people, Doi Chang is also the location of the Buddhist Park which features several Buddha statues and the holy pool.



Chiang Saen



Hall of Opium, Golden Triangle Park

Chiang Khong

Chiang Khong is a small, peaceful district on the bank of the Mekong River opposite Houayxay District of Lao PDR. It is about 115 kilometres from the provincial seat, or approximately 55 kilometres to the east of Chiang Saen on Highway No. 1129. Chiang Khong is noted as the place where Pla Buek or the giant catfish, is cultivated. The Chiang Khong Fishery Station is able to inseminate and breed Pla Buek, the largest fresh water fish in the world and fingerlings bred here have been released in several rivers. Sightseeing trips by boat are available to view the scenery and lifestyles along the Mekong River. Most visitors stop for a short time at Chiang Khong before taking the bus across the Mekong River at the Chiang Khong-Houayxay border. To crossover to Houayxay, contact the immigration office or tour agencies at Chiang Khong.

Ban Hat Bai

This Thai Lue community, located 25 kilometres along the Chiang Saen-Chiang

Khong road, is noted for its beautiful hand-woven cotton fabric.

Ban Hat Khrai

This is the area where pla buek, or giant freshwater catfish, weighing up to 300 kgs. are caught in the Mekong from April to June.

Chiang Saen

At the three-country border between Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, the town of Chiang Saen offers a charming and serene atmosphere on the banks of the Mekong River. It is the site of an ancient settlement that predates Chiang Rai and survives in the ruins of city walls, moats, gateways and temples. The many ancient ruins make Chiang Saen a peaceful tourist attraction, with lots to explore. The town Chiang Saen has both scenic natural attractions and an impressive cultural heritage. In particular its impressive Buddha images showcase Lanka, Sukhothai and Ayutthaya art and techniques. Besides, the graceful stuccos and splendid craftwork found in the area are Thailand's great heritage.

Chiang Saen Lake

Drive five kilometres south of Chiang Saen, along Highway No. 1016 (Chiang Saen-Mae Chan route: two kilometres from the Km. 27 marker), take a left turn and you will find Chiang Saen Lake. This large 640-acre natural reservoir with scenic surroundings is home to large flocks of migratory waterfowls which are most plentiful and can be seen at their best from November through February. In addition to the impressive scenery, accommodations and water sports facilities are available.

Chiang Saen National Museum

Located in old town Chiang Saen, this small museum is dedicated to the historical settlement of Chiang Saen and its ancient culture and provides information on archaeological sites and ethnic minorities in the Mekong River basin. It also exhibits artefacts excavated locally including a well-known Chiang Saen-style bronze Buddha image and Lanna Thai artefacts. Inscription stones from Phayao and Chiang Saen itself can be found in the museum. In addition, there are exhibitions of indigenous art objects of the Thai Yai, Thai Lue and other hill-tribes. These items include musical instruments, ornaments and opium-smoking accessories. The highlight of this museum is the display of what is believed to be the final of the Buddha image named Phra Phuttha Nawa Lan Tue. The final that excavated from the Mekong River is measured 70 centimetres high, indicating that the Buddha image that sank in the river and is still unfound must have been enormous. The museum is open on Wednesdays through Sundays from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., except on national holidays. Tel. +66 5377 7102

Hall of Opium, Golden Triangle Park

The Hall of Opium at the Golden Triangle Park houses several sections to be explored and various exhibitions to be contemplated. For example, the 5,600 square-metre Hall of Opium presents an Invitation to the Mysterious World of Opium from Darkness to Light, and the history of opium as of 5,000 years ago from its natural properties to its uses. It traces the journey of opium spread by traders in the imperial period, and the Opium War that disgraced both winners and losers that led to the fall of the Manchu Dynasty. It also features Siamese wisdom in confronting the West and the eventual control of opium problems.

Other exhibits are presented in a manner that encourages visitors to learn how drugs become a part of everyday life and understand the impact of opium on society in terms of crime, conflict and illegal drugs. Additionally, the Hall of Opium presents efforts to curb drugs through actual case studies that offer alternatives and opportunities in fighting against the temptation of drugs.

The Hall of Opium also displays paraphernalia associated with opium smoking and trading, along with many photographs, films, and videos about opium and other illegal drugs from countries around the world.

The Hall of Opium is situated in Amphoe Chiang Saen, opposite the Anantara Golden Triangle Resort and Spa: Tel. +66 2252 7114, +66 5378 4444-6 Fax: +66 5365 2133, Website: www.maefahluang.org

The Golden Triangle

A trip to Chiang Rai province would not be complete without seeing the notorious Golden Triangle first hand. This famed border location



Wat Pa Sak

where Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet on the Mekong River was once supposed to be the centre of all the poppy cultivation in Thailand.

Travel approximately 9 kilometres north of old town Chiang Saen, along the road parallel to the Mekong River to the area where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge. This area where the Mekong River meets the Ruak River is often referred to as “Sop Ruak”. Within this area are remains of many ancient places and structures attesting to the fact that the area had been settled by people in the past. It is also the area where various legends concerning the Lanna ancestors originate.

Boats can be hired in order to view the upstream scenery of the Golden Triangle and to travel downstream to Chiang Khong. The trip to the Golden Triangle and Chiang Khong would take approximately 40 minutes and 1 hour

respectively, depending on river currents and water levels.

Wat Pa Sak

Located outside the city walls, approximately one kilometer to the west of Chiang Saen in Tambon Wiang is Wat Pa Sak, or the Teak Forest Temple. When King Saen Phu built the temple in 1295, three hundred teak trees were planted hence the name Pa Sak (Teak Forest). With ornamental stucco motifs, the temple's chedi, which is 12.5-metre tall with a base of 8-metre wide, is regarded as being one of the most beautiful examples of Lanna architecture in northern Thailand.

Wat Phrachao Lan Thong

Wat Phrachao Lan Thong is located within the city walls. This temple was built by Prince Thong Ngua, the son of King Tilokkarat,



Wat Phrathat Chedi Luang

the 12th Lanna ruler in 1489. A 1,200-kilogramme Buddha statue with a lap width of 2 metres and height of over three meters was cast and named Phrachao Lan Thong. Another statue called Phra Chao Thong Thip which is made of brass in the Sukhothai style was also cast.

Wat Phrathat Chedi Luang

Next to Chiang Saen National museum is Wat Phrathat Chedi Luang which was built in 1291. It is the biggest ancient pagoda in Chiang Rai province, comprising a 88-meter high, brick bell-shaped chedi with a 24-metre circumference base. The ruins of the main hall and other chedis that surround the principal chedi lay in the grounds of the temple.

Wat Phrathat Phu Khao

Just two kilometres away from Chiang Saen Lake is Phrathat Phu Khao which is believed to

have been built by a king of Wiang Hirannakhon Ngoen Yang in the middle of the 8th century. This riverside temple near Sop Ruak Market is located on a hill just before the Golden Triangle and offers a spectacular view of the Golden Triangles riverine and mountain areas. This historical site comprises a cluster of the remains of wihans and chedis, which are the only visible remains of antiquities today.

Wat Phrathat Pha Ngao

Located about 4 kilometres along the Chiang Saen - Chiang Khong Road is PhraThat Pha Ngao which has a bell-shaped chedi situated on large boulders. Nearby is a wihan where several old Chiang Saen-style Buddha statues are enshrined. This hilltop temple offers a unique and spectacular view of the Mekong River, Lao PDR and of Chiang Saen itself.



Doi Hua Mae Kham

Mae Chan

Mae Chan, which is about 29 kilometres to the north of Chiang Rai, serves as a trading post where the Akha and Yao hill-tribe people sell their goods and buy manufactured items. Silver and other tribal handicrafts are available at local shops.

Hilltribe Development and Welfare Centre

Located along Doi Mae Salong Road, this centre aids and administers local hill-tribe settlements. Hill-tribe handicrafts, including woven cloth and silverware, are available for purchase.

Hot Spa

Located 8 kilometres from Mae Chan, along the Mae Chan - Mae Ai Road, this complex has hot mineral water and bath-house facilities. Accommodation is also available.

Doi Hua Mae Kham

Doi Hua Mae Kham is the domicile of the hill-tribes near the Thai-Myanmar border, about three hours by road along the Mae Chan-Ban Thoet Thai-Ban Huai In route which winds along the steep mountain edges. The inhabitants are predominantly of the Lisu tribe, with a smattering of the Akha, Hmong and Muser tribes. Doi Hua Mae Kham is best visited in November when the yellow wild sunflowers are in full bloom.

Doi Mae Salong

Located some 40 kilometres beyond Mae Chan, the rugged mountain of Doi Mae Salong is topped by a settlement known as Santi Khiri, home to descendants of former Chinese 93rd Division who moved from Myanmar and settled in the area in the 1940s. The mountainside plantations of coffee and fruit orchards provide scenic variety, especially picturesque in

December and January when Thai Sakura trees are in full bloom. Hotels, restaurants, horse-riding and trekking are among the major attractions.

To reach Doi Mae Salong, take the Chiang Rai-Mae Chan route for 29 kilometres, then turn left and proceed for another 41 kilometres (passing a hot spring). The return trip can be taken on routes No. 1234 and 1130 which wind through Yao and Akha hill-tribe villages. From Doi Mae Salong a road leads to Ban Tha Ton, which is the starting point for the Kok River cruise, a distance of 45 kilometres. There are hotels and guesthouses to accommodate tourists and a paved road leading to the village.

Doi Tung

Doi Tung can be reached by taking Highway No.110 for about 48 kilometres and turning left onto Highway No. 1149, an asphalt road leading directly to the mountain. The route winds through beautiful scenery with the following interesting sites:

Doi Tung Palace (Phra Tamnak Doi Tung):

Doi Tung Palace was built to serve as a royal retreat for the late Princess Mother who passed away in 1995 and was designed in an architectural combination of Lanna and Swiss chalet styles. The royal villa, situated on the slopes of the adjacent Pa Kluai Reservoir, was built on the theory that the local hill-tribes would be honoured by the royal presence and thereby ceases their opium cultivation.

Mae Fa Luang Botanical Garden:

Known as 'Suan Mae Fa Luang', this beautiful landscaped garden is filled with hundreds of different kinds of plants and flowers and was named in honour of the late Princess Mother and the Doi Tung Development Project established by the late Princess Mother in 1987.

Phrathat Doi Tung Holy Relic:

The temple can be reached via a 40-kilometre road which meanders along the mountainside. The journey is worthwhile as the panoramic views into Lao PDR and Myanmar at the peak are spectacular. The temple complex is comprised of twin Lanna style chedis, one of which is said to contain the left collarbone of the Lord Buddha. Throughout the year, the holy relic draws devout Buddhist devotees from all over Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar. For more information, contact +66 2252 7114, +66 5376 7015-7 or www.doitung.org.

Pha Mi Akha Village

This picturesque hill-tribe village is one of the most accessible Akha settlements in Chiang Rai province, located on the way to the summit of Doi Tung.

The Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre in Mae Fah Luang University

Established through collaboration of the People's Republic of China and Mae Fah Luang University, the centre was built as a memorial to honour Her Royal Highness Princess Mother's 100th birthday and as a symbol of friendship between the two nations. The centre's design was drawn to adhere as depicted in China. The architecture replicates the Suzhou Chinese structure, building decorations and the garden ornaments by complying with the design layouts and using authentic materials shipped from China. The roofing tiles, the doors and the marble tiles laid at the entrance are all examples of a few of the materials brought from China. Contact Tel. +66 5391 6000 or visit www.mfu.ac.th for more information Tel. +66 5391 7097. Open daily from 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Mae Sai

Thailand's northernmost district, Mae Sai is about 62 kilometres from the provincial seat on Highway No. 110. Mae Sai borders on Myanmar's Tachileik marked by the Mae Sai River with a bridge spanning both sides. Foreign visitors are allowed to cross over to Tachileik market by presenting their passports and paying a fee at the Mae Sai immigration checkpoint. The town presents great shopping opportunities for buying popular products from Thailand, Myanmar, and China. In addition, there are tour services to Chiang Tung in Myanmar, which is approximately 160 kilometres north by road.

The name translates as "lagoon of the sleeping lady" and is derived from a natural rock formation that resembles a reclining woman. It is located 12 kilometres before reaching the town of Mae Sai along a 2 kilometre spur road.

Amphoe Phan

Doi Luang National Park

Located 65 kilometres south of Chiang Rai town, Doi Luang National Park covers an area of 1,170 square kilometres which extends into parts of Chiang Mai, Lampang and Phayao provinces. Apart from hiking trails, the forested park features a few waterfalls of which the largest is Pu Kaeng Waterfall. This impressive fall is a large waterfall amid virgin jungle with water cascading down 9 levels of limestone brooks and flows all year round. To reach Pu Kaeng Waterfall drive along the Chiang Rai-Phayao route for 58 kilometres to arrive at Ban Pu Kaeng. At kilometre 77, take a right turn and proceed on for another 9 kilometres. Camping areas and jungle trekking services

are available. For more information, contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Amphoe Thoeng

Doi Pha Mon Agricultural Centre

Doi Pha Mon is located at Amphoe Thoeng and is best visited during the winter months as visitors are treated to splendid flower beds of tulips, lilies, red salvia, poinsettias, etc. To get to Doi Pha Mon from the city, go along Highway No. 1020, then take Highway No. 1155. The journey takes approximately 2.5 hours.

Phu Chi Fa Forest Park

This mountain, some 25 kilometres south of Doi Pha Tang, is characterised by high, steep cliffs with its highest peak points out sharply towards the sky. The cool climate produces colourful flowering shrubs and the large meadow on the top provides breathtaking views of Lao PDR. In addition, spectacular scenery can be seen from the sheer cliff of Phu Chi Fa. Early in the morning, sea of fog shrouds the mountain top and a visit during February offers a picturesque scene of white wild flowers, known as dok siao, dotting the area.

Doi Pha Tang

Located around 160 kilometres from Chiang Rai town or 32 kilometres from Amphoe Wiang Kaen, this scenic 1,638-metre mountain is a viewing point over the Thai-Lao border, which offers a delightful scene for the river and the sea of fog throughout the year. A visit during December-January provides visitors with the blooming Sakuras. Doi Pha Tang is home to the Hmong and Yao minorities, and the Chinese Haw, who are the remnants of the 93rd



Phu Chi Fa Forest Park

Chinese Division that moved in to settle on Doi Pha Tang. Several bungalows and tent services are available for visitors for an overnight stay at the mountain.

Khun Chae National Park

Located at Tambon Mae Chedi Mai, Khun Chae National Park can be reached by taking the Chiang Mai - Chiang Rai Route (Highway No. 118). The park headquarters is right next to the highway at kilometres 55-56. Jungle trek and camping within the park can be done with the services of a local tour guide but visitors need to prepare their own camping equipment. The trek through the Khun Chae jungle is for adventure travel enthusiasts as the route passes over steep terrain and several hilltops and cliffs over 1,400 metres high. There are some good viewpoints and trekkers can enjoy waterfalls, flowing streams and virgin jungle

areas lush with plant life. For more information, contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.

Mae Khachan Hot Springs

The hot springs is located at Tambon Mae Chedi Mai on the Chiang Rai - Chang Mai road at Kms. 64 - 65, next to a stream. Villagers sell eggs to tourists to boil in the hot springs.

Wiang Kalong

Wiang Kalong, a newly-developed tourist attraction, is a community about 16 kilometres from Wiang Pa Pao District Office. Ancient furnaces which were used to make terra cotta utensils called Kalong have been found in this area. The furnaces are shaped like turtle shells of various sizes with a width of 2 to 5 metres.

To get there: from the city, drive south along the Divided Highway No. 1 for 8 kilometres

then take a right turn onto Highway No. 118 to Wiang Pa Pao (approximately 75-80 kilometres). For those wishing to travel from Chiang Rai to Chiang Mai via the Doi Saket Highway No. 1014, it is highly recommended to stop over at Wiang Kalong as it is on the way to Chiang Mai.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chiang Rai Pineapple and Lychee festival

Third Weekend of May

Held annually during the third weekend of May, the fair celebrates Chiang Rai's tastiest fruit, and also features various agricultural displays and exhibitions, local handicrafts, folk dancing and beauty contests.

Songkran and Chiang Saen Boat Races

13 - 18 April

Chiang Saen held a big celebration of the traditional Thai New Year each year during 13-18 April, where boat races between teams from Thailand, Lao PDR, China and Myanmar are held on the Mekong River. Cultural shows and beauty contests to crown the Queen of the Golden Triangle are also featured during the festival.

Wai-sa Phaya Mengrai

End of January - early February

This event is held at the end of January or early February to commemorate King Mengrai the Great as the founder of Chiang Rai and the Lanna Kingdom. The festival features parades, cultural performances and various competitions.

Chiang Rai Asean Flower Festival

End of December - beginning of January

Suan Mai Ngam Park on the bank of Kok River

This annual festival features various beautiful flowers; such as, tulips, lilies, roses, and orchids on display at the park that is situated on the bank of Kok River. Visitors will get to see flower procession, flower contest, beauty pageant, as well as cultural performances at this festival. There are also flower and plant stalls selling attractive and colourful agricultural products to visitors.

INTERESTING ACTIVITIES

Visit tea plantation

Tea is one of the most famous products of Chiang Rai, especially the tea leaves from Doi Mae Salong. A visit to the tea plantation enables visitors to enjoy tasting the tea as well as exploring the scenic grounds that produce the high quality tea leaves.

A Boat trip along the Kok River

The 130-kilometre long river runs from Ban Tha Ton through the Chiang Rai city. Visitors can embark from the pier in the city to enjoy the beauty of both sides of the Kok River and may stop at several hill-tribe villages to learn about their unique way of life or to ride on the elephant's back and trek in the jungle.

Shopping on the walking street

Take a walk along the walking street every weekend to shop the local products; such as, silverware, and hand-woven silk, as well as, enjoy the mouthwatering local food and unique cultural performance.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Handicrafts

Chiang Rai is rich in handicrafts; such as, hand-woven cotton, hill-tribe silver ornaments and woodcarvings. The native hat or Ngop is a cottage industry product made by villagers in the Nam Chiao community which is located on the route to Laem Ngop district.

Fruits

Agricultural products include lychee (in season around April-May), pineapples and tea, as well as temperate climes produce from various royal projects.

Speciality Food

Certain food items are quite popular; such as, Naem and Mu Yo (preserved and fermented pork sausages).

Ceramics

Wiang Kalong and Doi Din Daeng are where visitors can shop the handmade ceramics that are designed with the ancient Chiang Rai style.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Thai Airways International operates daily flights from Bangkok to Chiang Rai. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2356 1111 or visit www.thaiairways.com.

Bangkok Airways operates daily flights from Bangkok to Chiang Rai. For more information, Please call Tel. +66 2270 6699, 1771 or visit www.bankokair.com.

AirAsia operates daily flight from Bangkok to Chiang Rai. Please contact Tel. +66 2515 9999 or visit www.airasia.com for more detail.

Nok Air provides Bangkok (Don Mueang

Airport) – Chiang Rai flights. Please contact Tel. +66 2900 9955, 1318 or visit www.nokair.com for more detail.

Thai Lion Air operates flights, Tel. +66 2529 9999 or website : www.lionairthai.com.

Thai Smile operates flights, Tel. +66 2118 8888 or visit www.thaismileair.com.

By Boat

The capital may also be reached from Tha Ton in Chiang Mai Province by a scenic 4-6 hour (depending on climatic conditions: such as, rain, and other factors such as high waters and fast currents) long-tail boat ride along the Mae Kok River.

By Bus

The 10-hour journey from Bangkok can be made by either air-conditioned or non-air-conditioned bus, leaving from the Bangkok Northern (Mo Chit) Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet Road. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2936 2852-66, or visit www.transport.co.th, or Chiang Rai Bus Terminal Tel. +66 5371 9316, +66 5377 3989

By Car

From Bangkok, take Highway No.1 to Bang Pa-In, then take Highway No.32 to Nakhon Sawan and then Highway No.1 again to Chiang Rai via Tak, Lampang and Phayao, a total distance of 785 kms.

By Rail

There is no direct train to Chiang Rai. You have to take a train to Lampang (9 hrs. from Bangkok) or Chiang Mai (11 hrs.) and then take a bus to Chiang Rai. (2 hrs. from Lampang and 1.30 hrs. from Chiang Mai) For more details, call the State Railway of Thailand at Hotline 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th.



Phu Langka

Phayao

A small, peaceful province of mostly hills and valleys, Phayao covers an area of 6,335 square kilometres and lies about 690 kilometres north of Bangkok. It is also conveniently accessible by road from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Phayao was formerly ruled by King Ngam Mueang, who is believed to have assisted his close friend, King Mengrai, in establishing Chiang Mai as the new capital of Lanna in the late 13th century. As with other northern principalities, the most visible reminders of regal connections are the Buddhist temples either built or patronised by former rulers. The modern provincial capital of Phayao is set beside an attractive mountain-fringed lake on the banks of which are located several interesting sights. Accommodations and other facilities are modest, but offer simple comforts.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Kwan Phayao

The largest freshwater lake in the northern region of Thailand, Kwan Phayao is one of the most important attractions in Phayao. Ruins of Wat Ti Loka Aram, an ancient temple believed to be built during the reign of Phrachao Ti Lokarat, were found under the water of the lake. During the important religious festivals, Buddhist devotees carry candles and participate in the solemn procession encircling the temple. Every year, on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month (usually around November), Loi Krathong Festival is celebrated here with the lotus-bloomed shaped vessels made of banana floated along the lake in the ancient customs and traditional way of life. Lanna-styled lanterns called “khom loi” are also released to

the sky as an offering to the Buddha.

Phra Tamnak Kwan Phayao and Phayao Fresh-water Fishery Station

Situated on Phahon Yothin Road, on the milestone Km. 734 - 735, Wiang Sub-district, this is the royal residence that displays the royal activities of the late Princess Mother - when she stayed and worked in Phayao and the station is a breeding venue of fresh-water fish.

It is also the first place in the world to successfully breed Pla Buek, the Giant Catfish, in a soil pond. The giant catfish is the biggest fresh-water fish without scales in the world. A fully grown one is 3 metres long with a weight of 250 kilogrammes, residing in the Mekong River. Moreover, it is a breeding place of other species of fish; such as, Pla Nin – Nile tilapia, Pla Taphian Khao – silver carp, and Pla Yisok Thet – rohu, with an aim to distribute them to local farmers. Within the area is an aquarium exhibiting a variety of beautiful and rare species of fish.

It is open daily from 8.30 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. Moreover, there are other activities for tourists to experience; such as, a boat trip to admire the scenery of Kwan Phayao, and a petanque competition. Apart from enjoying the activities, and relaxing in the tranquil environment, visitors can also enjoy the food at the restaurant with the menu made from the fish from Kwan Phayao. For further information, please contact Tel. +66 5443 1251, +66 5443 1331 and +66 5448 1704.

Ho Watthanatham Nithat

Next to Wat Si Khom Kham is Ho Watanatham Nithat. The folk museum exhibits the history and ancient relics of



Pho Khun Ngam Mueang Memorial

Phayao, including native culture and traditions and creativity. Open Wednesday-Monday from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. For future information, contact +66 5443 1053

Pho Khun Ngam Mueang Memorial

The Pho Khun Ngam Mueang Memorial, located in the public park on the bank of Kwan Phayao, commemorates Phu Kam Yao, the former king of Phayao who ruled this state some 700 years ago. During his

reign, the state prospered and expanded its territory. As a close ally of King Mengrai, the ruler of Chiang Rai, and King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai, they formed an alliance of harmony, loyalty and non-aggression.

Wat Si Khom Kham

The temple, located on the shore of Kwan Phayao, enshrines the largest Lanna style Buddha image, Phra Chao Ton Luang, a sitting Buddha with a lap width of 14 metres and height of 16 metres. It is believed that this Buddha image was cast during 1491-1524, taking 33 years to complete.

Within the compound of the temple stands an ubosot in the water by the bank of Kwan Phayao, where there are mural paintings in elaborate designs by Angkarn Kalayaanapong, a National Artist of Thailand. During Visakha Puja Day of every year, people gather at this temple for a ceremony called "The Ceremony to Pay Respect to Phrachao Ong Luang in the 8th Northern Lunar Month" (usually falls in May) to pay respect to the Phrachao Ton Luang.

Wat Phrathat Chom Thong

Opposite Wat Si Khom Kham and reached by a 1.5-kilometre uphill road, this attractively sited temple offers panoramic views of the lake and Phayao town.

Wat Analayo

Wat Analayo Thipphayaram is situated on Doi Butsarakharn, Ban San Pa Muang, Mu 6, Tambon San Pa Muang, around 20 kilometres from the centre of the province in the north along the Highway No. 1 Phayao – Chiang Rai route. At Km. 743, proceed for approximately 7 kilometres and turn left into Highway 1127 - 1193 for 9 kilometers. Covering an extensive



Wat Phrathat Chom Thong



Wat Nantaram

area, cool and shady under leafy canopies of large trees, Wat Analayo features building and sculptures of religion-based characters by contemporary craftsmen of great skill. From here visitors can enjoy the expansive view of Kwan Phayao, the fields and the town.

Enshrined within the temple is a Sukhothai-style Buddha image, as well as other deliberately cast images in various postures; such as, the reclining, walking, seated and protected by a seven-headed Naga one. Within the temple's compound is the Rattana Chedi, which illustrates the Indian Bodh Gaya style of art. There is also a Chinese pavilion housing Kuan Yin Bodhisattva, a Buddha image hall where a golden replica of the Emerald Buddha image is enshrined, as well as those made of topaz, silver, gold, and gold-silver-copper alloy.

Wat Li

Wat Li is located at Ban Lai Ing, near the 3rd Municipality School in Tambon Wiang. It is an ancient and significant temple of Phayao constructed in 1495 to be presented to Phrachao

Yot Chiang Rai, the king of Chiang Mai Town. The name of the temple "Li" is an ancient northern Thai dialect, meaning Kat or Talat or market. Therefore, it means a temple in the area of the market community. Within the compound of the temple are important ancient remains; namely, Phrathat Wat Li, and many artefacts of the Phayao Kingdom, especially the sandstone Buddha images and a museum exhibiting various artefacts.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Jewellery Centre

Jewellery Centre is situated at 140 Mu 6, Ban Mai, Mae Ka Sub-district, on Phahon Yothin Road at Km. 723, 14 kilometres from the centre of town. It was established as an occupational training centre for the jewellery and accessories making process for the youth and the general public in Phayao and nearby provinces. The centre provides educational trips to witness the gem polishing process, silverware making, and learning the

information on the jewellery industry. At this centre, visitors can also browse through the jewellery, accessories, handicrafts, OTOP products and quality products of Phayao. It is open from Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. For further information, please contact Tel. +66 5446 6070.

Ban Tham Indigenous Cultural Centre

This Cultural Centre is about 15 kilometres from the Dok Khamtai town on the way to Amphoe Chiang Muan. This centre displays an extensive collection of native agricultural tools and implements as well as ancient objects from which the cultural lifestyle of the Lanna people in the past can be studied. One kilometre before the Centre is a park shaded by large trees with caves of hanging and protruding rock deposits.

Chiang Kham

About 74 kilometres to the northeast of Phayao on Highway No. 1021, Amphoe Chiang Kham is home to many Thai Lue people. The Thai Lues originally were from the south of Yunnan in China and migrated to northern Thailand, particularly to Nan and Phayao, some 200 years ago.

Wat Nantaram

An interesting temple in Chiang Kham is Wat Nantaram, a Burmese-style temple built entirely with teak. The woodwork on the windows, gables, corridors and other parts are beautifully chiseled in elaborate designs. The principal Buddha image is made of teakwood. In addition, the highlight of this temple is the pollen Buddha image, which is made from pollen of various flowers from Tongki of Myanmar. The pollen was dried and

grinded into powder and mixed with the soil and other components and casted into the shape of the Buddha image then covered with lacquer.

Thai Lue Cultural Centre

Thai Lue Cultural Centre is located at Wat Yuan, Amphoe Chiang Kam. The Thai Lue people are peaceful, diligent, patient, and conservative in their culture and traditions; such as, costumes, housing style, culinary matters, etc. This center has been established to display the pieces of arts and culture, especially the colourful and elaborately designed Thai Lue fabrics in various patterns; such as, Lai Dok Kho Khrua, Lai Dok Kho, Lai Ma and Lai Dok Tang, as well as, to professionally train the Thai Lue people.

Doi Luang National Park

Registered as a national park in 1990, Doi Luang National Park covers an area of 3 provinces; namely, Phayao, Chiang Rai, and Lampang, with a total area of 1170 square kilometres. Geographically, it is a high undulating mountain range and a forest where the original source of the rivers to Kwan Phayao, the Wang River, and the Lao River is located.

Generally, the forests in this park are mixed deciduous forest, moist evergreen forest and deciduous dipterocarp forest. It is a habitat of various kinds of animals such as serows, deer, barking deer, wild boars, monkeys, langurs, gibbons, mouse deer, Asiatic wild dogs, red junglefowls, pheasants, and more than 150 species of birds. This park comprises many waterfalls; such as, Namtok Pu Kaeng in Amphoe Phan, Chiang Rai, Namtok Wang Kaeo in Amphoe Wang Nuea, Lampang, and Namtok Champa Thong in Amphoe Mueang, Phayao. The Office of the National Park is located in Amphoe Phan,



Fang Ta



Kaeng Luang

in Chiang Rai. Contact Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Interesting Attractions are as follows:

Doi Nok: is the summit of Doi Luang where a 360° panorama can be seen, especially Kwan Phayao and Amphoe Mueang Phayao. Long hours of walking require visitors to stay overnight to get to Doi Nok and camping can be done on the mountain.

Namtok Champa Thong: is located in Amphoe Mueang Phayao. It is a very steep waterfall flowing down into tiers similar to an elephant's ivory, or head. The water is crystal clear and suitable for swimming. There are large and shady trees around the area of the waterfall, as well as, a large terrace for sitting and relaxation. There is a nature study route of 2,200 metres, which takes around 2 hours to complete. Tourists can take this route by themselves because directional signs are standing along the way. For those who would like to stay overnight, there is a camping area provided, but they have to bring their own tent.

To get there: Namtok Champa Thong is 23 kilometres from Phayao Province along the Highway No. 1127, Phayao – Chiang Rai Route. At Km. 7, turn left along Highway 1127 and go further for 16 kilometres.

Pang Pu Lo Village: is at Mu 13, Tambon Si Thoi, 13 kilometres from Amphoe Mae Chai, and passing the Tha Nam Ranger Station of Doi Luang National Park for 8 kilometres. A village of the Yao hill-tribe people, Pang Pu Lo Village was promoted by the Phayao Hilltribe Welfare and Development Centre as an agro-tourism attraction. The major occupation of the locals is planting lychee orchards and producing products of vetiver grass as a supplementary occupation. The village is on a steep area where the surroundings of Mae Chai District can be admired. This village is a pass to Pha Daeng Village, located 5 kilometres away and Pa Miang Village of the Lisu hilltribe, located 8 kilometres away. At these villages, Japanese apricot and coffee beans are planted.



Namtok Huai Ton Phueng

The National Park provides accommodation, a camping area and a welfare shop for tourists. For further information, please contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: Take Phahon Yothin Road (Highway No.1), routing Phayao - Chiang Rai, which is 39 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang Phayao. At Km. 773, there is an intersection at Ban Pu Kaeng, turn left and continue for 9 kilometres or take a public bus, routing Chiang Rai - Phayao to Pu Kaeng Village and continue to the Office of the National Park.

Doi Phu Nang National Park

Doi Phu Nang National Park is located 48 kilometres south of Amphoe Dok Khamtai along Highway No. 1251 and 4 kilometres along an access road. This park covers the total area of 740 square kilometres, across Amphoe Dok Khamtai, Amphoe Pong and Amphoe Chiang Muan. The park comprises undulating

mountain ranges with dry evergreen forest, mixed deciduous forest, and deciduous dipterocarp forest.

Various kinds of fauna; such as, soft-shelled turtles, monitor lizard, and a variety of birds, especially peacocks are found here. This national park is considered as a habitat of the largest number of peacocks in the North in which there are approximately 265. Moreover, it is a habitat of the last flock of Thai green peafowls of the Indo-china subspecies. The breeding period of the peafowls is in January - March, while the most appropriate time for travelling is in October - January due to the very beautiful natural environment. Contact Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Interesting tourist attractions in the national park are as follows:

Fang Ta: is a natural phenomenon, similar to the canyon-like Phae Mueang Phi in Phrae Province. It is at Ban Chaiyasathan, Mu 4, Tambon Yuan.

Huai Yua Reservoir: possesses the beautiful scenery of mountains and rivers. It is a viewpoint for admiring the sunrise. During winter, this place offers a magnificent view of sea of fog for the visitors.

Kaeng Luang: is located upstream of Kaeng Suea Ten within an area of Ban Pong Sanuk, 30 kilometres from the Office of the National Park and 7 kilometres from Chiang Muan District. It is suitable for relaxation. White-water rafting can be done in the rainy season, while in the dry season, the water will diminish and the rocks in the middle of the stream will be clearly noticed.

Namtok Huai Ton Phueng: is located 11 kilometres from the National Park. It is



Namtok Than Sawan

a small limestone waterfall, dropping from an 80-metre cliff, with running water throughout the year. It can be easily accessed by walking for approximately 1 kilometre along an easy slope. On both sides of the waterfall stand shady and perfect forests.

Namtok Than Sawan: is situated 300 metres from the Office of the National Park. It is a medium-sized 2-tiered cascade with a height of 20 metres and a width of 40 metres, as well as, water throughout the year. It originates from the combination of water

in Huai Song Sop, Huai Pong, Huai Un, or Bo Bia natural fountain into Huai Mae Pang and flows down into the basin below, similar to a swimming pool. Possessing emerald green water, Namtok Than Sawan is set amidst an abundant forest in a perfect condition. Within the compound of the waterfall stand colourful decorative plants, creating a fresh and amazing atmosphere and nearby is the Namtok Than Sawan Nature Study Route, being a distance of 2 kilometres or 3 hours walk.

The National Park provides accommodation and tents for tourists. For further information, please contact Doi Phu Nang National Park, Ban Bo Bia, Ban Mang Sub-district, Chiang Muan District, Phayao Province 56160, or the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: Take Highway No. 1021 to Amphoe Dok Kham Tai for 15 kilometres. Turn right into Highway No. 1251, routing Dok Kham Tai – Chiang Muan, a distance of 45 kilometres. At Ban Bo Bia T-junction, turn right for 5 kilometres to the Office of the National Park.

Huai Chomphu Reservoir – Pha Thewada

Huai Chomphu Reservoir – Pha Thewada is located in Tambon San Khong, 23 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang Phayao and approximately 8 kilometres from Dok Kham Tai District. The route is a long, adventurous route as the geography of this location is a steep mountain stretching from the north to the south.

Along the 3-kilometre walk, 3 kinds of forests can be seen; namely, deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed deciduous forest and dry

evergreen forest. The agricultural lifestyle at Ban Cham Kai, Namtok Huai Chomphu, Namtok Tat Hua Chang, as well as, small and big caves are found along the Pha Thewada mountain range. The total duration for travelling is 2 days and 1 night with many kinds of supplementary activities; such as, abseiling from the Thewada cliff with various heights of 25, 50 and 110 metres.

During winter from November to February, there are sunflower fields in bloom as far as the eyes can see, as well as an inspection of the peacocks in nature. There is also a camping area for tourists. For further information, please contact the San Khong Sub-district Administration Organisation, Tel. +66 5441 9107, or the Wiang Lo Wildlife Sanctuary, Tel. +66 5442 1557.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Phayao, pass the Mae Tam intersection along Highway No. 1021 and pass the Amphoe Dok Kham Tai Office for 2 kilometres, turn right at the crossroad into Ban Cham Kai. Go straight on for 9 kilometres to the agro-tourist centre of San Khong Sub-district.

Kaeng Luang Dinosaur Forest Park

Kaeng Luang Dinosaur Forest Park is at Mu 7, Ban Nong Klang, Tambon Ban Mang. Found at this park are fossils of a Sauropod dinosaur, which is a large kind of herbivore with a long neck, long tail, and walking with 4 legs. The fossilised bones of the dinosaur discovered are at least 15 meters long, with a weight of more than 100 tonnes, and a height of more than 100 feet. It is estimated to have lived not less than 130 million years ago and is considered as a piece of world historical evidence. The interesting thing about this place is that the

evolution of human beings can be traced from the fossils of an ape aged 15 million years, and leading to the belief that it is an origin of humankind.

Mae Puem National Park

Mae Puem National Park covers an area of 356 square kilometres in Chiang Rai and Phayao Provinces. Most of the areas are steep mountain ranges, being the origin of the Mae Kao and Mae Puem Rivers. It comprises dry evergreen forest, deciduous dipterocarp forest, pine forest, and mixed deciduous forest. Plants found in the park include teak, ironwood - *Xylia xylocarpa*, Burma paduak, Makha Mong - *Azelia xylocarpa*, 2-needled pine, rosewood, Hiang - *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, plants in the Fagaceae family, as well as, more than 40 species of birds and other fauna; such as, barking deer, wild boars, fishing cats, mouse deer, etc.

Moreover, it is a significant place of reserving water; namely, Mae Puem Reservoir with an area of around 8 square kilometres. During January – March of every year, a large number of teals usually migrate to the reservoir. Activities provided are paddle boats and a nature study route. For further information, please contact Mae Puem National Park, Ban Pa Tueng, Tambon Mae Chai, Amphoe Mae Chai, Phayao Province, 56130 or the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Pang Kha Royal Project and Development Centre

Pang Kha Royal Project and Development Centre is situated at Pang Kha Village, Tambon Pha Chang Noi. The area of the centre comprises mountains and rises with a height of 1,000-1,300 metres above sea level.

The demonstration plots are open for tourists to visit and study. The activity provided is a visit to the vegetable, flowering plants and fruit plants demonstration plots. The centre also provides accommodation, tents, and sleeping bags. Please contact Tel.+66 5440 1023, +66 5447 6313, +66 8 8410 9089 for further information.

To get there: From the Amphoe Chiang Kham – Nan Route, turn left at Km. 90 and go straight on along the Ro Pho Cho Road for approximately 5 kilometres to the centre.

Phu Langka Forest Park

Phu Langka Forest Park is the only viewpoint spot to admire the sea of fog in Phayao Province, especially at the field of Dok Khlongkhlang, which is usually in full bloom during July – December. It is located at Pha Chang Noi Sub-district with a height of 1,700 metres above sea level, covering an area of 12.5 square kilometres. It is a venue for the study of the original ecological system of the hill evergreen forest and the source of rivers along the nature study route where there are more than 100 species of fauna and a splendid sea of fog.

Interesting sites in Phu Langka include Phu Langka Summit, Phu Nom Summit, Dok Khlongkhlang – Indian Rhododendron - Field, Namtok Phu Langka, Lan Hin Lan Pi – a million-year stone terrace, Hin Yaeng Fa, Pa Ko Boran, and legendary traces of the Communist Insurgents in the past. The forest park provides accommodation and camping areas for tourists. For further information, contact Tel. +66 8 1883 0307, +66 5371 1402.

To get there: From Phayao Province, take Highway No. 1021, passing Amphoe Dok Khamtai and Amphoe Chun until reaching



Namtok Phu Sang

Amphoe Chiang Kham. Then, change the route into Highway No. 1148. The total distance from Phayao Province to Phu Langka Forest Park is around 120 kilometres. A 4-wheel-drive vehicle should be used for as transportation.

From Chiang Rai Province, take Highway No. 1020, passing Amphoe Thoeng until reaching Amphoe Chiang Kham. Then, take Highway No. 1148. The total distance is approximately 140 kilometres.

From Amphoe Chiang Kham, Phu Langka is 47 kilometres away. Take Highway No. 1148 for 20 kilometres until Song Khwae, turn left pass the Pang Kha Royal Project and proceed further for 22 kilometres to Phu Langka Forest Park. A 4-wheel-drive vehicle can be rented up to Phu Langka.

Phu Sang National Park

Phu Sang National Park is a part of Doi Pha Mon Mountain Range in Amphoe Chiang Kham, Phayao, and Amphoe Theong Chiang Rai, with a 30-kilometre boundary, connecting to the Lao PDR, covering a total area of 285 square kilometres.

This national park comprises hill evergreen forest, dry evergreen forest and mixed deciduous forest. Apart from the perfect natural condition, the national park is also a habitat of Pu Lu or Siamese big-headed turtles, a rare and endangered species of turtle. This kind of turtle is small, short, has a long tail and big head. As their head is large, their 4-legs and tail cannot be drawn back into their shell. When their enemies or danger approach, especially forest fire, the turtles are usually killed by the fire. Therefore, Pu Lu turtles have become a symbol of the prevention of forest fire in Thailand. The Pu Lu turtles stay in the abundant forests on the high mountains, near the waterfalls or creeks with clean and clear water flowing throughout the year. The turtles can be observed during the nighttime, while they are searching for food.

Interesting attractions within the national park are as follows:

Doi Pha Dam: Overlooking the Phu Sang National Park's Ranger Station 1 (Pha Daeng), Doi Pha Dam is a limestone mountain with a large cliff, demonstrating a beautiful sculptural art of the nature. It is 1,096 metres above sea level and is 47 kilometres from the Office of the National Park. And it takes 3-4 hours for a walking tour and a ranger leading the tour is necessary.

Namtok Phu Sang: is a 25-metre-high scenic limestone waterfall about 20 kilometres to

the north of Chiang Kham on Highway with a stream throughout the year. The water in this waterfall is 33°C warm and clear without the smell of sulphate. The surroundings are still in perfect natural condition. Phu Sang is different than other waterfalls. It is fed by a hot spring on the mountain which flows into the brook before cascading over the rocks. Visitors can enjoy bathing at the basin of the waterfall. The waterfall is located by the road, 300 metres from the Office of the National Park. Opposite side of the waterfall is a welfare shop where visitors can take a rest and have a meal.

Phu Sang Warm Spring: is a seepage whose water is a headspring of the Phu Sang Waterfall with a temperature of 35°C. It is situated upstream of the Phu Sang Waterfall. The surroundings are abundant evergreen forest and freshwater swamp forest.

Tham Luang: is a large limestone cave, locating 500 metres from the Ranger Station 2, Huai Sa, and 32 kilometres from the Office of the National Park. It is quite wide but not deep, with a width of approximately 200 metres. Visitors have to slightly climb up the mountains to the cave and a ranger leading the trip is obligatory.

Tham Nam Dang: is a large cave where there is a waterfall and beautiful stalagmites and stalagmites located inside. It was once a secret refuge of the Communist Insurgents.

Tham Nam Lot: is a small stone cave located at the foot of Doi Pha Daeng, approximately 10 metres from Tham Pha Daeng. The cave is 250 metres deep with a stream flowing through the cave. Visitors have to wade through the 50-100-centimetre-deep water during their cave visit and a ranger leading the visit is necessary.



Wat Analayo

Tham Pha Daeng: is a large-size limestone cave with a depth of approximately 450 metres. Within the cave are beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. It is located 48 kilometres from the Office of the National Park. A ranger leading a visit to the cave is a must and visitors are required to inform the national park in advance for a visit.

The Nature Study Route: There are overall 3 routes in the national park with a distance of 1,400 metres (Huai Miang Route), 1,700 metres (Phu Sang Waterfall Route), and 2,400 metres (Huai Sa Route). Each of them takes approximately 2 hours for a trekking tour. There are also interpretation signs along the route, enabling the visitors to take a walk by themselves.

The National Park provides accommodation, camping areas, as well as, a welfare shop for tourists. Please contact the Phu Sang National

Park, Mu 10, Tambon Phu Sang, Phayao Province 56110, Tel. +66 5440 1099 or the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

To get there: The National Park is located 90 kilometres from Phayao Province. Take the Phayao – Dok Khamtai – Chun – Chiang Kham – Thoeng Route, 6 kilometres from Amphoe Chiang Kham. Turn right into Highway No. 1093 for 17 kilometres from Chiang Kham. Prior to Phu Sang Witthayakhom School, turn right and pass the Tambon Phu Sang Office. Otherwise, travel from Chiang Rai Province – Thoeng – Chiang Kham route. The total distance is 100 kilometres along Highway No. 1021.

By bus: Take the Phayao – Chiang Kham Bus or Chiang Rai – Chiang Kham Bus and continue by mini bus, routing Chiang Kham – Ban Huak. The bus will pass the Office of



Wat Saen Mueang Ma

the National Park along Highway No. 1093, a distance of 20 kilometres.

Wat Phrachao Nang Din

Wat Phrachao Nang Din is at 45 Mu 7, Tambon Wiang, 4 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang, along Highway No. 1148. The main Buddha image of this temple is different from those of other temples because there is no Chukkachi base supporting the image. In fact, local people once constructed the base and were about to take the image to be enshrined on it but the Buddha image could not be lifted. Therefore, the image has been continuously called “Phrachao Nang Din” the Buddha image seated on the ground. According to legend, this image was cast since the Lord Buddha was still alive, which is more than 2,500 years.

Wat Saen Mueang Ma

Constructed around 1808 during the reign of

King Rama I, Wat Saen Mueang Ma is located at 113 Ban Mang, Mu 4, Tambon Yuan. The ruler of Nan during that time herded the Thai Yai people from Mueang Mang in Myanmar to Amphoe Chiang Muan and named this village “Ban Mang”. He persuaded the town people to construct a temple called “Wat Mang” whose name was later changed into “Wat Saen Mueang Ma”.

The distinctive feature of this temple is the roof of its wihan which is layered into many tiers. The roof was decorated with Chofa, in the shape of a swan or Naga holding a crystal ball in its mouth, as well as, an adornment of colourful low-relief fretwork. All the door panels were carved from wood, while the entrance to the wihan was made into three porticos. Each of them were created into the shape of 3 kinds of animals, believed to help protect the religion; namely, Naga, tiger, and

lion or Simha. The sculptures of Naga were also decorated with the horns of deer, different from other Thai Lue temples. Inside the wihan are mural paintings depicting the lifestyles of the Thai Lue people and the main Buddha image in the Chiang Saen style of art. Within the compound of the temple is a museum hall.

Wat Tha Fa Tai

Wat Tha Fa Tai is at Mu 11, Ban Fa Si Thong, Tambon Sa, on the Pong – Chiang Muan Route. It was constructed in 1768 by Khru Thammasena and Phothao Saen-atthi, the leaders of the Thai Lue people who immigrated from Xishuangbanna, People's Republic of China.

The ubosot is low and made of bricks and cement. Its 3-tiered roof is covered with "Paen Klet" or the Thai Lue wooden shingles. The main Buddha image was engraved of Burma Padauk wood in the subduing Mara posture, with a width at its lap of 117.5 centimetres and a height of 227.5 centimetres. It was taken from Xishuangbanna and on a rectangular Chukkachi base with redented corners, presenting the Thai Lue style of art. The base was decorated with stucco reliefs of vines with black lacquer applied, as well as, covered with gold sheets and adorned with colourful mirrors.

There is a sermon pulpit whose characteristic is similar to a mondop or prasat with a square base with 20 redented corners, decorated with stucco reliefs of vines and various kinds of animals; such as, deer, elephants, horses, and peacocks. The distinctive characteristic is the reflecting floral designs inlaid with colourful mirrors. The wihan is low and reflects the Thai Lue style of art made of bricks and cement. Its 3-tiered roof is covered with wooden shingles. The 1st tier is a hip roof, covering the 4 sides of



Wat Tha Fa Tai

the wihan, while the 2nd and 3rd tiers are in the Prasat style with gables and eaves on the East and West.

Wiang Lo Ancient Town

Wiang Lo Ancient Town is in Tambon Lo, 17 kilometres from Amphoe Chun along Highway 1021. At Ban Huai Ngio, there is a 12-kilometre dirt road to Ban Nam Chun. Te stone inscription and sandstone Buddha images excavated here suggested that this large ancient town is



Wiang Lo Ancient Town

aged around 500-600 years old. Approximately 10 ancient sites have been discovered inside the moat and city wall, and 40 outside the city moat. One of the ancient Phrathats and temples is Wat Si Ping Mueang near Wiang Lo where the Chun River flows into the Ing River.

Wiang Lo Wildlife Sanctuary

Located 5 kilometres from Amphoe Chun along the Highway 1021 and 60 kilometres from Phayao town, Wiang Lo Wildlife Sanctuary

covers an area of 371 square kilometres in Amphoe Chun, Amphoe Dok Kham Tai, Amphoe Pong and Amphoe Chiang Kham.

An original source of 2 significant rivers; namely, the Yom and the Ing Rivers, this wildlife sanctuary is full of deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed deciduous forest, and hill evergreen forest. On both big and small mountain ranges, there are various kinds of wildlife such as Southern serows, brow-antlered deer, green peafowls, Asiatic black bears, Sambar deer, etc. Moreover, it is a habitat of migratory birds in winter during December – May. Major tourism activities are camping, cruising, trekking, and cliff climbing. For further information, please contact the Wiang Lo Wildlife Sanctuary at Tel. +66 5442 1557.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Basketery

Products made from woven water hyacinth fibres are a specialty of Ban San Pa Muang, about 15 kilometres from town on the route to Wat Analayo.

Hand-made cotton

Hand-made cotton is a handicraft of the Thai Lue people and found mostly in Amphoe Chiang Kham.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Travellers have to fly from Bangkok to Chiang Rai, then take a bus from Chiang Rai Bus Terminal for a 1.15- hour journey to Phayao. For more details, please contact Thai Airways International at Tel. +66 2356 1111 or visit website: www.thaiairways.com, Bangkok



Hand Woven Fabric

Airways at Tel. 1771 or visit www.bangkokair.com, Air Asia at Tel. +66 2515 9999 or visit www.airasia.com, Nok Air at Tel. +66 2900 9955,1318 or visit www.nokair.com, Lion Air at Tel. +66 2529 9999 or visit www.lionairthai.com, Thai Smile Air at Tel. +66 2118 8888 or www.thaismileair.com, and Chiang Rai Bus Terminal at Tel. +66 5371 9316, +66 5377 3989.

By Bus

Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses depart from Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit) on Kamphaeng Phet Road to Phayao daily. Travel time is about 9 hours. For more details, please contact Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit) at Tel. +66 2936 2852-66 or visit www.transport.co.th, or Phayao Bus Terminal Tel. +66 5443 1363, +66 5443 1488.

By Car

From Bangkok, take Highway No. 1 then Highway No. 32 to Nakhon Sawan and then Highway No. 1 again to Phayao via Tak and Lampang. For an alternative route, take Highway No. 1 to Amphoe Tak Fa via Saraburi, Lop Buri before turning into Highway No. 11 to Phrae via Phichit, Pitsanulok, Uttaradit, and then proceed to Phayao along Highways No. 101, No. 103 and No. 1.



Teen Jok Weaving

Phrae

Covering an area of 6,538 square kilometres and with its provincial capital located 551 kilometres north of Bangkok, Phrae is surrounded on all sides by mountains, with level plains in the middle. It is noted for having one of the largest reserves of teak forests in the country. The province has a remote feel about it, although it is easily reached by Highway 101.

Phrae town, situated on the Yom River, is an old community, founded slightly after Chiang Mai, and retains much of its traditional character, with quiet streets and number of old teak houses. Phrae has the beautiful architectures and cultural heritage which is a mixture of influences from Lanna, Burma and Laos.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

The City Pillar Shrine

Situated on Khun Doem Road in the town centre, the city pillar shrine features an inscription from the Sukhothai period describing the building of a temple in the town.

Wat Chom Sawan

One kilometre from the town hall, on Yantrakit Koson Road, Wat Chom Sawan is an impressive Burmese-style temple, characterised by multi-tiered roofs, fine fretwork and elaborately decorated interiors. The building which combines the hall for conducting religious rituals and monk's living quarters is beautifully decorated. Antique Buddha images enshrined here include a marble statue and another made from woven bamboo covered in lacquer.

Wat Phrabat Ming Mueang

Located on Charoen Nakhon Road, near the townhall, Wat Phrabat Ming Mueang



Wat Phrabat Ming Mueang

was built in 1955 by combining two ancient temples. The main features of this temple are an old chedi containing a replica of the Buddha's footprint and the over-lapping roofs which are adorned with fine fretworks. Antiquities found here include marble Buddha statues, statues made of woven bamboos coated with lacquer, and Buddha statues made from ivory, as well as ivory scripture slabs with Burmese scripts.



Wat Phra Non

Wat Phra Non

Located near the site of the old city walls, Wat Phra Non dates back some 300 years and enshrines a 9-metre-long image of the reclining Buddha. The temple buildings are excellent examples of Lanna architecture, with impressive roofs and fretted eaves.

Ban Prathap Chai

Ban Prathap Chai or 'the impressive house' is a spectacular ancient teak house reflects the fact that Phrae is the hub of the teak industry in Thailand. The main feature of this house is 130 delicately and beautifully carved pillars made of 300 year-old teakwood.

Ban Thung Hong

About 4 kilometres from town along Highway 101(Phrae-Nan) is Ban Thung Hong, a village noted for the making of local products, especially farmers' shirts which is called

"sue mo hom". This type of shirt is a local cotton fabric dyed in blue which is used in making native and modern wears.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Ban Fai Folklore Museum

Situated in the same compound as the Ban Fai garden restaurant three kilometres from town on the Phrae-Sung Men road, this folklore museum is made up of several buildings and wooden structures displaying exhibits on the local way of life. The different types of wooden houses demonstrate the different statuses of the local people. Within the same area are also market and shop-houses of the past. For further information, please call +66 5452 3114.



Phae Mueang Phi Forest Park



Phrathat Phra Lo

Fabric Weaving Village

This village of centuries-old community is situated in Amphoe Long, some 45 kilometres from the provincial town on Highway No. 1023. The local people are skilled in the craft of weaving, both silk and cotton. The art of making the tin chok fabric, in particular, has been handed down from generation to generation. Its design has been developed to appeal to modern tastes, although the original method has been retained. A fair celebrating the fabric is held annually around November.

Hua Dong Market

About 9 kilometres south of town on Highway 101, Hua Dong Market is a centre for furniture and home decorative items made from wood and rattan.

Phae Mueang Phi Forest Park

Located 12 kilometres out of town along Highway 101 and a further 6 kilometres after a right turn, Phae Mueang Phi literally means "Ghost Land", the name derived from the weird geological phenomenon found

here. The area is treeless, and subsidence and erosion have created a landscape of strange rock and soil formations in the shape of pillars and what look like exotic mushrooms. For more information, please call +66 2561 0777

Phrathat Phra Lo

This 400-year-old Chedi is believed to contain the ashes of Phra Lo, the ruler of Nakhon Maen Suang once located in the vicinity. It is said he died together with his two lovers, Phra Phuean and Phra Phaeng, which gave rise to the legend of a famous folklore. The Chedi itself is at Tambon Ban Klang, Amphoe Song on Highway No. 103 some 45 kilometres north of the provincial town.

Tham Pha Nang Khoi

Another interesting cave is Tham Pha Nang Khoi which is about 40 kilometres north of town on Highway No. 101 at Km. 59 within Amphoe Rong Kwang. A 50-metre-long trail leads to the cave mouth and along the winding tunnels are strangely-shaped stalactites and stalagmites. At the end of the cave is a stalagmite shaped



Wat Phrathat Chom Chaeng

like a woman holding a small child. In front of the Nang Khoi (waiting woman) stone is a heart-shaped stalactite. They are the source of the legend of the love of a woman who waited for her lover until she turned into stone.

Wat Phrathat Cho Hae

This major religious site is located about 8 kilometres east of town along Highway 1022. The Sukhothai-period temple is famous for its 33-metre-high Chiang Saen-style chedi, built of bricks and covered with bright brass

sheets. The name “Cho Hae” is derived from a fine silk cloth woven in Xishuangbanna (in China’s Yunnan province), which was used to wrap around the chedi when the temple was first constructed. Enshrined in the temple is the revered Buddha image of Phra Chao Than Chai. This temple is for those who was born in the tiger year and is believed to be granting good wishes to those who come to pay homage at the chedi. There is a fair celebrating the Chedi in March every year.

Wat Phrathat Chom Chaeng

Three kilometres from Phrathat Cho Hae is Wat Phrathat Chom Chaeng, some 10 kilometres from town. Built in the year 788, the golden Chedi is 29 metres tall and enshrines a Holy Relic. There is also a museum of rare ancient relics within the temple’s compound.

Wat Phrathat Suthon Mongkhon Khiri

Three kilometres from Amphoe Den Chai, or some 2 kilometres from the provincial town, is Wat Phrathat Suthon Mongkhon Khiri. Although a comparatively modern temple, it boasts highly eye-catching structures. The Ubosot in particular is noted for its delicate sculptures with fine designs. There is also the golden teak structure in the Lanna-style which houses valuable relics of the North, including Buddha statues, lacquerware, Lanna musical instruments, ancient weapons and pictures depicting past events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kin Salak Fair

Held in September, this annual event is an old Buddhist merit-making celebration in which villagers prepare offerings and carry them in a procession to present to monks.

Phrathat Cho Hae Fair

Held in March of every year, this fair features a Lanna-style procession in which the people, dressed in traditional costume, carry robes which will be used to cover the temple's chedi.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Mo Hom

Mo Hom, a northern-style, indigo-dyed cotton shirt, is a well-known hand-crafter material made in Phrae. Considered a quality product, it is made mainly at Ban Ton Hong using traditional methods in the weaving, dyeing and tailoring processes.

Pha Tin Chok

Another famous product is Pha Tin Chok, a fine and well-made material with distinctive design. Apart from being widely used as material to make dresses, today it is also used to make items; such as, handbags, shoes, household decorative items, etc. The main production centre is in Amphoe Long, Wang Chin and Den Chai.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Bus

Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses depart from Bangkok Northern (Mo Chit) Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet II Road, also visitors can take a bus from Chiang Rai or Nan. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2936 2852-66 or visit website: www.transport.co.th, Phrae Bus Terminal Tel. +66 5451 1800.

By Car

From Bangkok, take Highway No.1 to Bang Pa-In, then take Highway No. 32 to Nakhon Sawan and then Highway No. 117 to Phitsanulok



Wat Phrathat Suthon Mongkhon Khiri

and then turn right to Highway 11 to Phrae, a total distance of 550 kms.

By Rail

Trains leave from Hua Lamphong Railway Station in Bangkok to Den Chai Railway Station in the southern part of Phrae daily, and then take a mini-bus to the centre of Phrae. For more details, please contact the State Railway of Thailand at Hotline 1690 or visit www.railway.co.th.



Phrathat Khao Noi

Nan

Extending over an area of 11,472 square kilometres, and with its provincial capital located 668 kilometres north of Bangkok, Nan is a remote province, yet one that is richly rewarding in both its cultural and scenic attractions. The town of Nan nestles in the verdant valley of the river of the same name, surrounded by densely forested hills. Even though Nan is a small town, its history goes back to the 13th century. Nan was initially influenced culturally and politically by Sukhothai, before coming under the influence of first the Lanna Kingdom, centred in Chiang Mai, and later the Burmese. With the expulsion of the Burmese in the 18th century, Nan continued to enjoy a semblance of independence until coming under the full control of Bangkok in the early 1900s.

Evidence of such a rich past is still present in a number of historic temples, while the scenic attractions of the surrounding countryside, home to numerous Thai Lue and other hill-tribe peoples, add another dimension to touring the region.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Nan National Museum

Once a residence of the ruler of Nan which was constructed in 1903, the Nan National Museum is a place where visitors are invited to explore the history, culture, and identity of this small town. The exhibition ranges from the town's history and major structures, evolution of arts in different ages, and numerous ancient objects, the most eminent of which is the Black Ivory. It also provides anthropological information on the northern indigenous people including the several minorities residing in Nan. The museum is

open Wednesday-Sunday from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. For more information, please contact Tel. +66 5477 2777 or www.museumsiam.org.

Wat Phrathat Chang Kham

Located on Suriyaphong Road, opposite the Nan Municipality Office, Wat Phrathat Chang Kham was originally built in 1406 and was subsequently restored several times. The temple was named after its chedi, which is surrounded by elephant (chang) reliefs that appear to be supporting the structure. Enshrined at the temple is a superb 145-cm.-high statue of a walking Buddha made of pure gold. It is a royal temple within the compound of Nan town for the ruler to conduct Buddhist ceremonies and the Oath of Allegiance Ceremony in accordance with the 74th stone inscription which was discovered within the temple.

Wat Phrathat Chae Haeng

Perhaps the most impressive of Nan's venerable temples, Wat Phrathat Chae Haeng lies about 2 kilometres from town on Highway 1168, east of the Nan River. Wat Phrathat Chae Haeng is a walled temple dating from the 14th century and is dominated by a bell shape 55-metre-high chedi. The pattern of Phrathat Chae Haeng is assumed to have been influenced by the chedi of Phrathat Hariphunchai. It is plated with Thong Changko or Thong Dok Buap – a combination of brass and copper. The staircase up to the Phrathat is in a Naga shape, while the gable above the entrance gate to the wihan is the stucco relief depicting intertwined Nagas, a distinctive feature of Lan Chang architecture. Of equally awe-inspiring proportions is the image hall, a marvellous structure of Laotian influence characterised by a three-tiered and five-level roof.



Wat Phrathat Chae Haeng

Phra Borommathat Chae Haeng represents the Year of the Rabbit. Lanna people believe that travelling to pay respect to the Phrathat of their Year of Birth or “Chu That” would reap them great results. Tourists can visit the temple everyday from 6.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

To get there: Wat Phrathat Chae Haeng is located in Tambon Muang Tuet, Amphoe Phu Phiang. From the centre of Amphoe Mueang, cross the Nan River Bridge and go along the Nan – Mae Charim route or on Highway No. 1168 for 3 kilometres.

Wat Phumin

A uniquely designed and one of the most magnificent temples of exceptional beauty in Nan is Wat Phumin, which has a 4-portico, single building housing both the Ubosot and Wihan. Four Buddha statues with their backs against one another are installed in the main hall facing the four directions. The doors are delicately carved in splendid designs by Lanna craftsmen. The wall paintings, in Thai Lue style are considered highly valuable and depict



Mural Painting at Wat Phumin

the story of one of the Buddha’s previous incarnations as well as local legends and the local way of life, which include native attires, weaving and commerce with foreign countries. The most prominent painting is the world-famous ‘The Whisper’ the logo of Nan.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Ban Pak Nai

Some 96 kilometres from the provincial town is Ban Pak Nai, a fishing village that



Nan Riverside Art Gallery

stretch around 22 kilometres along the winding road over the shoulder of the mountain, on the bank of the freshwater lake above the Sirikit Dam in Uttaradit province. Local rafts are turned into restaurants and accommodation for visitors who prefer vacationing amid peaceful natural surroundings. The most famous food is the many kinds of freshwater fish caught in the lake.

Nan Riverside Art Gallery

Located at the Km. 20 marker on the Nan-Thung Chang Rd., Nan Riverside Gallery was established to preserve the local arts for art lovers and future generations. It is the result

of the aspiration and determination of Winai Prapripu, an artist who wants to give something back to the community of his hometown. Not only is Nan Riverside Art Gallery an exhibition hall, but it is also intended to be an art learning centre to encourage people to share their passions for art and culture.

Wat Nong Bua

Located in Tha Wang Pha, Wat Nong Bua is an ancient temple that features an extraordinary Thai Lue architecture and beautiful mural paintings.



Mural Painting at Wat Nong Bua

Bo Kluea

Named after the discovery of a salt pit under the ground, Bo Kluea is the only salt pit in Thailand that is situated on a mountain in Amphoe Bo Kluea. Visitors are able to observe the traditional method of boiling sinthao salt or rock salt.

Doi Phu Kha National Park

To the north of Nan along Highway No. 1080 in Amphoe Nong Bua, some 25 kilometres en route to Bo Kluea district lies the Doi Phu Kha National Park. The terrain is mainly forested lands on limestone mountain ranges, the source of several streams which merge into the Nan River. The elevation is about 1,900 metres above sea level and it is home to near-

extinct flora, particularly the Chomphu Phu Kha (*bretschneidera ninesis* hemsl.), whose pink flowers are in full bloom during February to March. In the morning, a sea of mist can be seen drifting across the valley. There are also several scenic waterfalls. There are accommodation services in the park, as well as camping area. For more information, contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Khun Nan National Park

The Khun Nan National Park is within the compound of the Doi Phu Kha and Doi Pha Daeng National Forest Reserves, which are in Tambon Phu Fa, Tambon Bo Kluea Tai



Kuam Daeng (*Acer calcaratum*),
Doi Phu Kha National Park

and Tambon Dong Phaya. This park consists of important mountain ranges; such as, Phu Fa, Khun Nam Wa Noi, Nam Wa Klang and Phi Pan Nam mountain ranges. The summit of the Phi Pan Nam Mountain in Tambon Dong Phaya is the highest point, with an approximate height of 1,745 metres above sea level. There are also waterfalls full of water throughout the year.

Interesting Attractions within the Khun Nan National Park:

Namtok Sapan: is at Mu 1, Ban Sapan, Tambon Dong Phaya, 1 kilometre from the Office of the National Park. Take Highway No. 1081 and turn right for 2 kilometres. This 3-tier medium-sized waterfall is situated amidst the shady, beautiful forest, around 10 kilometres from the Bo Kluea District Office. It is conveniently accessible by car, and visitors are required to walk the only 700-800 metres from the parking to This 3-tier medium-sized waterfall is situated amidst the shady, beautiful forest, around 10 kilometres from the Bo Kluea District Office. It is conveniently accessible by car, and visitors are required to walk the only 700-800 metres from the parking to get to the waterfall.

Namtok Huai Ha: is at Mu 14, Ban Na Bong, Tambon Bo Kluea Tai. It is a medium-size waterfall, consisting of 3 tiers, with the first, second and third tiers are approximately 8, 12 and 50 metres high, respectively. The third tier (Pha Daeng) consists of various beautiful cascades. This waterfall is plentiful with water throughout the year.

To get there:

By Bus: From Amphoe Mueang Nan, take the Nan – Pua bus and continue with the Pua – Bo Kluea bus. Get off at Amphoe Bo Kluea and

continue with the Bo Kluea – Chaloe Phra Kiat bus. The bus will pass the entrance of the National Park. Continue on foot for about 500 metres.

By Car: From Bo Kluea T-junction, turn left into Highway No.1081 for around 5 kilometres. The park is on the right side. Proceed further for metres and the viewpoint spot is 2 kilometres from the park.

The Khun Nan National Park provides accommodation and a camping area for tourists. Contact Tambon Dong Phaya, Amphoe Bo Kluea, Nan 55220, Tel. +66 8 4483 7240 or the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th for more information.

Mae Charim National Park

The national park is in Amphoe Mae Charim, 60 kilometres from Nan town along Highway 1168 and 1243, covering an area of 432 square kilometres. Geographically, they are undulating mountain ranges, an origin of a tributary flowing into the Nan River at Amphoe Wiang Sa. It comprises hill evergreen forest, deciduous dipterocarp forest, and mixed deciduous forest, as well as, various kinds of wildlife.

Interesting Attractions within the Mae Charim National Park:

Ban Rom Klao Trekking Route: A 3.8-kilometre walk, starting from Ban Nam Phang is required in this trekking route. Then visitors have to walk along the shortcut up to the mountain ridge, passing through many forests at different levels from the sea; namely, deciduous dipterocarp forest, a mixture of deciduous dipterocarp forest and pine forest, hill evergreen forest, and mixed deciduous forest. The condition of the forests along the

route is still perfect. The total distance from Ban Nam Phang to Ban Rom Klao is 9.6 kilometres or takes 5 hours. However, it takes only 3 - 4 hours if using a car to the crossroad into the forest. The route is not very difficult to access, but visitors have to be healthy. The best time to visit is during winter and summer. Contact the National Park officers for a leader.

Mountain Bike – Trekking along the Paeng River – White-water Rafting along the Wa River:

The trip starts at the Mae Charim National Park Ranger Station (Ban Mai) in the area of Ban Nam Phang by cycling along Highway No. 1259 to Ban Rom Klao for 2 hours and walk along the Paeng River to the Wa River in the area of Kaeng Luang for 4 hours. Then, take a raft from Kaeng Luang to Ban Hat Rai for a distance of 15 kilometres or 2 hours. The total trip can take 1 day and it is advisable that visitors stay overnight at Ban Rom Klao and start trekking along the Paeng River early in the morning and do white-water rafting along the Wa River in the afternoon.

Rock Paintings at Pha No: The trip starts at Ban Nam Pu where visitors will have to first cross the Wa River and walk along the mountain ridge, passing the deciduous dipterocarp forest and the mixed deciduous forest, and later climb the steep limestone mountain. The most appropriate season to visit is winter. The rainy season might be too dangerous due to a collapse of soil and very slippery route. Contact the National Park officers for a leader. The total distance is 8.7 kilometres and takes approximately 8 - 9 hours.

The Route to Admire the Sea of Fog of Ban Nam Phang – Ban Rom Klao: is on Highway No. 1259 between the Nam Phang and Rom Klao villages. It is suitable for

mountain biking or driving and sightseeing the scenery on both sides of the route, especially in winter when there is a sea of fog and sunrise to be admired. The first 10 kilometres is an asphalt road, while the rest is a laterite one cutting across the steep shoulders of the mountains.

Accommodation and Facilities: Contact Mae Charim National Park, 35 Mu 5, Ban Huai Sai Mun, Nam Pai Sub-district, Mae Charim District, Nan 55170, Tel. +66 5473 0040 or the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Tel. +66 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.

Tham Pha Tup Forest Park

Lying some 10 kilometres north of Nan town, this is a complex of 17 caves in what is part of a new wildlife reserve. Tham Pha Tup Forest Park is in Tambon Pha Sing, 12 kilometres from the province on Highway No. 1080, Nan – Pua – Thung Chang route, at Km. 9-10. It is accessible in every season.

Interesting Attractions in Tham Pha Tup Forest Park:

Nature Study Route: Several kinds of rarely seen plants are usually in bloom during the end of the rainy season. There are many routes that can be done; such as, the walking trail to Tham Bo Namthip, the route from the Office of the Forest Park to the viewpoint spot, and the route around the Office.

Tham Bo Namthip: has a large room and a chimney letting the sunshine penetrate the cave. At a side of the cave wall are stalactites and a deep tunnel where an oval basin containing water throughout the year is located. The water is considered as sacred and the symbol of this cave. Visitors have to climb up the rocky cliff all the way to the cave



Traditional Long Boat Races

which is 1,200 metres from the Office of the Forest Park. The cave is inaccessible during the rainy season as the cave is filled with water.

The Viewpoint Spot: is in a bamboo forest, next to Khao Bo Namthip in the southern side. At this spot the surrounding scenery and Mueang Nan district can be clearly seen. It is 1 kilometre from the Office of the Forest Park or takes 2 hours for a round trip on foot.

Activities: On the full moon day of the fifth lunar month (of the North) the Ban Pha Tup people usually organise a ceremony of gilding the Buddha image of Khao Tham Phra, called “Tham Pha Tup Fair”. In the morning, there is a ceremony of giving alms to the monks, while music

and performances of students from Ban Pha Tup School are staged during the day. The fair takes place annually at the cave.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Nan, take Highway No. 1080 for 10 kilometres until reaching the crossroad to the entrance of the Pha Tup Forest Park for 200 metres. Otherwise, take a Nan – Pua Bus or Nan – Thung Chang Bus passing the Tham Pha Tup Forest Park. For more information, please contact tel. +66 2561 0777 ext. 1723.

SPECIAL EVENT

Traditional Long Boat Races

Held in October or November, these are among the largest and the most exciting of all the

traditional longboat regattas held by many riverine communities around Thailand to celebrate the end of Buddhist Lent. The special feature that makes the long boat of Nan to be different from other provinces of Thailand is that the figureheads of the boats are carved in the shape of Naga.

LOCAL PRODUCT

Nan is noted for its quality hand-woven textiles in various patterns, the most famous being *lai nam lai*, meaning 'running water pattern' which depicts stepped patterns representing streams and waterfalls. The materials are used for making dresses, colourful satchels and *Tung*, a type of pennant used in religious rites. Such products are widely available in town or production centres in rural villages particularly at Ban Nong Bua in Amphoe Tha Wang Pha.

LOCAL SPECIALITIES

Kai, the freshwater seaweed that is collected from the Nan River, is made into several kind of local food.

LOCAL FRUITS

Wampee is the local fruit tasted sweet and sour with therapeutic values and Nan is the only place in Thailand where you can find this unique fruit. Nan morning market enables visitors to find Tao or Sugar Palm, and Amphoe Thung Chang is the origin of Som Si Thong or the golden oranges.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Nok Air operates daily flights from Don Mueang Airport in Bangkok to Nan. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2900 9955, 1318 or visit www.nokair.com.

AirAsia operates flights from Don Mueang Airport in Bangkok to Nan. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2515 9999 or visit www.airasia.com.

By Bus

The 9-hour journey from Bangkok to Nan can be made by either air-conditioned or non-air-conditioned bus, leaving from the Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit) on Kamphaeng Phet Road. For more details, please contact Tel. +66 2936 2852-66 or visit www.transport.co.th, Nan Bus Terminal Tel. +66 5471 6050, +66 5471 0027.

By Car

From Bangkok, take Highway No. 32 to Nakhon Sawan and use Highway No. 117 to Phitsanulok, Highway No. 11 to Amphoe Den Chai, then take Highway No. 101 to Nan via Phrae, a total distance of 668 kilometres.



Phu Chi Fa Forest Park



Printed in Thailand by Promotional Material Production Division,
Marketing Services Department,
Tourism Authority of Thailand for free distribution.
www.tourismthailand.org E/APR 2019
The contents of this publication are subject to change without notice.



www.tourismthailand.org