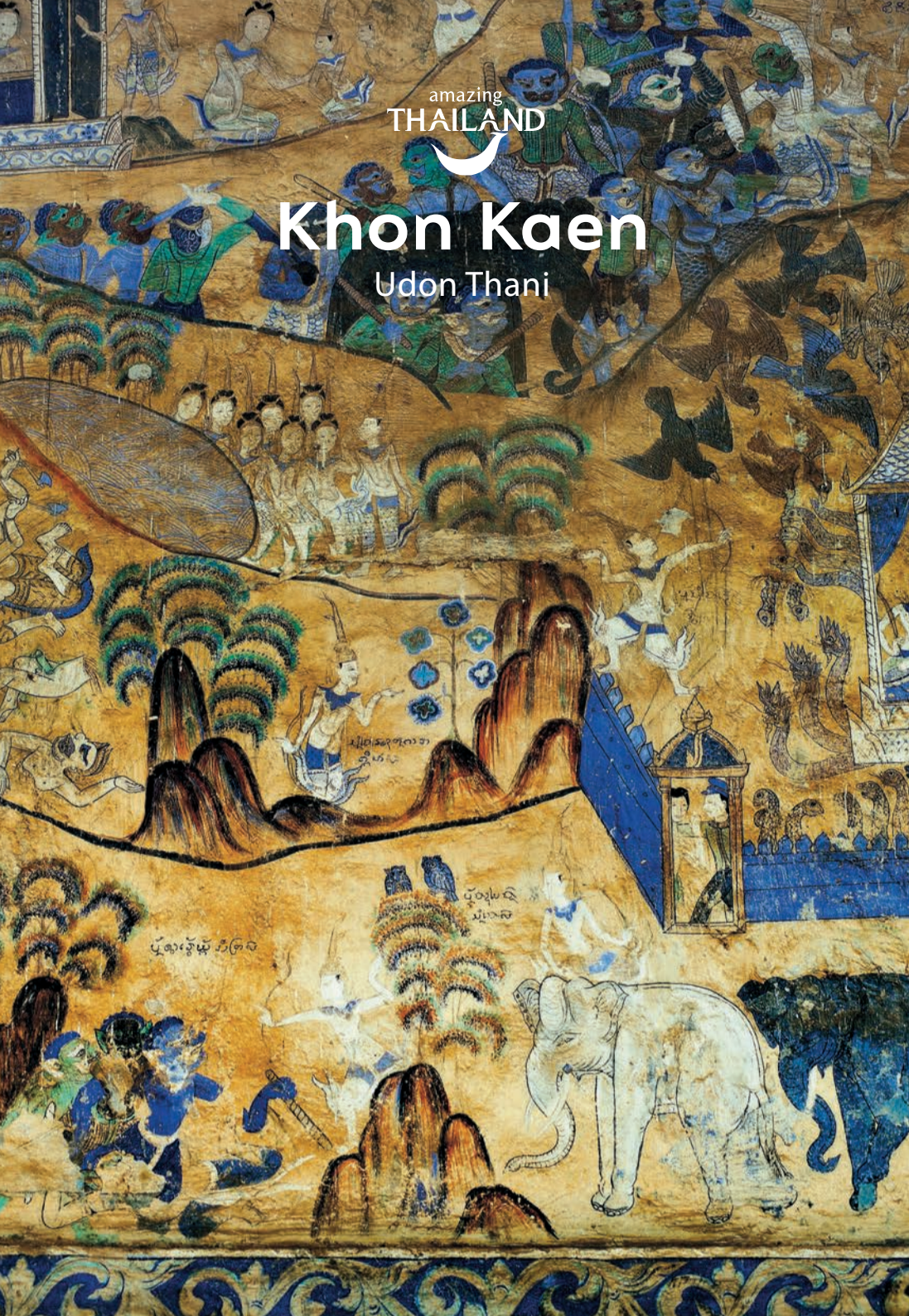


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THAILAND



Khon Kaen

Udon Thani





Bueng Kaen Nakhon

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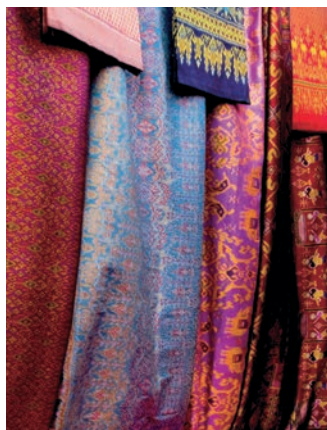
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Khon Kaen

Khon Kaen

Udon Thani





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To Loei

To Nong Khai

To K

To Maha Sarakham





Phratha Kahm Kaen

Khon kaen

Khon Kaen was established as a city over two hundred years ago during the reign of King Rama I, but the natural and historical evidences found in the area indicated that its history dates back much further. The ancient Khmer ruins, traces of human settlement in the prehistoric period, and the fossils of dinosaurs have proven the remarkable history and culture of Khon Kaen since millions of years ago.

The strategic location at the heart of the Northeastern region makes Khon Kaen a hub of education, technology, commercial, transportation, and handicrafts of the region. One of the most famous crafts that illustrated the time-honoured local wisdom of Thai people is Mudmee silk and the production centre of this exquisite textile is in Khon Kaen.

Khon Kaen boasts a diversity of attractions that makes for a memorable holiday where visitors can enjoy exploring a combination of breath taking natural wonders, fascinating historical treasures and cultural heritage, unique way of life, and extraordinary local wisdom.

Located 449 kilometres from Bangkok, Khon Kaen occupies an area of approximately 10,885 square kilometres in which it is divided into 25 Amphoes (districts).

CITY ATTRACTIONS

City Pillar Shrine

Situated on Si Chan Road, the City Pillar Shrine represents the centre of the city and is a sacred religious monument that is highly revered by the Khon Kaen people. A famous monk and former governor of Khon Kaen brought a stone inscription from an archaeological site in Amphoe Chum Phae, and placed it here to



City Pillar Shrine

set up the City Pillar Shrine. The City Pillar Shrine, also known by the locals as 'In Ta', was constructed by the joint effort and faith of the Thai and Chinese communities in Khon Kaen.

Khon Kaen National Museum

Located on Lang Sun Ratchakan Road, the Khon Kaen National Museum offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the geography, history, archaeology, culture, and ethnology of the Northeastern region of Thailand. The well-organised and informative museum



Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon

showcases stories and items from pre-historical to Dvaravati, and Khmer periods, as well as presents culture and way of life of people in the Northeastern region. The Museum also features an extensive collection of artefacts uncovered from important archaeological sites in the Northeastern region of Thailand, including Ban Chiang Archaeological Site in Udon Thani province, and Fa Daet Song Yang Ancient City in Kalasin province.

Operating Hours: Wednesday – Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Admission Fee: 100 Baht

Website: www.finearts.go.th/khonkaenmuseum
www.facebook.com/khonkaenmuseum

Contact: +66 4324 6170, +66 4323 8173

Bueng Kaen Nakhon

An enormous lake that covers approximately 603 Rai (964,800 square metres), Bueng Kaen Nakhon is surrounded by shady public park where visitors can spend time relaxing, enjoying a variety of recreational activities, and indulging in the beautiful scenery surrounding the lake. Visitors to Bueng Kaen Nakhon can also pay respect to the Monument of Chao Phia Mueang Phaen, the founder of Khon Kaen, which is located by the lake.

Hong Mun Mang or Khon Kaen City Museum

'Hong' is the Northeastern Thai word for 'hall' while 'Mun Mang' is treasure, thus, 'Hong Mun Mang' literally translates to 'Treasure Hall'. Hong Mun Mang takes visitors on a comprehensive journey to learn about Khon Kaen from yester years up until present through a series of exhibitions including the Introduction to Khon Kaen province, the History and Culture of Khon Kaen, the Founding of the City, the Towns and Lifestyles of Khon Kaen people, and Khon Kaen at Present.

Operating Hours: Every day except Monday 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Admission Fee: 90 Baht

Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon

Situated in Wat Nong Waeng on Klang Mueang Road, Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon is a nine-storey stupa that was built to commemorate His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 50th anniversary accession to the throne and



Wat Pa Saeng Arun

the 200th anniversary of the founding of Khon Kaen. Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon showcases a combination of Indochina and Dvaravati arts and comprises nine storeys of receding size and topped with a golden spire. All nine floors of the stupa is open to visitors, each of which contains mural paintings on the door and windows depicting the story of Lord Buddha and Isan tales. The top floor enshrines the relics of the Lord Buddha and also offers a stunning panoramic view of the Khon Kaen town.

Art and Culture University Museum

Located by the Bueng Si Than (Si Than Lake) within the compound of Khon Kaen University, the Art and Culture University Museum is notable for its Isan barn-style building. The

building comprises two main sections, the first one being the exhibition centre that is used for displaying artworks and exhibitions by local and international artists. The second section is 'Isan Nithat', which is an educational and interactive museum that features displays about the geography, history, ethnology, architecture, culture, and local wisdom of the Northeastern region.

Operating Hours: Every day 10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Contact: +66 4320 2663, +66 4333 2760

Website: cac.kku.ac.th

Wat Pa Saeng Arun

Situated around 6 kilometres from Khon Kaen City Hall on Yothathikan Road, Wat Pa Saeng



Wat Chai Si

Arun is noted for the magnificent ‘Sim Isan’. ‘Sim’ is a Northeastern term for ‘Ubosot’ or the ordination hall, while Isan refers to Northeastern Thailand, thus ‘Sim Isan’ is the Northeastern-style ordination hall. The Sim Isan at Wat Pa Saeng Arun boasts a variety of unique features including the unparalleled shape and design, exceptional durability that can withstand rain and constant sun exposure, and the distinctive murals of the wall in Mudmee patterns, which is Khon Kaen’s famous type of tie-dyed silk. Apart from Sim Isan (Wat Pa Saeng Arun), visitors to Wat Pa Saeng Arun can also learn about the culture and way of life people in Isan at the outdoor museum located within the temple ground; such as, rice cultivation activities, and folk arts.

Wat Chai Si

Wat Chai Si, situated at Ban Sawathi around 20 kilometres from Khon Kaen city centre, is one of the most famous temples in Khon Kaen and was declared a national ancient monument in 2001. The Sim at Wat Chai Si is over a hundred years old and showcases incredible Hup Taem (Isan word for mural painting) both inside and outside the hall. The Hup Taem were created by an artisan named Thong Thipcha, who used natural colouring materials to paint pictures depicting Buddhist stories and local legends. Even though the mural paintings were ancient, but the beauty and intricate details are still clearly visible. Not only can visitors spend time appreciating the ancient mural paintings at

Wat Chai Si, but visitors can also visit a folk museum that is situated within the temple compound to explore a wide collection of local equipment and utensils used in daily life.

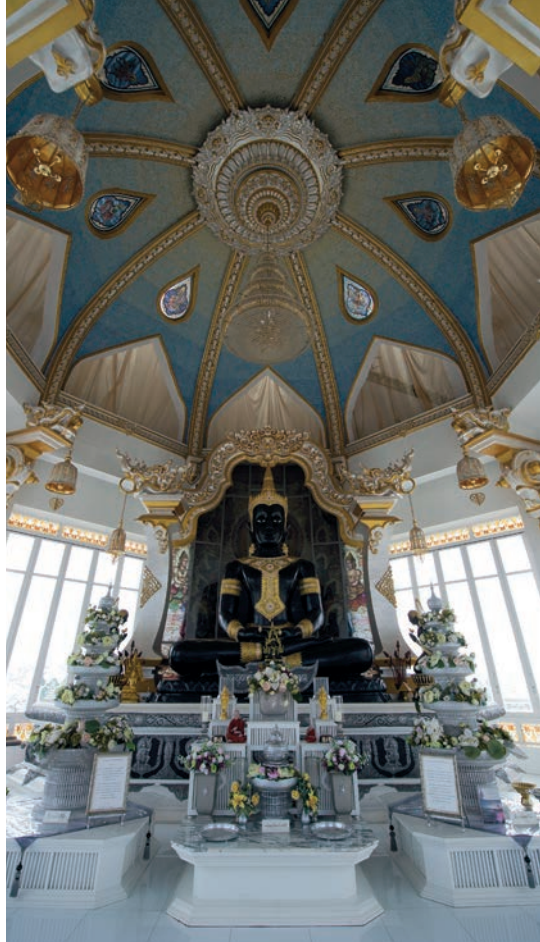
Wat Thung Setthi

Located near the Khon Kaen-Kalasin Road around 7 kilometres from Khon Kaen city centre, Wat Thung Setthi features a stunning Chedi called Maha Rattana Chedi Si Trai Lokathat. The Chedi was constructed with the belief that there is a meeting place of the three worlds, which are, heaven, earth, and underworld. Set in the middle of a pond in a serene surrounding of Wat Thung Setthi, the Chedi showcases a perfectly harmonious combination of modern architecture and Isan folk arts that is completed with etched glass windows portraying Buddhism messages and other objects. The base of the Chedi enshrines the relic of the Lord Buddha, whereas the main hall of the Chedi houses a giant black Buddha image called Luangpu Dam. Other buildings in the temple include a chapel in Lan Chang (Northern Thailand) architectural style, and a Hell Outdoor Museum that reminds people about the sufferings in the afterlife of people who committed sinful acts.

Talat Ton Tan

Easily accessible on Mittraphap Road, Talat Ton Tan or Ton Tan Market is a lifestyle space that doubles as a night market. Visitors to Talat Ton Tan can enjoy strolling the market and find unique handmade items, local products, souvenirs, clothing, jewellery, accessories, home décor items, and a variety of delicious food. As the night deepens, the market becomes livelier with live music performances and all sorts of entertainment.

Operating Hours: Every day 4.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.



Wat Thung Setthi

Khon Kaen Walking Street

Every Saturday evening, the Na Sun Ratchakan Road in front of Khon Kaen City Hall is closed for traffic and transformed into a Khon Kaen Walking Street. Along the 600-metre road, visitors can enjoy browsing through handicrafts, local products, and souvenirs, as well as watch a variety of performances by the locals ranging from Isan folk music to street dances. The walking street is also endowed with numerous scrumptious food and snacks.

Operating Hours: Every Saturday 5.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.



Devalai Shiva Mahadev Khon Kaen

Buddha Monthon Isan

Set in a vast open space along the Khon Kaen Bypass Road, Buddha Monthon Isan (Isan Buddha's Sphere) was constructed to commemorate His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th Birthday Anniversary. Following the same concept as the original Buddha Monthon in Nakhon Pathom province, Buddha Monthon Isan is an enormous Buddhist Park with a gigantic standing Buddha statue. Visitors to Buddha Monthon Isan can pay homage to the 19-metre-tall Buddha image, as well as enjoy a beautiful view of the flower fields surrounding the Buddha image.

Dino Water Park

Covering an area of 64,000 square metres along the Mittraphap Road, Dino Water Park is a great place to beat the heat for the whole family. The water park consists of numerous thrilling rides and exciting water slides; such as, Free Fall and Family Rafting, and those who prefer a less electrifying experience can enjoy spending time in the Wave Pool, which is an amazing artificial beach with waves.

Operating Hours: Monday – Friday 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday 10.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Admission Fee: 600 Baht

Website: www.dinowaterpark.com

Contact: +66 8 5002 6565

Devalai Shiva Mahadev Khon Kaen

Located on Khon Kaen Bypass Road, Devalai Shiva Mahadev Khon Kaen is an enormous park containing sculptures based on belief and faith in Hinduism. The park contains numerous sculptures of Hindu deities including Shiva, Brahma, Ganesha, Krishna, Lakshmi, and Trimurati. Here,

visitors can both witness the incredible works of art as well as learn about Hinduism.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Nam Phong

Phrathat Kham Kaen

Situated on the grounds of Wat Chetiyaphum, Phrathat Kham Kaen is one of the most highly revered places of worship in Khon Kaen. Legend has it that a Khmer King assigned 9 senior monks to bring the relics of the Lord Buddha to be enshrined in Phrathat Phanom in Nakhon Phanom province. The monks stopped and spent a night by a dead tamarind tree, on which the relics were placed, before continuing their journey to Nakhon Phanom on the next day. Once they reached Nakhon Phanom, they learned that the construction of Phrathat Phanom had already been completed, the monks therefore decided to bring the relics back to their hometown. On their way back, they passed the spot they stayed overnight and were surprised to find that the dead tamarind tree was miraculously budding fresh leaves again. Upon seeing this, the monks decided to build a stupa here to enshrine the relics and named the stupa 'Phrathat Kham Kean', which means the stupa of tamarind heartwood.

It is believed that Phrathat Kham Kaen was built before the founding of Khon Kaen town, as the town was named 'Kham Kaen' after the chedi, and over the years, has changed to 'Khon Kaen'. Phrathat Kham Kaen is also featured in the Khon Kaen provincial seal. There is also an annual celebration to pay homage to the Phrathat on the full moon day of the 6th lunar month.



To get there: Phrathat Kham Kaen is around 30 kilometres from Khon Kaen city centre. Take Highway 209 (Khon Kaen-Kalasin) and turn left after crossing the Nam Phong River and follow the sign to Phrathat Kham Kaen.

Amphoe Khao Suan Kwang

Upper Isan Wild Animal Adventure Park Khon Kaen-Udon Thani (Khao Suan Kwang Zoo)

Covering an area of 4,696 rai (7.95 square kilometres) of Khao Suan Kwang National Forest Reserve of Khon Kaen province and Non Sa-at National Forest Reserve of Udon Thani province, the Upper Isan Wild Animal Adventure Park Khon Kaen-Udon Thani is also known as Khao Suan Kwang Zoo or Khon Kaen Zoo. The Zoo aims to be an educational park, a wildlife conservation centre, a wildlife captive breeding centre, and an ecotourism and adventure tourism attraction, based on the sufficiency economy concept.

The zoo is beautifully designed to emulate the conditions of the natural habitats to provide visitors with a natural classroom to explore and learn about a variety of wildlife. One of the highlights is Thung Saen Kwang, a park where visitors can get an up close experience petting and feeding the deer. There is also a Water Park that allows visitors to escape the heat and enjoy a refreshing and fun swim and rides.

Operating Hours: Every day 8.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Admission Fee: 150 Baht

Website: www.khonkaen.zoothailand.org

Contact: +66 8 6455 6341, +66 8 6459 4192

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Udon Thani and turn right at

the Khao Suan Kwang Intersection. The Zoo is around 50 kilometres from the Khon Kaen city centre.

Amphoe Ubolratana

Ubolratana Dam

Also known as Phong Nip Dam, Ubolratana Dam was built across the Phong River at the pass that connects Phu Kao and Phu Phan Kam mountains. After two years of construction, the dam was completed in 1966 and was given a royal permission to use the name ‘Ubolratana’ Dam in honour of Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya. Ubolratana Dam is the largest multi-purpose dam in the Northeastern region that helps the people by generating hydroelectric power, preventing floods, and sustaining water supply for irrigation, fisheries, and transportation. The Dam also serves as a tourist attraction in which visitors can indulge in the mesmerising view of the dam, while spending time in the park by the dam. The dam also offers restaurants serving delicious food, accommodation, and boat rental. Located within the area is also a golf course for golf enthusiasts.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Udon Thani for around 26 kilometres and turn left between 470 and 471 kilometres. Proceed for another 24 kilometres. The Ubolratana Dam is around 50 kilometres from Khon Kaen city centre.

Interesting tourist attraction are as follows:

Phra Phuttha Siri Sattarat or Luangpho Chet Kasat Enshrines at Sala Phra Phuttha Siri Sattarat (Phra Phuttha Siri Sattarat Pavilion) is a replica of Phra Phuttha Siri Sattarat or Luangpho Chet Kasat. The original Luangpho Chet Kasat is an 800-year-old Buddha image seated under seven





Ubolratana Dam

headed Naga. Luangpho Chet Kasat is believed to be able to grant auspiciousness and influence rainfalls. The replica of Luangpho Chet Kasat was constructed in 1999 to be enshrined here with the belief that the Buddha image would help provide water and abundance to the area around Phong River, as well as grant luck and safety to the worshippers. Apart from paying homage to Luangpho Chet Kasat, visitors can also enjoy a panoramic view of the natural beauty surrounding the Ubolratana Dam.

To get there: From inside the area of the Ubolratana Dam, follow the road along the top of the dam and cross the Phong River Bridge for around 1 kilometre to reach the pavilion that enshrines Luangpho Chet Kasat.

Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Phan Kham Located on the hillside of Phu Phan Kham Mountain, Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Phan Kham features a gigantic 14-metre-tall white Buddha image called Phra Buddha Uttara Maha Mongkhon Ubonrat or Luangpho Yai or Luangpho Khao. A flight of 1,049 stairs, flanked by Nagas, leads to the temple front, but visitors can also choose to drive up to the temple instead. Apart from Luangpho Yai, the temple also contains the replica of the Lord Buddha's footprint, which is housed in a square-shaped Mondop (pavilion). Visitors can also get a bird's eye view of the beautiful natural scenery from the temple.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mitrphap Road) heading towards Udon Thani for around 26



Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park

kilometres and turn left between 470 and 471 kilometres. Proceed for another 24 kilometres. Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Phan Kham is located on the left, around 450 metres before the entrance to the Ubolratana Dam.

Bang Saen II and Hat Chom Thong Even though Khon Kaen is located in the Northeastern region, which is not near the ocean, the locals and visitors can also enjoy the laid-back ambience similarly to going to the Bang Saen Beach in Pattaya by visiting Bang Saen II and Hat Chom Thong (Chom Thong Beach).

The two freshwater beaches are part of the lake over the Ubolratana Dam, and offer a variety of water sports and recreation activities; such as, banana boat, water bicycle, and scooters. Visitors can also enjoy delicious seafood dishes at a number of floating raft restaurants that lined the beaches. The atmosphere around the beaches is particularly beautiful when the sun approaches the water and sets behind the mountain ranges.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Udon Thani for around 26 kilometres and turn left between 470 and 471 kilometres. Proceed for another 22 kilometres and turn left at the junction to Bang Saen II.

Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park

Covering an area of 320 square kilometres in Amphoe Ubolratana of Khon Kaen province and Amphoe Non Sang of Nong Bua Lam Phu province, Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park was declared a National Park in 1985. The Park comprises two sandstone mountains – Phu Kao Mountain on the western section and Phu Phan Kham Mountain on the eastern section, both of which are blanketed by dry evergreen forest, mixed deciduous forest, and dry dipterocarpus forest. The Park headquarters is at Phu Phan Kham, near the lake over the Ubolratana Dam, which is particularly picturesque during sunset. Other interesting attractions within the Park include Ho Sawan Viewpoint, which is located on Phu Kao mountain range and offering a panoramic view of Ubolratana Dam and Nong Bua Lam Phu province, and Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Kao that features ancient human and dog's footprints. There are also places where visitors can observe dinosaur footprints and prehistoric cave paintings. Accommodation and camping grounds are available within the National Park.

To get there: Take Highway 2019 (Khon Kaen-Ubolratana Dam) for around 50 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2146 (Ubolratana-Non Sang) for 6 kilometres to arrive at the Park.

Admission Fee: 100 Baht

Website: portal.dnp.go.th

Contact: +66 2562 0760

Chong Khao Khat Viewpoint

A spot that offers a panoramic view of Ubolratana Dam, Chong Khao Khat Viewpoint is easily accessible on the ridge of the Phu Phan Kham Mountain along the Highway 2146 from Khon Kaen to Nong Bua Lam Phu, just before the entrance to the Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park. It is best to visit the Viewpoint during late afternoon to enjoy a spectacular view of sun turning the sky into orange colour and slowly sinking into the calm water.

To get there: Take Highway 2019 (Khon Kaen-Ubolratana Dam) for around 50 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2146 (Ubolratana-Non Sang) for about 5 kilometres, the Chong Khao Khat Viewpoint is located before the turn to the entrance of the Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park.

Amphoe Nong Ruea

Nam Phong National Park

Covering an area of 6 Amphoes in Khon Kaen province and 2 Amphoes in Chaiyaphum province, Nam Phong National Park has a total area of 197 square kilometres. Around 80 percent of the Park is blanketed by deciduous dipterocarp forest, while the rest of the area consists of mixed forest, grassland forest, and bamboo forest. The Park is the source of many rivers; such as, Phong River, Choen River, and Chi River, and is named after the Phong River that flows into the Ubolratana Dam.

Some of the popular attractions within the Nam Phong National Park include:

Hin Chang Si Consists of a group of rock formations, Hin Chang Si has got its name from the evidence that the wild elephants had come to rub their body against the rock and left soil on it. Situated around this area is the Hua Kalok Viewpoint, a vast plain of rock that offers a 360-degree stunning scenery of ever green forest, Khon Kaen City, and Ubolratana Dam. The viewpoint is also the best place in the Nam Phong National Park to view sunrise and sunset. Other attractions within the area of Hin Chang Si include the rock cavity filled with water and the natural salt lick. Hin Chang Si is located around 8 kilometres from Sok Tae Reforestation Park and is accessible by car, or around 2 hours on foot from the Nam Phong National Park headquarters.

Phalan Chat or Lan Chat A large plain of rock with the tree named 'Chat' growing on it, Phalan Chat or Lan Chat offers a beautiful view of the exotic forested area of the Park. Phalan Chat is located around 30 minutes on foot from Hin Chang Si.

Pha Sawan Pha Sawan or Heaven Cliff is a large shelf of rock that jutted out from the rocky landscape, offering a beautiful view of the Ubolratana Dam and the surrounding forested area. Pha Sawan is located around 3 kilometres north of Hin Chang Si, but the trail is quite difficult, therefore it is best for visitors to plan an overnight stay.

Kham Phon Kham Phon is a circular rock hole similar to a crater that has a diameter of 5 metres and is 1.5 metres deep. It is believed that a continuous erosion of sand caused this pothole or that this might be a crater in the past.

Pha Famue Daeng Pha Famue Daeng (Red Palm Cliff) showcases 3,000-4,000 years old cliff paintings depicting way of life of people in the prehistoric period. The cliff has got its name from one of the paintings, which is the hand print. It is believed that during that time, the ancient people covered their hand with red colour and applied it to the rock surface. The cliff is located around 5 kilometres from the Park headquarters.

Phu Meng Summit Situated to the south of the Park headquarters, the summit is endowed with wildlife and herbs, making it a great place for those who are interested in exploring the nature and various kinds of herbs.

To get there: Take Highway 12 heading to Amphoe Chum Phae and turn right at 30th km. marker. Proceed for another 19 kilometres to arrive at the Park headquarter, which is situated by the lake over the Ubolratana Dam. This route is 49 kilometres. Alternatively, visitors can take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Udon Thani and turn left to Amphoe Ubolratana. Then, turn right onto Highway 3034 (Nong Saeng-Tha Ruea) and continue along the Ubolratana Dam for 20 kilometres to arrive at the Park headquarters. The total distance for this route is 65 kilometres.

Admission Fee: 100 Baht

Website: portal.dnp.go.th

Contact: +66 2562 0760



Amphoe Wiang Kao

Phu Wiang National Park

Phu Wiang National Park, covering an area of 380 square kilometres, is best known for the dinosaur discovery and the outstanding paleontological sites. In 1976, a group of geologist conducting a uranium survey discovered a piece of bone, which was examined by French specialists and found that it was a left knee bone of a dinosaur. After that, the excavation began and several fossils and dinosaur bones were uncovered.

At the first paleontological site on a hill called 'Pratu Ti Ma', a group of paleontologists discovered a 15-metre-long Sauropod (herbivorous dinosaur with long neck and tail), which have never been found anywhere else before. It was named *Phuwiangosaurus sirindhornae*, after the district of Phu Wiang where it was discovered, and to honour Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. At the same site, over ten teeth of carnivorous dinosaur have been found, and one of the teeth was different. Once again, the teeth belonged to a new species of dinosaur that have never been found before, so it was named *Siamosaurus suteethorni* after the discoverer, Mr. Warawuth Suteethorn. In 1996, fossils of *Siamotyrannus isanensis* were unearthed in the Park, and it was discovered that these fossils are amongst the oldest dinosaur remains found, as it can be dating back 120-130 million years. The discovery indicated that the tyrannosaurus originated in Asia. These fossils are now displayed in the museum of the Department of Mineral Resources in Bangkok.



Phu Wiang National Park

Apart from exploring 4 paleontological sites (Site 1, Site 2, Site 3, and Site 9) that are found along the natural walking trail, visitors can also visit other attractions within the Phu Wiang National Park including:

Dinosaur Footprints Around Site 8, there are about 70 footprints of dinosaurs, which are believed to be dating back 140 million years ago. Most of the footprints belong to the world's smallest species of carnivorous dinosaur that walked on two legs. Among these footprints, there is one bigger footprint that is assumed to belong to *Carnotaurus*. To see the dinosaur footprints, visitors are recommended to take a

Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum



four-wheel drive vehicle, as the site is located 19 kilometres on a rugged road from the Park headquarters.

Phra Phutthasaiyat The cliff carving of Phra Phutthasaiyat or Reclining Buddha is situated on the crest of Phu Wiang Mountain, around 650 metres above sea level. Although the 3.75-metre-long Buddha image was carved in the style of Dvaravati art during the 9th century, the carving is still in good condition.

Tham Famue Daeng Tham Famue Daeng or Red Palm Cave is 50 metres long and houses prehistoric paintings in the shape of hands in red.

Tham Khon Non Tham Khon Non (Sleeping Human Cave) features several prehistoric paintings of lines, dots, and crosses on sandstone.

Namtok Thap Phaya Suea Located near Tham Famue Daeng, Namtok Thap Phaya Suea is a two-tiered waterfall with a beautiful walking trail.

Namtok Tat Fa Namtok Tat Fa is a 15-metre-high waterfall located to the north of Phu Wiang mountain range. This waterfall can be accessed by car and there is also a camping ground nearby.

Thung Yai Sao Aram Located near Namtok Tat Fa, Thung Yai Sao Aram is a vast field of grassland and rock plateau on Phu Wiang Mountain that is especially picturesque with a carpet of wild flowers in full bloom during the end of the rainy season.

To get there: Take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Wiang Kao for around 48 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2038. Proceed for around 37 kilometres to arrive at the Phu Wiang National Park headquarters.

Admission Fee: 200 Baht

Website: portal.dnp.go.th

Contact: +66 2562 0760

Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum

A part of the Phu Wiang Dinosaur Fossil Study and Research Centre, the Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum was established with an aim to be an educational centre for those interested in geology, mineral resources, and dinosaurs. The exhibitions inside the Museum include the Origin of the Universe, solar system, and displays of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Visitors can also explore the world of dinosaurs through the detailed and well-presented explanation of the origin and evolution of dinosaurs, as well as the story about the discovery of dinosaurs in Phu Wiang. The Museum also features several life-sized motorised dinosaurs.

To get there: Take the same route as the Phu Wiang National Park. Take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Wiang Kao for around 48 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2038. Proceed for around 34 kilometres to arrive at the Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum, which is located around 3 kilometres before the Phu Wiang National Park headquarters.

Operating Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Admission Fee: 60 Baht

Contact: +66 4343 8204-6

Si Wiang Dinosaur Park

Si Wiang Dinosaur Park is an enormous park situated against the backdrop of the Phu Wiang mountain range enroute from Khon Kaen city centre to Phu Wiang National Park. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing stroll around the park, which comprises waterfall, pond, garden, playground,

and countless life-sized models of dinosaur, some of which can move and produce sounds. The dinosaurs displayed at the Park are the species found in the Northeast of Thailand.

To get there: Take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Wiang Kao for around 48 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2038. Proceed for around 25 kilometres to find the Si Wiang Dinosaur Park on the left.

Wat Tham Pha Koeng

is a Buddhist Park set in a serene setting that contains a big wooden Sala (pavilion), which is constructed with the helping hands of the local community. Enshrined in the Sala is a highly revered wood carved Buddha image. Located within the ground of the temple is a gigantic golden Buddha image named Phra Phuttha Samrit Phon, which is 26 metres tall and 19 metres wide. At the front of the Buddha image are numerous Naga sculptures, and at the base of the Buddha image is a 3-storey pavilion in which visitors can go inside and pay homage to the black Buddha image housed inside.

To get there: Take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Wiang Kao for around 48 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2038. Proceed for around 37 kilometres to arrive at Wat Tham Pha Koeng.

Amphoe Chum Phae

Phu Pha Man National Park

Phu Pha Man National Park covers the area of 350 square kilometres at an elevation ranges from 200 to 800 metres above sea level in Amphoe Chum Phae and Amphoe Phu Pha Man of Khon Kaen province and Amphoe Phu Kradueng of Loei province. The Park was named 'Phu Pha Man' (Curtain Cliff Mountain) after the

landmark of the Park, located in the south of the Park, which is the towering limestone cliff that resembles a huge curtain. The National Park is equipped with accommodation and camping grounds.

Made up of rugged limestone mountains and evergreen and mixed deciduous forests, Phu Pha Man National Park boasts several amazing attractions including:

Tham Phaya Nakharat Known as the most beautiful cave in the Phu Pha Man National Park, Tham Phaya Nakharat (King of Nagas Cave) is a one-kilometre-long cave that winds its way like a giant naga. All the chambers features mesmerising curtain-like stalagmites and stalactites that glitter in the dark. Tham Phaya Nakharat is conveniently accessible as cars can reach up to the entrance of the cave.

Tham Lai Thaeng Tham Lai Thaeng (Map Cave) features ancient paintings on the two-square metre wall in which in the past, people believed it was a map to treasures, hence the name of the cave. The paintings date back to over 2,000 years ago, and comprise around 70 pictures of humans, animals, and other shapes that depict the culture and way of life in the prehistoric period.

Tham Phra Tham Phra (Buddha Cave) comprises stunning stalagmites, stalactites, and big stone pillars and houses several Buddha images. The cave entrance can be accessed by car.

Tham Phu Ta Lo A cave with spacious room that can fit up to 1,000 people, Tham Phu Ta Lo was named after a hunter who discovered the cave. The high ceiling of the cave provides good ventilation, which allows visitors to admire the remarkably beautiful stalagmites and stalactites comfortably. The cave can be visited all



Phu Pha Man National Park

year round, but cars can access up to the cave entrance only in the dry season, which is from November to April.

Namtok Tat Fa Originates from Tat Fa Creek, the natural borderline between Amphoe Phu Pha Man of Khon Kaen province and Amphoe Nam Nao of Phetchabun province, Namtok Tat Fa is an impressive five-tiered waterfall in which the last tier has a height of 80 metres. The waterfall is located around 40 kilometres from Amphoe Phu Pha Man, and cars can reach up to Ban Tat Fa and then visitors have to trek to the waterfall. The best time to visit Namtok Tat Fa is during rainy season, which is from late May to early October.

Namtok Tat Yai The highest waterfall in the Phu Pha Man National Park, Namtok Tat Yai also

originates from the Tat Fa Creek. The elegant waterfall resembles a giant curtain with water cascading through several small tiers before plunging through a big cliff of 80 metres high.

Namtok Tat Rong Serves as the natural border between Phu Kradueng National Park and Phu Pha Man National Park, Namtok Tat Rong is also known as Namtok Tat Hong and has its source from Phong River that runs from Phu Kradueng. An old story has it that the waterfall can sing as the water runs pass the rocks and falls into different rock holes to create echoing sounds throughout the forest.

Tham Pu Lup Situated along the Highway 201 not far from the Phu Pha Man National Park headquarters, Tham Pu Lup is a beautiful cave with five chambers that are filled with glistening





Wat Sa Thong Ban Bua

stalagmites and stalactites. It is believed that the cave was named after a hermit called 'Lup', who meditated in this cave until he attained a strong enchantment. After he passed away, the local people built a shrine dedicated to him at the entrance of the cave and named the cave 'Tham Pu Lup'.

Pha Nok Khao Standing majestically along Highway 201 by the Phong River, Pha Nok Khao (Owl Cliff) has got its name from the feature of the black cliff that resembles an owl spreading its wings. To get the best view of the owl-shaped cliff, visitors are recommended to go to the orchid nursery of the Forestry Department, located on the other side of the road.

Tham Pha Phuang A grandiose limestone cave, Tham Pha Phuang is also known as Tham Roi

Phuang. The prominent feature of the cave is the astonishing stalagmites and stalactites within the cave chambers. The ceiling of the cave collapsed, creating a chimney-like trail that enables visitors to walk up to the summit to observe the incredible view of the surroundings.

To get there: There are two routes to get to the Phu Pha Man National Park.

The first route is to take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Chum Phae for around 92 kilometres and turn right to continue onto Highway 201. Proceed further and turn left around the 112 and 113 kilometres markers and follow the sign for around 5 kilometres to arrive at the Phu Pha Man National Park Headquarters.

The second route is to take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Chum Phae for around

92 kilometres and turn right to continue onto Highway 201. Proceed for 10 kilometres and turn left heading towards the Phu Pha Man District Office.

Admission Fee: 100 Baht

Website: portal.dnp.go.th

Contact: +66 2562 0760

Amphoe Phu Pha Man

Tham Khangkhao

Situated in Phu Pha Man Mountain and is a part of the Phu Pha Man National Park, Tham Khangkhao (Bat Cave) is home to millions of bats in which visitors are recommended to visit the cave at around 6 p.m. to witness the bats leaving the cave in line of over 10 kilometres long. The process lasts around 30-45 minutes.

To get there: Take Highway 12 heading towards Amphoe Chum Phae for around 92 kilometres and turn right to continue onto Highway 201. Proceed for 10 kilometres and turn left heading towards the Phu Pha Man District Office. Tham Khangkhao is situated around 2.5 kilometres from the Phu Pha Man District Office.

Wat Sa Thong Ban Bua

A recipient of a 2002 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation Award of Merit, the ancient Sim that is situated within the grounds of Wat Sa Thong Ban Bua is noted for its outstanding Isan-style architecture. The mural paintings on the exterior display simple pictures of elephants and human figures using bas-relief technique, with the use of glass beads and mirrors. The Sim also houses a rare Isan-style Buddha image made of sandstone.

To get there: Take Highway 12 (Khon Kaen-

Chum Phae) for around 12 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2062. Proceed for 42 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 229 at the Mancha Khiri intersection. Continue for 1 kilometre and turn right near Mancha Khiri Hospital and follow the road for 2 kilometres to arrive at Wat Sa Thong Ban Bua.

Ban Nong Ya Plong

Ban Nong Ya Plong is a serene village in Khon Kaen that is renowned for the beautiful hand-woven silk textiles that are produced with Eri silk yarn. The Eri silk is made from cassava-fed silkworms, and is lightweight, has non-glossy texture, and does not develop wrinkle easily, making it a popular choice of silk. The silk products produced at Ban Nong Ya Plong are not only beautiful, but they are of high quality, in which a variety of products; such as, shawl and hat, are exported to international markets including Japan and Scotland. Ban Nong Ya Plong is the only village that produces hand-spun Eri silk yarn, and is also where visitors can observe the complete process of producing Eri silk. Almost every household in the village is involved in the Eri silk production, ranging from cultivating the cassavas to rearing silkworms, hand-spinning the silk yarns, dyeing the silk yarns with natural dyes, and weaving the silk threads into beautiful textiles. Apart from exploring the local wisdom and observing the entire Eri silk producing techniques, visitors can also purchase the products home.

To get there: Take Highway 12 (Khon Kaen-Chum Phae) for around 12 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2062. Proceed for 32 kilometres and turn right onto the rural road. Continue for 4 kilometres further to arrive at Ban Nong Ya Plong.

Sala Mai Thai

Sala Mai Thai (Thai Silk Pavilion) was established to celebrate the 60th birthday anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and to support Her Majesty's mission to conserve the timeless cultural heritage of silk weaving and promote silk products from Isan. Situated within the area of Khon Kaen Vocational College, Sala Mai Thai comprises an exhibition of the silk production process, from tying and dyeing, to weaving, as well as the display of tools and equipment used in silk production. Apart from learning the step-by-step silk-making process, visitors can also witness the collection of ancient silk textiles, silk textiles with a variety of unique patterns created by the local weavers, and award-winning silk textiles woven by the Chonnabot villagers at the museum within Sala Mai Thai.

The centre also teaches the art of silk weaving to local women and children to conserve and pass on the legacy, as well as serves as a centre that distributes the products made by the local artisans to help generate income for the community. Aside from exploring the silk-making process and observing the marvelous silk collection, visitors can buy an array of hand-woven silk products at Sala Mai Thai as well.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for 45 kilometres and turn right at the Ban Phai Intersection onto Highway 229. Continue for 12 kilometres to find Sala Mai Thai on the left.

Operating Hours: Every day 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Thanon Sai Mai

Si Bun Rueang Road, located not far from Sala Mai Thai, was given another name as 'Thanon Sai Mai' or 'Silk Road' because this road is where visitors can find countless shops selling silk and

textiles lining on both sides. The shops offer a wide selection of textiles including silk fabrics and ready to wear clothing, produced by the Chonnabot villagers.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for 45 kilometres and turn right at the Ban Phai Intersection onto Highway 229. Continue for 10 kilometres and turn right to Si Bun Rueang Road.

Ban Don Kha

The villagers of Ban Don Kha have been weaving Mudmee silk for over 200 years and they are famous for the 'Noppaklao' Mudmee pattern, which combined 9 different motifs in one pattern. Apart from the exquisite Noppaklao Mudmee silk, Ban Don Kha is also known for being an environmentally friendly community that produces textiles using organic silk thread and dyes obtained from natural resources. A homestay accommodation is available for visitors to get the opportunity to live with the locals, explore their local way of life, and learn the time-honoured local wisdom of producing Mudmee silk that has been passed on for many generations.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for 45 kilometres and turn right at the Ban Phai Intersection onto Highway 229. Continue for 10 kilometres and turn right to Si Bun Rueang Road. Proceed for around 1 kilometre and turn left to continue on the road for around 250 metres to arrive at Ban Don Kha.

Amphoe Pueai Noi

Prasat Pueai Noi

Dating back to the 11th-12th century, Prasat Pueai Noi or Phrathat Ku Thong is a Khmer ruin that was used as a religious sanctuary. Although



Prasat Pūeal Noi

smaller than other Khmer ruins in Northeastern region of Thailand, Prasat Pueai Noi remains in good condition and showcases the richness in architectural details. Prasat Pueai Noi contains three brick buildings constructed in Baphuon and Angkor Wat architectural styles. The construction was made according to the style of the ancient Khmer religious site that symbolises Mount Sumeru, the centre of the cosmos where the gods stay. The gable of the Prang Prathan (principal tower) was delicately carved in the shape of Naga, whereas the stone lintel was engraved with the reclining Narayana, which still remains in good condition.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for 44 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 23. Continue for 13 kilometres and turn right at the km. 13 marker onto Highway 2301. Proceed for 7 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2297

heading towards Amphoe Pueai Noi. Follow the road for 14 kilometres to find Prasat Pueai Noi on the right.

Amphoe Nong Song Hong

Wat Sa Bua Kaeo

Situated at Ban Wang Khun, Wat Sa Bua Kaeo is noted for the exquisite mural paintings and sculptural works displayed at the Sim (ordination hall), which was built in 1931 by a veteran monk named Luangpho Phui. The Sim is constructed of brick covered with stucco, and at the foot of the small stairways in front of the Sim entrance are sculptures of crouching lion created by Luangpho Phui. The mural paintings on four sides of the wall, both exterior and interior, depicted the local way of life, Jataka tales (story about the life of the Lord Buddha), myth of heaven and hell, as well as folktales.



A mural painting in Wat Sa Bua Kaeo



Wat Sanuan Wari Phatthanaram

The most prominent feature of the mural paintings is the use of Sinthao line, a flash-shaped pattern that is widely used in murals during the Ayutthaya and Rattanakosin periods. Other interesting aspects are the unique brushwork similar to Western impressionist art, and the use of colours including yellow, indigo, red ochre, green, blue, and black.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for 75 kilometres and turn left at the Phon Intersection onto Highway 207. Continue for 17 kilometres and turn right between km. 27 and km. 28 markers and proceed for another 1 kilometre to arrive at Wat Sa Bua Kaeo.

Amphoe Ban Phai

Wat Sanuan Wari Phatthanaram

Wat Sanuan Wari Phatthanaram is notable for

the ancient Sim (ubosot) that showcases the distinctive Hup Taem (mural painting) on both the inside and outside walls. The Hup Taem on the walls inside the Sim depicted the scenes from Vessantara Jataka tale (story about the life of Lord Buddha) whereas the outside walls are covered with scenes from 'Sin Sai' epic, which is one of the most famous tales in the Northeastern region. The mural paintings at this temple are mostly in indigo colour, with a selective use of green, yellow, and brown. Even though the style of mural paintings here is not as complex as those in the Central region, the beauty of simplicity and creativity have made the Hup Taem here to be truly one of a kind.

To get there: Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Amphoe Ban Phai for 45 kilometres. After proceeding on Highway 2

and passing Ban Phai Intersection for around 1 kilometre, turn right at the turn off and follow the road for around 2 kilometres to arrive at Wat Sanuan Wari Phatthanaram.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dok Khun Siang Khaen and Khao Niao Road Festival

The Dok Khun Siang Khaen and Khao Niao Road festival is an important festival that is held during the Songkran Festival (Thai New Year period, which is around 13-15 of April) of every year. 'Dok Khun' is 'Golden Shower' Flower, which is the provincial flower of Khon Kaen, while 'Siang Khaen' refers to the 'sound of kaen' (kaen is a free reed bamboo mouth organ). During the festival, the area around Bueang Kaen Nakhon and Si Chan Road (also known as Khao Niao Road or Sticky Rice Road), is filled with people coming to celebrate the Thai New Year. The celebration ranges from merit making to ritual bathing of the Buddha image, local entertainments, and the fun-filled water splashing activity.

Date: on 13-15 April

Venue: Bueng Kaen Nakhon and Khao Niao Road (Si Chan Road)

Phrathat Kham Kaen Fair

Phrathat Kham Kaen is highly revered by the local people of Khon Kaen and every year on the full moon day of the 6th lunar month, the fair is organised for people to pay homage to the Phrathat. The fair also features cultural performances and stall selling local products.

Date: on Full moon day of the 6th lunar month

Venue: Wat Chetiyaphum

International Silk Festival, Phuk Siao Tradition, and Red Cross Fair

Khon Kaen is known far and wide as the centre of silk production, which is an ancient local wisdom that has been passed on for many generations. Apart from silk production, the people of Khon Kaen also practise a unique tradition called 'Phuk Siao', which is a local tradition of the Northeastern region to bond friendship. The 12-day festival combines both distinctive traditions to promote and conserve the exquisite cultural heritage of Khon Kaen and features several activities; such as, exhibition of silk products, Phuk Siao tradition, local product contests, stalls selling silk products and local products, and cultural performances.

Date: on 29 November – 10 December

Venue: In front of Khon Kaen City Hall

Amazing International Flower Festival

The Amazing International Flower Festival takes place annually at Bueng Thung Sang and displays a comprehensive collection of magnificent winter, tropical, and exotic flowers, as well as beautiful decorative plants. The area of the park at Bueng Thung Sang becomes an open-air exhibition centre, where visitors can enjoy strolling amidst the floral splendor.

Date: on 17 December – 3 January

Venue: Bueng Thung Sang

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Handwoven Textiles

Apart from agricultural activities, textile production is another main source of income for most of the villages in Khon Kaen. The local villagers weave silk and cotton textiles in most households, and the notable villages are situated in





Phuk Siao Tradition

Amphoe Chonnabot and Amphoe Mancha Khiri. Apart from exploring the complete process of textile making, visitors can support the local villagers by purchasing these local products as well.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

3 Days 2 Nights Cultural Route

Day 1

Morning Start off the trip by going to Wat Chetiyaphum in Amphoe Nam Phong to pay homage to Phrathat Kham Kaen, the sacred stupa of the people of Khon Kaen. Proceed to Ku Prapha Chai to explore the beautiful Khmer ruins that dates back to around 800

years ago, before returning to Amphoe Mueang.

Afternoon Visit Wat Nong Waeng to pay homage to the relics of Lord Buddha, which is enshrined within Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon. Call in at Hong Mun Mang to learn more about the history and culture of Khon Kaen. Spend time at Wat Pa Saeng Arun to observe the remarkable Sim Isan (Northeastern-style ordination hall) and explore the culture and way of life people in Isan at the temple's outdoor museum.

Evening Enjoy a stroll along the Khon Kaen Walking Street and buy local



Mudmee Silk

handicrafts, watch local performances, and taste a variety of delicious local delicacies. (Remark: Khon Kaen Walking Street is only opened on Saturday evenings.)

Day 2

Morning Visit Wat Chai Si to view the magnificent Hup Taem (mural painting) before departing for Amphoe Chum Phae. Trace back to the past of Khon Kaen by visiting Non Mueang Ancient Town, situated in Amphoe Chum Phae, which is one of the important archaeological sites in Khon Kaen.

Afternoon Spend the afternoon exploring the world of dinosaurs and uncover how dinosaurs were discovered in Khon Kaen at the Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum and Phu Wiang National Park.

Late Afternoon Make a trip to Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Phan Kham and pay homage to the highly revered Phra Buddha Uttara Maha Mongkhon Ubonrat. Indulge in panoramic view of the Ubolratana Dam and catch a glimpse of the picturesque sunset above the water at the Chong Khao Khat Viewpoint.

Day 3

Morning Make a trip to Amphoe Mancha Khiri to explore the beauty of arts and architecture at Wat Sa Thong Ban Bua, which features terrific Isan-style ordination hall and mural paintings. Travel to Amphoe Chonnabot and begin the journey to the world of silk textiles at Sala Mai Thai in which visitors can enjoy witnessing the exhibition of the silk production process as well as a collection of exceptional ancient silk textiles and award-winning silk textiles.

Afternoon Spend time with the local villagers at Ban Hua Fai to learn about the entire silk production process, from cultivating mulberries to weaving silk. Visit Ban Don Kha to explore how the villagers produce organic Mudmee silk textiles and learn about



the unique Noppakhhlao Mudmee pattern.

Late Afternoon Enjoy shopping an exceptional array of silk textiles at Thanon Sai Mai before leaving Khon Khaen.

2 Days 1 Night Natural Route

Day 1

Morning Make a trip to the Upper Isan Wild Animal Adventure Park Khon Kaen-Udon Thani, also known as the Khao Suang Kwang Zoo, and spend time observing the variety of animals in the natural habitat. Treat yourself to the beautiful scenery of the calm water of the Ubolratana Dam, which is the largest multi-purpose dam in the Northeastern region.

Afternoon Spend the afternoon at Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park, and enjoy exploring various natural and historical attractions within the Park, including the Ho Sawan Viewpoint, Wat Phra Phutthabat Phu Kao, dinosaur footprints, and prehistoric cave paintings.

Day 2

Morning Visit Nam Phong National Park and enjoy exploring a variety of beautiful rock formations as well as the mesmerising scenery of natural wonders at the numerous attractions within the Park including Hin Chang Si and Pha Sawan. Stop by at Pha Famue Daeng (Red Palm Cliff) to view the prehistoric paintings.

Afternoon Travel further to Phu Pha Man National Park, which is endowed with remarkable caves; such as, Tham Phaya Nakharat, Tham Lai Thaeng, Tham Khangkhao, and Tham Pha Phuang as well as astonishing waterfalls; such as, Namtok Tat Fa, Namtok Tat Yai, and Namtok Tat Rong.

GOLF COURSES

Ubolratana Dam Golf Course

Address: Ubolratana Dam, Mu 1, Tambon Khuean Ubolratana, Amphoe Ubolratana

Contact: +66 4334 6233 ext. 2631

Singha Park Khon Kaen Golf Club

Address: 555 Mu 19, Khon Kaen-Maha Sarakham Road, Tambon Tha Phra, Amphoe Mueang Khon Kaen

Website: www.santiburi.com/singhapark

Contact: +66 4320 9000

Military Regiment 8 Golf Course

Address: Siharat Dechochai Camp, Maliwan Road, Tambon Sila, Amphoe Mueang Khon Kaen

Contact: +66 8 1799 1415

Dancoon Golf Club

Address: 222 Mu 2, Tambon Daeng Yai, Amphoe Mueang Khon Kaen

Contact: +66 4325 5107-9

Sri Buriruk Golf Course

Address: 343 Mu 15, Tambon Tha Phra, Amphoe Mueang Khon Kaen

Website: www.sriburirukgolfclub.com

Contact: +66 4330 6059, +66 8 3404 5511



RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATION

For information on restaurants and accommodation, please visit www.tourismthailand.org/khonkaen or contact the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Khon Kaen Office at Tel: +66 4322 7714-5.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Khon Kaen Office
Tel: +66 4322 7714-5

Tourist Police

Tel: 1155, +66 4346 5385

Highway Police

Tel: 1193

Khon Kaen Provincial Police Station

Tel: +66 4322 1162

Khon Kaen Hospital

Tel: +66 4309 0900

Srinagarind Hospital

Tel: +66 4334 8888, +66 4334 83368

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

From Bangkok, take Highway 1 (Phahonyothin Road) and turn right at the km. 107 marker in Saraburi province onto Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road). Continue on Highway 2 passing Nakhon Ratchasima province to arrive at Khon Kaen, a total distance of 449 kilometres.

By Bus

Several non air-conditioned bus, air-conditioned bus, and VIP coaches depart from the Bangkok Bus Terminal (also known as Chatuchak, New Mo Chit, or Mo Chit 2), located on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road, to Khon Kaen daily.

The journey takes around 7 hours. For more information, visit home.transport.co.th.

By Train

Trains to Khon Kaen leave Hua Lamphong Railway Station in Bangkok several times a day. The journey takes around 7-8 hours, depending on the type of the train. For more information, visit www.railway.co.th.

By Air

Three major airlines operate several flights from Bangkok to Khon Kaen daily. Thai Smile Airways (www.thaiairways.com) departs to Khon Kaen from Suvarnabhumi Airport, while Air Asia (www.airasia.com) and Nok Air (www.nokair.com) depart for Khon Kaen from Don Mueang Airport.

Getting around in Khon Kaen

There are several kinds of vehicle available; such as, Tuk Tuk (motorised tricycle) and taxi, but the most common way to get around in Khon Kaen is by getting on the Song Thaeo (a covered pickup truck with two rows of bench). Car or Motorcycle hire services are also available in the city centre. Another way to conveniently get around Khon Kaen is to take the Khon Kaen City Bus, which is an air-conditioned bus with free Wi-Fi service that runs around Khon Kaen city 24 hours a day. The bus operates in two routes with multiple stops and departs the Khon Kaen Bus Terminal 3 every 10 minutes between 6.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. and every 30 minutes between 8.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. The bus fare is 15 Baht for adults and 10 Baht for children. Download the 'KK Transit' application to learn more about the bus route and bus stops, as well as to track the current location of the bus.



Wat Pa Saeng Arun



Wat Pa Phu Kon

Udon Thani



Udon Thani is a large province and serves as a centre of transportation and tourism in the Northeast of Thailand. It portrays a land of forest temples, a gateway to Laos and the Indochina countries, and possesses one of the world's ancient civilisation sites. Also, it is blessed with natural tourist attractions as well as famous for Khit-styled handicraft.

Udon Thani covers an area of approximately 11,730 square kilometres, and its administration is divided into 20 Amphoe (districts): Mueang Udon Thani; Nong Wu So; Nong Han; Ban Phue; Ban Dung; Kumphawapi; Non Sa-at; Phen; Nam Som; Kut Chap; Si That; Wong Sam Mo; Thung Fon; Sang Khom; Chai Wan; Nong Saeng; Na Yung; Phibun Rak; Ku Kaeo and Prachaksinlapakhom.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

The Monument of Krommaluang Prachaksinlapakhom

This Monument is located in the heart of Udon Thani city. Born in 1856 as a son of King Rama IV (Phrabat Somdet Phra Chomkloachao yuhua) and the King's Consort Sangwan (Chao Chom Manda Sangwan), Major General Prince Prachaksinlapakhom (Phon Tri Phra Chao Boromawongthoe Krommaluang Prachaksinlapakhom), as a regent to King Rama V, ruled the Northern Circle (later called the "Udon Circle") during 1893 – 1899. As the founder of Udon town in 1893, he set out the civil administration order and served important official duties for the public benefits. The Monument symbolizes the highest tribute paid to the prince by the people of Udon Thani and the ceremony to worship him is held on 18th January every year.

Nong Prachaksinlapakhom Public Park

Located in the Udon Thani Municipality, this giant pond has existed before the establishment of Udon Thani town. Lying to the west of the town, it was formerly called "Nong Na Klue" (pond of salty water) and later changed to "Nong Prachak" in honor of Major General HRH Prince Prachaksinlapakhom, the founder of Udon Thani town. In 1987, the Udon Thani Municipality improved the pond as a royal tribute to King Rama IX on the auspicious occasion of his 50th birthday anniversary. On an island in the pond, a small garden is filled with decorative and flowering plants, and there is a bridge linking the island with the mainland. Within the park, there is a fountain, a clock tower, and a playground. It serves as a place of recreation and exercise for the public.

Wat Phothisomphon

This temple is located on Pho Si Road in Tambon Mak Khaeng. It was built in the late reign of King Rama V. Maha Ammat Tri Phraya Sisuriya ratchawaranuwat (Phothi Netiphothi), Lord Lieutenant of the Udon Circle persuaded the villagers of Mak Khaeng to build the temple, which was commonly called "Wat Mai." Later, Phra Chao Worawongthoe Krommaluang Chinnawonsiriwat, the Supreme Patriarch, Wat Ratchabophitsathitmahasimaram, named the temple as "Wat Phothisomphon," to commemorate Phraya Sisuriyaratchawaranuwat, the temple builder. Inside, there is also a museum of revered monks famous for meditation.

Udon Thani Museum

Located on Pho Si Road in Rachinuthit Building, this museum was initiated by Mr. Chaiporn Ratananaka, governor of Udon Thani province.

It displays background aspects of Udon Thani, ranging from history, archaeology, natural science, geology, folk history, arts and culture, to the biography and honorable deeds of Krommaluang Prachaksinlapakhom, the founder of Udon Thani town. It's opened everyday except on public holiday. For more information, 8.30 a.m. - 16.30 p.m. Tel: +66 4224 5976.

Wat Matchimawat

This temple is located in Tambon Mak Khaeng. During the reign of King Rama V, Krommaluang Prachaksinlapakhom commanded the construction of a new temple to replace Wat Non Mak Khaeng, the old deserted temple, and named it "Wat Matchimawat." Within its Wihan building, there is a white stone Buddha image under Naga (serpent) protection, or commonly

known as "Luangpho Nak," which has been highly respected by the people of Udon Thani.

Chaopu – Chaoya Chinese Spirit Shrine

This large and beautiful Chinese spirit shrine is located on Nittayo Road behind the train station near Nong Bua Market. Here, there is a small garden beside a lotus pond. Two Chinese pavilions stand in the pond, serving as a view point in pleasant and shady surroundings. The golden dragon of 99 metre-long, to be used during the Thung Si Mueang annual fair in December, is also kept here.

Wat Pa Ban Tat

This temple is located in Tambon Ban Tat. It covers an area of approximately 163 rais and generally features a shady forest. Inside



Udon Thani Museum





Phu Phra Bat Historical Park

its compound, wild animals are in abundance: pheasant, red jungle fowl, birds, squirrel, tree shrew, common wild pig etc. The temple is also a residence of Phra Achan Maha Bua Yanasampanno, the revered Buddhist master of meditation and a follower of Phra Achan Man Phurithatto, the late master. Here is an ideal place for those who determine to practise Dharma (Lord Buddha's teachings).

To get there: From town, drive along Highway No. 2 (Udon Thani – Khon Kaen) then turn right at Ban Khong Kheng intersection and go further for about 9 kilometres. The temple is not far from the community of Ban Tat.

Historical Tourism and Study Site (Ho Chi Minh)

is located in Ban Nong Hang (Nong On) Mu 4, Tambon Chiang Phin. It was a residence of Uncle Ho, who later became President Ho Chi Minh of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), in 1928, when he came to stay in Udon Thani for carrying political campaigns and asking for support from the Vietnamese who lived in Udon Thani in his fight for the independence of Vietnam from France. He built a house, planted vegetables, raised chickens and pigs while educating the Vietnamese and training his followers to fight against France. He took the Vietnamese to help in the construction of Wat Phothi Somphon and

Wat Ban Chik at the beginning of 1929. Then, he travelled to Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom before his return to Vietnam. He had fought against the French troops until regaining independence on 2nd September, 1945. He was named as President on 2 March, 1946, and died in 1969.

OUT-OF-CITY ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Ban Phue

Phu Phra Bat Historical Park

This historical park is located at the foot of Mount Phu Phan, covering an area of 3,430 rai in Ban Tio, Tambon Mueang Phan. It displays the civilisation of mankind and changes in landscape of which structure is mostly composed of sandstone having been eroded by nature to become rock formations of different sizes and patterns. There are various interesting places as evidence of human life in the past:

Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok This Buddha's footprint, built during 1920 – 1934, is on the left side of the way to the park headquarters. "Bua Bok" is a name of the plant growing in the forest and having leaves in the shape of a lotus leaf, locally called "Phak Nok." The plant was abundant in the area where the Buddha's footprint was found, so it has become the name of the place, or the name may originate from the words "Bo Bok," which mean "not being dry." The footprint features a bowl of around 60 cm. deep in the rocky ground, 1.93 m. long and 90 cm. wide. Formerly, a Mondop structure was built to house the footprint. In 1922, Phra Achan Sithat Suwanmacho replaced the Mondop with a pagoda called Phra That Chedi, and created a replica of the footprint to put on the existing one. The pagoda where Lord Buddha's relics are



Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok

contained is in the shape of an angular lotus similar to Phra That Phanom. A fair to pay homage to Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok is held during the 13th waxing moon day to the full moon day of the third lunar month every year.

Phra Phutthabat Lang Tao This Buddha's footprint is located to the south of Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok. It is around 25 cm. deep in the rocky ground and has a lotus image carved in relief in the centre. Since it is behind a stone shelter that looks like a turtle (Tao), the footprint is called "Phra Phutthabat Lang Tao."

Caves and Stone Shelters There is a scattering of caves and stone shelters within walking distance in the park area, such as Tham Lai Mue (Lai Mue Cave), Tham Non Sao-e (Non Sao-e Cave), Tham Wua Daeng (Wua Daeng Cave) etc. (These caves were presumed to be a shelter of people in the Stone Age, and they drew figures of things, such as humans, hand, animals, and geometric designs, found in the caves. Stone shelters beautifully created by nature include Khok Ma Thao Barot, Ho Nang Usa, and Bo Nam Nang Usa. There is also a nice rocky ground called "Lan Hin Non Sao-e." These rocky formations enhanced an imagination of the generations after the era to compose the folk legend "Nang Usa – Thao Barot." In addition,

fragments of boundary stone posts and sandstone carved into a Dvaravati-styled Buddha image were found at the stone shelters: Phoeng Hin Wat Pho Ta and Phoeng Hin Wat Luk Khoei. Inside the park, a visitor centre offers information and maps. For more information, contact Tel: +66 4225 0616, +66 4225 1350. Opening hours: 08.00 a.m. – 16.30 p.m. Admission fee: 100 Baht. The park is 67 kilometres from town. Drive along Highway No.2 (Udon Thani – Nong Khai), and turn left at Kilometres 13 to Highway No. 2021. Head for Amphoe Ban Phue for 42 kilometres, turn right and go on for 500 metres. Drive straight along Highway No. 2348 for another 12 kilometres and turn right for approximately 2 kilometres before reaching the park.



Phra Phutthabhat Bua Ban

Phra Phutthabat Bua Ban Located on a hill in Tambon Mueang Phan, this is a site where there is an ancient Buddha's footprint housed in the Ubosot (ordination hall). Many pieces of Bai Sema (boundary stone) were excavated here. They were made of sandstone and carved into images of Thewada (male spirit) and Apsara (woman spirit), which is a mixture of Dvaravati and Lop Buri arts.

Wat Pa Ban Kho

This temple is located in Tambon Khuea Nam. Here, there is Phra Maha That Chedi Chaloe Barami Phra Nawamin, a pagoda that contains Lord Buddha's relics. Inside the pagoda, sculptures depict the history of Lord Buddha, jataka stories, and Buddha images in different attitudes. The temple is ideal for practitioners of Dharma (Buddha's teachings). It has been designated by the Udon Thani Administration Office as the Udon Thani Chaloe Barami Phra Kiat Mind Development Centre. Both Thais and foreigners usually come to practise Dharma here. For more information Tel: +66 8 5453 3245.

To get there: From town, drive along Highway No. 2 (Udon Thani – Nong Khai), turn left at Kilometres 13 to Highway No. 2021 (Udon Thani – Ban Phue) and go further for 20 kilometres. Then, turn right and take another 3 kilometres towards the temple.

Amphoe Na Yung

Na Yung – Nam Som National Park

This national park is located in Ban Sawang, Mu 2, Tambon Na Yung. Attractions of the park are:

Namtok Yung Thong This waterfall is located on the ridge of Mount Phu Phan and Mount Phu Ya U, around 500 m. from the park headquarters. Its stream flows along attractive complicated



Wat Pa Ban Kho

boulders amid the greenery of trees. The small three-tiered waterfall has a pond where visitors can play. In the past, it was a habitat of peafowl, so the waterfall is called "Yung Thong" (golden peafowl).

Pha Daeng Viewpoint This viewpoint is around 1,500 m from the park headquarters and on the nature study trail of Namtok Yung Thong. Pha Daeng is a high steep sandstone cliff overlooking a beautiful panoramic view. Not far from Pha Daeng, there is a small cave where Luang Pu Man Phurithatto used to stay for insight development.



Wat Pa Phu Kon

Namtok Yung Thong Nature Study Trail This walking trail is to offer nature interpretation for visitors along the way through Namtok Yung Thong, Namtok Tat Noi, and Pha Daeng viewpoint, covering the distance of around 2,000 metres.

To get there: From town, go along Udon Thani – Nong Khai Highway for 15 kilometres Turn left to Amphoe Ban Phue and head for Amphoe Nam Som. Turn right at Ban Sam Liam to Amphoe Na Yung and go further for around 15 kilometres Turn right at Ban Sawang and take another 2 km. towards the park headquarters.

Wat Pa Phu Kon

is located in the Pa Na Yung and Pa Nam Som National Forest Reserve in the Ban Na Kham Yai community, Tambon Ban Kong, which occupies

the area of three provinces: Udon Thani, Loei, and Nong Khai. The aims of building the temple are to preserve the abundance of forest and water source, as well as wildlife and variety of plants, also to strengthen Buddhism, and to be a peaceful sanctuary for Dhamma practice. The temple is housing the Buddha's relics enshrined inside the head of the Phra Ruang Rot Si Burapha Buddha image, which is installed as a principal Buddha at the front of the Phra Pathom Rattana Buraphachan Maha Chedi. In addition, this is the place where the 20-metre-long reclining Buddha, Phra Phutthasaiyat Lokanat Satsada Maha Muni is lying exquisitely in the posture of the ultimate nirvana, made of white marble from the city of Carrara in Italy. For more information contact, Tel: +66 8 2835 0668.

To get there: It is 124 kilometres from the city. Follow Highway No. 2 (Udon Thani - Nong Khai) until reaching Kilometres 13, make a left turn onto Highway No. 2021 (Udon Thani - Ban Phue) and head for Ban Na Kham Yai Amphoe Na Yung and turn left to Wat Pa Phu Kon.

Amphoe Nong Han

Ban Chiang National Museum

This museum is located in Ban Chiang, Tambon Ban Chiang. It is an important historical site of Northeast Thailand and Southeast Asia. The Fine Arts Department surveyed and excavated the Ban Chiang archaeological site during 1974-1975. The evidence found revealed the pre-historical age of the site of around 5,600 -1,800 years ago. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) registered the site as a World Heritage Site of history at Carthage, Tunisia in December 1992. The museum is divided into five parts:

Part I: Somdet Phra Srinagarindra Borommaratchachonnani Building This service part consists of a room for selling tickets, books, souvenirs, a meeting room, and a hall for rotational exhibitions.

Part II: Galyani Vadhana Building It displays permanent exhibitions including His Majesty King Bhumibol and Ban Chiang, Ban Chiang archaeological implementations and operations, archaeological excavation pits, artefacts from the archaeological excavations at Wat Pho Si Nai, the prehistorical culture of Ban Chiang, a discovery of the lost Bronze Age, and Ban Chiang: World Heritage and distribution of the Ban Chiang culture.

Part III: Thai Phuan Exhibition Building

There is a display of the history, ways of living,



Ban Chiang National Museum

identity, wisdom, and traditions of the Thai Phuan ethnic minority group of Ban Chiang who had settled here around 200 years ago, and named this village "Ban Chiang." The Thai Phuan people have lived here to the present.

Part IV: Wat Pho Si Nai Excavation Pit This is the first site museum in Thailand, displaying a permanent exhibition of the procedure for archaeological excavation in which the artefacts found in layers of soil have been maintained for visitors to study, which mostly are earthenware buried with corpses.

Part V: Thai Phuan House (A Memorial of the Royal Visit) This house is situated 700 m. away from the Ban Chiang Museum. Formerly, it belonged to Mr. Phot Montriphithak who gave it to the Fine Arts Department. This area is an ancient site where an archaeological excavation was conducted and many ancient objects were found. Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the place on 20 March, 1972.

The house won the award for outstanding conservation of art and architecture in 2007 from the Association of Siamese Architects under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King. To get there: From Udon Thani town, the total distance is around 55 kilometres Take Highway

No. 22 (Udon Thani – Sakon Nakhon). After slightly passing the intersection to Amphoe Ban Dung, a signpost to the museum is on your left. Go on for around 8.2 kilometres before reaching the museum. It opens on Tuesday – Sunday and public holiday from 08.00 – 16.30 hrs. Admission fee: 150 Baht. For more information, Tel: +66 4220 8340 – 41.

A Lake of Pink Water Lilies, Nong Han, Kumphawapi

Nong Han is a natural source of water covering an area of more than 22,500 rai. This lake is rich in various species of fish, birds, and aquatic plants. Its unique ecosystems are of interest to academics both Thais and foreigners who



A Lake of Pink Water Lilies



Kham Chanot

have come to continuously conduct research and study. During October to February of every year, the water lily plants in the lake will grow above the water surface, produce new leaves and buds, and bloom. The blooming season is from December to February. Visitors can admire the beauty of the pink water lilies from 6.00 - 10.00 a.m. A boat service is available at Wat Ban Diam, Mu 5, Tambon Chiang Wae. The boat rent is 300-500 Baht for 10 persons. Contact can be made to the Tourist Boat Service Group at Tel: +66 8 9395 0871.

To get there: Follow Highway 2 (Udon Thani - Khon Kaen) for 32 km. and go on in the direction to Ban Na Di - Ban Nong Mek for about 14 kilometres For more information, Tel: +66 4214 3051.

Amphoe Ban Dung

Kham Chanot

Located at Wat Sirisuttho in Tambon Wang Thong, this sacred place gains respect from villagers in neighbouring areas. It is said to be an entrance to the water world, a legendary place concerning the great Naga (serpent) according to a belief among Lao and Isan villagers. Nowadays, the place is densely covered with Chanot trees, which resemble a mixture of palm and coconut trees. Inside, there is a shrine of Chaopu Sisuttho and a sacred well for worship.

To get there: From Udon Thani town, the total distance is around 101 kilometres Take the Udon Thani – Sakon Nakhon route and turn left to Amphoe Ban Dung, for 84 kilometres



Phu Foi Lom

From Amphoe Ban Dung, drive on another 17 kilometres before reaching Kham Chanot.

Amphoe Nong Saeng

Namtok Than Ngam Forest Park

This forest park is located in Tambon Nong Saeng in the forest areas of Khun Huai Sam Thak and Khun Huai Kong Si, covering an area of 78,125 rai. It was declared as a forest park on 19 December, 1984. Around Than Ngam Waterfall is Mixed Deciduous Forest; major species are Ta baek, Pradu, Daeng, Makha mong, Chingchan, and Krabok. The waterfall contains water at certain times; there is a lot of water during the rainy season.

Interesting points in the forest park include a cliff, a beautiful cave and a stone ground. The stone ground, or commonly called "Lae," covers a large area with a scattering of overlapping giant rocks, and overlooks a scenic view. No accommodation is provided by the park.

Accommodation: Visitors are required to bring their own tents for an overnight stay. For more information, Tel: +66 4222 1725.

To get there: The park is 6 km away from Amphoe Nong Saeng. Three routes are available:

Route I Udon Thani – Ban Lao – Khok Lat – Amphoe Nong Saeng, totalling around 35 kilometres

Route II Udon Thani – Ban Kham Kling – Ban Tat – Amphoe Nong Saeng, totalling around 30 kilometres

Route III Udon – Thani – Huai Koeng – Amphoe Nong Saeng, totalling around 60 kilometres

Phu Foi Lom

This ecotourism site is located in Pa Phan Don – Pakho National Forest Reserve, covering an

area of 192,350 rai on the Phu Phan Noi Range in Tambon Thap Kung. It is considered as one of the best nature study centres of the Northeast region: there are demonstration beds of plants, the Garden of Wild Plants in Celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Sixtieth Birthday Anniversary and a viewpoint overlooking Udon Thani town. Accommodation and camping sites are available for an overnight stay. For more information, Tel: +66 4291 0902, +66 4225 0207, +66 8 9710 2633.

To get there: Drive along the Udon Thani – Loei route and take a turn at Kilometres 9 to Ban Lao.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok Worship Fair

This annual fair is held during the 13th – 15th waxing moon days of the third lunar month with booths of goods and local products for sale. Many visitors from Udon Thani and nearby provinces come to join the fair.

Udon Chinese New Year held in February at the Chaloeam Phra Kiat Intersection (Clock Tower) on Prachak Sinlapakhom Road, features a variety of activities; such as, Chinese food and international food stands, Chinese cultural booth, and entertainment performances from famous artists.

Ban Chiang World Heritage Fair held in February at Ban Chiang Community and Ban Chiang National Museum, Amphoe Nong Han, includes the traditional "Pha Laeng" dinner, light and sound show, and various activities.

Songkran Food Street Mueang Udon

held annually between 12-15 April, at the Nong Prachak Sinlapakhom Public Park, Thesa Road,

features ceremonies of bathing a Buddha image, pouring water onto the elderly and asking for blessings, cooking contest including some unusual food, and selling a variety of food.

Bun Bang Fai Lan Rocket Festival held on every full moon day of the sixth lunar month at Ban That, Amphoe Phen.

Khom Lom Balloon Festival held in November, at Amphoe Phibun Rak.

Loi Krathong Festival held at the Nong Prachak Sinlapakhom Public Park, Thesa Road.

Thung Si Mueang Udon Thani and Mi-khit Cloth Fair This annual fair is held around December. There are booths of goods and local products, such as silk cloth, Khit-pattern woven cloth, hand – woven cloth, Mi-Khit cloth, and a golden dragon show from the Chaopu – Chaoya Chinese Spirit Shrine.

LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SOUVENIRS

Khit-pattern cloth, silk cloth, pottery, Kun Chiang (Chinese sausage), Mu Yong (pork floss), Mu Yo (steamed pork bar), Naem (sour pork) and Maphrao Kaeo (coconut sweet).

Ban Na Kha

Located 16 km from town along the Udon Thani – Nong Khai route (Highway No. 2), this village is on your right, opposite the Na Kha Community School. There is Khit-cloth weaving here and Khit-cloth products are available at reasonable prices. Travel to this village can be made by bus from a bus stop in front of Udon Thani Rajabhat University and Rang-sina Market.

GOLF COURSES

Air Division 23 Golf Course Air Division 23, Thahan Road, Tambon Mak Khaeng, Tel: +66 4225 4118-9.

Sithani Golf Forest 79 Mu 10 Tambon Ban Chan, on the route to Wat Pa Ban Tat, Tel: +66 4221 4130.

Nong Samrong Golf Course the Military Camp Ro. 13 Phan 2, Udon Thani-Nong Samrong Road, Tel: +66 4222 2927.

Udon Golf Club and Resort Kilometres 20, Udon Thani - Loei Road, Tel: +66 4291 0210.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day Trip

Programme I City Tour

- Give morning alms at Wat Pa Ban Tat, Luangta Maha Bua Yannasampanno.
- Pay respect to Chaopu – Chaoya Chinese spirit Shrine.
- Worship the Udon Thani City Pillar Shrine.
- Visit Udon Shunshine Orchid Farm, witness “Sao Noi Udon” dancing plants, and buy Udon Sunshine perfume.
- Sample an Isan-styled meal in town.
- Drop by Ban Na Kha for buying silk, cotton, and Mi-khit cloth.
- Travel back to town.
- Visit Nong Prachak in the evening.





Bun Bang Fai Lan Rocket Festival

Programme II Ban Chiang - Kham Chanot

- Depart from Udon Thani town for Ban Chiang.
- Witness pottery making at Ban Kham O, and painting at Ban Pulu.
- Visit Wat Pho Si Nai archaeological excavation pit.
- Visit Ban Chiang National Museum.
- Lunch.
- Proceed to Amphoe Ban Dung.
- Visit Kham Chanot (Chanot Forest) covering an area of 20 rais and hear the story of ghosts there.
- Travel back to town.

Programme III Phu Phra Bat - Namtok Yung Thong

- Travel from Udon Thani town to Phu Phra Bat Historical Park.
- Visit Phra Phutthabat Bua Bok.
- Visit Phu Phra Bat Historical Park, Ho Nang Usa, and historical paintings.
- Lunch.
- Travel through Amphoe Nam Som to Amphoe Na Yung and visit Namtok Yung Thong.
- Travel back to town.

Programme IV Udon Thani – Nong Khai – Vientiane.

- Depart from Udon Thani town for Nong Khai.



Ban Chiang Pottery

- Pay respect to Luangpho Phra Sai, Wat Pho Chai.
- Travel across the Thai – Lao Friendship Bridge to Vientiane.
- Tour Vientiane.
- Travel back to Nong Khai and drop by Talat Tha Sadet (Tha Sadet Market) for shopping.
- Visit Ban Na Kha for buying silk, Mi-khit, and cotton cloth.
- Travel back to town.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Provincial Public Relations

Tel: +66 4222 3708

Udon Thani Provincial Administration Office

Tel: +66 4222 4573

Bus Terminal

Tel: +66 4234 6888

Udon Thani Train Station

Tel: +66 4222 2061

Udon Thani Hospital

Tel: +66 4224 5555

Panyawet Hospital

Tel: +66 4234 3111

Khai Prachak Hospital

Tel: +66 4234 2777

Ek Udon Hospital

Tel: +66 4234 2555

Udon Thani Police Station

Tel: +66 4222 1077

Highway Police

Tel: 1193, +66 4212 0055-6

Tourist Police

Tel: 1155, +66 4232 8189

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From Bangkok, travel along Highway No. 1 (Phahonyothin Road), switch to Highway No. 2 (Mittraphap Road) at Km. 107 in Saraburi, drive through Nakhon Ratchasima and Khon Kaen before reaching Udon Thani. The total distance is around 564 kilometres

By Bus: There are ordinary and air-conditioned buses plying between Bangkok and Udon Thani every day. The buses leave the Bangkok Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet Road (Mo Chit 2). For further information, contact the Transport Company Limited, Tel: +66 2936 0657 and the Udon Thani Provincial Bus Terminal, Tel: +66 4222 1489, or visit home.transport.co.th.

In addition, there are regular buses leaving Udon Thani every 30 minutes to nearby provinces: Nong Khai, Loei, Khon Kaen, Nong Bua Lam Phu, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, Ubon Ratchathani, Phitsanulok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, etc.

By Train: A train service between Bangkok and Udon Thani is available every day. For more details, contact the Travel Service Unit, State Railway of Thailand (SRT), Tel: 1690, +66 2220 4334, and +66 2220 4444, or visit www.railway.co.th.

By Plane: A daily flight between Bangkok and Udon Thani is offered by the Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI). For detailed information, contact THAI, Tel: +66 2356 1111, or visit www.thaiairways.com. In addition, there are low-cost airlines daily serviced by Thai Air Asia, Tel: +66 2515 9999 or www.airasia.com, and Nok Air, Tel: 1318 or www.nokair.co.th.



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