



# Nakhon Ratchasima







*Heo Suwat Waterfall*

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# Nakhon Ratchasima

## Nakhon Ratchasima







amazing  
**THAILAND**











*Phimai Historical Park*

# Nakhon Ratchasima



Nakhon Ratchasima, also known as 'Khorat', is the largest province of Thailand and is the gateway to the Northeastern region of Thailand. Khorat is blessed with pristine natural resources composing of mountains, forests, waterfalls, and reservoirs, and is home to one of the most famous National Parks in Thailand named 'Khao Yai National Park'. Nakhon Ratchasima is also rich with historical and cultural heritage as traces of Dvaravati and Khmer cultures were found throughout the province.

Several historical parks and archaeological sites within Nakhon Ratchasima, including the renowned Phimai Historical Park and the Ban Prasat Archaeological Site, revealed that the area is proved to be of significant importance during the Khmer Empire. In the past, Nakhon Ratchasima was the important centre of prehistoric communities, and today, it is also a major transportation, industrial, and economic hub of the Northeast.

Apart from the remarkable natural attractions and astonishing historical and cultural attractions, Nakhon Ratchasima is also endowed with numerous fascinating local legacies including unique local way of life and distinctive local handicrafts, particularly Dan Kwian's earthen-wares and Pak Thong Chai's silk textiles.

Located 259 kilometres from Bangkok, Nakhon Ratchasima covers an area of 20,494 square kilometres and comprises 32 Amphoes (districts).

**BOUNDARY**

North	Connects to Chaiphaphum and Khon Kaen
South	Connects to Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, and Sa Kaeo
East	Connects to Buri Ram
West	Connects to Chaiphaphum, Saraburi, and Lop Buri

**Distance from Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima to other Amphoes**

Chaloem Phra Kiat	18 kilometres
Kham Thale So	22 kilometres
Non Thai	29 kilometres
Non Daeng	30 kilometres
Chok Chai	31 kilometres
Pak Thong Chai	34 kilometres
Sung Noen	36 kilometres
Non Sung	37 kilometres
Phra Thong Kham	37 kilometres
Chakkarat	40 kilometres
Sikhio	45 kilometres
Kham Sakaesaeng	50 kilometres
Nong Bunnak	52 kilometres
Khon Buri	58 kilometres
Phimai	60 kilometres
Huai Thalaeng	65 kilometres
Wang Nam Khiao	70 kilometres
Khong	79 kilometres
Dan Khun Thot	84 kilometres
Ban Lueam	85 kilometres
Pak Chong	85 kilometres
Sida	85 kilometres
Soeng Sang	88 kilometres
Thepharak	90 kilometres
Prathai	97 kilometres
Chum Phuang	98 kilometres
Bua Yai	101 kilometres
Bua Lai	106 kilometres
Mueang Yang	110 kilometres
Kaeng Sanam Nang	130 kilometres
Lam Thamenchai	130 kilometres

**HOW TO GET THERE**

*By Car* Three routes can be taken from Bangkok to Nakhon Ratchasima as follows:

Route 1: Take Highway 1 (Phahonyothin Road) and turn right at the 107th Km. marker

in Saraburi province onto Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road). Continue onto Highway 2 to arrive at Nakhon Ratchasima, a total distance of 259 kilometres.

Route 2: Take Highway 304 passing Min Buri, Chacheongsao, Phanom Sarakham, Kabin Buri, Wang Nam Khiao, and Pak Thong Chai to arrive at Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, a total distance of 273 kilometres.

Route 3: Take Highway 305 passing Thanyaburi and Ongkharak to Nakhon Nayok and then turn right onto Highway 33 to Kabin Buri. Proceed further and turn left onto Highway 304 passing Wang Nam Khiao, and Pak Thong Chai to arrive at Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, a total distance of 315 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 Nakhon Ratchasima daily. The journey takes around 4 hours. For more information, visit [www.transport.co.th](http://www.transport.co.th).

**By Train** Trains to Nakhon Ratchasima leave Hua Lamphong Railway Station in Bangkok several times a day. The journey takes around 6 hours, depending on the type of the train. For more information, visit [www.railway.co.th](http://www.railway.co.th).

### **Getting around in Nakhon Ratchasima**

There are several kinds of vehicle available; such as, mini buses, buses, Tuk Tuk (motorised tricycle) and taxi. Car or motorcycle hire services are also available in the city centre.

## **ATTRACTIONS**

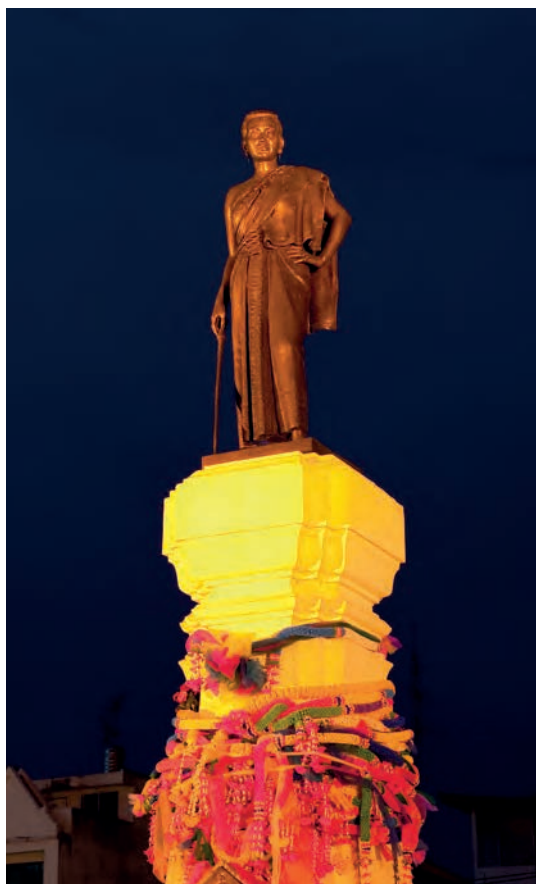
### **Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima Thao Suranari Monument**

Situated at Ratchadamnoen Road, Thao Suranari Monument is a significant landmark of Khorat and a memorial to honour a heroine of Thai people, especially the local Khorat people, named Thao Suranari or Khunying Mo (Lady Mo). Locally known as 'Ya Mo' (Grandmother Mo), Khunying Mo was the wife of the assistant governor of Nakhon Ratchasima and played an important role in rallying and leading the villagers to fight against Chao Anuwong of Vientiane who had Khorat under siege in 1826. After the battle, King Rama III promoted Khunying Mo to Thao Suranari. The statue of Thao Suranari is dressed in regalia bestowed on her and is in a standing position with right hand holding a sword and left hand placed on her waist. The statue faces west towards Bangkok, while the base of the monument holds her ashes. Apart from the locals, who regularly come to pay homage to Ya Mo and ask for blessing, visitors from other provinces also usually come to pay homage to Ya Mo on their visit to Nakhon Ratchasima. On 23 March to 3 April of every year, the locals organise an annual ceremony to pay respect to Ya Mo and honour her bravery.

### **Pratu Chum Phon**

Situated right behind Thao Suranari Monument, Pratu Chum Phon (Chum Phon Gate) is an old city gate built in 1656. King Narai the Great gave a royal command to make Nakhon Ratchasima an outpost of the Ayutthaya Kingdom with a strong city wall. The western Pratu Chum Phon is the only original one out of four city gates that still stands today, whereas the other three gates have been rebuilt. It is believed that whoever





*Thao Suranari Monument*

walks under the gate once, would return to Khorat shortly, whoever walks under the gate twice, would get to come to work or live in Khorat, and whoever walks under the gate three times, would get to marry a local Khorat person.

### **City Pillar Shrine**

Situated on the corner of the intersection of Chum Phon Road and Prachak Road, the City Pillar Shrine dates back to the reign of King Narai the Great, which was around 1656-1688.

The City Pillar Shrine underwent a major renovation during 1961-1963 in which the original City Pillar that had worn out was replaced by a new City Pillar, and a Chinese-style shrine was built to shelter the new City Pillar. The inner wall of the City Pillar Shrine is covered with clay bas-relief tiles depicting the battle of Thao Suranari and Thai way of life in the ancient times.

### **Maha Viravong National Museum**

Situated within the compound of Wat Sutthachinda on Ratchadamnoen Road, Maha Viravong National Museum was established to be a place where future generations could come to learn about the cultural heritage of Thailand. The Museum showcases the artefacts and antiques that Somdet Phra Maha Viravong, the former abbot of Wat Sutthachinda, had been collected. The display also includes items uncovered from archaeological sites in Nakhon Ratchasima and nearby provinces as well as items donated to the Museum by the local communities. The collection of artefacts and archaeological materials include Buddha images, tools and utensils, stone inscription, and earthenware from prehistoric periods to Rattanakosin period.

**Operating Hours:** Wednesday – Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (closed on Monday, Tuesday, and public holidays)

**Admission Fee:** 50 Baht

**Contact:** Tel.: +66 4424 2958

### **Wat Sala Loi**

Situated around 500 metres from Rop Mueang Road, Wat Sala Loi was built by Thao Suranari and her husband in 1827. The meeting hall, which is in an applied Thai Style and in the shape of a boat riding the waves, was awarded



*Wat Sala Loi*

the best avant-garde religious building by the Siam Architects Society in 1973. The building is decorated with local Dan Kwian clay tiles to depict the life of Lord Buddha, while the door is made of metal with raised designs, portraying the Story of Vessantara Jataka (one of the popular Buddhist tales). At the front of the door is a sculpture of Thao Suranari sitting in the praying posture in the middle of a pond, whereas a small pagoda located beside the building once housed the ashes of Thao Suranari, which later has been relocated to be placed at the base of the Thao Suranari Monument.

### **Korat Museum**

Korat Museum was established with an aim to be a learning centre in the form of a museum that tells the story of the evolution of history, art, and culture of Nakhon Ratchasima. Visitors

to the Korat Museum will gain an understanding of Nakhon Ratchasima from the past until present through the well-organised exhibition that is divided into 8 sections; namely, Introduction, Beginning of Civilisation, Dvaravati Period, Lop Buri Period, Ayutthaya Period, Rattanakosin Period, Metropolis of Isan, and Khorat's Unique Heritage.

*Operating Hours:* Every day 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

*Website:* [www.koratmuseum.com](http://www.koratmuseum.com)

*How to get there:* The Korat Museum is located within the compound of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University on Suranarai Road.

### **Ruen Khorat**

Situated near the Korat Museum within the ground of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Ruen Khorat (Khorat House) is an ancient wooden house raised on stilts. The uniqueness of Khorat's traditional house is



*Wat Sala Thong*

that even though the house seems to be one storey, the floor is raised in three steps to make the most use of the space in which the highest step is the bedroom. Visitors to Ruen Khorat can explore how people in Khorat lived in the past through the display of artefacts and tools used in the daily life inside the house.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

**How to get there:** Ruen Khorat is located within the compound of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University on Suranarai Road.

### **Wat Sala Thong**

Formerly known as Wat Pa Lelai and Wat Pa Lelai Thong, Wat Sala Thong dates back to the Khmer Empire and earned its current name when King Narai the Great gave a command to establish

this area into a city called 'Khorakhapura' or 'Khorat' as known today. The temple houses a sacred pagoda called 'Phra Samphuttha Chedi Si Singhanat', which is a large pagoda that was built over a smaller one, and enshrines the relics of the Lord Buddha. Another prominent feature of Wat Sala Thong is the gigantic seated Buddha image named 'Luangpho Yai', which is housed in an Ubosot (ordination hall). Every year during the Songkran Festival (Thai new year festival), the locals would gather at Wat Sala Thong to make merit and bathe the Buddha image.

### **Wat Pa Salawan**

Located at Sueb Siri Soi 3 Road and not far from the Nakhon Ratchasima Railway Station, Wat Pa





*Wat Pa Salawan*

Salawan is a forest temple that is positioned right in the middle of the city. The temple is famous for the 'Buraphachan Chedi', which is a beautiful Chedi enshrining the relics of the Lord Buddha and the relic of Luangpho Phut, the former abbot of Wat Pa Salawan who is highly revered by the locals. Also housed within the Chedi are the sculptures of famous Buddhist monks; namely, Luangpu Man, Luangpu Sao, Luangpu Sing, and Pra Achan Phon. The walls surrounding the Chedi are covered with sandstone bas-relief depicting the Buddhist stories.

### **Prasat Hin Phanom Wan**

Located around 16 kilometres from Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, Prasat Hin Phanom Wan is the fifth largest ancient Khmer sanctuary in Thailand. According to the inscription found at the site, Prasat Hin Phanom Wan is believed to be built during the 11th century as a 'Devaswom', which is a Hindu religious site, and later during the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, stone buildings were built over the original buildings and expand the sanctuary to become a Buddhist site. Prasat Hin Phanom Wan was built in a Baphoun style, similar to that of Prasat Hin Phimai. Most of the structures were in ruins but the recent restorations gave the sanctuary as close an impression of its original state. The sanctuary is surrounded by sandstone walkway and laterite wall, with a Gopura (entrance gate) in the form of a tall tower on all four directions. The main pagoda faces east with a tiered pagoda in the front, as well as a path linking the two structures. Situated to the southwest is a red sandstone pagoda called 'Prang Noi', which enshrines a giant stone Buddha image. Around 300 metres to the east of the sanctuary are traces of a moat and an earthen hill called 'Noen Oraphim'.

**How to get there:** Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) heading towards Khon Kaen for 9 kilometres and turn right onto Yothathikan Road. Follow the road for 7 kilometres to reach Prasat Phanom Wan.

### **Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo**

Covering an area of 882,215 square metres, Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo is also known as Korat Zoo and is a centre of conservation and research, education, and recreation. Set in a natural environment in an open zoo concept, the zoo is home to a wide range of wildlife including



*Prasat Hin Phanom Wan*

'The Big Five', which are African elephant, lion, white rhinoceros, African buffalo, and leopard. Other kinds of animal visitors can find at the zoo range from zebras to cheetahs, giraffes, seals, penguins, a variety of birds including hornbills, and all types of reptiles and amphibians. Visitors to the zoo can also enjoy watching several animal shows as well as spend time beating the heat at the Korat Zoo Lagoon, which is a large waterpark with water slides and giant splash pool.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 150 Baht

**Website:** [www.korat.zoothailand.org](http://www.korat.zoothailand.org)

**Contact:** Tel.: +66 4493 4647

**How to get there:** Take Highway 304 for approximately 7 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2310. Proceed for 1 kilometre to arrive at the Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo.

### **Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources**

The one of seven museums of its kind in the world, the Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources comprises three main zones; namely, the Petrified Wood Museum, the Ancient Elephant Museum, and the Dinosaur Museum. The Petrified Wood Museum exhibits a huge collection of fossils and petrified woods discovered in the area, which are approximately 800,000-320 million years old. The highlights include the gemstone petrified wood, petrified palm wood, and petrified wood of various ages. The Ancient Elephant Museum showcases 8 out of 42 genera of primitive elephants found in the world, in which these 8 genera were all found in Nakhon Ratchasima. Here visitors can go back in time to the prehistoric period and learn about the primitive elephants and human way of life in



*Khao Yai National Park*

Nakhon Ratchasima. The Dinosaur Museum displays fossils of dinosaurs found in Nakhon Ratchasima, and an exhibition of stories relating to dinosaurs; such as, *Allosaurus* (meat-eating dinosaur) and *Iguanodon* (plant-eating dinosaur).

**Operating Hours:** Tuesday-Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht for adults and 50 Baht for children

**Website:** [www.khoratfossil.org](http://www.khoratfossil.org)

**Contact:** Tel.: +66 4437 0739

**How to get there:** Take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) and turn left at the Pak Thong Chai Intersection onto Highway 304. Proceed for 12 kilometres and turn right into Gate 2 of the Suranari University of Technology. Follow the road for 3 kilometres and turn left onto Mittraphap-Nong Pling Road. Continue for 2

kilometres to arrive at the Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources.

### **Tawee Art Gallery**

Established in 2007 by Tawee Rajaneekorn, a renowned National Artist of Thailand, the Tawee Art Gallery is an art gallery that displays a variety of art pieces; such as, paintings, sculptures, and other kinds of artworks. The gallery also is a place where children and students can learn about art and art techniques by participating in art discussion class, painting contests, and art exhibitions.

**Operating Hours:** Wednesday-Sunday 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

**How to get there:** Take Highway 224 for 2.4 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 226.



Proceed for 1.5 kilometres and make a u-turn. Continue for 750 metres and turn left to find Tawee Art Gallery in Soi Phet Matukhla 4.

## **Amphoe Pak Chong**

### **Khao Yai National Park**

Proclaimed Thailand's first national park in 1962 and has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, Khao Yai National Park occupies an area of 2,165.55 square kilometres in four provinces; namely, Nakhon Ratchasima, Saraburi, Prachin Buri, and Nakhon Nayok. Khao Yai National Park features a wide range of habitat, from mixed deciduous forests to rainforests, deciduous dipterocarp forests, and grassland, and is the origin of several streams and rivers; such as, Nakhon Nayok River, Prachin Buri River, Huai Lam Takhong, Huai Lam Phra Phloeng, and Huai Muak Lek.

A paradise for nature lovers, Khao Yai National Park is listed among the top natural destinations in Thailand as it is home to a diversity of flora and fauna. The Park is bestowed with a large number of wild animals including but not limited to tigers, gaurs, barking deer, sambar deer, elephants, gibbons, bears, serows, Indian civets, and palm civets. Apart from over 200 kinds of butterflies, Khao Yai National Park is also where bird lovers can spot over 300 species of birds, both rare and common; such as, Siamese Fireback, Brown Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Red-headed Trogon, and Japanese Grey Thrush.

The climate is favourable for tourism all year round and the Park is especially popular for tourists during the cool season between October and February. Some of the interesting attractions within the Khao Yai National Park include:

**Chaopho Khao Yai Shrine** Located at Km. 23 on Thanarat Road, around 200 metres after passing the main entrance to the Khao Yai National Park. Visitors usually stop by at the shrine on their way to Khao Yai to pay respect to Chaopho Khao Yai and pray for good luck.

**Namtok Pha Kluai Mai** Originated from Huai Lam Takhong, Namtok Pha Kluai Mai (Cliff of Orchid Waterfall) is a beautiful waterfall of around 10 metres high, which was named after the abundance of Red Dendrobium orchid that are found in the area. Namtok Pha Kluai Mai cascades down several levels of rock to the pool in which visitors can enjoy frolicking in the cool water. The waterfall is situated about 7 kilometres from the Park office and can be reached by car and on foot. There is a camping ground nearby, and also a trail leading to Namtok Heo Suwat.

**Namtok Heo Suwat** Easily accessible by car, Namtok Heo Suwat is located at the end of Thanarat Road and is only 100 metres by foot from the parking lot or around 3-kilometre walk from Namtok Pha Kluai Mai. This stunning 20-metre-high waterfall is perfect as a background when taking photos and when the water level is low, visitors can walk to explore the cave under the waterfall. Please note that during the rainy season, the water flows rapidly and the rocks and trails can be slippery.

**Namtok Heo Narok** Situated to the south of the Park's office, Namtok Heo Narok is the largest and highest waterfall of the Park. Namtok Heo Narok is a three-tiered waterfall in which the first tier is about 60 metres high and the total height is at least 150 metres. Visitors are recommended to take a 1-kilometre walk from the main road to the viewpoint to catch a picturesque sight of the waterfall cascading down into the rock pool below. Please also note



*Namtok Heo Suwat*

to be careful in the rainy season, as the water strength could be quite dangerous.

**Namtok Kong Kaeo** Can be reached by a 100-metre walk from the tourist service centre, Namtok Kong Kaeo originates from Huai Lam Takhong that borders Nakhon Nayok and Nakhon Ratchasima provinces. The small-sized waterfall is especially beautiful in the rainy season and visitors can enjoy swimming in the cool water as well as walking on the nature trail.

**Pha Diao Dai** Pha Diao Dai is one of the best spots in Khao Yai to admire the first light of the day. The route to reach the top of the cliff provides visitors with an exciting task, as the pathway is quite rugged and it requires a 15-minute walk through the evergreen forest.

**Pha Diao Dai Viewpoint** A perfect place to catch

the first ray of sunrise, Pha Diao Dai Viewpoint offers a spectacular view of nature of Khao Yai National Park. Not only can visitors be hypnotised by the beauty of the forest, several species of birds can be spotted here; such as, Black Bulbul and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon.

#### **Mo Singto Watchtower**

Mo Singto (Lion Hill) Watchtower is where visitors can observe the wild animals coming to the salt licks. The most frequent animals that can be seen from the Mo Singto Watchtower is deer, whereas sometimes elephants and bulls can also be seen. This spot is also one of the best spots to be captivated by the beautiful sunset.

**Nong Phak Chi Watchtower** A five-minute's drive from the tourist information centre, followed by a 1-kilometre walk over the grassland takes





*Namtok Heo Narok*

visitors to Nong Phak Chi Watchtower. Here visitors can spot a variety of wild animals gathering at the salt licks including sambars, boars, gaurs and elephants.

**Activities:** Visitors to Khao Yai National Park can enjoy a variety of activities including trekking along the nature trails and wildlife viewing. Khao Yai National Park offers a nighttime wildlife viewing activities twice a day at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Please contact the Khao Yai National Park Headquarters for more information.

**Accommodation:** There are several accommodation and campsites available within the Khao Yai National Park. Please contact the Khao Yai National Park Headquarters for more information.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city

centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) for around 90 kilometres and turn left at the 165th Km. marker onto Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road). Proceed for 38 kilometres and merge onto Highway 3182. Continue for another 3 kilometres to arrive at the main entrance of the Khao Yai National Park.

From Bangkok, take Highway 1 (Phahonyothin Road) heading towards Saraburi province and turn right onto Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road). Proceed until 56<sup>th</sup> Km. marker and turn onto Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road). Continue for 23 kilometres to arrive at Khao Yai National Park.

**Admission Fee:** 400 Baht for adults and 200 Baht for children

**Website:** [www.khaoyainationalpark.com](http://www.khaoyainationalpark.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 8 6092 6527



### **Wat Thep Phithak Punnaram**

Positioned at the foot of Khao Si Sait A (Si Siat A Hill), Wat Thep Phithak Punnaram features a gigantic white Buddha image named Phra Phuttha Sakon Sima Mongkhon. Also known by locals as Luangpho Khao, the Buddha image is 27 metres wide and 45 metres high. The stairways leading up and down to Luangpho Yai, which sits majestically at 112 metres above ground level, are divided into two sides that curved towards one another in the shape of the Bodhi leaf (the symbol of Buddhism). The 1,250 steps of the stairs to and from Luangpho Khao signify the number of monks that spontaneously gathered to hear Lord Buddha's first sermon without prior appointment on Makha Bucha Day. Although it seems like a long way to reach the top, but along the tree-covered stairway are several rest areas that visitors can take a break and the magnificent scenery of the surrounding once at the top is worth the climb.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) for around 105 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2220. Proceed for 3 kilometres to arrive at the main entrance of the temple.

### **Secret Art Garden (Suan Son Sin)**

Hidden in the midst of lush forests, Secret Art Garden or Suan Son Sin is where one can discover the magical blend of arts, crafts, and gardens in one place. Visitors are invited to stroll along the garden and admire the artworks, sculptures, and beautiful flowers, as well as explore several art houses including Artist Cottage, Weaving Cottage, Dwarf Land, and Potter Cottage. The Secret Art Garden also offers fun-filled workshop for visitors to unleash their creativity; such as, clay dolls painting, paper art, and folk art painting. Restaurants and

accommodation facilities are also available.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) for around 105 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2220. Proceed for 2 kilometres to see the white Buddha image amidst the mountain in the front and turn left following the sign to Secret Art Garden. Continue for another 1 kilometre to arrive at the Secret Art Garden.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. (closed on Wednesday)

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht

**Website:** [www.secretartgarden.com](http://www.secretartgarden.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 8 1803 7103

### **Klang Dong Fruit Market**

Situated along Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road), Klang Dong Fruit Market serves as a distribution centre for agricultural produces that are cultivated in Nakhon Ratchasima and nearby provinces. The Market comprises countless stalls lining the road that offer a wide array of fruits; such as, orange, mango, rose apple, banana, and grape. However, the most famous produce at the Klang Dong Fruit Market is custard apple, which can be purchased all year round especially between July and August. Visitors can also find processed fruits and a variety of food at the market as well.

**How to get there:** The Klang Dong Fruit Market is situated on Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) around the 20<sup>th</sup> Km. marker.

### **Lam Takhong Highway Service Centre**

Also known as Lam Takhong Rest Area or Liptaphanlop Information Technology Centre or Suan Na Chat, the Lam Takhong Highway Service Centre is a rest area and is also considered as a gateway to the Northeast. The rest area is complete with restrooms, accommodation,

food and beverage store, and a garden, where visitors can take a break to relax from travelling on the road. Visitors can also enjoy a magnificent view of the Lam Takhong Reservoir from the viewpoint. Inside a building is a small exhibition of the information on the provinces in the Northeastern region, and amidst the garden is a sculpture of General Chatichai Choonhavan, the former Prime Minister of Thailand.

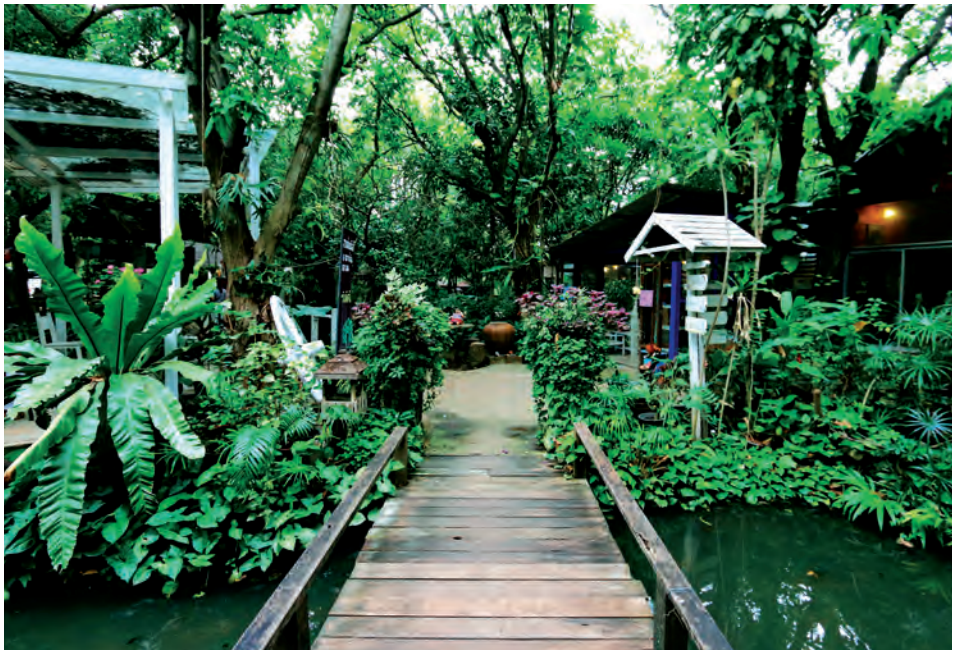
**How to get there:** The rest area is situated at the 85th Km. marker on Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road), around 65 kilometres from Nakhon Ratchasima city centre.

### **Wat Vajiralongkorn Wararam Worawihan**

Wat Vajiralongkorn Wararam Worawihan is a royal temple under His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn's patronage. The Late King

Bhumibol Adulyadej granted royal permission to upgrade this temple to be a third-class royal temple on 1975 on the occasion that H.R.H. Prince Vajiralongkorn was invested as Crown Prince in 1972. The highlight of the temple is the marble Mondop (square-based building with pyramidal roof), which is constructed in Indian Buddhist style, and houses a replica of the Lord Buddha's footprint. The marble Mondop also contains pictures of the 4 Buddhist Sacred Sites; namely, the Buddha's place of birth, the place where he attained enlightenment, the place where he delivered his first sermon, and the place that he attained nirvana.

**How to get there:** Wat Vajiralongkorn Wararam Worawihan is located at the 152<sup>nd</sup> Km. marker on Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road).



Secret Art Garden (Suan Son Sin)



*Farm Chokchai*

### **Farm Chokchai**

Farm Chokchai is famous for agrotourism activities at which visitors experience for themselves the local wisdom and ways of life of farmers. Visitors to Farm Chokchai can learn about the dairy farming activities ranging from the life cycle of cattle to milking process, get their hands on milking the cow and making ice cream, tour around the farm on a tram, and watch cowboy show, as well as enjoy horse riding. A fully integrated farm that is equipped with restaurant and a boutique camp accommodation facilities, Farm Chokchai has won the Award of Excellence in Agrotourism Attractions at the Thailand Tourism Awards in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2013.

**How to get there:** Farm Chokchai is located between 159<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> Km. markers on Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road).

**Operating Hours:** There are no tours on Monday except if it is a public holiday and the tour takes approximately 1.30 – 2 hours.

**Tuesday – Friday:** Tour starts at 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

**Saturday – Sunday and public holidays:** Tour starts at 10.00 a.m. and runs every 20 minutes, the last tour session is at 2.40 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 300 Baht for adults and 150 Baht for children.

**Website:** [www.farmchokchai.com](http://www.farmchokchai.com)

### **The Bloom by TV Pool**

Covering an area of over 160,000 square metres, the Bloom by TV Pool is set against the picturesque backdrop of mountains. Visitors are invited to wander in the enormous garden and indulge in the fantastic sight of over 30 species of beautiful and colourful winter flowers. Apart





*Palio Khao Yai*

from the gorgeous garden full of flowers, the Bloom by TV Pool also features a sheep farm, a restaurant, and several styles of accommodation.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) and turn left at the 144<sup>th</sup> Km. marker onto Kut Khla-Pan Suek Road. Follow the road for 7 kilometres to arrive at The Bloom by TV Pool.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht for adults and 50 Baht for children

**Website:** [www.thebloom.co.th](http://www.thebloom.co.th)

### **Palio Khao Yai**

One of the most visited places in Khao Yai where visitors love to stop by to take photos, Palio Khao Yai is the first shopping village in Thailand that is built in the Italian-style architecture. Several buildings are designed in a walking street style

so that visitors can leisurely enjoy strolling and exploring the shops selling various items ranging from clothing to decorative items, accessories and souvenirs. Apart from the various shops and a multi-purpose open space for performances, Palio Khao Yai also offers many restaurant and coffee shop varieties, as well as a boutique accommodation constructed in Italian style.

**How to get there:** Palio Khao Yai is located at the 17<sup>th</sup> Km. marker on Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road).

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.30 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

**Website:** [www.palio-khaoyai.com](http://www.palio-khaoyai.com)

### **Primo Piazza**

Embraced by the mountains of Khao Yai, Primo Piazza creates the atmosphere of the Tuscany

region of Italy for visitors to enjoy a unique experience in Khao Yai. The buildings are constructed in Italian architecture and combined with the surrounding natural beauty of the mountains to make Primo Piazza a picture-perfect place to spend a day relaxing and taking photos. Not only one can sip a cup of coffee at a café or buy cute souvenirs, visitors can enjoy spending time with sheep, alpacas, and donkeys at the barn as well.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) and turn left at the 144th Km. marker onto Kut Khla-Phan Suek Road. Follow the road for 20 kilometres to find Primo Piazza on the left.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht for adults and 50 Baht for children

**Website:** [www.primopiazza.com](http://www.primopiazza.com)

### **Thong Somboon Club**

A large adventure park set amidst the natural beauty of Khao Yai, Thong Somboon Club is a great place to spend a day or two of active fun. Here visitors can enjoy a wide array of fun-filled and exciting activities, ranging from ATV riding to Go karting, BB Gun shooting, horse riding, rodeo riding, luge riding, and riding in a rolling ball. Thong Somboon Club also offers an accommodation for those who wish to stay in a cowboy environment.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2422, turn left between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Km. markers onto Highway 2243. Follow the road for 3 kilometres and turn right onto Thong Somboon Club.

**Operating Hours:** Monday – Friday 9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m., Saturday – Sunday 8.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.



Primo Piazza





Thong Somboon Club

**Admission Fee:** There is no admission fee but each activity is 150 Baht per person.

**Website:** [www.thongsomboon-club.com](http://www.thongsomboon-club.com)

### **PB Valley Khao Yai Winery**

The largest in Southeast Asia, PB Valley Khao Yai Winery covers an area of over 4,000,000 square metres at the 350 to 380 metres above the sea level. Established in 1989 and started producing wine since 1998, PB Valley Khao Yai Winery is the first wine maker in the region and was formerly known as Khao Yai Winery. Apart from table grapes, some of the wine grape varieties grown here include Shiraz, Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Dornfelder, Chenin Blanc, and Colombard. Visitors are invited to embark

on a 'Vineyard and Winery Tour' to learn about the different variety of wines and grapes, observe the production process, and enjoy a wine-tasting session.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitrphap Road) and turn left at the 144<sup>th</sup> Km. marker onto Kut Khla-Phan Suek Road. Proceed for 12 kilometres to arrive at PB Khao Yai Winery.

**Operating Hours:** Monday – Friday 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m., Saturday – Sunday 8.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.

**Website:** [www.khaoyaiwinery.com](http://www.khaoyaiwinery.com)

**Remark:** The Vineyard and Winery Tour is conducted several times a day. Advance booking is recommended. Please visit PB Valley Khao Yai Winery website for more detail.





*Gran Monte*

### **Gran Monte**

Located at 350 metres above sea level in Asok Valley, GranMonte covers a total area of around 160,000 square metres. The name 'GranMonte', which translates to 'Big Mountain', was inspired by the grandeur of 'Khao Yai' ('Big Mountain' in Thai). GranMonte cultivates numerous varieties of wine grapes including Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blac, Semillon, Viognier, Verdelho, Durif, and Grenache, as well as a variety of table grapes. GranMonte offers a combined agro-tourism experience of grape cultivation and winemaking to visitors, in which visitors can learn about the viticulture techniques and grape varieties, explore the winemaking equipment, and taste the award-winning wines. There is also a restaurant and a beautiful accommo-

dation set in a romantic setting of GranMonte vineyard.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) and turn left at the 144<sup>th</sup> Km. marker onto Kut Khla-Pan Suek Road. Proceed for 12 kilometres to arrive at GranMonte, which is sharing the same entrance as PB Khao Yai Winery.

**Operating Hours:** Sunday – Thursday 8.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m., Friday – Saturday 8.00 a.m. – 7.30 p.m.

**Website:** [www.granmonte.com](http://www.granmonte.com)

**Contact:** +66 4400 9543, +66 8 1900 8282

**Remark:** The Vineyard and Winery Tour is conducted several times a day. Advance booking is recommended. Please visit Gran Monte website for more detail.

### **Alcidini Winery**

Named after the native bird 'King Fisher' (scientific name is 'Alcedinidae'), Alcidini Winery is a boutique winery that started cultivating wine grapes since 2001. The vineyard is set in an idyllic setting at 550 metres above sea level and covers an area of over 160,000 square metres. Alcidini Winery grows several wine grape varieties; such as, Shiraz, and Muscat Blue, as well as table grapes including Maroo Seedless grapes, and avocados. Visitors are invited to explore the grounds of Alcidini Winery and enjoy tasting wine while learning about the wines as well as sustainable and organic farming methods.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road), take Highway 2235 for 16 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2311. Follow the sign to Alcidini Winery for another 13 kilometres to arrive at Alcidini Winery.

**Operating Hours:** Everyday 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

**Website:** [www.alcidini.com](http://www.alcidini.com)

**Contact:** +66 8 0784 6969

**Remark:** Please Visit Alcidini Winery website for more detail on the time and price of the wine tasting session.

### **Klang Phana Rose Garden**

Klang Phana Rose Garden covers an area of over 6,400 square metres and boasts a striking collection of foreign breed roses. Visitors are invited to take a romantic stroll in the Klang Phana Rose Garden and observe the variety of gorgeous roses. If lucky, visitors might get the opportunity to observe rose cutting, as the roses from Klang Phana Rose Garden are also supplied to hotels and resorts in the area. **How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road)



*Alcidini Winery*

and turn left at the 144<sup>th</sup> Km. marker onto Kut Khla-Phan Suek Road. Proceed for 21 kilometres to arrive at the Klang Phana Rose Garden.

### **Khao Yai Panorama Farm**

Khao Yai Panorama Farm cultivates over 10 species of mushrooms under the supervision of experts. Some of the notable mushrooms include Pink Oyster Mushroom, Lingzhi Mushroom, Monkey's Head Mushroom, Yanagi Matsutake, and Abalone Mushroom. Visitors to the farm can explore and learn about the mushroom farming process, buy fresh mushrooms and processed mushrooms products, as well as enjoy various

delicious menus made from mushrooms at the Farm's restaurant. The Farm also offers a beautiful accommodation with a panoramic view of Khao Yai.

*How to get there:* Khao Yai Parnorama Farm is located at the 10.5<sup>th</sup> Km. marker on Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road).

*Operating Hours:* Monday – Friday 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and public holidays 8.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

*Website:* [www.khaoyaipanoramafarm.com](http://www.khaoyaipanoramafarm.com)

### **Wat Tham Trai Rat and Tham Kaeo Saraphat Nuek**

Wat Tham Trai Rat is known for a cave called 'Tham Kaeo Saraphat Nuek' or the Magic Cave Land. The cave was found in 1970 by Luangpu Chot Khunasampanno and is believed to be a sacred place that was a residence of several revered monks; such as, Luangpu Dun Atulo, Luangpu Chot Khunasampanno, and Luangpho Phoem Barami. Tham Kaeo Saraphat Nuek features splendid stalagmites and stalactites and is also famous for being a place where several movies were filmed; such as, *The Beach*. Tham Kaeo Saraphat Nuek is divided into five sections; namely, 'Tham Kaeo Saraphat Nuek' (Magic Crystal Cave that houses the Lord Buddha's relics), 'Tham Phra Phut' (Buddha Image Cave that houses several Buddha images), 'Tham Khrong Kraduk Phra Ruesi' (Hermit's Skeleton Cave that houses 4000 years old skeleton), 'Pratu Mangkon' (Dragon Gate with gigantic stone the resembles a dragon), and 'Rock Museum and Cave Theatre', which features various interesting rock sculptures.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) and turn left at the 161<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Proceed for

1.5 kilometres to arrive at Wat Tham Trai Rat.

### **Khao Yai Art Museum**

Khao Yai Art Museum exhibits artworks from famous Thai artists; such as, Thawan Datchani, Chaloechai Khositphiphat, and Chalut Nimsamoe, as well as young and aspiring artists. The artworks, which range from paintings to sculptures, are displayed both inside and outside the museum's building.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road) and turn left at the 14<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near the Mu Si Police Station. Follow the road and turn right at the roundabout and follow the road and turn left at Soi 6. Proceed to find Khao Yai Art Museum on the right.

*Operating Hours:* Every day 9.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

*Website:* [www.khaoyaiartmuseum.com](http://www.khaoyaiartmuseum.com)

### **Nam Phut Natural Spring**

A popular recreation place for the locals, Nam Phut Natural Spring has got its name from the origin of the water as 'Nam' is Thai for 'water' and 'Phut' is 'rise' because the water here naturally spring from the the underground. The water is emerald colour and crystal clear, due to the high calcium carbonate content. The Nam Phut Natural Spring is lush with plenty of trees, allowing visitors to enjoy frolicking in the pools of water and picnicking under the cool shade.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road) and turn left at the 15<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road and Nam Phut Natural Spring is on the right.

### **Pete Maze**

Pete Maze takes visitors on a challenging time of walking along and zig-zagging through the





Pete Maze

thick walls of maze. While getting lost along the way, visitors can also take a break and enjoy taking photos with many garden decorations; such as, fountains and beautiful sculptures.

**How to get there:** Pete Maze is situated on the 15<sup>th</sup> Km. marker of Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road).

**Operating Hours:** Saturday and Sunday 9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 150 Baht

### **Rai Suwan**

The giant sweet corn cob situated by the 155<sup>th</sup> Km. marker of Highway 2 leads visitors to Rai Suwan or Suwan Farm. Rai Suwan is a part of the National Corn and Sorghum Research Centre that was established to conduct research on cultivating corn, sorghum, and other crops. Apart from conducting research

and cultivating these crops, Rai Suwan is also a popular tourist attraction where visitors can buy a variety of corn products; such as, boiled sweet corn, corn milk, and corn ice cream, as well as other items made from other agricultural products. Visitors can enjoy exploring a variety of plants grown at the farm, as well as enjoy taking photos at various fields; such as, sunflower field, wheat field, and sun hemp field.

**How to get there:** Rai Suwan is situated on the 155<sup>th</sup> Km. marker on Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road).

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

### **Wat Khao Wan Chai Nawarat**

Set on a hilltop amidst the nature's embrace, Wat Khao Wan Chai Nawarat is a temple that is also served as a meditation retreat. A pavilion houses a 2-metres wide Buddha image made



*Wat Khao Wan Chai Nawarat*

of green sandstone, and also offers a bird's eye view of Pak Chong. The highlight of Wat Khao Wan Chai Nawarat is an astonishing 'Ubosot Hin Sai Lai Mai' or 'Prasat Hin Lai Mai', which is a spectacular water pavilion constructed with wood-patterned sandstone. The Ubosot (ordination hall) has three storeys in which the top floor is for performing religious rituals and the second floor is the floating pavilion. The underwater basement features exquisite artworks on the walls depicting the culture and way of life of the Northeastern region, as well as Buddha image that sits beautifully against the blue colour of the water that can be seen through the window.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) heading towards Amphoe Pak Chong for 73 kilometres and then take Highway 2422 for 15

kilometres. Follow the sign to arrive at Wat Khao Wan Chai Nawarat.

### **Scenical World**

Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Khao Yai National Park, Scenical World is a gigantic theme park that keeps visitors entertained all day long on numerous thrilling rides. Scenical World comprises three zones; namely, Excite Zone, Splash Zone, and Kids Zone, in which each zone offers different fun and exciting experience. The Excite Zone includes adrenaline-pumping rides; such as, GX-Swing, Sky Diver, and Super Pendulum, as well as, rocking and bumping activities; such as, Riddle Coaster and Typhoon Tower. The Splash Zone features 15 different types of water rides consisting of 12 water slides; such as, Space Bowl and Thunder Bolt, and 3 pools including



Scenical World

Splash Valley, Wave Pool, and Lazy River. The Kids Zone keeps kids occupied with seven fun rides; such as, Space Shuttle, Tea Cup, Carousel, Twister, and Kiddie Climber.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road) for around 90 kilometres and turn left at the 165<sup>th</sup> Km. marker onto Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road). Scenical World is situated on the right hand side of the 19.5<sup>th</sup> Km. marker on Highway 2090 (Thanarat Road).

**Operating Hours:** Every day 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** The admission fee differs between each zone, please check the Scenical World website for more information.

**Website:** [www.scenicalworld.com](http://www.scenicalworld.com)

## Amphoe Sikhio Lam Takhong Dam

Constructed in 1969 and completed in 1974, Lam Takhong Dam is an earth-filled embankment dam that was built on the Lam Takhong River to divert water from above the dam for irrigation purposes. With the capacity of over 310 million cubic metres, Lam Takhong Dam provides water for irrigation of agricultural lands for about 160 square kilometres, as well as serving as water storage for the Lam Takhong pumped storage power plant. Visitors can take a stroll along the dam wall to observe the spectacular scenery of the dam with the background of the mountains.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mitraphap Road)



and turn right at the turn off between 193rd and 194<sup>th</sup> Km. markers. Follow the road for 2 kilometres to arrive the Lam Takhong Dam.

### **Upper Pond at the Lam Takhong Wind Turbine Power System Project**

The Upper Pond, also known as the Khao Yai Thiang Pond, is where the two gigantic wind turbines that can be seen while driving along the Mittraphap Road are situated. The pond is used to store the water taken from the Lam Takhong Dam to generate electricity, in which each of the wind turbines can generate around 1.25 megawatts. Apart from enjoy taking photos the mesmerising view of the pond with the wind turbines in the background, visitors can also pay homage to Phra Phuttha Siri Sattarat or Luangpho Chet Kasat, a Buddha image that is believed to grant rainfall, that is situated within the area.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) and turn left at the 87<sup>th</sup> Km. marker heading towards Khao Yai Thiang. Follow the road for around 7 kilometres to arrive at the Lam Takhong Wind Turbine Power System Project.

### **Suan Muang Porn**

Suan Muang Porn or Muang Porn Garden breeds over 30 species of plant including tropical and temperate flowers, ornamental plants, and various trees, using chemical-free method. Not only can visitors observe and buy the variety of beautiful plants grown here, visitors can also indulge in the hyptonising view of the Lam Takhong Dam, which is especially beautiful during sunset. Suan Muang Porn also offers restaurant and accommodation for visitors.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road)



Lam Takhong Dam

and turn left at the 87<sup>th</sup> Km. marker heading towards Khao Yai Thiang. Follow the road for around 400 metres and turn right to find Suan Muang Porn.

### ***Wat Khao Chan Ngam***

Formerly known as Wat Loet Sawat, Wat Khao Chan Ngam features a set of prehistoric rock paintings. A walking trail of around 150 metres through shady forest takes visitors behind the temple to the cave where rock paintings are discovered. The red paintings, approximately 4 metres above the ground, depicts humans, animals, and bows and arrows, that reflect the way of life of the agricultural community that resided in this area around 3-4,000 years ago. From the cave, visitors can continue walking on the trail to pay homage to the Four Buddha Footprints, which is located amidst the forest.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) and turn left at the 58<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for around 3 kilometres to arrive at Wat Khao Chan Ngam.

### ***Utthayan Lan Bun Maha Wihan Somdet Phra Phutthachan (To Phrommarangsi)***

Utthayan Lan Bun Maha Wihan Somdet Phra Phutthachan (To Phrommarangsi), also known as Wat Non Kum, is a temple built by a famous television and movie star named Soraphong Chatri. The temple features a stunning Wihan (image hall) topped with golden Chedi, housing a gigantic golden sculpture of the highly revered monk named Somdet Phra Phuttachan (To Phrommarangsi) of Wat Rakhang Khositaram. The Buddha image is measured 8.025 metres wide, 13 metres high, and weighs 61 tonnes. The temple also comprises a large gar-

den with beautiful flowers, a pond, and a rock garden, as well as an almshouse that offers food for pilgrims and visitors for free.

*How to get there:* Utthayan Lan Bun Maha Wihan Somdet Phra Phutthachan (To Phrommarangsi) is situated on Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road), approximately 2 kilometres before reaching Sikhio Intersection.

### ***Amphoe Sung Noen***

#### ***Mueang Sema Historical Site***

One of the most notable historical sites in Nakhon Ratchasima, Mueang Sema Historical Site covers an egg-shaped area of 3.96 square kilometres and is surrounded by 10-20 metres wide moat. It is believed that Mueang Sema was built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century during the Dvaravati period and grew until it became under Khmer influence during the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, but there is no evidence of any human settlements after 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries until present. The ruins are mostly made of laterite and sandstone, and the excavations revealed six historical sites within the inner town and three sites within the outer town. Several artefacts and inscriptions have been unearthed here including an inscription that mentioned the name 'Jayavarman V', which is the King who ruled Khmer Empire during 968-1001 A.D.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for around 30 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2161 between 221<sup>st</sup>-222<sup>nd</sup> Km. markers. Follow the road for 4 kilometres to arrive at Amphoe Sung Noen, and cross the Ban Hing Tang railway and head north for around 5 kilometres to arrive at the Mueang Sema Historical Site.

### **Wat Thammachak Semaram**

Also known by the locals as Wat Phra Non (Reclining Buddha Temple), Wat Thammachak Semaram was a religious sanctuary during the Dvaravati period and now houses a large reclining Buddha image that also dates back to the Dvaravati period. Made of red sandstone and is 13.30 metres long and 2.80 metres high, the Buddha image is lying on the right flank with the head directing towards the south. The face of the Buddha image, which is facing east, is made of four sandstone slabs stacking on top of one another, while the body is made of a big piece of sandstone. The architectural style of the Buddha image reflects a combination of Dvaravati and local arts of around the 10<sup>th</sup> century period. Situated within the ground of the temple is a museum that displays a variety of artefacts discovered in the area including a Dhammachak (an important Buddhist symbol in the form of a cartwheel) made of sandstone, believed to be made around the same time as the Buddha image and the formation of Mueang Sema.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for around 30 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2161 between 221<sup>st</sup>-222<sup>nd</sup> Km. markers. Follow the road for 4 kilometres to arrive at Amphoe Sung Noen, and head north for around 3 kilometres and turn left at the junction. Follow the road to find Wat Thammachak Semaram on the left.

### **An Ancient Town in Tambon Khorat or Ancient Khorat**

An Ancient Town in Tambon Khorat or Ancient Khorat is considered as the beginning of the ancient Khmer civilisation in Nakhon



*Dhammachak*

Ratchasima and comprises 3 ancient sites; namely, Prasat Non Ku, Prasat Mueang Khaek, and Prasat Mueang Kao.

**Prasat Non Ku** Located around 3 kilometres from Wat Yanasophitawanaram, Prasat Non Ku is a small ancient ruin that comprises a main Prang (tower) on a high base and 2 Wihan (image hall) structures facing the main prang in a rectangular-shaped plan. The structures are made of bricks and sandstone, face east, and are surrounded by a wall with Gopura (entrance gate) on the east and the west. The excavation of the site uncovers several artefacts including a Nandi bull crouching between the two Wihan structures. The







*Wat Thammachak Semaram*

evidence found indicated that Prasat Non Ku was constructed as Hindu temple in an ancient Khmer style during the late 11<sup>th</sup> century.

**Prasat Mueang Khaek** Situated approximately 600 metres from Prasat Non Ku, Prasat Mueang Khaek is a large ancient ruins made of sandstone and bricks with a rectangular-shaped plan facing north. The sanctuary consists of a main Prang (tower), two Bannalai (library), Gopura (entrance gate), boundary wall, pond, and small brick building. The excavation in 1959 and during 1990-1992 revealed several interesting items; such as, Shiva Lingam, a lintel engrave in various designs, and three stone inscriptions that are now being kept at the Maha Viravong National Museum. All the archaeological finds

show that it can be assumed that Prasat Mueang Khaek might be a Hindu temple around the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

**Prasat Mueang Kao** Situated within the compound of Wat Prang Mueang Kao around 3 kilometres from Prasat Mueang Khaek, Prasat Mueang Kao is an Arokhayasala (hospital) believed to be built under the command of King Jayavarman VII during 1181-1220. Facing east, the small-sized laterite and sandstone ancient ruins comprise a main Prang (tower) on a square base, a Bannalai (library) at the right front corner, all of which are surrounded by a boundary wall and a Gopura (entrance gate) at the front. A rectangular-shaped pond lined with laterite is found located outside the wall as well.



*Prasat Non Ku*

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) for around 30 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2161 into Amphoe Sung Noen. Follow the road for 3 kilometres and turn right near Wat Yanasophitawanaram (Wat Pa Sung Noen) to arrive at An Ancient Town in Tambon Khorat or Ancient Khorat.

## **Amphoe Dan Khun Thot**

### **Wat Ban Rai**

Wat Ban Rai is one of the most renowned temples in Nakhon Ratchasima, as it was the residence of a highly revered monk named Luangpho Khun Parisuttho, who passed away in 2015. The highlight of the temple is Wihan Thep Witthayakhom, an enormous building situated on an island in the middle of a gigantic pond that features incredibly magnificent Buddhist

art and architecture. The building is decorated with countless colourful ceramic tiles and is built in the form of an elephant with an elephant's head on the roof. The 42-metre-high building comprises four floors, all of which contains paintings and artworks portraying the Lord Buddha and Dhamma stories. Situated at the rooftop is a sculpture of Luangpho Khun in which visitors can pay homage to.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 (Mittraphap Road) to 237<sup>th</sup> Km. marker and turn right onto Highway 2068 heading towards Amphoe Dan Khun Thot for around 20 kilometres passing Amphoe Kham Thale So. Take Highway 2148 and proceed for 21 kilometres and then take Highway 2217 near the Dan Khun Thot Hospital and follow the road for 11 kilometres to arrive at Wat Ban Rai.







## Amphoe Pak Thong Chai

### *Wat Na Phrathat*

Also known by the locals as Wat Takhu, Wat Na Phrathat is an ancient temple built during the reign of King Rama I in 1787. The important features of the temple include the 'Old Ubosot', the 'Ho Trai Klang Nam', and the Phrathat. Located beside the new Ubosot (ordination hall), the Old Ubosot showcases beautiful mural paintings of the early Rattanakosin period that are still in good condition. The murals portray Jataka tales, people paying respect to the Buddha's footprint, as well as local way of life. Ho Trai Klang Nam (Scripture Hall in the middle of the water) is located in the lake near the old Ubosot. The Central Thai-style building that is raised high above the water is used to keep the ancient palm-leaf Tripitaka (Buddhist scripture from termites). The scripture hall also contains murals on both the exterior and interior walls in which the exterior walls showcase much faded murals of the Buddha's life, celestial assembly, and Phramae Thorrani (Goddess of Earth), whereas the interior walls feature murals of the celestial assembly and falling flowers. At the front of the Old Ubosot is the Phrathat (stupa) constructed in the Laotian style of architecture. The Phrathat is highly revered by the locals and story has it that the Laotian immigrants constructed the Phrathat to be the centre of their community.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 heading towards Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for 23 kilometres. Turn right onto Highway 2238 and follow the road for 4 kilometres to arrive at Wat Na Phrathat.

## Lam Phra Phloeng Dam

Constructed in 1962 and started operating in 1967, Lam Phra Phloeng Dam was built for irrigation purposes, but it also generates electricity. Apart from coming to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the nature that surrounds the dam, visitors can also rent a long-tail boat to tour the dam and travel to nearby waterfalls; such as Namtok Khlong Ki and Namtok Khun Chon.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 (Kabin Buri-Pak Thong Chai) and proceed past Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for 4 kilometres and turn right at the intersection. Follow the road for 28 kilometres to arrive at the Lam Phra Phloeng Dam.

### *Wat Pa Si Phothiyan*

Set amidst the lush forest not far from Lam Phra Phloeng Dam, Wat Pa Si Phothiyan is a beautiful temple that houses a large golden Buddha image that is visible from afar and offers a breathtaking view of the natural surroundings. The golden colour of the Buddha image is not from the gold-coloured paint, but the entire Buddha image is covered with countless pieces of gold leaf made from real gold. Situated behind the golden Buddha image is a small Buddha image named 'Luangpho Than Chai' (Quick Fulfillment Buddha), which is believed to be granting all the wishes of all worshippers, except for the wishes about love.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and proceed past Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for 4 kilometres and turn right at the intersection. Follow the road for 28 kilometres to see the entrance to Lam Phra Phloeng Dam and continue for around 1 kilometre to arrive at Wat Pa Si Phothiyan.



Wat Pa Si Photothyan

### Jim Thompson Farm

Covering an area of over 1.13 square kilometres at the foot of Khao Phaya Prap, Jim Thompson Farm was established in 1988 to cultivate mulberry for silk production. In 2001, Jim Thompson Farm was opened to the public as an agrotourism and ecotourism attractions where visitors can spend time learning about the silk farming process through the Jim Thompson Farm Tour. The tour takes visitors around the farm to observe silkworms rearing and silk farming, as well as explore the cultivation of a variety of plants including pumpkins, sunflowers, hydroponic flowers, and decorative plants. Visitors can also learn about the traditional way of life of the people in the Northeastern region at the 'Isan Village', and explore 'Ho Trai' (Buddhist library) and 'Sim Nam' ('Sim' is a Northeastern term for 'Ubosot'

or the ordination hall, while 'Nam' is Thai word for water, thus 'Sim Nam' is the ordination hall in the middle of the water). Here visitors can also buy various agricultural products that are cultivated at the farm; such as, pumpkin, winter squash, and hydroponic vegetable and flowers. **Remark:** Jim Thompson Farm is only open for visitors once a year during the peak of winter season (around December to January). Please check their website for more information on the dates, operating hours, and entrance fee.

**Website:** [www.jimthompsonfarm.com](http://www.jimthompsonfarm.com)

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304) for 27 kilometres and turn right at the Lam Phra Phloeng Intersection on Liap Khlong Chonlaprathan Road. Proceed for 18 kilometres and turn right onto Highway 2072 and follow the road for around 1 kilometre to find Jim Thompson Farm on the right.



*Jim Thompson Farm*

### **Pak Thong Chai Silk Weaving Village**

Amphoe Pak Thong Chai is one of the most famous silk weaving villages in Thailand and visitors can find numerous shops and outlets in Amphoe Pak Thong Chai selling silk fabrics and ready-to-wear clothing made by the villagers of Amphoe Pak Thong Chai

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 heading towards Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for around 32 kilometres. The shops selling silk can be seen scattered around the area of Amphoe Pak Thong Chai.

### **Ban Japoh**

Ban Japoh is known for the exquisite silk textiles, especially, Mudmee silk, Hang Krarok (squirrel's tail) patterned silk, and the combination of the two. The villagers of Ban Japoh have been weaving silk for many generations, and they got

together to form the Ban Japoh Silk Weaving Group to conserve this valuable cultural heritage. The Ban Japoh Silk Weaving Group comprises several stations where visitors can learn all the process of producing silk textile including the natural dyes making station, Mudmee tie-dyeing station, and silk weaving station. Within the village is a Community Museum that was established to showcase the community's local wisdom of producing silk textile, and features a collection of century-old silk fabrics and ancient weaving tools. After observing the silk making process and visiting the museum, visitors can also explore and choose to buy some of the beautiful silk fabrics as souvenir.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 heading towards Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for around 30 kilometres, passing the Pak Thong Chai



Intersection. Follow the sign to Ban Japoh to arrive at the Ban Japoh Silk Weaving Group.

*Remark:* Please contact Ban Japoh Silk Weaving Group at Tel. +66 8 4471 6501, +66 6 2856 4284 (Thai only) in advance in order to be able to observe the whole silk making process.

### **Matchada Thai Silk**

Matchada Thai Silk is a big silk textiles and silk products distribution centre of Amphoe Pak Thong Chai. Apart from offering a wide selection of silk products; such as, silk fabric, ready to wear silk clothing, and accessories made from silk, Matchada Thai Silk also offers other local products including cotton fabrics and products made from cotton, as well as other goods. Visitors to Matchada Thai Silk can also observe the complete process of silk textile making from dyeing and spinning silk yarn to weaving.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 heading towards Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for around 35 kilometres to find Matchada Thai Silk located on the left along the Highway.

### **Nakhon Chai Burin Silk Centre**

Nakhon Chai Burin Silk Centre is the silk product distribution centre of the 'Nakhon Chai Burin' group which consists of four provinces; namely, Nakhon Ratchasima, Chaiyaphum, Buri Ram, and Surin. Visitors can enjoy browsing through and buying an array of silk products as well as other local products and souvenirs from these four provinces. The Centre also features an exhibition where visitors can explore the beautiful and valuable silk textiles.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 heading towards Amphoe Pak Thong Chai for around

30 kilometres. Nakhon Chai Burin Silk Centre is located around 2 kilometres from the Pak Thong Chai Intersection.

*Operating Hours:* Every day 9.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. (closed on Wednesday)

*Remark:* To see the exhibition, please contact Tel. +66 6 1619 9642 in advance (Thai only).

### **Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao**

#### **Sakaerat Environmental Research Station**

A research centre for plant species in the Northeastern region, Sakaerat Environmental Research Station comprises mainly of dry evergreen forest and dry dipterocarp forest. A wide array of animals are found at the research station including barking deer, serow, lesser mouse deer, pig-tailed macaque, bears, several species of lizards and amphibians, as well as around 230 species of birds. The research station first established for scientific purposes to conduct research and experiment on the environment and ecology, and later the research station also offers an eco-tour for those interested in learning about forests, plants, and wildlife. The activities at the research station include walking along the nature trail, birdwatching, observing wildlife animals.

*Remark:* Sakaerat Environmental Research Station only accepts group visit of at least 10 people, and those interested in joining the eco-tour must make a reservation with the research station in advance.

*Website:* [www.tistr.or.th](http://www.tistr.or.th)

*How to get there:* The Sakaerat Environmental Research Station is situated around the 246<sup>th</sup> Km. marker of Highway 304, around 75 kilometres from the Nakhon Ratchasima city centre.



*Sakaerat Environmental Research Station*

### **Thap Lan National Park**

Thap Lan National Park spans across Amphoe Pak Thong Chai, Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao, Amphoe Khon Buri, and Amphoe Soeng Sang of Nakhon Ratchasima province and Amphoe Nadi of Prachin Buri province. Covering an

area of 2,235.80 square kilometres, Thap Lan National Park is Thailand's second largest national park and is home to the rare Lan (*Corypha lecomtei*) forest. The forests within the Park originate several streams that are the tributaries to the Mun River and Bang Pakong

River. The Park is made up of mountainous area with the highest peak named Khao Lamang, which stands at 992 metres above sea level, and is a habitat of numerous wildlife species; such as, Asian elephant, guar, tiger, wild boar, and a variety of bird species. The Park also provides camping grounds for visitors.

*Thap Lan National Park comprises several interesting attractions including:*

**Lan Forest** Lan (*Corypha lecomtei*) Forest at Thap Lan National Park is the last of its kind in Thailand. This kind of palm tree flowers when it is at least 20 years old, and each of the trees has more than 60 million flowers. However, the tree dies after the flowers blossom.

**Pha Chom Tawan** Situated at the 13<sup>th</sup> Thap Lan National Park Ranger Station, Pha Chom Tawan (Viewing Sun Cliff) is a viewpoint on the hilltop, where visitors can enjoy camping here and wake up to witness the captivating sight of sea of fog rolling against the mountains. Within the area of the Ranger Station are three waterfalls where visitors can visit; namely, Namtok Suan Hom, Namtok Man Fa, and Namtok Huai Khamin.

**Namtok Suan Hom** Namtok Suan Hom is a medium-sized waterfall that drops down three levels, with water running all year round but is especially beautiful during rainy season between July and September. There is also a nature trail where visitors get to observe the floras that surround the area.

**Namtok Man Fa** Named after the characteristic of the waterfall, Namtok Man Fa (Sky Curtain Waterfall) showcases a mesmerising curtain-like cascade. However, the water only runs during the rainy season.

**Namtok Huai Khamin** Namtok Huai Khamin is set amidst the tranquil lush forest and has

plenty of water during the rainy season in which visitors can enjoy a refreshingly cool dip.

**Namtok Huai Yai** Situated to the west of the Park, Namtok Huai Yai is a large and magnificent waterfall of around 50 metres high and 30 metres wide. The waterfall has five levels with water running all year round, with some part connecting to Namtok Suan Hom.

**Namtok Thap Lan** Also known as Namtok Heo Nok Kok, Namtok Thap Lan is 20 metres high with water descending the rock steps to a large pool. This waterfall has water only during the rainy season.

**Khao Makha** Khao Makha offers stunning scenery of the mountains and there is a camping ground available for visitors to spend the night on the mountain in order to catch a captivating first ray of light.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 for 107 kilometres to arrive at the Thap Lan National Park.

**Admission Fee:** 200 Baht for adults and 100 Baht for children.

**Website:** [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)

### **Pha Kep Tawan**

A part of the Thap Lan National Park and situated at the 11<sup>th</sup> Thap Lan National Park Ranger Station (Thai Samakkhi), Pha Kep Tawan (Kep Tawan Cliff) is a viewpoint that offers spectacular vistas of the natural surrounding. Apart from camping and indulging in the picturesque scenery, which is particularly stunning at sunset, visitors can also join in the reforestation activity by shooting plant seeds into the valley using a slingshot.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn left at the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for 9.6





*Pha Kep Tawan*

kilometres and turn right and continue for 3.5 kilometres to arrive at Pha Kep Tawan.

### ***Huai Khamin Reservoir***

Encompassed by the tranquility of the nature, Huai Khamin Reservoir was built as water storage for the people in the community. The best time to visit the Reservoir is early in the morning, as visitors can witness the sight of fog floating above the calm water surface, while the ray of light glistens like a diamond through the fog and across the water.

***How to get there:*** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn left at the 225<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for 9 kilometres and turn left to arrive at Huai Khamin Reservoir.

### ***Pa Khao Phu Luang Ecotourism Centre***

Blessed with abundant of natural resources, Pa Khao Phu Luang Ecotourism Centre is a part of the Pa Khao Phu Luang National Reserved Forest that covers an area of 272 square kilometres. The Centre is established to serve as an ecotourism attraction for visitors and tourists where visitors can enjoy relaxing as well as to explore the wonders of nature. The Centre provides bungalow-type accommodation and camping grounds, and offers many activities; such as, studying the nature of the dry evergreen forest of Khao So along the nature trail and camping in the midst of natural serenity.

***How to get there:*** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right onto Highway 2235. Proceed for 34 kilometres to arrive at the Pa Khao Phu Luang Ecotourism Centre.





Huai Khamin Reservoir

### **Khao Phaeng Ma Non-hunting Area**

Khao Phaeng Ma Non-hunting Area, also known as Khao Phaeng Ma, is named after the shape of the mountain that resembles the neck of a horse and covers an area of 16 square kilometres. Visitors to Khao Phaeng Ma can enjoy a variety of activities including trekking and animal watching from the watchtower. Early morning and evening are the best times to go to the watchtower, as visitors might be lucky to catch a glimpse of a herd of gaur grazing.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine. Follow the road for 10 kilometres to arrive at the Khao Phaeng Ma Non-hunting area.

### **Lam Phra Phloeng 1 Reservoir**

Embraced by the lush mountains and Wang Nam Khiao's picture-perfect landscape, Lam Phra Phloeng 1 Reservoir is a great spot for relaxation. Several resorts near the reservoir offer camping ground for visitors to camp out under the star and enjoy spending time in the natural surroundings. The pavement that meanders between the rural highway and the reservoir has been made into a walking lane and a bike lane that provides the opportunity for visitors to enjoy an evening stroll.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine onto Highway 3052. Follow the road for 18 kilometres to arrive at Lam Phra Phloeng 1 Reservoir.

### **Non-toxic Farming Promotion Centre under the Royal Initiative Project**

The Non-toxic Farming Promotion Centre was established in 1998 with an aim to restore the forest and conserve soil and water by implementing non-toxic farming system, as well as to be a self-sufficient community. The Centre later became under the patronage of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Apart from learning about non-toxic farming system and His Majesty's sufficiency economy concept, visitors to the Centre can also observe the making of bioorganic fertiliser and wood vinegar, as well as trying their hands on growing organic vegetable.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the

71<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road and turn left after passing Wat Ban Nam Sap, and continue further to arrive at the Non-toxic Farming Promotion Centre under the Royal Initiative Project.

### **Suan Lung Krai**

Krai Chomnoi or Lung Krai (Uncle Krai) is one of the most renowned figures of Wang Nam Khiao, as he is a pioneer in 100 per cent chemical-free farming in the area. Suan Lung Krai (Uncle Krai's Farm) is a learning centre for a chemical-free approach to vegetable farming. One of Lung Krai's techniques in growing healthy and delicious vegetables is to play the guitar and sing for the vegetables. A visit to Suang Lung Krai enables visitors to learn a step-by-step



*Gaur at Khao Phaeng ma*





process of how to grow leafy salad vegetables; such as, iceberg lettuce, red and green oak lettuce, and butterhead lettuce, as well as hear Lung Krai sing. Suan Lung Krai also serves as a distribution centre for agricultural products from other farms within the area, and visitors are able to buy various kinds of vegetables and fruits at reasonable prices.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn left at the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker heading towards Thai Samakkhi Village. Proceed further and turn left following the sign to Suan Lung Krai

### **Suan Lung Choke**

Chokdee Poralokanon, also known as Lung Choke (Uncle Choke) is a dedicated agriculturalist that is famous in the agro-forestry field. Suan Lung Choke (Uncle Choke's Farm) is an Environment and Self-reliant Agriculture Study Centre, focusing on the provision of practical experiences to visitors through different information stations. Visitors can learn from Lung Choke about sustainable agro-forestry, and explore the reservoir, fish ponds, paddy fields, herb garden, integrated fruit orchards, and bamboo forest.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for 11 kilometres to arrive at Suan Lung Choke.

### **Wang Nam Khiao Farm (Mr. Mushroom)**

Mushroom is Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao's important cash crop and Wang Nam Khiao Farm (Mr. Mushroom) is a large mushroom farm that cultivates several types of mushroom; such as, shiitake, lingzhi, and yanagi matsutake. Visitors are welcome to explore the mushroom

cultivation process, as well as buy fresh and processed mushroom products.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn left at the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker heading towards Thai Samakkhi Village. Proceed further and turn left following the sign to Wang Nam Khiao Farm (Mr. Mushroom).

### **Wipha's Chrysanthemum Garden**

Wipha's Chrysanthemum Garden features a stunning collection of chrysanthemum that can be grown all year round. Apart from enjoying observing the chrysanthemum of different colours and varieties, visitors can also learn about all the stages of chrysanthemum cultivation, from the soil preparation to the suitable weather condition, and how to harvest the crops. Visitors can also find other flower varieties at the Garden; such as, jade vine, coral vine, and lily, as well as buy cut flowers from the plots.

*How to get there:* From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for 3.5 kilometres and turn left heading towards Ban Bu Sai. Proceed for 1.5 kilometres to find Wipha's Chrysanthemum Garden on the right.

### **Ban Bu Sai Shiitake Culture and Process Demonstration Centre**

The Ban Bu Sai Shiitake Culture and Process Demonstration Centre is where visitors can observe the techniques of culturing organic Shiitake mushrooms that are adapted from local wisdoms, as well as how to transform fresh Shiitake mushrooms into a variety of products. Fresh and processed mushrooms are also available for purchase.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for 6 kilometres to arrive at the Ban Bu Sai Shiitake Culture and Process Demonstration Centre.

### **Village Farm and Winery**

Spanning across the area of 320,000 square metres, Village Farm and Winery cultivates two wine grape varieties; namely, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The winery produces over 10 kinds of wine using traditional French wine making techniques. Village Farm and Winery offers winery tour and wine class to visitors, as well as provides a restaurant serving delicious menus, and a country-style accommodation.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn left near the 59<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Follow the road for around 1 kilometre to arrive at the Village Farm and Winery.

**Operating Hours:** Monday – Friday 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m., Saturday – Sunday 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.

**Website:** [www.villagefarm.co.th](http://www.villagefarm.co.th)

**Remark:** The winery tour and wine class takes place only during the winemaking season, which is around December to February. Please visit Village Farm and Winery website for more detail.

### **Khao Phaengma Orchids**

Khao Phaengma Orchids features around 200 species of both local and foreign orchids, some of which are exotic and rare species. The nursery at Khao Phaengma Orchids also breeds special hybrid species including the orchid the smells like chocolate, one that has lemongrass scent, and one with coconut cream fragrant. Apart from buying the beautiful orchids, visitors can

learn how to properly care for orchids as well.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine onto Highway 3052. Follow the road for 6 kilometres to find Khao Phaengma Orchids on the left.

### **Montana Farm**

Montana Farm provides a unique holiday experience for all, whether it is a holiday with family, friends, or as a couple, one will find plenty of interesting activities at the farm. Some of the activities include feeding sheep at the Sheep Home, taking photos with alpacas at the Alpaca Land, and playing a variety of games; such as, ATV riding and archery shooting, at the Game Zone. Apart from enjoying the activities and taking photos around the farm, visitors can also visit the Organic Farm that grows hydroponic vegetables to learn about the organic farming system and taste the freshly picked vegetables from the farm. There is also a Steak House serving delicious gourmet food and a Coffee Shop offering aromatic coffee and dessert.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the Bu Phai Huai Yai Phatthana Village. Follow the road for 700 metres to arrive at Montana Farm.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 50 Baht

**Website:** [www.montana-farm.com](http://www.montana-farm.com)

### **Flora Park**

Flora Park is an enormous garden that is creatively designed to showcase thousands of colourful and beautiful ornamental and winter flowers breed and grown in Wang Nam Khiao area. The exotic gardens featuring all kinds of



Flora Park

winter flowers; such as, geranium, petunia, begonia, and salvia, as well as auspicious plants; such as, pink cassia, cassia grandis, and cassia fistula. There is also a Rose Park, located nearby, where over 30 varieties of English Rose and 100 varieties of Modern Rose are grown. Apart from strolling along the different gardens, visitors are recommended not to miss going to the Flora Tower View to indulge in the 360-degree view of this floral wonderland. Visitors can also purchase organic agricultural products, as well as handmade souvenirs from the shop within the Park.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine onto Highway 3052. Follow the road for 7 kilometres to arrive at Flora Park.

**Remark:** Flora Park is only open for visitors once a year during the winter season (around

November to March). Please check their website for more information on the dates, operating hours, and entrance fee.

**Website:** [www.faprathanfarm.com](http://www.faprathanfarm.com)

### **Fa Prathan Farm**

Located near the Flora Park, Fa Prathan Farm is a sustainable agricultural learning centre that provides information on agriculture to visitors. The farm is divided into several sections including the Veggie Ozone, which is an organic vegetable plantation that grow mostly salad vegetables, and the Greenery Coffee Ozone that cultivates Arabica and Robusta varieties. Other sections include the Eggie Ozone, an egg laying hens farm, the Grape Ozone, which cultivates several varieties of grape, and the last section is the Rubber Ozone that grows rubber trees.





*Mae Mon Farm*

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine onto Highway 3052. Follow the road for 7 kilometres to arrive at Fa Prathan Farm.

**Website:** [www.faprathanfarm.com](http://www.faprathanfarm.com)

### **Mae Mon Farm**

Mae Mon Farm is a chemical-free mulberry farm that is opened for visitors to explore the farm and enjoy handpicking the fruit from the tree to taste the refreshing goodness of mulberries. The fruit of mulberries is usually ripen during summer but Mae Mon Farm uses pruning technique to enable all year round fruit production. Apart from the freshly-picked mulberry fruits, visitors can also purchase several products made from the mulberries

grown at Mae Mon Farm including mulberry juice, mulberry jam, and mulberry preserves.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 304 and turn right at the 79<sup>th</sup> Km. marker near Chaopho Luang Rat Shrine onto Highway 3052. Follow the road for 24 kilometres and turn right to arrive at Mae Mon Farm.

### **The Little Garden at Wang Nam Khiao**

The Little Garden at Wang Nam Khiao covers an area of 19,200 square metres and is an agro-tourism attraction that features new and innovative agricultural system. Visitors can explore a variety of plantation including corn, pumpkin, and bottle guard, and visit the Solar Greenhouse that cultivates cherry tomatoes using automatic watering system. The Little

Garden at Wang Nam Khiao also features several beautiful gardens full of various flowers; such as, rainbow-coloured garden, all of which are a wonderful backdrop for visitor's photos.

**Remark:** The Little Garden at Wang Nam Khiao is only open for visitors once a year during the peak of winter season (around December to February). Please check their website for more information on the dates, operating hours, and entrance fee.

**How to get there:** The Little Garden at Wang Nam Khiao is situated on the 228<sup>th</sup> Km. marker of Highway 304.

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/TheLittleGardenAtWangNamKhiao](https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleGardenAtWangNamKhiao)

## **Amphoe Chok Chai**

### ***Dan Kwian Earthenware Village***

Dan Kwian Earthenware Village is famous for the unique rust-coloured pottery in which numerous potters have been producing this pottery for many generations. In the early period, the pottery items made were mainly regular household items; such as, water jars, pots, and mortar. Nowadays, Dan Kwian's pottery has been developed to be works of craft that are made for local and international sales; such as, vases, dolls, and garden decoration items. The unique properties of Dan Kwian's clay are the durability and its colour. The standard firing process gives a natural reddish brown colour to the pottery, but if it is fired at a high temperature, the colour will be greyish black. Visitors to the Dan Kwian Earthenware Village can learn about pottery-making, as well as exploring numerous stores that displays and sells all kinds of Dan Kwian's handcrafted earthenware.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 224 heading towards



*Dan Kwian Earthenware Village*

Amphoe Chok Chai for 17 kilometres. Turn left at the sign for Dan Kwian Pottery Kingdom to arrive at the village.

## **Amphoe Soeng Sang**

### ***Hat Chom Tawan***

Hat Chom Tawan is a 300-metres long fresh water beach on the edge of the Lam Plai Mat Dam. The area around the dam has been developed as a recreation place for the public, and visitors can enjoy swimming as well as observing the tranquil scenery of the dam,

which is particularly beautiful during sunrise and sunset. Other activities include hiring a long-tail boat to go on a reservoir, trekking to nearby attractions including the Giant Takhian Thong Tree (a large iron wood tree believed to be a thousand years old), Tham Phra (Buddha image Cave), Tham Communist (a cave where “the Communist Party of Thailand” is written on the wall), and Wang Phisuea (Butterfly Palace, where countless butterflies can be seen in winter). Between October and November, Hat Chom Tawan is especially lively with birdwatchers coming to see ducks that are migrating from Siberia.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 224 and turn right at the Soeng Sang Intersection onto Highway 2317. Follow the road for 15 kilometres to arrive at Hat Chom Tawan.

## **Amphoe Non Sung**

### **Ban Prasat Archaeological Site**

Ban Prasat Archaeological Site is the second archaeological site in Thailand that was converted into an outdoor site museum (the first was Ban Chiang Archaeological site in Udon Thani province). Measuring 700 metres by 450 metres and surrounded by a moat and a mound, the village is an important pre-historic site dating back around 3,000 years ago and illustrates the evolution of human and cultural beliefs through the years. The excavations revealed evidence of cultural development during the Dvaravati and Ancient Khmer periods, and unearthed many interesting artefacts including skeletons, grave gifts, pottery, and ornaments. There are three excavation pits that visitors can explore; namely:

**Excavation Pit 1:** At this excavation pit, skeletons were unearthed in each cultural layer with

a different burial pattern. The deepest layer is 5.5 metres deep and dates back 3,000 years in which the skeletons lie with the head pointing to the southeast. The 2,500 year-old layer reveals the heads pointing to the east, whereas the 2,000 year-old layer shows the heads pointing to the south. However, all three early cultural deposits shared similar burial attributes; such as, shell bangles, beads, bronze rings and bangles, and the red-slipped pottery with cord-marked decoration. On the other hand, the pottery found in the 1,500 year-old layer are the Phimai Dam (black polished pottery with a coarse, thin body texture) instead.

**Excavation Pit 2:** Traces of a place of worship called ‘Ku Than Prasat’, believed to be from the 8th-11th century, as well as a head of a Buddha image in the Dvaravati-style art from the same period were found in the upper deposits. Other artefacts found include a half-body earthen figure in the shape of a pregnant woman, and architectural fragments of stucco reliefs.

**Excavation Pit 3:** At the depth of 5.5 metres were skeletons of woman, all were found to be headless and were buried with smashed pottery. The archaeologists assumed that these women were executed as their skulls were found buried around 500 metres away.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province, and turn left at the 44<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Continue for another 2 kilometres to arrive at the Ban Prasat Archaeological Site.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

### **Ban Prasat Home Stay**

Ban Prasat is a serene village with several interesting attractions including the Ban Prasat Archaeological Site and Than Prasat (Prasat Stream), which is one of the nine sacred





*Ban Prasat Archaeological Site*

sources of holy water in Thailand from which water is brought to use in important national ceremonies. The community is a prototype home stay programme for other villages in the country and is also a sustainable community-based tourism destination. Visitors are invited to stay with the local family to experience the local way of life and enjoy various of activities including cruising along the Than Prasat, riding on a farm tractor, learning how to grow and harvest rice, cooking local dishes and making local desserts. The main occupation of the villagers is rice farming, but they also earn extra income by producing handicrafts; such as, weaving reed mats, hats and shoes, and making So (traditional Thai fiddle). Visitors can observe the villagers making these products as well as purchase these products as souvenir.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province, and turn left at the 44<sup>th</sup> Km. marker. Continue for another 2 kilometres to arrive at the Ban Prasat Village.

**Contact:** Tel. +66 8 9581 7870

### **Prehistoric Community Learning Center, Ban Non Wat Archaeological Site**

Ban Non Wat Archaeological Site is considered as one of the oldest archaeological sites in Nakhon Ratchasima. The discoveries at the site revealed the continuous cultural development dating back from the Neolithic Age through to Bronze Age, Iron Age, Historical Periods, up until present. The excavation shows that Ban Non Wat was an agricultural community as the remains of plant seeds; such as, rice, was



*Thung Samrit Memorial*

found. The Learning Centre features the burial site complete with skeletons, as well as artefacts unearthed from the excavation including pottery, accessories, and animal bones.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Amphoe Non Sung for 30 kilometres and turn left onto Highway 2067 heading towards the Non Sung Police Station. Continue for another 20 kilometres and turn right at the junction near Wat Marum onto Highway 3512. Proceed for 6 kilometres to arrive at the Prehistoric Community Learning Center, Ban Non Wat Archaeological Site.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

## **Amphoe Phimai**

### **Thung Samrit Memorial**

Thung Samrit was once a battleground where

the Khorat people, led by Thao Suranari or Ya Mo, fought with Lao soldiers during the reign of King Rama III. The Thung Samrit Memorial was constructed to honour the fighters who sacrificed their lives to help Ya Mo win the battle and save Khorat. Situated within the ground of Thung Samrit Memorial is a pavilion housing the statues of Ya Mo and Miss Bunluea to honour their heroism. Miss Bunluea sacrificed her life by tossing lighted coal bundles into a wagon carrying gunpowder of the Lao army, and the explosion destroyed the wagon and killed several Lao soldiers as well as Miss Bunluea herself.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province, and turn right between the 43<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Km. markers. Continue for 3 kilometres to arrive at the Thung Samrit Memorial.



*Phimai National Museum*

### **Phimai National Museum**

The Phimai National Museum was originally an open museum that was used to collect the objects from the Prasat Hin Phimai (Phimai Sanctuary) and the other nearby sites. In 1975, the museum was established to be the national museum and at present, the Phimai National Museum exhibits the cultural prosperity and society development of the lower northeastern region of Thailand by displaying artefacts and objects collected from Nakhon Ratchasima, Chaiyaphum, Buriram, Surin, and Si Sa Ket. The Museum consists of two buildings that house an exceptional collection of artefacts dating back to prehistoric era including lintels, pediments, Bai Sema (boundary markers), Buddhist and Hindu statues, Angkor-style

statues, and items of gold and silverworks. The highlight is the stone statue of King Jayavarman VII that was found at the Prasat Hin Phimai. Another distinctive item is the 'Phimai Dam' (Black Phimai) Pottery, which is black earthenware with smooth surface with etched designs.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province for 50 kilometres. Turn right onto Highway 206 and continue for 10 kilometres to arrive at the Phimai National Museum.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 9.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/phimainational-museum](http://www.facebook.com/phimainational-museum)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 4447 1167





*Phimai Historical Park*

### **Phimai Historical Park**

Phimai Historical Park contains Prasat Hin Phimai or Phimai Sanctuary, one of the most significant Mahayana Buddhist temples found in Thailand. The Park consists of several important structures and monuments in good condition, making it one of the most popular historical tourist sites in the country. The Phimai Sanctuary is in a rectangular shape and is measured 565 metres wide and 1,030 metres long. It is believed that Phimai is an ancient town that was constructed during the Khmer Empire around the 11th to 12th century. The word 'Phimai' is possibly derived from 'Vimaya', which is found in an inscription on the doorframe of one of the structures in the sanctuary.

*Some of the important structures within the Phimai Sanctuary include:*

**Naga Bridge** The first structure to be seen at the sanctuary, the Naga Bridge is a sandstone platform leading to the southern Gopura (entrance gate). The bridge is in a cruciform plan with stairs on three sides and each rail of the bridge is a seven-headed naga and guarded by chinthes. The Naga Bridge was constructed according to the Buddhist and Hindu beliefs to symbolise the link between Heaven and Earth.

**Main Prasat** The Main Prasat is a principal tower constructed entirely of white sandstone whereas the porches and the walls are made of red sandstone. The most distinctive feature of the Phimai Sanctuary is that, unlike other

Khmer sanctuaries that face east, the Main Prasat faces south. The Main Prasat comprises a Mondop (square-based tower) and a Dhaty (main temple). The tower features beautiful carvings on the gables and lintels depicting episodes from the Ramayana and Buddhist stories apart from the southern side that illustrates the dancing Shiva. The most important part of the Main Prasat is the Garbhagriha (the innermost room of the temple) that houses sacred image, while the northeastern corner of the room is a passageway for passing the holy water outside.

**Prang Brahmathat** Situated in front of the Main Prasat on the left, Prang Brahmathat is a square-based laterite structure with porches on four sides. Two important sandstone sculptures were found inside the tower; namely, the sculpture of King Jayavarman VII and the sculpture of a woman with the head and arms missing and is believed to be Queen Jayarajathevi, which is also known as Nang Oraphim from the local folklore. These two sculptures are now on display at the Phimai National Museum.

**Prang Hin Daeng** Prang Hin Daeng or the Red Stone Temple is situated on the right of the Main Prasat and is believed to be constructed around the 13th century. Above the northern entrance door is a lintel engraved with pictures depicting the Khrishna hunting wild boars.

**Bannalai** Located to the west of the outer courtyard, between the inner and the outer walls are two square sandstone structures that are believed to be Bannalai (library).

*Outside the Phimai Historical Park are some interesting historical sites including:*

**Ancient Gates and City Wall**

The city wall was in the form of rectangular ramparts and laterite arched gateways are

found in the south, west, and north. The Southern gate, known as Pratu chai (Victory Gate), is the most important one as it faces Angkor and an ancient road can be traced coming out from this gate, indicating that it probably served as a road from the ancient Khmer capital to Phimai.

**Meru Brahmathat** The Meru Brahmathat is a brick chedi standing on a high mound and is around 30 metres high and the name 'Meru Brahmathat' is referred to as a place for the cremation of King Brahmathat. The style of construction leads to an assumption that it was built around the 18th century in the late Ayutthaya period.

**Kuti Ruesi** An ancient structure located outside the Phimai city wall, Kuti Ruesi is believed to be built as an Arokhasasala (hospital) during the reign of King Jayavarman VII, as mentioned in the inscription at Prasat Preah Khan that King Jayavarman VII built 102 Arokhasasala around the Angkor Empire.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province for 50 kilometres. Turn right onto Highway 206 and continue for 10 kilometres to arrive at the Phimai Historical Park.

**Operating Hours:** Every day 7.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Admission Fee:** 100 Baht

**Contact:** Tel. +66 4447 1568, +66 4447 1535

**Sai Ngam**

'Sai Ngam', literally translated to 'Beautiful Banyan', is named after the abundance of banyan trees in the area of over 2,300 square metres on the bank of the Mun River. The trees are all originated from a single tree, which is around 350 years old, making this area a special place as the banyan tree holds a significant meaning in Buddhism because the Lord Buddha enlightened while sitting in the shade



*Sai Ngam*

of the banyan tree. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Mun River under the shade of the banyan trees, as well as enjoy tasting delicious local dish named 'Phimai noodle' from the nearby restaurants.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province for 50 kilometres. Turn right onto Highway 206 and continue for 9 kilometres to arrive Sai Ngam.

### **Phet Phimai Learning Center**

Phet Phimai Learning Centre is an agricultural learning centre that cultivates a wide collection of plants; such as, bamboo, cherry, papaya, banana, fingered citron, a variety of lime, and

various flowers. Thong Thammada, the owner of the learning centre, is an agriculturalist that innovatively breeds various new crops, and he welcomes fellow agriculturalists and other visitors to learn the techniques from him at the centre.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 2 heading towards Khon Kaen province for 50 kilometres. Turn right onto Highway 206 and continue for 20 kilometres following the sign to Phet Phimai Learning Centre.

### **Amphoe Huai Thalaeng Ban Lung Pradu Samakkhi**

Ban Lung Pradu Samakkhi is a weaving village in



which the villagers gathered to form the 'Lung Pradu Thai Silk Group' to weave the beautiful fabric using the local wisdom that has been passed on for generations. The most famous pattern produced at Ban Lung Pradu Samakkhi is the 'Hang Krarok' (squirrel's tail), which replicates the shape of the squirrel's tail, and is made of different coloured weft and warp. A visit to this village during the merit making festival called the 'Dok Mai Dok Ngoen' in November enables visitors to experience the traditional way of life of the villagers. During the festival, the villagers would bring the silk fabrics that they made and sell them to donate money to the temple.

**How to get there:** From Nakhon Ratchasima city centre, take Highway 226 heading towards Amphoe Huai Thalaeng for 58 kilometres. Turn left onto Highway 206 and proceed for 3 kilometres to arrive at Ban Lung Pradu Samakkhi.

## EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

### **Thao Suranari Memorial Fair**

One of the biggest annual event that takes place in Nakhon Ratchasima, the Thao Suranari Memorial Fair commences on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to honour Ya Mo's bravery because 23<sup>rd</sup> March marks the date of which Chao Anuwong's army withdrew from Nakhon Ratchasima. The event starts with the ceremonial lighting of an opening flame and firework displays, followed by a variety of cultural activities, including performances, exhibition, various competitions, and a beauty contest, throughout the 12-day period. Visitors can also enjoy the light and sound presentation about Ya Mo, as well as browsing the stalls selling local products.

**Date:** 23 March – 3 April

**Venue:** The area near Thao Suranari Monument and in front of the City Hall in Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima

### **Khorat Candle Festival**

During the Buddhist Lent period, Thai people offer candles and other basic essentials to the monks, who are confined to their temple grounds and devote their time to study, meditation, and prayer, for use throughout the three-month period. Instead of simply offering plain candles, Thais began to carve the candles into beautiful shapes. The carvings are usually in the shape of Buddha statues and creatures from the Thai and Buddhist literature, illustrating the unity, creativity, craftsmanship, and devotion to Buddhism of the people in the community. Visitors to Nakhon Ratchasima get the opportunity to see the unique local wisdom of candle carving at the Khorat Festival, which features a Candle Procession and the Candle Competition.

**Date:** Buddhist Lent Period

**Venue:** In front of the City Hall in Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima

### **Phimai Festival and Boat Races**

The Phimai Festival and Boat Races is a major annual event that attracts visitors to Amphoe Phimai annually. The Phimai Festival is held to celebrate the glorious past of Phimai and features a magnificent light and sound presentation at the Brahmthat Ground of the Phimai Historical Park that tells the story of King Jayavarman VII through dance performances. On the other hand, the Phimai Boat Races is organised to reflect the lifestyle of the people that is attached to the river and to promote the unity of the community. Apart from races of boats from

Amphoe Phimai and nearby districts, the event also includes competition of boat decoration, and stalls selling local products.

**Date:** Second weekend of November

**Venue:** The Brahmthat Ground of the Phimai Historical Park and the Chakkarat River in Amphoe Phimai.

### **Phimai Mini Light and Sound**

Organised by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Phimai Mini Light and Sound features a light and sound performance that depicts the story of Phimai city in the past. As the name suggests, the Phimai Mini Light and Sound is a smaller version of the light and sound presentation that takes place during the Phimai Festival.

**Date:** February (please check with the Tourism Authority of Thailand for the exact date of the event)

**Venue:** Phimai Historical Park

### **Kin Khao Kham Festival and Sung Noen's Products Fair**

'Kin Khao Kham' is a local tradition of people in Khorat for a long time in which family members are sharing a meal together after a long day of work. Visitors to the festival are offered the opportunity to experience this traditional way of life, and enjoy a Khantok-style dinner while watching a performance. The Khantok-style dinner involves the diners seated in a circle around a 'Tok' (pedestal tray), on which a variety of Northeastern-style dishes are served. While relishing the delicious food, visitors also get to enjoy watching the Srijanasapura light and sound performance, which is about the local legend of Mueang Sung Noen.

**Date:** March (please check with the Tourism Authority of Thailand for the exact date of the event)

**Venue:** Prasat Muenag Khaek in Amphoe Sung Noen

### **Chrysanthemum Blooming in the Sea of Mist Festival**

Every year, the area of over 64,000 square metres around the Thai Samakkhi Sub-district Administrative Organisation is filled with blooming Chrysanthemum of over 20 species. Apart from the beautiful and colourful Chrysanthemum, there are also stalls selling agricultural products; such as, strawberry, melon, and organic vegetables, as well as local products.

**Date:** February (please check with the Tourism Authority of Thailand for the exact date of the event)

**Venue:** The plantations around the Thai Samakkhi Sub-district Administrative Organisation in Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao.

### **Pak Thong Chai Silk Festival and Khorat's Products Fair**

The Pak Thong Chai Silk Festival and Khorat's Products Fair features several interesting activities including stalls selling silk and local products, a fashion show, Queen of Silk contest, and the demonstration of silk making process.

**Date:** December (please check with the Tourism Authority of Thailand for the exact date of the event)

**Venue:** In front of the Pak Thong Chai District Office.

### **Pak Chong Cowboy City and Countdown**

Visitors are invited to experience the world of cowboy at the Pak Chong Cowboy City and Countdown festival. The event features various cowboy activities, cowboy and cowgirl contests, performances, and numerous stalls selling cowboy-related products.



*Phimai Festival and Boat Races*

**Date:** 25-31 December

**Venue:** Khao Khaen Park in Amphoe Pak Chong

## LOCAL PRODUCTS

### *Silk Textiles*

Silk textile is one of the most famous local products of Nakhon Ratchasima, especially those produced in Amphoe Pak Thong Chai. Visitors to Amphoe Pak Thong Chai as well as Amphoe Huai Thalaeng can explore the complete process of silk making, and support the local villagers by purchasing the silk products.

### *Agricultural Products*

Amphoe Pak Chong and Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao are renowned agro-tourism destinations

where visitors can learn about the agricultural process as well as purchase agricultural products. Example of agricultural products visitors can purchase from Amphoe Pak Chong and Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao include but not limited to mushrooms, organic vegetables, and wines.

### *Earthenware*

The unique rust-coloured pottery produced at Dan Kwian Earthenware Village in Amphoe Chok Chai is one of the most famous local products of Nakhon Ratchasima. Visitors can purchase a variety of handcrafted pottery items range from decoration items; such as, dolls, to household items; such as, pots and vases.





*Toscana Valley Country Club*



*Panorama Golf and Country Club*

## GOLF COURSES

### **Rancho Charnvee Resort and Country Club**

**Address:** 333/2 Mu 12, Tambon Khanong Phra, Amphoe Pak Chong

**Website:** [www.charnveeresortkhaoyai.com](http://www.charnveeresortkhaoyai.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 8 8375 4466

### **Panorama Golf and Country Club**

**Address:** 68 Mu 10 Tambon Nong Ya Khao, Amphoe Sikhio

**Website:** [www.panoramacountryclub.com](http://www.panoramacountryclub.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 44001406-1

### **Mountain Creek Golf Resort and Residence**

**Address:** 99/9 Mu 12, Mittraphap Road, Tambon Lat Bua Khao, Amphoe Sikhio

**Website:** [www.mountaincreekthailand.com](http://www.mountaincreekthailand.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +664408 1234-6

### **Khao Yai Golf Club**

**Address:** 151 Mu 5 Tambon Mu Si, Amphoe Pak Chong

**Website:** [www.khaoyaigolfclub.com](http://www.khaoyaigolfclub.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 4408 1234-6

### **Kirimaya Golf Resort and Spa**

**Address:** 1/3 Mu 6 Thanarat Road, Tambon Mu Si, Amphoe Pak Chong

**Website:** [www.kirimaya.com](http://www.kirimaya.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 4442 6000

### **Bonanza Golf and Country Club**

**Address:** 236 Mu 5, Thanarat Road, Tambon Khanong Phra, Amphoe Pak Chong

**Website:** [www.thebonanzakhaoyai.com](http://www.thebonanzakhaoyai.com)

**Contact:** Tel. +66 8 6237 3193

## SAMPLE ITINERARIES

### **3 Days 2 Nights Cultural Route**

#### **Day 1**

Morning

Start the journey by visiting the **Thao Suranari Monument**

Afternoon

to pay respect to a renowned Ya Mo, a heroine of Khorat. Then, visit the **Korat Museum** and **Ruen Khorat**, to learn more about the history and culture of Nakhon Ratchasima. Proceed onto **Wat Sala Loi**, a temple built by Ya Mo, to explore the beautiful Thai-style architecture, and followed by visiting **Wat Sala Thong** to pay homage to the relics of the Lord Buddha enshrining in the pagoda.

Travel to **Wat Ban Rai** to explore the magnificent Buddhist art at the Wihan Thep Witthayakhom and pay respect to the sculpture of Luangpho Khun, a highly revered monk of Nakhon Ratchasima.

Call in at **Prasat Hin Phanom Wan**, the fifth largest ancient Khmer sanctuary in Thailand. Visit **Ban Prasat Archaeological Site** in Amphoe Non Sung to learn about the pre-historic communities that resided in the area some 3,000 years ago. Spend time learning the local way of life by staying with the local villagers at **Ban Prasat Home Stay**.

#### **Day 2**

Morning

Travel to Amphoe Phimai and visit the **Phimai National Museum** to observe the artefacts uncovered at the Phimai Sanctuary. Trace back to the time of Khmer

	<p>Empire by visiting the <b>Phimai Historical Park</b> and enjoy admiring the beautiful sanctuary.</p> <p>Visit <b>Dan Kwian Earthenware Village</b> to explore a variety of beautiful rust-coloured pottery and purchase some items as souvenir.</p>	Afternoon	<p>Travel to <b>Utthayan Lan Bun Maha Wihan Somdet Phra Phutthachan (To Phrommarangsi)</b> and pay homage to the giant Buddha image.</p> <p>Visit <b>Wat Khao Chan Ngam</b> to explore the prehistoric rock paintings that date back around 4,000 years ago.</p> <p>Make a trip to <b>Wat Thep Phithak Punnaram</b> to pay respect to the giant Buddha image named Luangpho Khao and marvel at the beautiful natural surrounding from the top of the hill.</p>
Afternoon	<p>Discover the pre-historic world at the <b>Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources</b> and enjoy learning about the petrified wood, primitive elephants, and dinosaurs found in Nakhon Ratchasima.</p> <p>Make a trip to Amphoe Sung Noen and visit <b>Mueang Sema Historical Site</b>, which was built during the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and pay respect to the giant reclining Buddha image at <b>Wat Thammachak Semaram</b>.</p> <p>Spend time going back to the beginning of the ancient Khmer civilisation by visiting the <b>Ancient Town in Tambon Khorat or the Ancient Khorat</b>.</p>		
<b>Day 3</b>			<b>2 Days 1 Night Natural Route</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<p>Head to Amphoe Pak Thong Chai, a district renowned for silk production and spend the morning exploring the complete process of silk making at <b>Ban Japoh</b>.</p> <p>Call in a <b>Wat Pa Si Phothiyan</b> and pay respect to Luangpho Than Chai.</p>		<b>Day 1</b>
		Afternoon	<p>Begin the trip by visiting <b>Farm Chokchai</b> and have fun learning about dairy farming. Visit one of the three wineries in Amphoe Pak Chong (<b>PB Valley Khao Yai Winery, GranMonte, or Alcidini Winery</b>) and enjoy the vineyard tour amidst the natural wonders of Khao Yai.</p> <p>Spend the afternoon at the <b>Khao Yai National Park</b> and enjoy a variety of activities; such as, going to the waterfall and trekking along the nature trail.</p> <p>Enjoy the nighttime wildlife viewing activity before camping out under the stars at Khao Yai National Park.</p>
		Evening	



## Day 2

Morning

Make a trip to **Thap Lan National Park** and spend a quality time in the midst of the nature by visiting the waterfalls and viewpoints within the Park.

Afternoon

Travel to Amphoe Wang Nam Khiao and spend the afternoon doing agrotourism activities by visiting some of the famous agricultural sites; such as, **Suan Lung Krai, Suan Lung Chok, Wang Nam Khiao Farm, or Fa Prathan Farm.**

Late Afternoon Visit **Pha Kep Tawan** to enjoy

shooting plant seeds into the valley using a slingshot, and complete the trip by indulging in the mesmerising sight of sun setting amidst the spectacular natural surroundings.

## RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATION

For information on restaurants and accommodation, please visit [www.tourismthailand.org/nakhonratchasima](http://www.tourismthailand.org/nakhonratchasima) or contact the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Nakhon Ratchasima Office at Tel. +66 4421 3666, +66 4421 3030.

### Important Telephone Numbers

Tourism Authority of Thailand

Tel. +66 4421 3666,

Nakhon Ratchasima Office

+66 4421 3030

Tourist Police

Tel. 1155

Highway Police

Tel. 1193

Nakhon Ratchasima Provincial Police Station

Tel. +66 4424 2555

Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital

Tel. +66 4423 5000

Bangkok Hospital Ratchasima

Tel. +66 4442 9999

Bangkok Hospital Pakchong

Tel. +66 4431 6613



*Phimai Mini Light and Sound*







*Khao Yai National Park*



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