



amazing
THAILAND

Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai

Sacred Doi Suthep peak and a wealth of tradition in the blooming northern capital beside the mighty Ping River

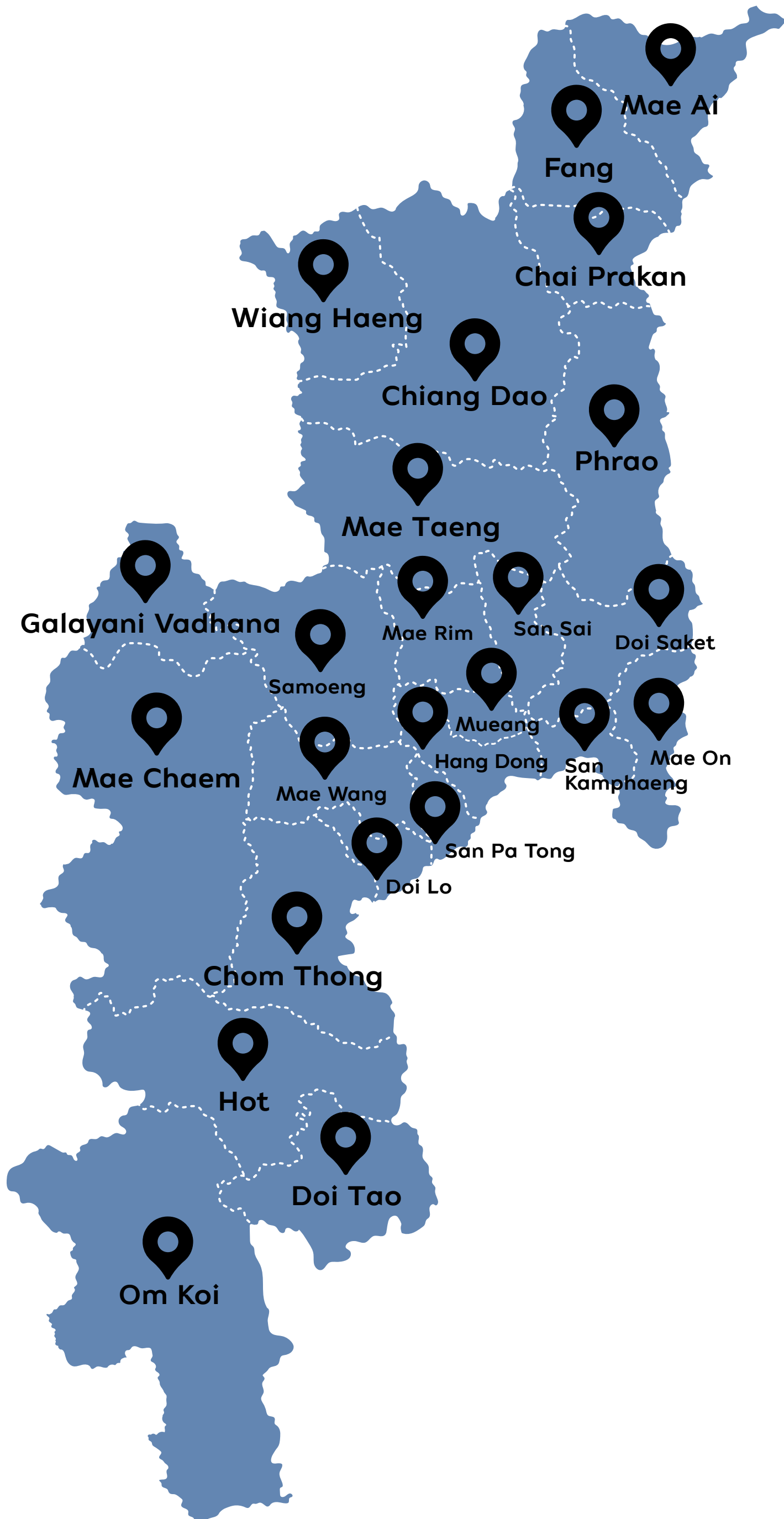
When King Mengrai decided to build a new stronghold in the Laoka Forest between the River Ping and Doi Suthep peak, he invited two allies, namely King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai and Prachao Ngam Mueang, ruler of Payao to join him at Wiang Lek (the current location of Chiang Mun) and give him advice regarding the establishment of a new city. Following the consultation, a plan for a city 1.6 km wide and 2 km in length running from east to west was drawn up. The city pillar was sunk into the earth on a Thursday in May (at the time known as Duean Paed Nuea) and over the subsequent four months a city wall and moat were constructed around the perimeter for protection. The city was named 'Nopburi Sri Nakhon Ping Chiang Mai'

The city often referred to as Wiang Ping for short, remained independently governed for 261 years before being captured by the invading Burmese army in 1558. It was later liberated and reclaimed as part of the Lanna Kingdom by Thaksin the Great in 1774, following which governance was given to his ally King Kawila. Kawila remained at the helm and continued to govern as the city became part of the expanding Siamese empire.

The province of Chiang Mai covers an area of 20,107.057 square km and is the largest province in the northern region, second only to Nakhon Ratchasima nationally. The area is mostly made up of expansive mountain ranges and swathes of forest with a large central plateau flanked by the Ping River. Chiang Mai is the economic heart of Thailand's north as well as being a hotbed for Lanna style art and culture, giving it the unofficial title of "The Zenith of Cultural Beauty".



Chiang Mai Map





Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep Ratchaworawihan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep Ratchaworawihan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located in the Doi Suthep-Pui National Park at a point 689 metres above the Chiang Mai Plateau and 1,406 metres above sea level, this temple has a long and rich history dating right back to 1384, when the Buddhist relics were relocated here and a stupa was erected around them, along with a chapel and Naga serpent motif staircase. A path to the temple was created by leading monks of the time and eventually, in 2004 the Department of Fine Arts paid the temple a visit and started a 6-year project to create Chiang Mai's most picturesque viewpoint. At present visitors can ascend the impressive staircase or take a cable car up to the temple, and those born in the year of the horse are especially encouraged to pay a visit due to the strong astrological links the temple has this zodiac year.



Open daily 05.00 - 21.00 hrs.

Visitors can make the trip up the 300-step stairway or take a cable car to the summit at an extra charge of just 20 baht.

A songthaew truck provides transport from in front of Chiang Mai university to the temple grounds between 05.00 and 17.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5329 5003



Jing Jai Market

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Jing Jai Market

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located on Thanon Atsadathon in the Chang Phueak subdistrict, this market, the first of its kind in Chiang Mai, specializes in chemical-free fruit, veg and organic produce. There's also the Rustic Market section, located under the large Monkey Pod Tree, where visitors can peruse local handmade goods, collectables, household decorations, clothing and accessories. In addition to the shopping options, there are restaurants, bakeries and drink stalls for hungry and thirsty tourists.



Open weekend 06.00 - 13.00 hrs.



Royal Park Ratchaphruek

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Royal Park Ratchaphruek

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located at Chiang Mai Architectural Research Centre, Mae Hia subdistrict, this vast forest park is open to tourists with an interest in agriculture and Thai culture in general. The park is divided into 3 zones, the first of these being Thai Park, which showcases tropical plants, flowers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and fungi as well as a desert zone housed in a glasshouse which features plant life from hot and cold climates, hydroponics, and rare species. There are also displays of agricultural technology here, and an industrial zone where local plants and crops are converted into useful products. There's also the International Park Zone, which features flora from a total of 24 countries around the globe, as well as a replica village showing life in all four regions of Thailand. The most impressive section, however, is the Royal Pavillion, an incomparably elegant two-storey building which features Lanna-era architecture with

an entrance drive coloured on both sides by vivid yellow Indian Laburnam blooms. Visitors can take a trip around the entire park in an electric powered vehicle and there's also a cycling area with bikes for rent for those who wish to explore the park grounds on two wheels.



Open daily 08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

Visitors are advised to contact the park in advance to organize a guide

Entrance fee: Adult 200 baht and Children 150 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5311 4110-5 or via the park website at www.royalparkrajapruek.org





Baan Kang Wat Project

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Baan Kang Wat Project

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Baan Kang Wat Project (SHA) is located in Soi Ban Ram Poang, Suthep subdistrict and is a retail hub for local handmade products and an example of the authentic Northern Thai lifestyles of the past, where a sense of community with fellow villages and sense of harmony with the surrounding nature were of the utmost importance. The project contains numerous buildings constructed from a combination of wood and concrete decorated with antique artefacts, each of them housing a retail outlet selling handicrafts, coffee and local food. There's also an open area and stage in the centre of the village where activities and events can be conveniently held.



Open 10.00 - 18.00 hrs. (closed on Mondays)

For further details contact, Tel. 08 0046 6984 or via the website at www.facebook.com/Baankangwat



Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



The building was originally used as the Payap County Governing Office, but when the system of governance was changed in 1932 and the county system was abolished, it was subsequently used as Chiang Mai's central pavilion. After 1996, it was converted into an arts and cultural centre with 15 different exhibition rooms tracing the history of Chiang Mai right from prehistoric times, through the birth of civilization and right up to the present and including aspects of political systems, lifestyle, local wisdom and cultural traditions, all displayed using modern multimedia methods.



Open Wednesday - Sunday (Including public holidays)
08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 20 baht, Children 10 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5321 7793



Lanna Folklife Museum

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Lanna Folklife Museum

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located in the former district court, opposite the Three Kings Monument, this museum features displays of Lanna lifestyles including Buddhist art and artefacts, architecture and inventions.



Open Wednesday - Sunday and public holidays 08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 20 baht, Children 10 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5321 7793



Chiang Mai Historical Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai Historical Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located behind the Chiang Mai Arts and Cultural Centre, this museum features displays which chart the development of the city through the ages, from the city's initial conception right up to the present. The museum features several permanent displays and an archaeological dig site where suspected wall fragments of the original walls of Wat Phra Kaeo have been found. There's also a public folk library for those looking to unearth more information about the city.



Open Wednesday - Sunday and public holidays 8.30 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 20 baht, Children 10 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5321 7793



Chiang Mai Cultural Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai Cultural Centre

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



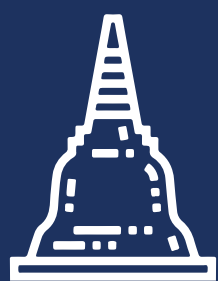
Beside the Chiang Mai - Hang Dong Rd., this centre brings together examples of Lanna art and culture. Upon reaching the centre visitors will be greeted by a series of Thai-style teakwood houses with ornate carvings and patterns around the windows and doorframes. In the evenings there is traditional Lanna-style 'Khantoke' dining as well as folk dance and tribal performances.

To enjoy the performances and a traditional 'Khantoke' meal, tickets are priced at 690 baht/person for adults and 345 baht/person for children under 135 cm in height.



Open daily 18.30 - 20.30 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 09 5145 0296 (Please contact in advance)



Wat Phra Sing Woramahawihan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Phra Sing Woramahawihan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai

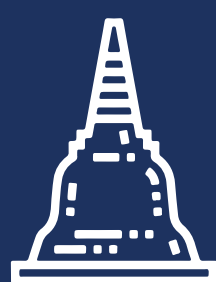


Located on Sam Lan Rd., Phra Sing subdistrict, this temple has a history which stretches back 655 years and was formerly named 'Wat Li Chiang Phra' meaning 'temple close to the central city market'. During the reign of the 8th ruler of the Mengrai dynasty, the Sihing Buddha image was rehoused here, leading to the temple being known as 'Wat Phra Sing'.

The temple has since been declared a first-class royal monastery and contains important archaeological sites like the Wihan Lai Khum and Wihan Luang Hor Trai, as well as the figure paintings and murals that line the walls. The temple is renowned for being a valuable example of Lanna-era art and architecture, as well as being the regular temple for those born in the year of the dragon.



For further details contact, Tel. 0 5341 6027



Wat Phan Tao

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Phan Tao

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Standing on Phra Pok Klao Rd. in the Phra Sing subdistrict, not far from Wat Chedi Luang, this ancient temple in urban surroundings was once known as 'Wat Phan Tao' (temple of one thousandfold), as it was believed that a single visit to make merit would result in the individual receiving merit many times over in return. Over time, the pronunciation deviated from the original and it became known as 'Phan Tao'. There is also a legend that the temple once contained stoves that were used to cast Buddha images ('tao' meaning stove or kiln in Thai). The main point of interest inside the temple is the Ho Kham Luang Chapel, which was previously the dwelling of Phrachao Maho Torn Prathet, the fifth ruler of Chiang Mai, and which was rehoused inside the temple at the order of Phrachao Intawichayanon, the 7th ruler. The teakwood Chiang Saen-style building features door arches intricately carved with peacock images in a homage to the northern rulers. An elevated, century-old pulpit sits inside the chapel and there's a stupa for the temple president situated behind on an octagonal base.



Open daily 08.00 - 17.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5381 4689



Wat Phrathat Doi Kham

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Phrathat Doi Kham

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai

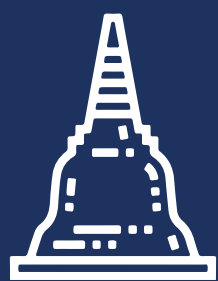


In Mae Hia district, this 1,300 year old temple is presumed to have been constructed during the reign of Phranang Cham Tewee of Hiripunchai, sometime around 687. Previously known as Wat Suwannabanpot, or more simply as 'Wat Doi Kham', the temple has been the site of many important archaeological discoveries over the years including Pra Rot Luang, sandstone Buddha images covered in gold leaf and Pra Sam Mor, and it was presumed that the temple still contained the Phrathat Doi Kham relics housed inside a stupa. When the dig was made this proved to be true and an additional Buddha image, Luang Po Tan Jai, the provincial Buddha image for Chiang Mai was also uncovered. As well as the historical and archaeological treasures here, there are also some wonderful views from the top for tourists to check out.



Open daily 08.00 - 17.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5324 8604



Wat Umong (Suan Puttham)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



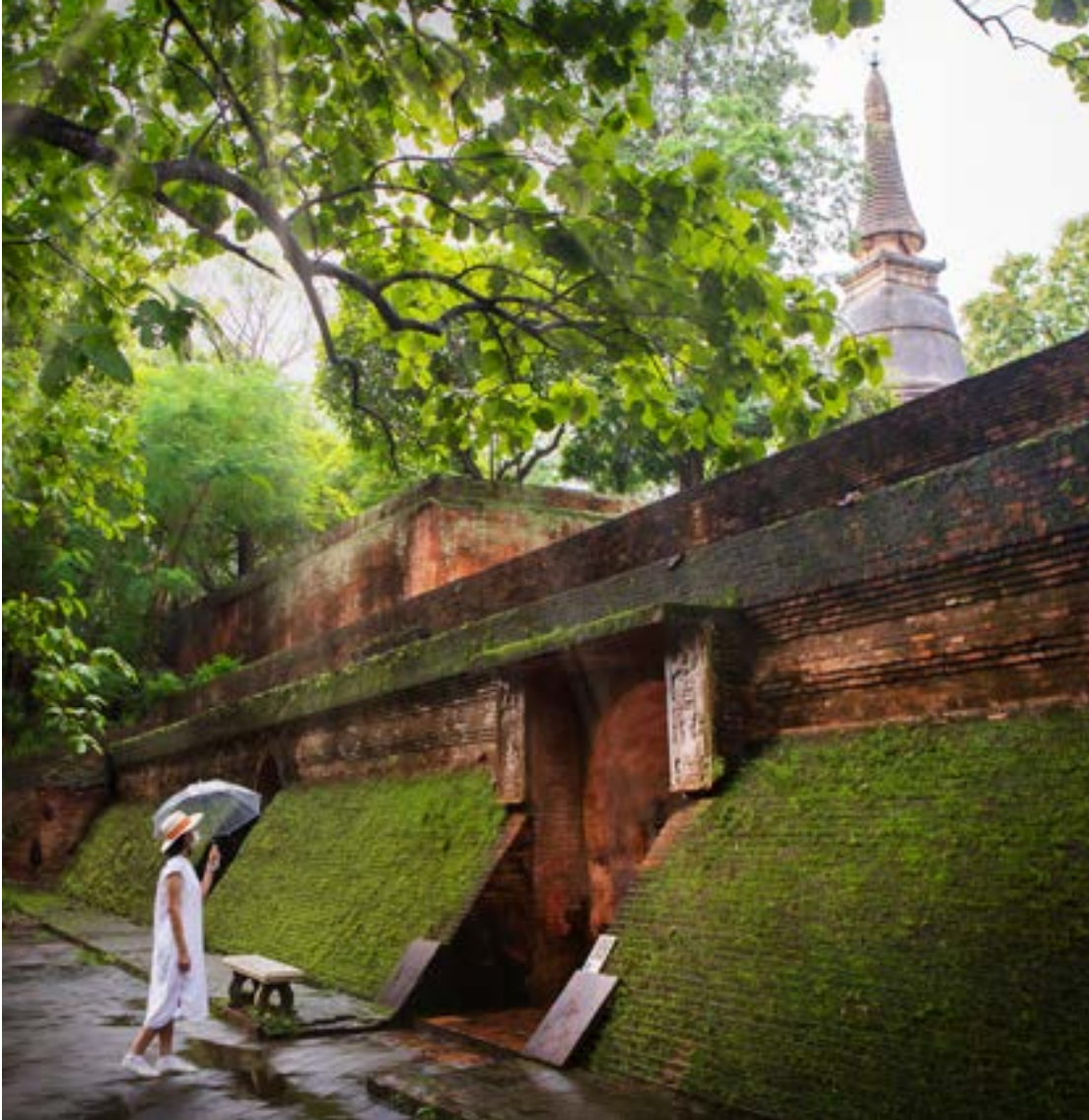
Wat Umong (Suan Puttham)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located at the foot of Doi Suthep, Wat Suthep or 'Wat Pai 11 Kor' as it was previously referred to, was built on the orders of King Mengrai in 1296 and contains a chedi designed by Mahākāśyapa, a disciple of Buddha and important figure in the spread of Buddhism in that era. The 9th king of the Mengrai dynasty, Phaya Kue Na, began his reign in around 1367 and immediately changed the name of the temple to 'Wat Wen Pattaram' to allow the Sanhga Supreme Council from Sri Lanka to reside and practice dharma. The Sri Lankan-style stupa has been carefully preserved in its original form and a tunnel with four separate entrances and exits has been dug from the base of the stupa, leading away to the north. The tunnel has carved inlets for the lighting of lamps and the ceilings are decorated with line paintings from both Thai and Chinese artists.

The area was created in order to allow visitors to worship the residing 'Phra Maha Terachan' and this led to the temple becoming known as 'Wat Umong Therachan' (Terachan Tunnel Temple). Phra Maha Therachan was a Theravada monk and expert on the Pali Buddhist Scripture and Mahagi language who was able to answer even the trickiest dharma



related questions in a knowledgeable way and Theravada monks from the surrounding areas would come to visit Phra Maha Therachan with their dharma related queries, and for this reason, King Phaya Kue Na held him in the highest regard.

Suan Putthatham is an area created by Luang Po Panyananta, the temple president between 1949 and 1966. This 59-acre forest encompasses Wat Umong Therachan and four additional ancient temples as well as the novice monk's living quarters as well as acting as a site for meditation and dharma retreats for both Thai and foreign visitors. There's also a library, theatre and museum here, as well as statues of Bodhisattvas and a replica of the Pillars of Ashoka.



Open daily 08.00 - 17.00hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5381 0965, 0 5381 1100



Wat Suan Dok

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Suan Dok

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Set in Suthep subdistrict, just 1 km from Pratu Suan Dok Gateway, this temple was built under orders from Phaya Kue Na of the Mengrai dynasty and was an extremely important place of worship during his reign. Legend has it that during one of his royal visits, the ruler appreciated the forest area filled with white meranti trees and ordered a temple to be built there, originally calling it 'Wat Buppharaam', meaning the temple among the flowers gardens, although the name was later simplified to 'Wat Suan Dok' by the locals. The focal point of the temple is the stupa containing Saririka relics, brought from Sukhothai by Phra Sumanathera. The stupa features a mix of Lanna and Sri Lankan architectural features. There's also the golden Phrachao Ka King Buddha image housed in the main chapel along with the Phrachao Kao Tue Chiang Saen style Buddha image in the attitude of subduing Mara which was created by Lanna holy men around 1947. Because of links with previous northern rulers, the temple has special importance for those with Na Chiang Mai surnames or those with ancestral links to the Chao Jet Ton clan.



For further details contact, Tel. 0 5327 8304



Chiang Mai Zoo

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai Zoo

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



On Thanon Huai Kaew Rd., just 5 km outside the city, this large zoo features animals both native to Thailand and from abroad, including the famed giant panda, the ambassador for Chinese-Thai relations, and cute koalas from Australia, as well as penguins and rare finches. There's also a sizable aquarium set over two floors with exhibitions regarding marine ecosystems and rare insects on the upper floor and a 133-metre-long tunnel where guests can view both fresh and saltwater marine species and a snow dome on the lower floor.



Open daily 08.00 - 18.00 hrs. (tickets on sale until 17.00 hrs.)

Entrance fee: Adult 150 baht, Children 70 baht

Snow Dome entrance fee: Adult 150 baht, Children 70 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5322 1179 or www.chiangmaizoo.com



Wat Chedi Luang Worawihan (Wat Chotikaram)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Chedi Luang Worawihan (Wat Chotikaram)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



On Phra Pok Klao Rd. in the Phra Sing subdistrict this temple is home to Chiang Mai's largest stupa which was built during the reign of Phrachao Saen Mueang Ma, the 7th ruler of the Mengrai dynasty (1370 -1411). The Emerald Buddha image (now located in Wat Phra Kaew) was actually housed here between 1468 and 1548. The entrance to the temple also boasts the northern region's most impressive Naga staircase and the wooden 'Sao Inthakil' or city pillar, which was erected when King Mengrai first established the city in 1296, remains in the temple's small pavilion to this day. There's an annual celebration on the 12th night of the 8th lunar month (usually around November) which is known as 'Khao Inthakil' and is a celebration of the erecting of the city pillar.



For further details contact, Tel. 0 5381 4308-9



Chiang Mai Night Safari

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Chiang Mai Night Safari

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Set within the grounds of Doi Suthep - Pui National Park in the Mae Hia and Suthep subdistricts in Mueang Chiang Mai and Nong Kwai subdistrict in Hang Dong, this expansive nighttime zoo offers visitors the chance to view elephants, giraffes, zebras, lions, bears, tigers, hyenas and crocodiles from an open-sided tour vehicle. There's also a lakeside trail in the midst of some incredible flora.



The main safari area

Open weekdays 13.00 – 16.00 hrs.
weekends 10.00 – 16.00 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 800 baht and Children 400 baht.
Nighttime

Open 18.00 – 22.00 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 800 baht and Children 400 baht.

Jaguar Trail Zone

Open daily from 11.00 – 20.00 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 100 baht and Children 50 baht.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5399 9050, 0 5399 9000
or www.chiangmainightsafari.com

The safari also offers accommodation and camping facilities
with natural surroundings and full facilities contact
Tel. 0 5399 9015, 0 5399 9079





Lanna Traditional House Museum

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Lanna Traditional House Museum

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located in The Centre for the Promotion of Arts and Culture, Chiang Mai University, Suthep subdistrict, this museum features different styles of ancient housing in natural surroundings and is viewed as a cultural heritage passed down from the region's ancestors which perfectly illustrates the ancient traditions and beliefs and the ways in which they were intertwined with local lifestyles. The houses come in a variety of styles and designs, reflecting their owner's wealth, social standing, and lifestyle but most of them are elevated above ground to give the owner a space to store their farming equipment and relax after work. It was also believed at that time that the bedhead must face towards the east and that houses must be built along the north-south axis to receive the northern wind. Each house also had to be connected to a kitchen, large stone mortar, well and rice storage area which varied in size according to the house owner's relative wealth.

There are ten houses on display here including the Colonial-style house, Chiang Mai native-style house, two Galare-style houses, Tai Lue-style house, Lanna-style house, Mae Tang-style house, Panya-style house, Fah Lai-style house and several types of rice storage building. The museum



is supported by local institutions and history fans so that future generations can learn about past ways of life.



Open daily 08.30 - 16.30 hrs. (excluding public holidays)

Entrance fee: Children under 10 years/Student/Person over 60 years of age 20 baht, General Members of the Public 50 baht

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5394 3626



Wat Phra Aram Luang (Wat Jet Yot)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Phra Aram Luang (Wat Jet Yot)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located alongside the Chiang Mai-Lamphang superhighway in the Chang Pueak subdistrict, just 4 km from Chiang Mai city centre, this temple's construction was ordered by King Phrachao Tilok from the Mengrai dynasty back in 1445 and he subsequently instated Phra Uttama Panyamahathera as the first abbot. He also planted Bodhi trees, leading to the temple quickly becoming labelled 'Potaram Mahawiharn'. However, due to the 7 stupas housed atop the chapel, local people soon came to refer to it as 'Wat Jet Yot' or 'Temple of the Seven Spires.' The chapel is mostly constructed from laterite and adorned with stonework designs of angels and deities on all sides. The 8th meeting of the Global Buddhist Council was held here and the Sri Maha Pho Phuttakaya is also of great significance and relevance for those born in the zodiac year of the snake.



Open daily 08.00 - 17.00 hrs.



Wat Sri Suphan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Wat Sri Suphan

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Located on Wua Lai Road, Hai Ya subdistrict, this temple was built in 1500, in the era of Phrachao Mueang Kaew of the Mengrai dynasty, and it was he who brought the Phrachao Jet Tue Buddha image here and constructed a chapel and pagoda to house it before renaming the temple 'Wat Sri Suphan Aram'. The world's first silver chapel, which displayed many Lanna architectural traits, was also constructed inside the temple grounds. The chapel has a concrete and blockwork base structure and is covered by aluminium and silver decorated with 3D embossed images of the Buddha's life with important teachings and quotes and the temple's history alongside them. The chapel reflects the local community and industry as the area is famed for silver production. There's also a museum which exhibits the ten types of Lanna wisdom and acts as an educational centre regarding local wisdom and industries.



For further details contact, Tel. 0 5320 0332



Warorot Market (Kad Luang)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Warorot Market (Kad Luang)

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



This is the largest market in the entire province of Chiang Mai and its history dates back several centuries. The site was originally home to a royal crematorium and columbarium for many of the region's past rulers. HRH Princess Dararasami ordered the ashes held here to be rehoused in Wat Suan Dok and the inherited items to be given to Prince Intawaroros Suriyawong, who in turn used his riches to create a marketplace which he named 'Talad Warorot'

The locals, however, referred to it as 'Kad Luang' (meaning both 'royal' and 'large' market depending on interpretation). The goods on sale at the market include local food and produce including the famous 'Nam Prik Num' chilli paste, pork rinds, steamed pork sausage, fermented pork, pickled garlic, Chinese plums, mushrooms, carrots, purple cabbage, bitter melon, snow pears, persimmons, apples, oranges, strawberries, lychees and peaches as well as cold climate blooms like roses, carnations and lilies.



Open daily 05.00 - 18.00 hrs.

Evening market

Open daily 17.00 - 23.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5323 5688
or www.warorosmarket.com



Nimmanhaemin Area

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai

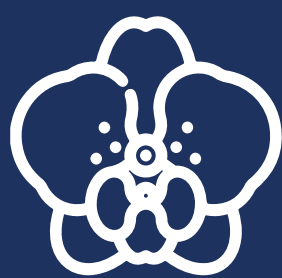


Nimmanhaemin Area

Mueang Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai



Situated in the Suthep subdistrict, this famous old street has been a busy retail and entertainment hub for the people of Chiang Mai for decades now. Lined with shops, restaurants, coffee shops and bakeries this is a busy district during both day and night, with both domestic and international tourists strolling around, taking photographs of the uniquely decorated shops and eateries, and soaking up the atmosphere. This colour and diversity have helped Nimanhaemin retain its status as one of the city's must-visit spots.



Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



Located in Mae Rim, this royal garden was established and opened by HRH Queen Sirikit in 1992 and is widely recognized as the most complete and abundant botanic garden anywhere in Thailand, as well as meeting a host of international standards. The park contains a vast array of domestic species as well as flora from abroad, including many endangered and rare specimens which are planted here for conservation and research purposes. The park is split into two zones, a natural forest area and a display zone.

The arboretum is located in the display zone and displays 17 different species groups divided into further sub-groups, with 12 greenhouses containing displays of southern tropical forest flora inside including palms and ferns, 30–40-year-old cacti and various plants from arid climates. There are also products made from the plant species grown here on offer, including skin cream and alcohol hand spray made from white ginger.



Open daily 08.30 - 17.00 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 40 baht, Children 20 baht, Vehicle with Driver 100 baht

There's a vehicle which transports visitors around the park grounds available at 30 baht/person for adults and 10 baht/person for children

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5384 1000 or www.qsbg.org



Canopy Walkway

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



Canopy Walkway

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



The recently opened longest elevated walkway in Thailand is located in Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, stretching out over 400 metres at a height of 20 metres from the ground. The structure is made from Hot Dip Galvanized Steel to prevent harmful rusting and the floor is made from steel mesh interspersed with glass sections allowing for 360-degree panoramic photography, with 1-metre tall mesh sections to either side for safety. The pathway snakes through the forest allowing visitors to soak up the surrounding nature which features towering trees that provide much-needed shade, and pretty orchids. It takes around 15-30 minutes to complete the walk.



Open daily 08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fee: Adult 40 baht, Children 20 baht, Vehicle with Driver 100 baht (included in the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden fee)

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5384 1215



Mon Cham

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



Mon Cham

Mae Rim, Chiang Mai



Located on a lofty mountain ridge 1300 metres above sea level in the Mhong village Nong Hoi, Mae Ram subdistrict, and counted as one of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's royal projects, this venture gives the local tribespeople an opportunity to make and sustain a living, rather than simply growing opium poppies as they did in the past. The area was once barren and deserted but boasted great views and impressive topography.

His Majesty King Rama IX saw the inherent potential and established the area as an agricultural research centre for vegetables, cold climate plants and flowers and over the years the area become more popular with nature worshipping tourists due to its all-year-round cool climate and pure air. Between October and February is the coolest period with a fluffy white sea of mist visible on most mornings, clear skies in the late mornings which afford resplendent views out over the surrounding peaks and valleys, golden sunsets and night skies populated by glittering stars.

For accommodation, there are some compact houses and a modern campsite with full facilities near the summit with restaurants, refreshment stalls and shops in the immediate vicinity.



For further details contact, Tel. 08 1806 3993, 08 0854 4906, 08 1950 9767



Long Him Khao Community

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



Long Him Khao Community

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



Located at Ban Mon, San Klang subdistrict, this small, artistic community leads a lifestyle which is intertwined with, and inseparable from the nature around it. Sitting close to the Khao river, Long Him Khao literally means 'settlement by the river' in the local language and the village comprises of compact, Lanna-style wooden houses which also act as restaurants, cafes and stores selling locally made clothing, with most residents simply opening their front doors to sell to the visiting public. There's also the 'Chum Cha' market under the giant rain tree which sells handmade goods, food and beverages, and the annual 'Kad Ton Yon' which features local folk art performances as well as a wide range of community-made products.



Open weekends 09.00 - 14.00 hrs.



MAIAM Museum

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



MAIAM Museum

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



Found in the Ton Pao subdistrict, this is Thailand's biggest contemporary art-based museum. Founded by Jean Michel Beurdele, his late wife Patsri Bunnag, and Eric Bunnag Booth, this 3000 square metres warehouse space has housed displays by top contemporary artists from Thailand and abroad for over three decades now, and has included a selection of diverse artistic styles and mediums over these years, with the aim of inspiring visitors and promoting art. The building is split into two floors.

The first floor features revolving exhibitions from top artists including works from rising stars in the worlds of music, film, fashion, floral arrangement, and even folk art. There's also a 40-seater movie theater, a tribute hall to Chao Chom lam and the history of the Bunnag family.

The second floor features permanent exhibitions as well as the owner and founders private collection which includes designer clothing belonging to Patsri Bunnag.

There's also a great shop with handmade souvenirs from the children of the Mercy House charity organization and tea sets from Jean Michel Beurdele himself, as well as the Kamphaeng Kaew restaurant which offers ancient Thai delicacies, tempting fusion dishes, coffee and soft drinks.

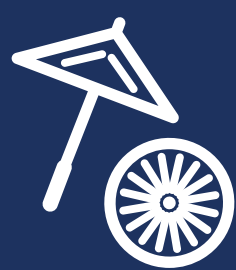


Open 10.00 - 18.00 hrs. closed on Tuesday

Entrance fees: Adult 150 baht, Student 100 baht, free for Children under 12 years.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5278 1737
or www.maiiam.com





Umbrella Making Centre

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



Umbrella Making Centre

San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai



In the past, Bo Sang was a rural village that relied on agriculture for sustenance and whose people produced handmade goods and crafts during their leisure time. However, it was the locally produced rice paper umbrellas that became the symbol of the village and after spotting their potential, a government agency made a visit to the village to offer increased quality rice paper and cotton and silk to create designs upon the umbrella surfaces.

When the Bo Sang umbrellas began to achieve a level of popularity, the production was transformed from a simple handicraft level to a full-scale industry with the umbrella frames being produced in neighbouring villages before being assembled and decorated at Bo Sang.

There's also a legend that says over a century ago Phra Intha received a very unusual umbrella from a Cambodian visitor, and he was so intrigued that he traced the umbrella back to its origins, before returning to his village and sharing the production secrets with the locals. To this day, the umbrellas resemble the original item presented to Phra Intha in a tribute to his important role in the industry.



At the industry centre in Bo Sang, visitors can watch the umbrella production process in full, right from the rice paper production, through to the assembly and attaching paper to frames, to sealing the paper with powder and mako water to reinforce it, to adding coloured paper sheets and drying in the sun, right through to adding the final decorative designs. To ensure the designs stay on the surface for long periods of time, the oil paints are mixed with Paranari Anamense or Tung oil to protect them from fading in sunlight and keep them waterproof. There is also an impressive selection of other local products on sale inside the building.



Open daily 08.30 - 17.30 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5333 8195, 0 5333 8324



Wat Intharawat (Wat Ton Kwen)

Hang Dong, Chiang Mai



Wat Intharawat (Wat Ton Kwen)

Hang Dong, Chiang Mai



Built sometime around 1856 - 1869, during the reign of Kawilorot Suriyawong, 6th ruler of Chiang Mai. The temple features authentic Lanna architectural stylings and was listed as an outstanding heritage building for conservation by The Association of Siamese Architects in 1989. The temple's original name, Wat Ton Kwen, came about after locals noticed the Indian Plum trees around the temple grounds, while the present name 'Wat Intarawa' stems from the name of the temple's second abbot who played a pivotal role in the construction of the chapel.

Since bygone days, the temple has acted as a resting place for the parade of Phrathat Si Chom Thong Worawihan, which is accompanied by elephants and horses all the way from Chom Thong district, an annual custom of the Chiang Mai rulers of the past. Once the public has poured holy water onto the relics, they continue on to Wat Suan Dok temple

and finally on to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep. The last of these parades were held in 2015 to celebrate the 720th anniversary of the birth of Chiang Mai City.

The highlight of this truly temple is the majestic Lanna-style chapel which was built in 1858 and bears an inscription in the northern section of the ceiling in the ancient Thai Yuan alphabet with a three-tiered porch roof to the front of the chapel and a similar two-tiered one at the rear. The concrete stairway leading to the chapel is decorated with images of the Naga serpent and the external windows feature intricate wooden floral carvings. There are also images of animals around the gables, and the plaster base for the Buddha image inside is adorned with 'Dok Kood' ornamental patterns. The internal layout allows you to view the thatched roof lined with earthenware tiles. Behind the main stone sculpted Buddha image is a façade housing further metal Buddha images. The chapel is a testament to the skill and determination of Phra Kru Ba In, the former abbot and artisan, and the chapel was recently used as an example in the Royal Flora Ratchaphruek event.

Other important features include the Chaturamuk Pavilion; the only one of its kind in the northern region. This Lanna-style pavilion was used to temporarily house the Buddha's relics between 1856 and 1869 and is equipped with a platform to display the relics and allow the public to pour holy water onto the Buddha image in a display of worship and set off firecrackers and play ceremonial drums during holy days. There's also an ancient pulpit and a chest for storing scriptures.



Getting there: Take the Hang Dong - Samoeng highway past the Samoeng junction (over the Cholpratan Canal) and continue for 100 metres. The temple is on the left - hand side next to the 37 km marker. It's about 70 metres to the temple and you can take the Chiang Ma- Hang Dong route 'Songthaew' truck and get off at the Samoeng junction and take the Bo Luang bus from there.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 5324 8604, 0 5324 8607





San Kamphaeng Hot Springs

Mae On, Chiang Mai



San Kamphaeng Hot Springs

Mae On, Chiang Mai



These two hot springs, San Kamphaeng and Rung Arun, are located in Ban Sahakorn subdistrict, 37 km outside of Chiang Mai City, and are well known for containing a full complement of minerals. The temperature of the water exceeds 100 degrees Celsius and the jets of water shoot to heights of up to 10 metres, causing fine colourful mist to disperse and hover around the spring. There's a feeling of hazy heat and an unmistakable smell of Sulphur around the spring at all times and this is known to help with respiratory problems. The surrounding area is picturesque with mountain ranges and green patches of dense forest in the background and the spring are well shaded by tall trees and made more colourful by the adjacent flowers gardens with their eye-catching stones and boulders.

The spring water pool is divided into male and female zones with areas for seating and fully submerged bathing, and a shallower pool for those looking to simply soak their feet.

Minerals found in the water include Calcium and Magnesium, which help with arterial infections, joint pains and strengthens bones. Sodium, Potassium and Chlorine, which keep the cells balanced and healthy and Sulphur, which conserves joints and eases spinal pains.

A long enough soak in these mineral rich waters leaves visitors feeling relaxed, relieved of tiredness and muscle strain, and with improved circulation and healthier, cleaner skin.

In the area around San Kamphaeng and Rung Arun Hot Springs, visitors can buy quail or chicken eggs and boil them in the spring waters. If you are looking for a runny, 'Onsen' style egg, then the egg should be boiled for 3 minutes, 5-7 minutes gives a standard soft-boiled egg and 10 minutes for a hard-boiled egg. The eggs will have a faint whiff of sulphur and feel slippery just after boiling but after rinsing they are perfectly fine to consume.



Open daily 07.00 - 18.00 hrs.

Entrance Fees: Adult 100 baht, Children 50 baht

Mineral water showers available at 65 baht for 20 minutes

Public bathing pool at 100 baht/person

Private bathing pool for groups of up to ten person at 500 baht/hour

For further details contact, San Kamphaeng Hot Spring,

Tel. 0 5303 7101, 08 7659 1791, 09 8855 7044

or at www.skhotsprings.com

Rung Arun Hot Spring, Tel. 0 5393 9128, 08 1764 2350, 08 1883 0337 or [Facebook.com/รุ่งอรุณน้ำพุร้อน](https://www.facebook.com/รุ่งอรุณน้ำพุร้อน)





Ban Mae Kampong

Mae On, Chiang Mai



Ban Mae Kampong

Mae On, Chiang Mai



This small, serene village in natural surroundings sits around 1,300 metres above sea level, surrounded by lush, dense forests with tall trees and streams winding through the undergrowth. Most of the occupants here migrated from Doi Saket over a hundred years ago and currently earn a living farming tea and coffee. The village is named after the local 'Kam Pong' flowers that grow around the village creek.

Once the idea of establishing Mae Kam Pong as an ecotourism destination was put forth and approved, homestays began to appear, most of them designed to integrate with the surrounding nature, as well as a bridge over the stream and a street food zone selling local delicacies, coffee shops and galleries displaying the work of local artists. There's a nature trail leading up to the 7-tiered Mae Kam Pong waterfall. This impressive waterfall features several natural pools perfect for bathing and swimming and is located a mere 1.2 km from the village itself. There's also a mountain pathway up to the peak at Doi Mon Lan, activities in the tea plantation and Wat Mae Kam Pong temple which was built

way back in 1930 and features a golden teakwood chapel with impressive, engraved designs and a roof covered in green mosaic tiles, as well as another smaller chapel surrounded by water, one of only two of its kind in Thailand.



Getting there: From Chiang Mai City, travel towards Chang Pueak and Worarot on road 118 (Chiang Mai - Doi Saket) and turn right at the Pong Din junction. The total distance is 51 kilometres.

For further details or if interested in taking part in activities contact Mae Kam Pong Metropolitan Electricity Authority State Enterprise on Tel. 0 5322 9526





Mae Lai Village

Mae On, Chiang Mai



Mae Lai Village

Mae On, Chiang Mai



A small idyllic village, deep in a valley and surrounded by woodland. The cool stream which flows through the village stems from the Mae Lai waterfall and the village boasts a similar climate to neighbouring Mae Kam Pong, with a distance of just 4 km between them.

Despite the calm atmosphere, the village still offers a range of facilities for tourists including homestays in the shape of bamboo huts by the stream, caravans and mobile homes offering mountain views. glass houses and loft-style rooms. All the village's accommodation options come decorated in their own style with photogenic corners, bamboo hammocks and benches and quaint bridges across the stream. There's a selection of coffee shops in the village, along with bakeries, restaurants offering local northern cuisine, and barbecues. The village's only temple is nearby and features a pair of chapels with contrasting architecture created from stones taken from the Mae Lai stream.



Getting there: From Chiang Mai City, travel towards Chang Pueak and Worarot on road 118 (Chiang Mai - Doi Saket) and turn right at the Pong Din junction. The village is situated on the Mae Kam Pong route.



Wat Luang Khun Win

Mae Wang, Chiang Mai



Wat Luang Khun Win

Mae Wang, Chiang Mai



This temple stood on a hill in Don Pao subdistrict for over 700 years, and was derelict until finally in 1954, Khruba Oun Ruean Suppatto of Wat Kuan Nimit, Makham Luang subdistrict, a student of Khruba Chao Siriwichai, breathed new life until the temple.

At present, the temple stands as a prime example of the elegance of Lanna-era architecture and design and it is lauded for its peaceful atmosphere and cool weather. The temple acts as a resting place for hibernating monks during Buddhist lent, as well as being a popular choice for dharma retreats for both male and female members of the congregation. The abbot, Luang Pho Charan Tukkayano ordered the construction of two wooden chapels as well as the world's largest carved Champak wood Buddha image in the standing Jong Krom Kaew posture, which measures 9 metres tall and is set on a 2-metre-wide base. The second of the two chapels also houses a prostrated Buddha image in the



Pang Parinirvana posture as well as many more carved wooden Buddha images. There are monk's living quarters and pavilions as well as a gorgeous Lanna-style Naga staircase. There is a legend regarding the pavilion that contains the hair relics of enlightened beings which says that Buddha himself once wandered the area and encountered two local Lua people called Khun Sab and Khun Samoeng who requested a lock of his hair to keep and worship. After they received the hair, they proceeded to build a pavilion on a nearby hill to retain the sacred item, naming it Phra That Mon Pia.

Wat Luang Khun Win is a forest temple in a remote location, that has no electricity or plumbing system. The temple uses only solar power and the path to the temple is fairly arduous and by no means easy to negotiate, earning it the title of Chiang Mai's truly 'unseen' temple.



Getting there: Take the Chiang Mai - Hot road and turn right at the San Pa Tong junction, past the Mae Wang District Office at 12 km marker. Keep going until you reach the 26 km marker where you'll see a sign for Mae Win Subdistrict Administrative Organization at Ban Sop Win on the right. From there on there's a tarmac road which continues as far as the Karen village at Huai Yuak and once you reach the village, the only way to proceed is by local 4WD vehicle due to the road conditions ahead. The charge is 800 baht/vehicle and one vehicle holds up to 8 people, with all proceeds going directly to the locals.

For further details contact Khun Tongasuk Sujaritdon
Tel. 06 1351 8291



Wat Ban Den

Mae Tang, Chiang Rai



Wat Ban Den

Mae Tang, Chiang Rai



Located in Inthanin subdistrict, Kruba Chao Tueang Natsilo once came to spend Buddhist lent here. At that time there were no Boddhi trees on the temple grounds but shortly after they began to sprout up in their tens and due to the fact that Boddhi trees are known as 'Ton Salee' in the local dialect and revered as sacred, the name was given to the temple accordingly. Add this to the fact that the temple was built on the site of the ancient city, Kaen, the locals were soon referring to the temple as 'Wat Den Salee Sri Mueang Kaen'. Kruba Chao Tueang Natsilo, in his role as temple abbot, refurbished and reopened the temple in 1894 and the temple is of special significance for people born in any of the 12 zodiac years.



For further details contact, Tel. 09 4625 5082, 06 3241 1987



Mae Sap Cave

Samoeng, Chiang Mai



Mae Sap Cave

Samoeng, Chiang Mai



Located at Ban Mae Sap, Samoeng subdistrict and a part of the Khun Khan National Park, this small limestone cave is split into four separate chambers, from left to right Tham Luang Tang Nam, Tham Phra Ubosot, Tham Morakot, and Tham Petch. Each of the chambers has a collection of stalagmites and stalactites in unusual, eye-catching formations and some sections sparkle as if they were diamonds. The walls and ceilings feature snaking, multi-coloured patterns in various hues of yellow, orange, red, brown, blue, white, grey and black, earning the cave the name 'Tham Si Rung', meaning rainbow cave.

The colours found inside the cave are byproducts of the minerals and ores that have collected here over time, and the rock formations and shapes are a result of water erosion. The reds and browns are caused by iron, the white by Calcite, and the grey and black by Manganese Dioxide. The difference in colour and shade is caused by exposure to oxygen; when limestone containing manganese or iron comes into contact with oxygen, it changes colour to red or black.



Inside the cave, there are black stalagmites which stand out against the predominantly white stone. Usually, black stalagmites indicate that the stone has stopped growing and that droplets can no longer gather. The unique black stalagmites in this cave however still grow and collect droplets, a very rare occurrence.

Visitors wishing to enter the cave must be accompanied by an official guide as the inside of the cave is exceedingly dark and potentially dangerous. This also ensures that the walls and ceiling of the cave are not damaged.



Open daily 08.00 – 17.00 hrs.

For further details contact Khun Nan National Park Office, Mae Sap, Samoeng, Chiang Mai Tel. 08 1883 7800, National Parks Department Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.th



Doi Inthanon National Park

Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Doi Inthanon National Park

Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Set in Ban Luang subdistrict, formerly known as 'Doi Luang' or meaning 'large mountain'. It is reported that there was a large basin-like lake in the area where murders of crows would often congregate, leading to some locals referring to the area as 'Doi Angka' ('Ang' meaning basin and 'Ka' meaning crow in Thai).

Doi Inthanon is actually part of the Himalayas, which stretches all the way to Nepal and passes through Bhutan and Myanmar before finishing here. As well as being Thailand's highest peak, Doi Inthanon offers diverse weather conditions and geography, with temperatures remaining low all year round, constant thick fog during winter, and frost on particularly cold mornings.

Doi Inthanon National Park features a tourist information close to the summit which features exhibitions following the development of the area from the past and presenting vital information regarding the climate, ecosystem and flora and fauna, many of which can only be found here. The location is at the 9 km marker on road no. 1009 and the centre is manned by knowledgeable staff. There is also accommodation available nearby.

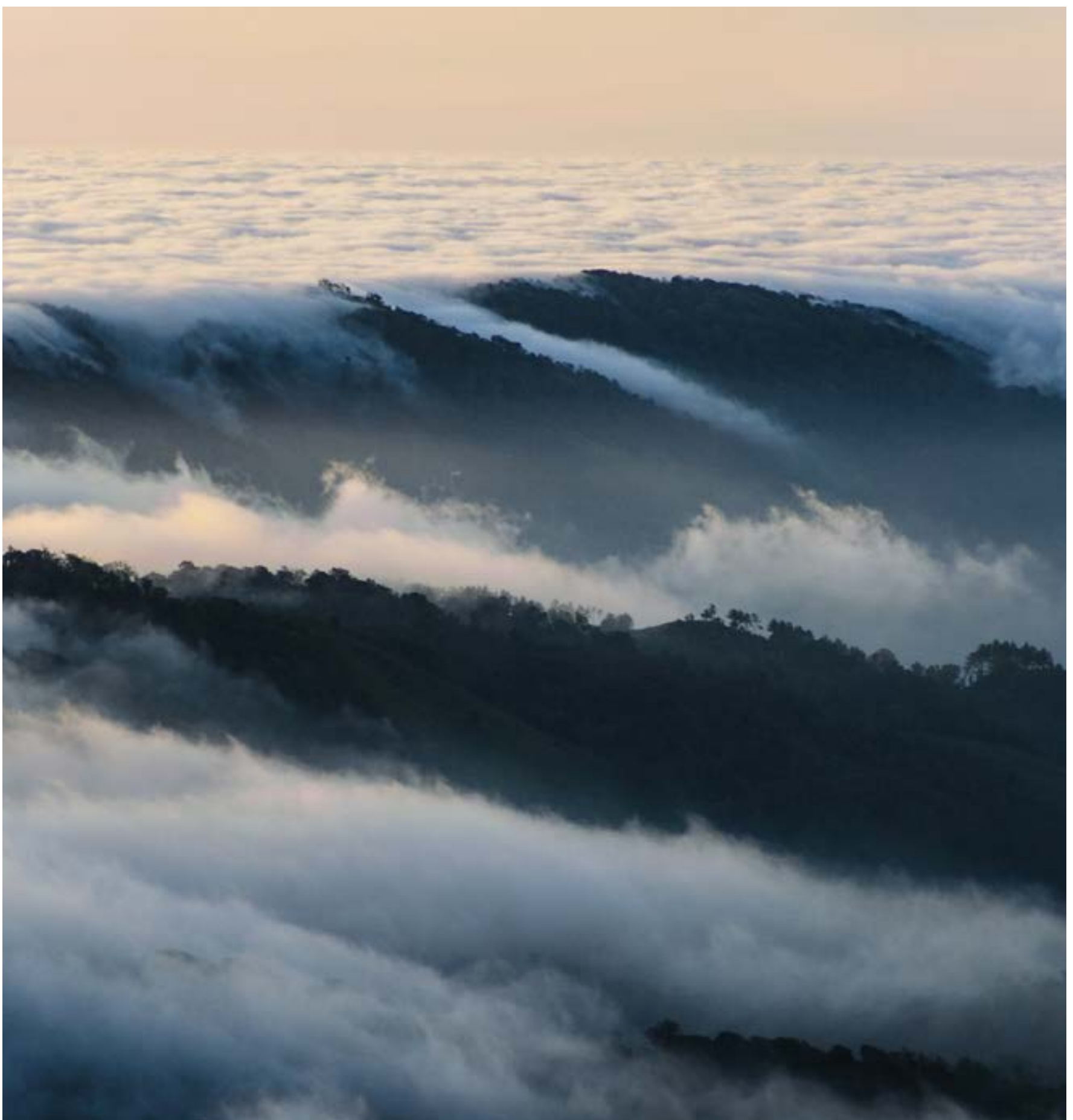


Open 05.00 – 18.00 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 300 baht, Children 150 baht, vehicle charge 30 baht.

Gate 1 is open 24/7 while Gate 2 is located close to the summit and viewpoint.

For further details contact Doi Inthanon National Park,
Tel. 0 5328 6728 or National Parks Department at
Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th





Mae Ya Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Mae Ya Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Just to the south of Doi Inthanon National Park lies Chiang Mai's largest and most spectacular waterfall, and one that was once even considered the largest in the entire country. The fall reaches a height of around 260 metres and the water flows down over thirty tiers of sheer rock from Doi Inthanon and stems from a culmination of many streams and waterways including Huai Mae Ya, Huai Luang, Huai Hom and Huai Pang Tong. Even though the water flows fairly rapidly all year round, the end of the rainy season and the start of the cool season (November - January) is the most stunning with a clear curtain of water of over 100 meters splashing down over the rock. The best viewpoint lies about 200 metres past the stream and is best visited in the morning when the weather is cool and the sunlight breaks through, illuminating the area to the fore of the waterfall. There's a natural pool surrounded by greenery at the foot of the fall which is safe for bathing and swimming. For those wishing to spend the night, there is accommodation and restaurants nearby within the grounds of the national park.



Getting there: The waterfall lies around 70 km outside the city on the Chiang Mai - Hot route (Road 108). When you reach the 58 km marker, just before entering Chom Thong district, turn right onto the Chom Thong - Doi Inthanon road (1009). After about 1 km you will reach some traffic lights. Turn right and follow the route for a further 14 km (not the route to Doi Inthanon). The road to the waterfall is winding but has a decent tarmac surface and once you reach the car park there are another 500 metres to the waterfall to travel on foot.



Mae Klang Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Mae Klang Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Doi Inthanon's first waterfall is near the entrance to the park at the foot of the ascending path, in Ban Luang subdistrict. Mae Klang is a tall, single-storey waterfall which reaches a height of over 100 metres. The waters crash over a rock face down into three natural water basins known as 'Wang Noi' 'Wang Luang' and 'Wang Krai'. All of these natural pools are perfectly safe for swimming and bathing except for during the rainy season when the current is strong and the water is cloudy.

The waterfall also acts as a starting point for excursions to other attractions within the park including Mae Ya Waterfall, Wathiratharn Waterfall, Siritharn Waterfall, the terraced rice fields at Mae Klang and many more.



Getting there: The waterfall's location is 66 km from the city on the Chiang Mai - Hot route (Road 108). When you reach the 58 km marker, before entering Chom Thong district, turn right onto the Chom Thong - Doi Inthanon road (1009) and after around 8 km you should reach a set of traffic lights. Turn right at the junction (the left road leads to Doi Inthanon) and follow the road for 300 metres to reach the waterfall.



Wachirathan Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Wachirathan Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Yet another one of Doi Inthanon National Park's majestic waterfalls, this fall was previously known as 'Nam Tok Tat Kong Yong' and features fast, cascading water all year round. Its water source is located at Huai Mae Klang reservoir, towards the peak of Doi Inthanon and the stream crashes downwards over 80 metres of a sheer rock face. On clear days the sunlight strikes the water vapour and mist that rises from the fall and creates an eye-catching miniature rainbow. Opposite the waterfall is a cliff known as 'Pha Mon Kaew' or 'Pha Waen Kaew'.

The lengthy wooden bridge that leads to the waterfall allows visitors to feel the fine mist and spray that rises from the waterfall as it crashes into the pool below. Visitors can also walk to the top of the fall for a different and equally beautiful perspective or just relax under the shade of the tall trees that encircle the waterfall.



Getting there: The waterfall is located 80 km from the city on the Chiang Mai - Hot route (Road No. 108). When you reach the 58 km marker just before entering Chom Thong district, turn right onto the Chom Thong - Doi Inthanon road (1009). Between km 20 - 21, the road peels off the right. Follow this route for around 300 metres as it winds through the forest to reach the waterfall. Another way is to go around 1 km past the first junction, turn right at the sight and follow the road for 350 metres to reach the waterfall.



Siriphum Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Siriphum Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



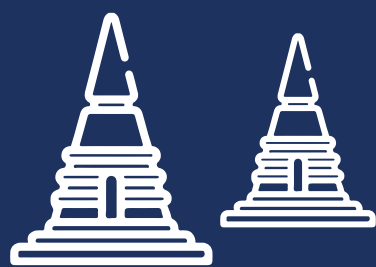
Surrounded by unspoiled nature in Ban Khun Klang, Ban Luang subdistrict, this stunning waterfall is relatively easy to reach. The waterfall features two jets of water running down over a steep cliff which are easily seen, even from a distance. The original name was 'Nam Tok Lao Lee' after the Mhong village leader, although some locals referred to it as 'Nam Tok Song Pi Nong' (The two siblings waterfall).

There's a park near the base of the waterfall named Suan Luang Siriphum. This blossoming green space features many rare ferns and moss and is funded and maintained by The Doi Inthanon Royal Project Foundation. There's also a 600-metre-long nature trail with over 150 species of fern belonging to 40 different families, including paco ferns, maidenhair ferns and dwarf ferns.



Getting there: The waterfall lies 92 km outside the city and to get there you should take the Chiang Mai - Hod route (Road No. 108). Upon reaching the 58km marker, just before entering Chom Thong district, turn right onto the Chom Thong - Doi Inthanon road (1009). Between the 31 and 32 km markers, there's a turn to the right. Follow this for around two kilometres to reach the parking area. To reach the waterfall visitors must walk through the nature trail.





Phra Mahatat Noppamethanedon and Phra Mahatat Nopphonphusiri

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Phra Mahatat Noppamethanedon and Phra Mahatat Nopphonphusiri

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Phra Mahatat Noppamethanedon and Phra Mahatat Nopphonphusiri sit on flat ground between two peaks in the Doi Inthanon National Park, Ban Luang sub-district, and are located at the highest point in Thailand (2,142 metres above sea level). The two spires were built simultaneously, are similar in size and shape and both of them house Buddhist relics and Buddha images.

Phra Mahatat Noppamethanedon is an octagonal chedi decorated with brown mosaic tiling with a nine-tiered metal spire tip and is set on a two-tiered pedestal with each of the tiers surrounded by a glass wall. The chedi is 60 metres in height when measured from the base of the pedestal and contains a carved grey-green granite Buddha image in the blessing posture. The chedi was built to commemorate the 60th birthday of HM King Bhumibol (Rama IX) in 1987.

Phra Mahatat Nopphonphusiri is a 12-sided chedi with pinkish purple mosaic tiling and a 9-tiered metal spire tip and is set on a two-tiered pedestal and each of the tiers is surrounded by a glass wall.

The chedi is 55 metres high from pedestal to the tip of the spire and contains a carved white jade Buddha image in the 'Pang Ramphung' standing posture. The chedi was built as a tribute to HRH Queen Sirikit on the occasion of her 60th birthday in 1992.

The area surrounding the two chedis is decorated with cold weather blooms and during the winter season the temperature drops dramatically and there's a rolling sea of mist that can be observed from the viewpoint during the early hours.



Getting there: The two chedis are located 49.8 km from Chiang Mai City. To get there take the Chiang Mai - Hot route (Road No. 108) and at the 58 km marker just before entering Chom Thong district, turn right onto the Chom Thong - Doi Inthanon road (1009) where you will enter the Doi Inthanon National Park at around the 8 km marker (Mae Klang Waterfall) and make the ascent towards Doi Inthanon peak and the two chedis.

Open daily 08.00 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fee: Adult 200 baht, Children 100 baht

For further details contact Royal Airforce on Tel. 0 2534 6000





Doi Inthanon Peak

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Doi Inthanon Peak

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Formerly known as ‘Doi Luang’, meaning ‘large mountain’, this peak marks the end of the Chom Thong – Doi Inthanon Rd (1009) and is located at km 41. Doi Inthanon peak is the highest point in Thailand, reaching up to 2,565.3341 metres above sea level. There’s another slightly lower peak named Doi Hua Mod Luang which reaches 2,330 metres above sea level. The climate is cold and moist with subzero temperatures often recorded during the winter months.

The summit of Doi Inthanon is also the home of the Royal Air Force radar and the memorial pagoda of Inthawichayanon, Chiang Mai’s 7th ruler. Inthawichayanon was known for his knowledge of forestry and strong desire to conserve Thailand’s forests, particularly around this area. So much so, in fact, that upon his death, the peak of Doi Luang was named Inthanon in his honour.

The viewpoint at the summit offers great views of the surrounding mountain ranges that stretch off into the distance, and those who rise early enough can witness a sea of mist rolling across the peaks and valleys. The twin chedis of Phra Mahatat Noppamethanedon and Phra Mahatat Nopphonphusiri are also visible on clear days.



Huai Sai Lueang Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Huai Sai Lueang Waterfall

Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



This medium-sized waterfall features rapidly running water throughout the year and its jet cascades down over a rock face and into a natural water basin below with a mighty crash that reverberates around the surrounding area. The stream then continues to run over another staggered cliff face that resembles a flight of stairs and continues on its way, allowing visitors to paddle and explore the area on foot. The surrounding glades are verdant with clusters of ferns growing and the stream bed features the fine yellow sand that gives the waterfall its name. The waterfall is a little off the beaten track and doesn't lie along the route to Doi Inthanon, and as a result is mostly quiet, although its proximity to the lodge accommodation in Mae Chaem district makes it somewhat popular with nature loving tourists.



Getting there: The waterfall is located 105.5 km from Chiang Mai city on the Chiang Mai - Hot Luang route (Road 108). Turn right at the 58km marker onto the Chom Tong - Doi Inthanon road (1009) and follow the route for a further 39 km until you reach the Mae Chaem junction. Turn left at the junction and travel a further 6.5 km along route 1192 and turn right into the national park office for Mae Pan waterfall. Huai Sai Lueang waterfall is a further 2 km past the office building.

For further details contact Department of National Parks, Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.co.th or Doi Inthanon National Park, Tel. 0 5335 5728, 0 5331 1608



Kew Mae Pan

Doi Inthanon Nature Trail, Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Kew Mae Pan

Doi Inthanon Nature Trail, Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



The entrance to the trail is located on the left-hand side at the km 42 marker. The total walking distance is 3 km and this spot is ideal for those looking to get back to nature. The route passes through an evergreen forest and under a cliff with swirling mist where Rhododendrons bloom. These bushes grow at higher altitudes and flower in whites and reds with unopened flowers that resemble banana blossoms, before fully blooming between December and February. They are usually found in the Himalayas and are recognized as Nepal's national flower. The area features nearby Mae Chaem as a picturesque backdrop and was rewarded in the ecotourism category in the 4th Tourism Industry Awards in 2001. The route is signposted with relevant information for visitors and local people act as guides if required.



Visitors can hire a guide at the cost of 200 baht per trip and parties can set off on the trail any time from 06.00 hrs. onwards.

There is accommodation close to Doi Inthanon National Park for those wishing to stay overnight and check out the Kew Mae Pan viewpoint at sunrise.

The ideal time to visit is between December and January as the trail needs to be registered and permission must be granted before tours can embark. Please contact the National Park reception and bear in mind that tour groups should not exceed 15 persons.

The park does not allow food to be brought into the area and consumed along the trail. The trail is also closed during the rainy season to allow natural rejuvenation and is closed to tourists between the 1st of June and the 30th of October every year.



Ang Ka Luang

Doi Inthanon Nature Trail, Doi Inthanon National Park, Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



Ang Ka Luang

Doi Inthanon Nature Trail, Doi Inthanon National Park,
Chom Thong, Chiang Mai



This trail was planned and designed by Michael MacMillan Walls, a Canadian zoologist and regular volunteer at Doi Inthanon National Park. The path is around 1,800 metres in length and runs through marshland in the depths of a valley. The notable points are the area's evergreen hills with warm and tropical climate plant life, the accumulation of algae, moss and other organic matter on the tree branches and trunks and the appearance of Sphagnum Moss, a type of moss which thrives in balanced, abundant conditions at heights of over 2,000 metres above sea level and requires cool, moist conditions to grow.



For further details contact, Tel. 0 5328 6728



Doi Bo Luang Forest Park

Hot, Chiang Mai



Doi Bo Luang Forest Park

Hot, Chiang Mai



Located in a protected forest area in Mae Lai, Bo Luang subdistrict is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Industry Organization, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This beautiful pine forest features a fresh climate all year round and also boasts a camping area which fits in with its natural surroundings.



Open daily 09.00 - 18.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Tel. 09 2586 9215



Op Luang National Park

Hot, Chiang Mai



Op Luang National Park

Hot, Chiang Mai



In Hang Dong subdistrict, this popular tourist spot boasts outstanding natural beauty with a river winding its way through the narrow valley below, hemmed in by steep ravines on either side. There's also a bridge across the crevice in the mountainside where visitors can stand and soak up the views. In the park, there are many interesting spots including a prehistoric archaeological site, an iron age burial site, a hot spring which can be bathed in. massage services, and convenient accommodations. There's also rafting, kayaking and forest trekking for those interested.



Accommodation and Facilities: The park offers lodge accommodation and a campsite with tents and bedding for hire.

Entrance fee: Adult 200 baht, Children 100 baht.

For further details contact, Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th



Doi Tao Lake

Doi Tao, Chiang Mai



Doi Tao Lake

Doi Tao, Chiang Mai



This large reservoir is located to the north of the Bhumibol Dam in Tha Duea subdistrict. During the winter, from February to May, the water level rises, and the locals switch from farming to fishing in order to adapt. There are raft trips to check out the local landscape available and visitors can enjoy floating across the still waters with striking mountain ranges in the background. The weather is cool and fresh and there are usually swathes of thin mist rising over the lake's surface.

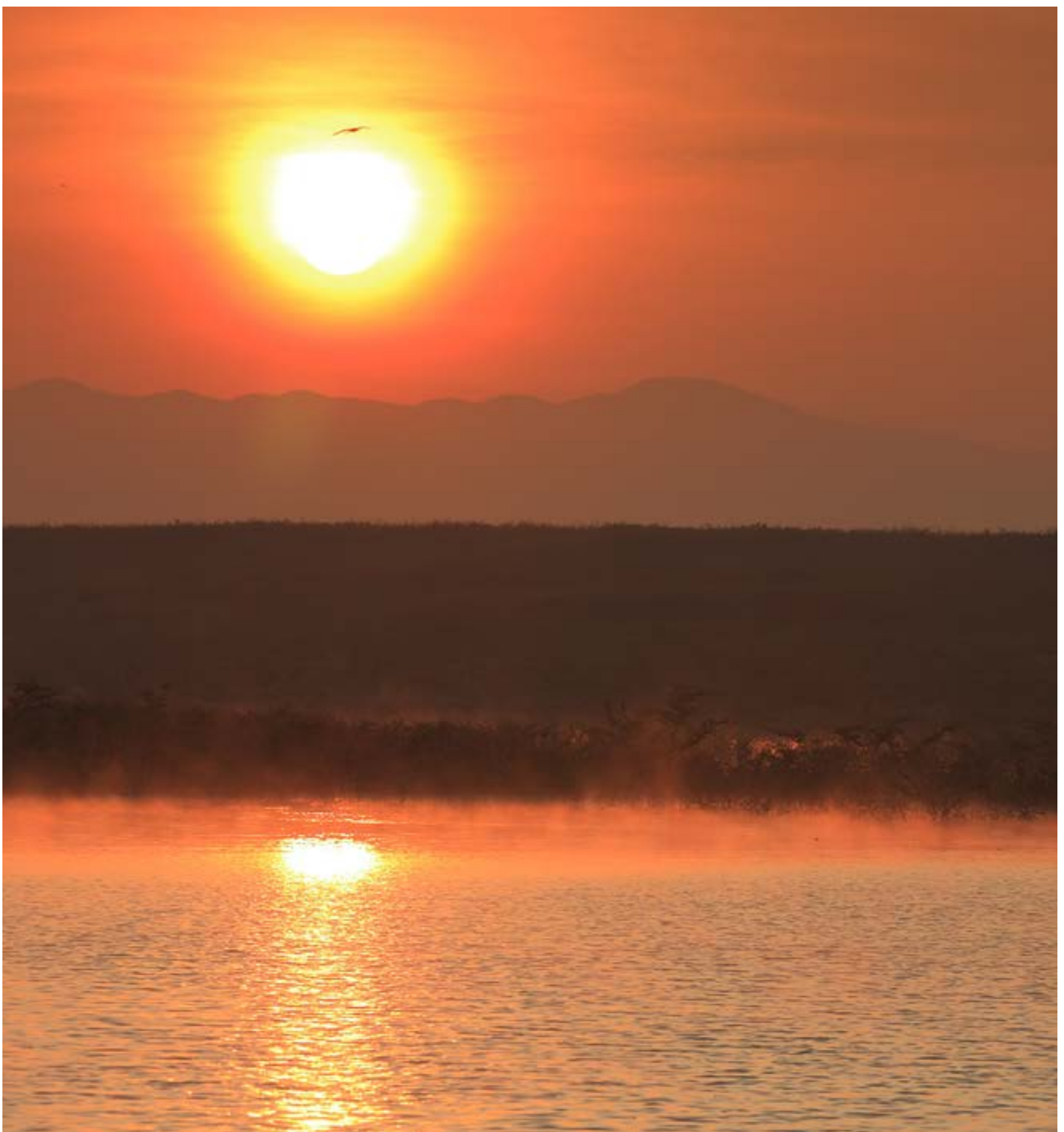
In 2012 there was a terrible drought and the 4 km reservoir was left with just a tiny amount of usable water left to run into the area in front of the dam. As a result, the locals were forced to return to relying purely on agriculture to sustain themselves and they began to grow corn, plant longans and raise cattle to earn their living, and the boat trips were no longer available.

In September 2020 a monsoon storm known as 'Tian Mu' struck the northern region and caused extensive flooding. Days of constant rainfall caused the Ping river to swell and 100 million cubic meters of water to flow into the Bhumibol Dam and then into Doi Tao Lake, and by the end of the winter, the area was once again thriving.



Getting there: Doi Tao lake is 125 km from Chiang Mai City on the Chiang Mai - Hot route (Road No. 108). Take this route for 90 km and turn right onto road 1130 and from there it's another 35 km until you reach the lake. The entire journey takes around 3 hours to complete.

For further details before setting off contact Khun Teerapong Duangchan, head of Tha Deau village, Tel. 08 1884 0636





Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park (Mae Fang)

Fang, Chiang Mai



Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park (Mae Fang)

Fang, Chiang Mai



In the Pong Nam Ron sub-district, this craggy section of the Pee Pan Nam mountain range features peaks ranging from 400 - 2,285 metres from sea level in height, with the most significant of these being 'Doi Pha Hom Pok' 'Doi Pu Muen' 'Doi Laem' and 'Doi Angkhang'. Most of the surrounding forest is unspoiled and abundant in resources and the source of the Fang River can be found there.



Accommodation and related facilities: The park has rooms, a mineral water shower and bathing room, a steam room, restaurants and souvenir shops and a campsite with tents available for rent.

Open daily 08.00 - 16.30 hrs.

Entrance fees: Adult 300 baht and Children 150 baht



Doi Pha Hom Pok

Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park,
Fang, Chiang Mai



Doi Pha Hom Pok

Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park, Fang, Chiang Mai



In Mon Pin Mae Sao subdistrict, around 180 km from Chiang Mai City, this 2,285 metre peak is surrounded by wisps of fog and cloud and is subject to chilly weather throughout the year.

Doi Pha Hom Pok is part of the Dan Lao mountain range which runs from the south of China's Yunnan province all the way to the Thai Burmese border, through Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son, before meeting with the Thanon Thongchai mountain range. The summit of Doi Pha Hom Pok is well known for the selection of colourful birds and butterflies that call the area home. These include the purple cochoa, brown-breasted bulbul, the Kaisar-i-Hind butterfly (which can only be found here), blue peacock butterfly and brown gorgon butterfly. During winter birds such as the red-throated thrush, grey-winged blackbird and chestnut thrush also migrate here.



Getting there: It takes at least 2 days and 1 night to reach Doi Pha Hom Pok and before making the trip it's advisable to contact the national park in advance. Visitors can pitch tents in the area around Kew Lom and camping around the peak itself is not allowed due to the steep cliffs and potentially hazardous conditions. Visitors can either bring their own tents or hire from the park office and should be reminded that there are no restaurants in the area should visitors bring their own food.



Rice Field Terrace at Ban Pa Bong Piang

Mae Chaem, Chiang Mai



Rice Field Terrace at Ban Pa Bong Piang

Mae Chaem, Chiang Mai



Located in Ban Pa Bong Piang, this terraced rice field is surrounded by sharp mountain peaks and offers different views depending on the season. There's also a locally run homestay here for those wishing to stay a bit longer. The accommodation blends with the environment and is perfect for tourists looking for a peaceful getaway and a slice of a local lifestyle.



Open between July and November each year and the rice fields will be at their golden best from September - October.



Wat Chan Pine Forest

Kalayaniwattana, Chiang Mai



Wat Chan Pine Forest

Kalayaniwattana, Chiang Mai



In the Huai Or village, Ban Chan subdistrict and maintained by the Forest Industry Organization which is responsible for reforestation and ecotourism. The forest itself contains Merkus Pine and Benguet Pine trees which can only grow at altitudes of over 1000 metres. Tourists can cycle among nature here and the climate is especially refreshing all year round. Those who visit during winter will see the leaves in various hues as they pass through the forest. There are also camping facilities for tourists who are looking for an overnight stay.



There are accommodation and camping facilities available inside Wat Chan Forest Industry Organization

For further details contact Wat Chan Forest Industry Organization, Tel. 0 5324 9349



TAT CONTACT CENTER

Tourism Authority of Thailand (Head Office)

1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan,
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel. 1672 and 0 2250 5500

Website: www.tourismthailand.org

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Open every day from 08.30 to 16.30 hrs.



Suvarnabhumi Airport

Domestic Terminal, Gate 3, 2nd Floor

Tel. 0 2134 0040

Open 24 hours.

Don Mueang International Airport

International Terminal (Building 1), Gate 2, 1st Floor

Tel. 0 7621 1036, 0 7621 2213

Fax 0 7621 3582

Open 24 hours.

TAT Chiang Mai Office

105, 1 Chiang Mai-Lam Phun Rd,
Chang Mai subdistrict, Chiang Mai 50000

Tel. 0 5324 8604, 0 5324 8605

Fax 0 5324 8606

Email : tatchmai@tat.or.th

Area of Responsibility Chiang Mai province

