

AMAZING
NEW
CHAPTERS



Nong Khai

Nong Khai

Nong Khai is a province with a rich history, stretching as far back as the Khmer Empire. When the once-powerful empire collapsed, Nong Khai became part of the Lan Xang Kingdom, along with the cities of Luang Prabang and Vientiane, both of which are currently part of Lao PDR. In 1826, during the Rattanakosin era, Chao Anuwong, ruler of the Lan Xang Kingdom, marched southwards to Nakhon Ratchasima where he was met and eventually defeated by a Thai army led by Sing Singhaseni from the capital and supported by Tao Suwa Athamma (Boonma) and his troops from Yasothon. Following the victory, Tao Suwa Atthama was given an honorary royal pension and handed the right to establish four new cities in locations of his choice. These four cities were eventually decided upon and consisted of Panprao, opposite Vientiane (currently Sri Chiang Mai district), Wiang Khuk, Pako, and Pai. The city of Pai was renamed Nong Khai in 1827, taking its name from a local creek just to the west of the original city, and Tao Suwa Atthama was appointed as its first governor. Later, following the Ho rebellion in 1891, King Rama IV the Great of Siam ordered that Tao Suwa Atthama also become Lieutenant of Lao Puan Circle with the governing centre being located in Nong Khai city (although the area was later designated to the Northern Territories and Udon Thani). During the Franco-Siamese War of 1893, Siam lost the area on the left bank of the Mekong River to the French invaders, and a treaty was signed preventing Siam from stationing troops within 25 km of the border. This led to the Udon Thani Circle governing office being relocated at Ban Deua Mak Khaeng before King Rama VI legislated the end of the existing feudal governance system and established provinces with government appointed rulers rather than municipalities. The present province of Nong Khai was officially established on 1 April, 1915.

Nong Khai Map





Tha Sadet Market

Mueang, Nong Khai



Tha Sadet Market

Mueang, Nong Khai



This market, on the Mekong's banks, in Nong Khai municipality, was once the site of the Governor's house and was commonly known as the 'Governor's pier' in former times. Over the years, trade increased, and the area developed into a thriving market with goods from both Indo-China and Eastern Europe on sale, including electrical appliances, clothing, and accessories. There is also a popular pedestrian zone and cycling route right down by the river where visitors come to enjoy the great views across the Mekong.



Tha Sadet Market is open daily from 08.00 – 18.30 Hrs.



Wat Pho Chai

Mueang, Nong Khai



Wat Pho Chai

Mueang, Nong Khai



Located on Pho Chai Road and originally named Wat Phi Piao as it was used as a cremation site, the temple settled on its current name during the Rattanakosin period, where it was established as a royal temple and home of Phra Sai, the golden Buddha image, which has been adopted as Nong Khai's provincial symbol. Legend has it that three daughters of the King of Lan Xang created three Buddha images and named them after themselves, 'Phra Soem' for the eldest daughter, 'Phra Suk' for the middle daughter, and 'Phra Sai' for the youngest. All three images were housed in Vientiane until the reign of King Rama III, when they were transported across the Mekong to their new home in Nong Khai. The Phra Suk image was unfortunately lost when it fell into the water during the journey and the Phra Soem image was later rehoused in Bangkok during the reign of King Rama IV the Great. There is an annual festival during the full moon of the 7th lunar month (June), when citizens of Nong Khai converge on the temple to make merit and set off fireworks in celebration.



For further information, contact Tel. : 0 4246 1123, 0 4242 0747



Sala Kaeo Ku

Mueang, Nong Khai



Sala Kaeo Ku

Mueang, Nong Khai



Also known as Wat Khaek, this temple in the Samakhi community, Wat That subdistrict, serves as a place of worship and features some bizarre, eye-catching mortar sculptures, which were built at the request of Luang Pu Bunleua, a venerable local monk who believed in a harmonious overlap between the various religions. The park reflects his progressive beliefs with Buddha images in various poses alongside Brahmin and Hindu deities and scenes from the Ramayana next to characters from local folk yarns; all of which are accompanied by written descriptions in both Thai and the local Isan dialect. All 208 statues were erected in 1978 and the body of Luang Pu Bunleua is currently kept on the third floor of the pavilion where locals are free to come and pay their respects.



Open daily from 06.00 – 18.00 Hrs.

Entrance Fee : 20 Baht

For further information, contact Tel. : 08 1369 5744



Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan

Mueang, Nong Khai



Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan

Mueang, Nong Khai



Located at Ban Don Mu, Phrathat Bang Phuan subdistrict, this ancient temple houses rare 'Sarira' Buddhist relics. The temple was originally constructed in 1970 from kiln-fired bricks and subsequently rebuilt under supervision of the Fine Arts Department. Following this, the head monk ordered the relics from nearby Phrathat Panom to be housed in the stupa here alongside the original relics. According to ancient lore, five rulers; namely, Phraya Suvanaphingkan from Sakon Nakhon, Phra Khumdaeng from Udon Thani, Phraya Chulani Phromathat from Northern Lao PDR., Phraya Inthabattanakon from Cambodia, and Phraya Nantasen from the city of Sri Khot Bun Luang convened here, along with 500 monks, to pay their respects to the senior monks at the time and oversee the building of Phrathat Panom, right through to its completion. The monks remained here at the temple and after a period of deep meditation subsequently achieved enlightenment. The 5 rulers then set out on a voyage to India to retrieve 45 more relics, which they brought back and enshrined at 4 different locations, one of which was Phrathat Bang Phuan, where 29 of them still remain.

In addition, Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan houses many important historical and archaeological sites. The most notable of these is 'Sattahasatan' or the place where the Buddha achieved complete contentment with the cessation of his earthly desires and left his teachings in 7 different artefacts. This temple is notable for the fact that it is in the only location in the world that holds all 7 left intact.





Phrathat La Nong and Tha Ruea Market

Mueang, Nong Khai



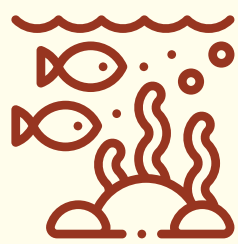
Phrathat La Nong and Tha Ruea Market

Mueang, Nong Khai



Also known as 'The relic surrounded by water', this attraction can be found at Hat Dam subdistrict. In 1847, a large Buddha image fell into the Mekong River due to years of erosion, around 200 metres from the bank, taking 9 important Buddhist relics with it. From an underwater survey, it was discovered that the base of the image was 17.2 metres across and its height was 28.5 metres. It was also found that as it plunged into the water it was broken into 3 pieces. From further analysis, the image is thought to date back to somewhere between the 20th and 22nd Buddhist centuries, as it bears many similarities with the image housed at Phrathat Bang Phuan.

The image was erected to remind younger generations of the historical links between the communities on both sides of the Mekong, and the market that gradually appeared here was born out of the Customs dock between Lao PDR. and Nong Khai. At present, the vintage market also acts as a museum for Thai silk and is considered an important document of Nong Khai's history and heritage, as it was also used to receive many former royals on their visits.



Nong Khai Aquarium

Mueang, Nong Khai



Nong Khai Aquarium

Mueang, Nong Khai



Also known as the Sirindhorn Marine Life Museum, this popular marine life centre is located on the Khon Kaen University Campus, Chalem Prakiet Road, Kom Ko subdistrict. Visitors can view hundreds of species of fish and marine wildlife here, and the aquarium houses both salt and freshwater animals, as well as acting as a research centre for fishing and marine studies. Set on an area of 3 rai and featuring 9 different groups of marine wildlife, the highlight of the Aquarium is the 34-metre-long tunnel which connects the saltwater second floor and the freshwater first floor.



The Museum opens from Tuesday to Sunday

(closed on Mondays, except those that fall on a public holiday).

Entrance fees Adults – 50 Baht

Students and children – 30 Baht

Monks, disabled persons, and children under 90 cm. – Free of charge.

For further details contact Tel. : 0 4241 5623

or visit www.nongkhaiaquarium.com



1st Thai - Lao Friendship Bridge

Mueang, Nong Khai



1st Thai - Lao Friendship Bridge

Mueang, Nong Khai



Stretching across the Mekong river, the bridge was built as a joint venture between Thailand, Lao PDR., and Australia to bolster the economy and strengthen the social, cultural, and tourism areas. The structure connects Nong Khai city and Tha Duea in Lao PDR., just 20 km from the capital Vientiane.

On the 8 April, 1994, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great (Rama IX), Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother, and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn paid a royal visit and officially opened the Bridge for public use, and subsequently spent the night at the old Maha Chivit Palace before returning to Thai soil.

The Bridge is 1,174 metres in length and 12.7 metres wide and features two traffic lanes as well as a railway line which spans from Thailand to Thanaleng in Lao PDR. The bridge is an important channel in connecting the two countries and allowing quick and convenient travel between them as well as strengthening the relationship between the two neighbouring nations.



Ban Wang Nam Mok

Si Chiang Mai, Nong Khai



Ban Wang Nam Mok

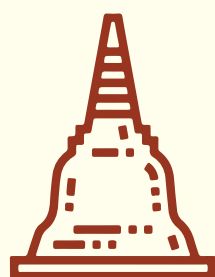
Si Chiang Mai, Nong Khai



This village is a mine of cultural knowledge, and visitors here can learn about and observe the local ways of life and the relationship with the surrounding nature. The community draws from the elements of both Northern Lanna and Xan Chang culture, having previously been a part of the latter's empire, a fact reflected in the speech, diet, and attire of the villagers. Tourists can stay overnight in a village homestay or simply take part in rural activities; such as, lantern making, enjoying an authentic local breakfast, and joining local welcoming ceremonies.



For further information, contact the Centre for Tourism and Culture, Tel. : 08 6232 5300



Wat Hin Mak Peng

Si Chiang Mai, Nong Khai



Wat Hin Mak Peng

Si Chiang Mai, Nong Khai



Located at Ban Thai Charoen, Phra Phutthabat subdistrict, the word 'Hin Mak Peng' was the name given to the three large boulders on the Mekong banks by the locals. When viewed from the right angle, the 'Teng' and 'Peng Yoi' stones resemble a set of scales. The word 'Mak Peng' is a local dialect classifier for a fruit or similar spherical object. Later on, Luang Pu Tesk Tesrangsi, a pupil of Phra Achan Sao and Phra Achan Man, two highly respected Buddhist teachers, designated the area as a site for Dharma practice for monks, nuns, and pious, merit-seeking laypeople. The surrounding area is clean, uncluttered, well-shaded and serene, and the edge of the temple alongside the Mekong offers resplendent views of the river. Wat Hin Mak Peng was declared a model development temple in 1980.



Wat Pha Tak Suea Skywalk

Sangkhom, Nong Khai



Wat Pha Tak Suea Skywalk

Sangkhom, Nong Khai



Located in the grounds of Wat Pha Tak Suea atop the Phu Pan Noi peak in Pha Tang subdistrict, the skywalk offers an impressive, expansive view of the Mekong and the landscape on both the Thai and Laotian sides of the river. The tempered glass-floored terrace extends 6 metres out from the cliff and is 4 cm thick to ensure safety and stability. The platform itself is supported by steel stanchions with solid concrete foundations at the bottom of the cliff. Moreover, the 15-metre walkway can support up to 2,500 kg in weight, or around 20 adults. The side panels are also made from glass, and there are signposts at regular intervals on the path up to the skywalk detailing the regulations.



Contact the Pha Tang Administrative Office
for further details, Tel. : 0 4241 4855



Si Mongkhon Cave

Sangkhom, Nong Khai



Si Mongkhon Cave

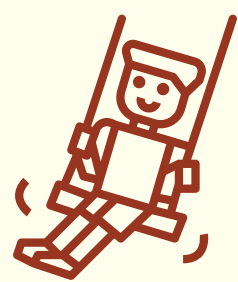
Sangkhom, Nong Khai



Hidden away in Ban Bang Dong Noi in Pha Tang subdistrict, this cave is known by the locals as 'Tham Phaya Nak' or the cave of the Naga serpent. The entrance to the cave is marked by a shrine where visitors can pay their respects to Pho Pu In Nakarachand and Mae Ya Kade Nakarach and ask the guardian spirits for permission to enter the cave. Legend has it that the cave was used to travel to and from an ancient underground city called Badal, the lair of the mythical Naga. The inside of this clay cavern is moist and humid with flowing water, and there are natural stone spikes around the entrance which look as if they have been placed there to deter intruders. Visitors wishing to step inside Badal should contact a local guide and not attempt to enter the cave of their own accord.



For further information, contact Tel. : 09 3067 7959



Phu Huai Isan

Sangkhom, Nong Khai



Phu Huai Isan

Sangkhom, Nong Khai



This viewpoint, perched atop a hill in Ban Muang subdistrict, provides views over the villages in Sangkhom district and the many islands dotted throughout the Mekong, as well as being Nong Khai's best sunrise spot. Visitors who come during the cool season will be rewarded with a sea of mist rolling over the river at dawn. This experience is only possible between October and May, as the path up to the peak is hazardous during the rainy season making the ascent not recommended due to the steepness and slippery conditions. The only way to reach the peak is by parking at the foot of the hill and taking a local 'E-Taek' tractor, and these are available at the Ban Muang Administrative Office. It is recommended to arrive before 5 a.m. in order to catch the sunrise.



For further details contact Tel. : 09 6068 2362



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1600 New Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan,
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

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www.tourismthailand.org

email : info@tat.or.th

Open every day between 08.30 – 16.30 hrs



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Tel. : 0 2134 0040

Open 24 hours

Don Mueang Airport

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

Tel. : 0 2504 4301

Open 24 hours

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and Bueng Kan provinces

