

Phu Phan National Park

Once well known as dangerous area by political conflict, the park acquires total area of 664.70 square kilometres in Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, Mueang, Kut Bak and King Phu Phan of Sakon Nakhon and Amphoe Somdet and Huai Phueng of Kalasin. The country's 7th national park was established in 1972.

Geography

Most area of the park is limestone mountain which originates many streams such as Huai Lao, Huai I Khok, Huai Khae, Huai Saen Kong, Huai Phrik and Huai Sai. These streams are tributaries of Un, Phung, Lam Pao and Yang River.

Climate

Summer is from March-May. Rainy is from June-October. And it is rather comfortable in winter, from

November-February.

Flora and fauna

Deciduous dipterocarp forest scatters around. It is home to *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, *D.tuberculatus*, *Terminalia alata*, *Dillenia obovata*, *Irvingia malayana*, *Shorea obtusa* and *S.siamensis* for instance.

Dry evergreen forest densely occupies river banks with a great variety of plants as *Hopea odorata*, *Azelia xylocarpa*, *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Lagerstroemia calyculata*, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Shorea roxburghii*, *Tetrameles nudiflora*, *Xylia xylocarpa* and *Peltophorum dasyrachis*. Apart from such two forests is the mixed deciduous forest, grassland can be found.

Its wildlife comprises Langur, Civet, Malayan Flying Lemur, Squirrel, Porcupine, Fishing Cat, Palm





Civet, Sambar Deer, Tiger, Bear, Common Muntjak and Common Wild Boar.

Various kind of birds namely Hill Myna, Black Drongo, White-rumped Shama and Richard's Pipit.

Attractions

◆ **Kham Hom Waterfall.** The famous waterfall is well known among Sakhon Nakhon and nearby province.

◆ **Phrathat Phu Phek.** The Khmer-Era pagoda is located on Phu Phan Range, 544 metres above mean sea level. A Buddha image was found in the pagoda.

◆ **Pricha Suksan Waterfall.** The stream slopes over 15 metres wide rock terrace which rotates 40 degrees. The amazing flat rock makes it a natural slider.

◆ **Thang Phi Phan** or Nature Bridge. The stone arch is 1.5 metres wide and 8 metres long.

◆ **Sari Thai Cave.** The cave once was served as amour storage of Saree Thai to fight against the Royal Japanese Army during the World War II.

◆ **Pha Nang Moen.** Facing to the west, the cliff is a very nice view point for sunset view.

◆ **Pha SaWoei.** Facing to the south, the cliff once was served at a lunch venue for His Majesty

the King.

◆ **Phu Phan Mountain Range.** The range borders Sakhon Nakhon and Kalasin. It is a very beautiful area with rich forest, mountain and waterfall.

Getting there

■ From Amphoe Mueang of Sakhon Nakhon, use highway No. 213 and pass Phu Phan Royal Residence. The park headquarters is located on the highway.

