

Mu Ko Lanta National Park

The national park comprises different archipelagoes namely Ko Rok, Ko Ngai, Ko Ha, and Ko Lanta. It acquires total area of 134 square kilometres, of which 81 percent is marine. Covered in Amphoe Ko Lanta of Krabi, it was established in 1990.

Geography

Most of its landscape is rugged and steep cliff interrupted with tiny plain. Due to its limestone landscape, there is plenty of water. On Ko Lanta Yai, Lanta Range supplies water to Khlong Chak, Khlong Namchuet, and Khlong Nin all the year round.

Flora and fauna

The park houses different forest types. The Beach forest, which comprises *Terminalia catappa*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Derris indica*, *Thespesia populrea*, *Argusia argentea* and *Ipomoea pes-caprae* can be found around the beaches. The mangrove forest is home to *Rhizophora mucronata*, *R. apiculata*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, *X. moluccensis*, *Avicennia* sp..

The limestone forest can be found on dry, low-quality and thin-layer soil of Ko Rok and Ko Ha. Scattering around on steep slope, the forest is home to *Ficus racemosa*, *Dracaena loureiri* and *Euphorbia antiquorum*.

The tropical rain forest, found on Lanta Range at the south of Ko Lanta Yai and Ko Ngai, houses various plants such as *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *D. turbinatus*, *Shorea henryana*, *Hopea ferrea*, *Anisoptera costata* and *Parashorea stellata*.

The national park comprises small islands, thus, only small mammals can be found. Tourists can spot Wild Boar, Mouse Deer, Macaque and Dusky Langur. Bird watcher may find both common and migratory birds such as Pacific Reef-Egret, Common Tern, White-throated Kingfisher and Brahminy Kite.

As most of the park's boundary is marine, which quite rich in marine life particularly in the coral reef

such as Damsel fish, Parrotfish, Butterflyfish, Rock Cod, Sea Turtle, Shrimp, Sea Shell, Sponge, Sea Fan, Sea Whip, Sea Urchin and Sea Cucumber.

Getting there

- Mu Ko Lanta National Park can be accessed by car and by boat.
- By car. Krabi to Laem Tanot is 120 kilometres. Ban Sala Dan to Laem Tanot is 27 kilometres.
- By Boat. Ban Bo Muang to Laem Tanot is 28 kilometres. Sala Dan to Laem Tanot is 27 kilometres.
- Ban Pak Meng to Laem Tanot is 50 kilometres.
- Chartered boat to Ko Rok, Ko Ngai, and nearby is available at Laem Tanot.





Attraction

◆ **Ko Lanta** is settlement of sea gypsy who calls this island “Satak” which means very long beach which is served as landmark for the fisherman. With headman called “Dato”, sea gypsies enjoy nomad life and always hop around to different islands. In the past, they spent most life on the boat.

Twice a year, in fullmoon of the 6th and 11th lunar month, they hold traditional ceremony to leave a boat, which is believed to carry bad luck, into the sea.

◆ **Mu Ko Rok.** The small archipelago, which is famed for its incredible clear water, comprises two islands namely Ko Rok Nok and Ko Rok Nai whose white sandy beaches always fascinate sea lover. The islands comprise attractions as following:

◆ **Coral.** Coral colony, comprising Staghorn Coral,

Table Coral and Brian Coral.

◆ **Laem Thong.** The cliff is situated at northern tip of Ko Rok Nai. It is landmark where tourist loves to witness impressive sunset view through its channel.

◆ **Hat Thalu.** The beach on Ko Rok Nok is fascinating by its powder-like sand which paves way to crescent bay on another side of the island.

◆ **Ao Man Sai.** Another bay of Ko Rok Nok which is named after a big banyan tree whose aerial roots serves as a 5 metres wide natural curtain. Situated amidst mangrove, and tropical forest, the bay with shallow water allows tourist to enjoy swimming.

◆ **Ao San Chao.** The bay on Ko Rok Nok houses a spiritual shrine which is worshiped among fishermen. There is a source of capillary water during dry season

◆ **Thailand’s boundary post.** The post is located at the south of Ko Rok Nai. Around the post is a very nice seascape.

◆ **Ko Ha.** The archipelago comprises five small islands. There is a sail-shape island whose underwater cave leads to a chimney inside.

◆ **Ko Ngai.** The island with peaceful and long beach is a nice snorkeling site.

◆ **Ko Talabeng.** The limestone island with small beaches and many caves is habitat of Swiftlet

◆ **Ko Lanta Yai.** Its western beaches attracts sea lover to linger around and relax. The park’s headquarters is located at Laem Tanot. The island is considered as capital of the sea gypsies.

