

Mae Ping

National Park

Situated on the left side of the Mae Ping River which fills up Bhumibol Dam, the picturesque park is rich of forest and wildlife. Its rugged mountain range and crisscrossing streams cover parts of Doi Tao district of Chiang Mai, Li district of Lamphun and Sam Ngao district of Tak. Established in 1981, Thailand's 31st national park covers a total area of 1,003.75 square kilometres.



Geography

Rugged mountains cover most part of the park where the attitudes from 400 to 800. Its highest peak, Doi Huai Lao, towers at 1,334 metres. The range is watershed of many streams that are tributaries of Mae Ping River.

Climate

Like most part of the country, the park has summer, rainy season and winter. However, vast forest of the park makes its climate a bit different from the other regions.

Flora and Fauna

Deciduous forest blankets over 80 percents of the total area, covering sandy soil mountain at elevation less than 1,000 metres. The remaining 20 percents area are valleys and creeks blanketed by evergreen forest. The significant plants include *Tectona grandis*, *Shorea obtusa*, *S. siamensis*, *Azelia xylocarpa*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Lagerstroemia calyculata*, *Tetrameles nudiflora*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Terminalia alata*, *Hopea ferrea*, orchids and fern.

Wildlife is often found along the Mae Ping River. They include Northern Red Muntjac, Southwest China Serow, Chinese Goral, Fishing Cat, Small Indian Civet, Macaque, Siamese Hare and Black Giant Squirrel. Great amount of resident and migration birds such as Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Brown Shrike, Black-naped Oriole and Red Junglefowl.

Attractions

◆ **Ko Luang Waterfall.** The waterfall is quite a famous place for people from Lamphun and nearby. The limestone waterfall cascades through 7 steps. The beautiful formation of stalactites around the waterfall and quiet pool with lots of fish make it a nice place to relax.

◆ **Thung Kik.** Situated on the eastern part of the park, the vast grassland, interrupted with deciduous dipterocarp forest, is a beautiful habitat of wildlife such as Northern Red Muntjac, Sambar and Siamese Hare. It is a nice place for naturalist. Ko Noi Waterfall, 9 kilometres from the grassland, is a cute place for relaxing.

Getting There

■ The park's headquarters is located in Mae Lan sub-district and Li district of Lamphun. From Li district take highway 1 and get on highway 1087. The headquarters is on the left side of kilometre 20-21. You can cruise from Doi Tao Reservoir of Chiang Mai to Reservoir of Bhumibol Dam in Tak province.

◆ **Huai Tham.** The viewpoint by Mae Ping River offers picturesque view of Doi Tao Reservoir.

◆ **Pha Dam-Pha Daeng.** The towering cliff is enveloped amidst untouched nature. Panoramic view can be seen from the cliff. It can be accessed by foot only.

◆ **Yang Wi Cave.** The very big limestone cave, decorated beautifully by formation of stalagmites and stalactites, is home to insect-eating bats. Around the cave is beautiful pine forest that always satisfies the adventurous naturalist.

◆ **Kaeng Ko.** The scenic reservoir is very nice for relaxing. Rafts/guestroom are available for tourists. As Kaeng Ko is situated at the mid of reservoir of Bhumibol Dam, it is quite convenient to cruise around to visit attractions around such as Um Pae Waterfall, Um Pat Waterfall, Tao Cliff, Phra That Kaeng Soi and etc.

