

Phu Ruea National Park

The boat-shape rock on the mountain Phu Ruea always appears in the mist all the year round. The 16th national park of Thailand was established in 1979. It acquires total 121 square kilometres in Amphoe Phu Ruea and Tha Li of Loei.

Geography

The park features rugged sandstone mountain range, interrupted with granite mountain. Thus there are plateau mixed with high mountain. Phu Ruea is the highest peak with the elevation of 1,365 metres above sea level. Phu Son is the second highest peak at 1,035 metres elevation. The region originates many streams such as Huai Nam Dan, Huai Bong, Huai Thiang Na, Huai Sai Khao, Huai Tio and Huai Phai which runs through a beautiful waterfall.

Climate

Loei is the coldest province in Thailand, therefore, the mountain Phu Reau is rather cold all the year



round. In winter, the temperature goes down below zero, and freeze the dew sometime.

Flora and fauna

The park comprised various forest types, from mixed deciduous forest, deciduous dipterocarp forest, dry evergreen forest and coniferous forest. On the summit, coniferous forest is interrupted by rocks, bushes and grassland. *Doritis pulcherrima*, *Vanda* sp., *Rhynchosyilis retusa*, *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*, *D.lindleyi*, *D.draconis* always decorate the forest all the year round.

The park has great deal of wildlife. Bear, Common Muntjak, Sambar Deer, Common Wild Boar, Dhole, Macaque, Black Giant Squirrel, Siamese hare, Red Junglefowl, Siamese Fireback and Big-headed Turtle can be often found. In winter, there are always migratory birds from China.





Attractions

◆ **Pha Loan Noi.** The mountain is a very nice view point for sunrise view where tourist can see three mountains namely Phu Luang, Phu Pha Sat, Phu Khrang and very beautiful mountain range. The viewpoint is 3 kilometres from the national park's headquarters.

◆ **Pha Samthong.** The towering cliff is blanketed

by golden colour lichen. It is 2.5 kilometres from the headquarters.

◆ **Huai Phai Waterfall.** The 30 metres high from ground, the waterfall is situated 2 kilometres from the headquarters.

◆ **Phu Ruea Summit.** The summit is the cliff at 1,365 metres above sea level. From there, tourist can witness panoramic view and Hueang River and Mekhong River that borders Thailand and Lao.

Getting there

■ Loei is 558 kilometres from Bangkok. From Loei, tourist can bound for Phu Ruea via highway No. 203 which is 48 kilometres away. From Amphoe Phu Ruea, the park is 4 kilometres away.

