

Khao Yai National Park

This huge national park acquires total area of 2,165.55 square kilometres, covering 11 Amphoes of Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Nakhon Ratchasima and Saraburi. Its huge size and biological diversity makes it a debut as Heritage of Asean. As part of Phanom Dongrak Range, on the local range called Dong Phrayayen. The big forest is home to great diversity of flora and fauna, as well as very beautiful nature. The government decided to remove all of them and set up the country's 1st national park in 1962.



Flora and fauna

Mixed deciduous forest occupies northern part of the park at elevation between 200-600 metres. It is home to *Azelia xylocarpa*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Lagerstroemia calyculata*, *Anogeissus accuminata*, *Vatica odorata*, *Shorea henryana*, *Hopea ferrea*, *Lagerstroemia* spp., *Tetra meles nudiflora*, *Pterocymbium tinctorium* and *Nephilium hypoleucum*.

Such rich wilderness is home to large amount of wildlife such as Asian Elephants, Common Muntjak, Sambar Deer, Tiger, Guar, Serow, Bear, Porcupine, Gibbon, Giant Black Squirrel and Palm Civet.

Geography

Rugged mountains dominate most area of the park. Khao Rom is the highest peak towering at 1,351 metres.

Climate

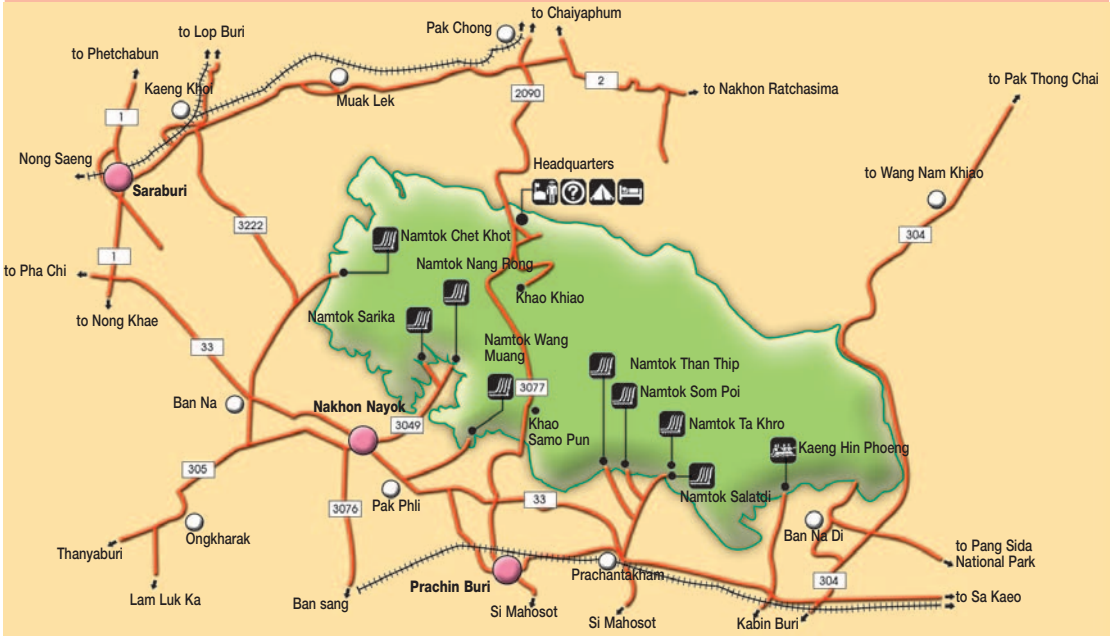
The weather is comfortable all the year round at mean temperature at 23 degrees Celsius.



Getting there

■ Khao Yai National Park is only 3 hours by car from Bangkok. Motorist can head north via Phahonyothin Highway to Hin Kong of Saraburi, turn right to highway 305 to Prachin Buri and turn left to Khao Yai. This route is 190 kilometres.

■ Tourist can also use Phahonyothin Highway to Rangsit, turn right into highway 305 to Nakhon Nayok, get on highway 33 to Noen Hom Intersection then turn left to Khao Yai. This route is 160 kilometres.



Over 200 bird species which include Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Brown Hornbill, Hill Myna, Blue Magpie, Minivet, Pitta, Barbet, Drongo and Dove.

Attractions

Its huge watershed forest originates over 30 beautiful waterfalls such as

◆ **Nang Rong and Sarika Waterfall.** The both famous waterfalls are situated in Nakhon Nayok Province.

◆ **Kong Kao Waterfall.** The small waterfall is quite beautiful during the rainy season. It is only 100 metres from the park's headquarters and tourist centre.

◆ **Pha Klui Mai.** The medium size waterfall can be accessed easily by car, 7 kilometres from the headquarters. *Remanthera coccinea* decorating the compound is symbol of the waterfall.

◆ **Heo Suwat waterfall.** The famous falls can be

called a symbol of the park. The big waterfall, 20 metres high, can be accessed easily by car. Big pool makes it a nice place to swim.

◆ **Heo Narok Waterfall.** The park's biggest and highest waterfall is situated at the south of the park. Strong stream falls into deep valley below. Its three tiers, have total height of 150 metres.

◆ **Nong Phak Chi Watching Tower.** The tower is located by Phak Chi Pond, next to vast grassland and salt lick. Its entrance is at kilometre 35-36 of Thanarat Road. Tourist requires to walk 1 kilometre from the main road.

◆ **Mo Singto Watching Tower.** Located by the Mo Singto Reservoir, grassland and salt lick, it is a nice place for wildlife watching. The tower is 500 metres from the headquarters.

Moreover, the park has many more attractions to entertain nature lovers. Tourist can enjoy night safari, exploring various nature trails, and bird watching.