

# Nam Nao National Park

One of the country's finest national parks, the mountainous forest of Nam Nao borders the North and Northeast region of Thailand kingdom. Its tropical forest, with network of distributaries, blankets Amphoe Lom Kao, Lom Sak and Nam Nao of Phetchabun province as well as Amphoe Khon San of Chiyaphum province. This picturesque forest covers total area of 966 square kilometers. The country's 5<sup>th</sup> national park was established in 1982.

## Geography

Bordering the North and Northeast of Thailand, Phetchabun Range in Nam Nao National Park stretches across Chiyaphum and Phetchabun province. Phu Pha Chit and Phu Kum Khao are significant landmarks. The forest originates many streams that fill up Pa Sak River, Phong River, Loei River, Khon Kaen Stream and Ubonratana Dam and Chulaphorn Dam.



## Climate

Temperate climate on this mountain range allows visitor to explore the park comfortably in average temperature of 25 degrees Celsius all the year round.

## Flora and fauna

Vast forest of Nam Nao comprises various kinds of forest such as deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed deciduous forest, dry evergreen forest and grasslands. Its significant plants include *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Azelia* sp., *Dalbergia oliveri*, *Shorea obtusa*, *S.siamensis*, *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *Hopea odorata* and various herbs and orchids.

Mixed forest, vast field and tropical jungle are nourished by network of streams. So this forest is paradise for a number of wildlife. Elephants freely roam the park, leaving their along the highway. Besides such gigantic creatures, the forest of Nam Nao is habitat for great variety of wildlife including Guar, Banteng, Sambar Deer, Common Muntjak, Asiatic Black Bear, Malayan Sun Bear, Serow, Mouse Deer, Porcupine, Wild Boar, Tiger, Leopard and Langur.

The park houses over 200 kinds of bird, whose colourful feather always entertain naturalists. Colourful wings of butterfly, over 340 kinds of them such as Hornbill, Barbet, Woodpecker and Bulbul.

## Attractions

◆ **Pha Hong Cave.** Situated among bamboo grove and sharp rock cliff, small cave naturally decorated with formation of stalagmites and stalactite.

◆ **Ban Paek Coniferous Forest** (Dong Paek). The picturesque landscape of Dong Paek comprises the realm of *Pinus merkusii* with grassy field carpeting beneath.

◆ **Phu Kum Khao Coniferous Forest.** The scenic landscape of coniferous forest around Phu



Kum Khao is a nice place where tourist can enjoy the nature in different hues on different seasons.

Without any other kind of tree, the realm of pine covering 10 square kilometers area raises its canopy high at 30-40 metres, leaving the land beneath to the grassland. During the monsoon, greenery will blanket the whole area, while wild flowers scatter around with colours blossom. In the dry season, the grassland beneath the shade of mountain pine forest

will slowly turn gold and brown finally, until the next rainy season comes.

In the mid of this landscape, visitors can witness such landscape over a hill called Phu Kum Khao. The landmark hill, at the altitude 880 metres above sea level.

◆ **Heo Sai Waterfall.** The Sanamsay stream, runs through the forest before jumping over the cliff to the pool 20 metres below. Beneath the waterfall, there is a big rock shelter roomy enough for camping.

◆ **Sai Thong Waterfall.** The waterfall of 30 metres wide and 4 metres tall is only 500 metres from Heo Sai Waterfall.

◆ **Phu Pha Chit (Phu Dan Ipong).** The remote flat-top peak can be reached by 7 hours trekking. Its crest, at 1,271 metres above average sea level, is the highest peak of the park.

◆ **Phalom Phakong.** The limestone mountain at 1,134 metres above sea level in the hug of jungle and mixed forest offers a scenic view point on the top. Nearby are picturesque cliffs with nice view called Pa Klang Loan, the cliff with 850 metres height and Pa Ton Hom which is 900 metres high.

◆ **Tham Yai Nam Nao (Phu Nam Rin).** The big cave is situated in Limestone Mountain of 955 metres high peak. The stunning beauty by formation stalagmite and stalactite in the cave always fascinate cave lover. The cave complex, with subterranean river, is home to large amount of bat.

◆ **Tat Phranba Waterfall.** Choen Stream cascades over two steps, creating this 20 metres high waterfall.

◆ **Phu Ko Viewpoint.** The place is one of the best viewpoints in the park.

◆ **Colourful forest.** Autumn blankets the forest of Nam Nao in December and January of each year. The best viewpoint to witness such colourful phenomenon is on Phu Lang Kongkwan.

## Getting there

■ Headquarters of Nam Nao National Park is 103 kilometres from downtown Khon Kaen and 55 kilometres from Amphoe Lom Sak of Phetchabun. Motorist can go through highway 12. The park's entrance is at kilometre 50 and the headquarters is 2 kilometres off the highway. Buses leaf Khon Kaen and Lom Sak for the park everyday.

