

Phu Hin Rong Kla

National Park

Phu Hin Rong Kla National Park was once home to a battlefield. The mountain range served as a stronghold for the communist during 1968–1982. In 1984, it was established as the 48th national park of Thailand. The total area is 307 square kilometres in Dan Sai district of Loei province, including Nakhon Thai district of Phitsanulok province.

Geography

Rugged and steep mountains dominate most of the region. Phu Man Khao is the highest peak at 1,820 metres above mean sea level.

Climate

The park has mild climate year round with temperatures between 18–25 degree Celsius. During winter months, fog can develop and temperatures drop between 0–4 degree Celcius.

Flora and Fauna

Mixed deciduous forest and deciduous dipterocarp forest dominate the area, while the dry areas are covered by *Shorea* sp. and *Dipterocarpus* sp. Evergreen forests encompass the high elevations, while the plateaus are covered by pine forest.

Wildlife include Tiger, Northern Red Muntjac, Sambar and Bear, along with many species of birds.

Attractions

The park features historical attractions, namely the communism era of the late 60s.

◆ **Political and Military School.** The school comprises of 31 small buildings and once served as venue to communists for training and education.



Getting There

■ From Phitsanulok, head to Lomsak for 68 kilometres. Turn right at Ban Yaeng Intersection to Nakhon Thai district, about 29 kilometres. From Nakhon Thai, the park is 31 kilometres distance. A local bus is available at Nakhon Thai district. The park can also be accessed from Phetchabun via Lom Kao district.



Situated amidst lush forests, the school is 6 kilometres from park headquarters.

◆ **Communist Headquarters.** The aged office building once served as headquarters of administrative work of the communist government.

◆ **Village.** Dao Daeng and Dao Chai villages are of several which depict the lifestyle of communists during civil war time. Each village comprises of 40-50 houses, which were built with air raid shelters.



◆ **Hospital.** The building once served as the only hospital during the civil war. The hospital was well-equipped with rooms for recuperation and medicine compound areas, along with ample medicine supplies. It is 2 kilometres from the building that housed communist headquarters.

◆ **Turbines.** Located opposite to the Political and Military School, the water-powered turbines were used for pounding rice to feed thousands of people.

◆ **Lan Hin Taek.** The broken rock terrace was probably due to the earth shifting. The depths of these cracks, both narrow and wide, remain doubtful. The area is covered by moss, lichen, ferns, and a variety of orchids. The terrace is 300 metres from Thai Army Base.

◆ **Lan Hin Pum.** The field of rock is believed to be a result of physical and chemical erosion. The scenic rock terrace once served as a resting place for the communist patients.

◆ **Pha Chu Thong (Flag Cliff).** The cliff offers magnificent views. It was once the place where after each victory, the communist army would fly their flag.

◆ **Man Daeng Waterfall.** The large waterfall cascades through 32 levels.

◆ **Romklao-Pharadon Waterfall.** The twin waterfall is 4 kilometres from the park headquarters. It is a nice shady place amidst surrounding wilderness.

◆ **Si Phatcharin Waterfall.** The waterfall is 5 kilometres from park headquarters, however, it is not ready for not visitors as not accessible by car.

◆ **Pha Lat and Tat Fa Waterfall.** The beautiful waterfalls are situated at the foot of Phu Hin Rong Kla Mountain, 5 kilometres from Huai Nam Sai village.