

# Khao Sok National Park

*Famed for its unique landscape of limestone cliffs towering right up from reflecting reservoir, the park features rugged mountain range with tiny plain. With natural beauty and great deal of wildlife, the park was declared in 1980 as Thailand's 22<sup>nd</sup> national park. It acquires total 738.74 square kilometres in Amphoe Phanom and Ban Takhun of Surat Thani.*

## Geography

The park features soil and rugged limestone mountains with unique landscape. There is tiny plain in the park. From the average 200 metres from the sea level, the highest peak rises to 960 metres.

## Climate

The rain starts from April to December. May to November is the wettest period. During December and April is the ideal period to visit the park.

## Flora and fauna

Khao Sok houses both the plants species from the Indochina and Indomalayan eco-region. Tropical rain forest blanket the park with *Dipterocarpus gracilis*, *hopea odorata* and the unique *Rafflesia kerrii*.

The park is home to numerous wildlife such as Asian Elephant, Gaur, Banteng, Fea's Muntjak, Tiger, Malayan Tapir, Leopard, Serow and different kinds of bird as well as rare animals like Giant Frog.

## Attractions

◆ **Wing Hin Waterfall.** The 20 metres high waterfall has numerous rocks which allow people to walk across the canal.

◆ **Tang Nam.** The towering cliff is eroded by the stream, cutting it by half and making it two cliffs facing each other. Khlong Sok below is home to numerous fishes. The cliff is 6 kilometres from the



headquarters and 3.2 kilometres from Wing Hin Waterfall. Visitor requires to trek for 3.2 kilometres.

◆ **Ton Kloi Waterfall.** Originated from Khlong Sok, the waterfall entertains visitor all the year round. There is a rock terrace to relax. It is 9 kilometres from headquarters.

◆ **Ton Sai Waterfall.** The small waterfall is 11 kilometres from the headquarters.

◆ **Than Sawan Waterfall.** The rainbow like waterfall is situated 9 kilometres from the headquarters and 3 kilometres from Tang Nam.

◆ **Sip-et Chan Waterfall.** Khlong Bang Lan cascades through 11 tiers into a big pool. Lots of rock make it a nice place to sit back and relax. Tourist require to trek 4 kilometres from the headquarters.





◆ **Mae Yai Waterfall.** The 30 metres high waterfall is situated at kilometres 113 on the Surat Thani-Takua Pa Road. The waterfall is very beautiful during the cliff is hidden by a curtain of mist and spray in rainy season.

◆ **Tham Khang Khao** or Bat Cave. The cave with beautiful rock formations and chambers is habitat for numerous bats. It is 21 kilometres from headquarters.

◆ **Khuean Ratchaprapha** or **Chiao Lan Dam.** The 700 metre long multi-purpose dam blocks Khlong Phra Saeng which floods the whole valley. Situated in the huge of rugged mountain range, the reservoir covers 165 square kilometres. Over 100 peaks become islands amidst picturesque reservoir. Channel at Khao Kalo Mountain seems to be the most beautiful place.

◆ **Nam Thalu Cave.** The 500 metres long tunnel where subterranean river runs through is beautified formations of stalagmites and stalactites. Tourist requires to take the boat from Khuean Ratchaprapha's reservoir. The cruise takes two hours in the reservoir and another 15 minutes through Khlong Pae Canal. The cave is another 4 kilometres by trekking.

## Getting there

■ Located on highway 401, the park can be reached from both Surat Thani and Amphoe Takua Pa of Phang Nga. Its entrance is at kilometre 109, the park is 1.5 kilometres off the main road. The entrance at kilometre 52-53, and 67-68 lead to the reservoir, 14 kilometres away.

