

Hat Chao Mai National Park

Established in 1981, Hat Chao Mai National Park acquires total area of 230.868 square kilometres in Amphoe Sikao and Kantang. It plays significant role in conserving Trang's coast that stretches for 120 kilometres where is a stronghold for the threatened Dugong, one of 15 endangered animals of Thailand.

Geography

The park's boundary can be divided into two main areas. Its land including seashore, as well as Ko Muk, Ko Kradan, Ko Waen, Ko Chueak, Ko Pling, Ko Chao Mai and Ko Meng.

Climate

From December to April of each year, Trang's Sea is at its most beautiful period without monsoon.

Flora and fauna

These lands are rich in plant diversity in tropical rain forest, mangrove forest, Beach forest, and limestone forest. Its major plants include *Dipterocarpus Chartaceus*, *Intsia palembanica*, *Hopea ferrea*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Xylocarpus granatum*,

Terminalia catappa, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Phoenix paludosa* and *Euphorbia* sp..

These forests are habitat for Black-necked Stork Crab-eating Macaque, Dusky Langur, Common Wild Boar, Pangolin, Little Heron, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Beautiful Lizard and Giant Toad.

The park's marine boundary covers total area of 137.22 square kilometres, protecting coral reef around Ko Waen, Ko Chueak, Ko Kradan and Ko Muk, as well as 8 kinds of Sea grass or *Echinochloa* sp. which is main food for Dugong.

Attractions

Trang's sea always charming for tourist and cute resorts are available on Ko Kradan, Ko Muk, and Ko Ngai. Pak Meng Pier, 40 kilometres from provincial town of Trang, is the main pier to the Ko Kradan, Ko Muk, Ko Waen, and Ko Chueak.

◆ **Hat Yao Pier**, on Trang-Katang Road, is another tourist pier to different attractions in Trang's Sea

◆ **Khuan Daeng Hotspring**, gives hot water at 70 degrees celcius.





◆ **Chao Mai.** The beautiful seascape of Chao Mai comprises island, canal, cliff, beaches, and bays. Long stretching beach of Hat Yao is a nice place for camping, but its fierce wave can harm swimmer. Shallow beach of Chao Mai is good for swimming and relaxing. Small bay of Ao Po, via Chao Mai Canal, leads to beautiful cave called Chao Mai Cave whose entrance allows boat to get in.

◆ **Yong Ling-Hat San Beach.** South of Hat Yao Beach is Yong Ling Beach. Lined with *Casuarina*, the crescent beach stretches to the cliff where lots of caves are situated in.

◆ **Ko Muk.** The big island, occupying 7.7 square kilometres, is special with Emerald Cave where winding tunnel leads to a beautiful beach peacefully hides in the embrace of high cliff. The tourist can swim through the 80 metres long tunnel which at first thrills the swimmers by complete darkness, then delight them with emerald-colour light through the sea.

◆ **Ko Kradan.** The island has soft coral reef and sea fan on the south. Most corals are Brain Coral and Staghorn Coral. The island, where the park's unit is located on, provide camping ground for 40 tourists. Electricity and freshwater is available.

◆ **Ko Chueak.** The small island, actually two islands lying together, is between Ko Muk and Ko Kradan. Without any plain, the island is ringed with coral reef which contain great variety of biological diversity namely Sea Fan, Comb Sea Fan, Fire

Coral. The island has a small cave where diver or boat can get through during low tide. Inside the cave, which is bat habitat, there is a small beach.

◆ **Ko Waen.** The island is in concession for collecting bird's nest. Around the island, particularly on the eastern side, is a big coral colony in great condition. At the depth between 10-20 feet, diver can witness Sea Whip, Sea Fan, Black Neptune's Cup and Coral.

◆ **The Park's Headquarters.** Situated on Chang Lang Beach, the headquarters is enveloped with beach and lush vegetable, making it a nice place for camping by the sea. Khao Bae Na on the south houses pre-historical cave painting in red. Chang Lang Canal, at the northern end, offers nice view.

◆ **Pak Meng Beach.** The first beach attraction for Trang people. Big rock, look like a lying man, is its outstanding landmark.

Getting there

■ From Trang, motorist can use highway 4046 and get on highway 4162 to the park's headquarters. The journey takes an hour from downtown Trang.

