



amazing
THAILAND

Nong Khai



Nong Khai

The Suppression of the Haw Rebels, Revered Buddha image “Luang Pho Phra Sai”, and the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

Nong Khai has a rich history, initially forming part of the Khmer Empire. Following the Khmer Empire’s decline, it aligned with the Lan Xang Kingdom, Luang Prabang, and Vientiane in succession. By the Rattanakosin era around 1826, Chao Anuwong, the King of the Lan Xang Kingdom, led an army through various cities to Nakhon Ratchasima. Bangkok appointed Phraya Ratchasuphawadi (Sing Singhaseni) to suppress the rebellion, with Thao Suwa Athamma (Bunma) leading forces from Yasothon as a key military supporter, eventually achieving victory and being granted royal honours. Thao Suwa Athamma was given the choice to establish four cities: Phan Phrao, Wiang Khuk, Pako, and Phai (Ban Bueng Khai), choosing Phai to establish the city of Nong Khai in 1827. The name “Nong Khai” originates from a large pond West of Phai, and Thao Suwa Athamma was appointed as the first city ruler of Nong Khai, making Vientiane directly subordinate to it.

In 1891, following the Haw rebellion, King Rama IV appointed Prince Prachak Sinlapakhom as the High Commissioner of the Lao Phuan Territory, with the administrative office located in Nong Khai (later becoming part of the Northern and Udon Thani provinces). During the French-Siamese War in 1893, Thailand ceded the left bank of the Mekong River to France with a treaty stipulating that Thailand could not station or lead military forces within 25 kilometres of





the border. Consequently, Prince Prachak Sinlapakhom relocated the provincial office to Ban Dueda Mak Khaeng, establishing Udon Thani Province. In the era of King Rama VI, a decree was issued to abolish the feudal system, transitioning the term “Mueang” to “Province” and introducing the title “Provincial Governor”. On 1 April 1915, the Ministry of Interior officially established Nong Khai as a Province, marking its status from then onwards.

Map of Nong Khai





Tha Sadet Market

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Tha Sadet Market

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Tha Sadet Market is located along the Mekong River within the municipality of Nong Khai. Tha Sadet Market, formerly the residence of the local ruler and known as the Governor's Landing, has evolved into a bustling market. Today, it serves as a hub for goods from Indochina and Eastern Europe, including electronics, clothing, and jewellery. Additionally, the area along the Mekong River features a pedestrian road and a cycling path for scenic views of the river.



Open daily 08.00-18.30 hrs.



Wat Pho Chai

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Wat Pho Chai

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Originally known as Wat Phi Phieo, This temple was once used for cremations before being renamed during the Rattanakosin period and elevated to a royal temple. It houses “Luang Pho Phra Sai,” a revered gold-coated Buddha image in the attitude of Subduing Mara, considered a city guardian by Nong Khai residents.

Legend has it that three princesses of the Lan Xang kingdom cast three Buddha images, naming them after themselves: “Phra Soem” for the eldest, “Phra Suk” for the middle, and “Phra Sai” for the youngest. Initially placed in Vientiane, they were transported across



the river to Nong Khai during King Rama III's reign, but "Phra Suk" was lost to a storm. "Phra Soem" and "Phra Sai" were enshrined at Wat Pho Chai, with "Phra Soem" later moved to Wat Pathum Wanaram in Bangkok. The Nong Khai community celebrates Luang Pho Phra Sai during the annual Bun Bang Fai rocket festival in the seventh lunar month.



**For further details contact, Tel. (66) 4246 1123,
(66) 4242 0747**



Sala Kaeo Ku (Wat Khaek)

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Sala Kaeo Ku (Wat Khaek)

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Stands as a sanctuary for spiritual reflection, Sala Kaeo Ku or Wat Khaek is situated in the Samakhi community, Wat That Subdistrict. Its grounds are adorned with an assortment of brick and mortar sculptures, each with its own unique shape and form. These sculptures, envisioned by Luang Pu Bunleua Surirat, reflect his belief in the integration of diverse religious beliefs. Here, you'll find representations of Buddhas, Hindu deities, scenes from the Ramayana,



and local folklore, each accompanied by bilingual descriptions in Thai and the Isan dialect. Crafted in 1978, the 208 sculptures are a testament to this unique vision. The preserved remains of Luang Pu Bunleua Surirat are honored on the third floor of Sala Kaeo Ku, revered by locals and visitors alike. Managed by the Buddhist Association of Nong Khai.



Open daily 08.00-18.00 hrs.

Entrance Fee: 40 baht.

For further details contact, Ms. Chanthima Waiyaput
Tel. (66)9 5670 0153



Phrathat Bang Phuan

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Phrathat Bang Phuan

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Phrathat Bang Phuan is located at Ban Don Mu, Phrathat Bang Phuan Subdistrict. It's an ancient temple housing sacred Buddha relics. The original stupa, made of kiln-fired bricks, collapsed in 1970 and was subsequently restored by the Fine Arts Department. Later, the Supreme Patriarch (Vas Mahathera) brought additional relics from Phrathat Phanom to be enshrined in the new chedi.

According to the Urangkhatat legend, five kings-Phraya Suvarnaphingkan, the ruler of Nong Han (Sakon Nakhon); Phra Kham Daeng, the ruler of Nong Han Noi (Udon Thani); Phraya Chulani Prommatha, the ruler of Chulani (Northern Laos and the Sip Song Chau



Tai, an ethnic minority Tai Region); Phraya Intha Phattha Nakhon, the ruler of Intha Phattha Nakhon (Khmer); and Phraya Nanthasen, the ruler of Si Kotrabun Luang-supported Mahakassapa Thera and 500 arahants in constructing Phrathat Phanom, achieving enlightenment after that. They then travelled to India to bring back 45 relics to be enshrined at four locations, including 29 at Phrathat Bang Phuan.

Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan also features a group of significant archaeological sites called Sattamahasthan, or simulated places where the Buddha attained ultimate bliss.

Only three such sites exist worldwide: Bodh Gaya in India, Wat Chao Yot in Chiang Mai, and Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan in Nong Khai. These sites, following Buddhist teachings post-enlightenment, include seven locations: Bodhi tree, Animisalocana cetiya, Ratana cetiya, Ratana ghar cetiya, Asokarama cetiya, Muchalinda cetiya, and Rajayatana cetiya. Wat Phrathat Bang Phuan is unique as it preserves all 7 of these significant archaeological elements.





Phrathat La Nong
Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Phrathat La Nong

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Located within Nong Khai Municipality, Phrathat La Nong was submerged into the Mekong River around 200 metres off the shore in 1847. The legend of Urangkhatat (Phrathat Phanom) mentions that the stupa enshrined nine pieces of the Buddha's relics (right foot), brought from India by Arahant Sanghavicha Thera, drawing parallels to the fabled Phrathat Mueang La Nong Khai and Phrathat Yai Nong Khai mentioned in the Vieng Chan chronicles.



An underwater survey conducted by the Archaeological Division, Region 7, unveiled intriguing details about the stupa. Its base spans 17.2 meters in width with indented corners and rises to a height of 28.5 meters. Plunging into the water, it was broken into 3 pieces. Believed to have been erected between the 20th and 22nd Buddhist centuries, Phrathat La Nong bears striking similarities to Phrathat Bang Phuan.

In the present, a replica of Phrathat La Nong or the Stupa in the Middle of the Water was constructed to commemorate the long-standing relationship between the people on both sides of the Mekong River. It houses a seven-tiered golden umbrella created to honour King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) on his 84th birthday. The design of the topmost tier, shaped like a seven-layered climbing lotus, is adorned with various auspicious gems, each layer symbolising the elegance of wisdom.



Nong Khai Aquarium
Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Nong Khai Aquarium

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Nong Khai Aquarium, or Sirindhorn Aquarium, is situated on Chaloem Phra Kiat Road in Nong Kom Ko Subdistrict, within the premises of Khon Kaen University's Nong Khai Campus. The Nong Khai Aquarium showcases a variety of freshwater and marine species. Its purpose is to serve as a centre for education research in fisheries and to collect fish species from the Mekong Basin, making it a tourist attraction in the Province. Spanning over 4,800 square metres, the aquarium is divided into 9 groups and 18 systems, featuring a 34-meter long fish tunnel that descends from the second floor, where saltwater fish are displayed, down to the lower floor, dedicated to freshwater, indigenous, and Mekong River fish, presented in naturalistic settings.



Open Tuesday-Sunday

Closed Monday (Except for Monday that falls on public holidays.)

Entrance Fee: 100 baht. (No service charge for Monks, Disabled Individuals, and Children under 90 cm.)

For further details contact, Tel. (66) 4241 4901, (66)8 3459 4466 or visit www.nongkhaiaquarium.com



1st Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



1st Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Located along the Mekong River, the 1st Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge was built through cooperation between Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), and Australia. It aims to strengthen economic, social, cultural, and tourism ties, connecting the city of Nong Khai in Thailand with Thadeua in Laos, just 20 kilometres from the city of Vientiane, the Laotian capital.

The bridge was officially opened on 8 April 1994 by King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), accompanied by Queen Sirikit and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Following the opening ceremony, they stayed overnight at Ho Kham, the former royal palace of the Laotian kings, before returning to Thailand.

The bridge is 1,174 metres long and 12.7 metres wide, with two vehicle lanes and a central railway line connecting to the Thanaleng Station in Laos. It is crucial to facilitate travel between the two countries and further solidify Thai-Lao relations.



Wat Thepphon Pradittharam

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Wat Thepthon Pradittharam

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



This temple is located in Wiang Khuk Subdistrict. Originally named Wat Siri Thepthon, it was built in 1917 during the reign of King Anu Rhutharat, the last king of Vientiane. Later, Muen Kaeng Hong, the ruler of Wiang Khuk, renovated it as a residence for monks. After Wiang Khuk was demoted to a village, the temple fell into disrepair until the villagers rebuilt it, renaming it Wat Thung (later changed to Wat Thepthon Pradittharam) in 1988.

The temple grounds contain ancient artefacts and structures from the Lan Xang period, including two chedis with similar shapes near each other and a Sema boundary-marking slab, believed to be the city's pillar of Wiang Kham or Wiang Khuk. The Fine Arts Department registered the two chedis as historic sites on 15 September 2017.



Wat Phon Pong

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Wat Phon Pong

Mueang Nong Khai, Nong Khai



Located in Wiang Khuk Subdistrict, Wat Phon Pong is distinguished by its golden ordination hall (sim), which showcases a blend of Lan Xang and Lanna art styles reminiscent of the architecture of Wat Xieng Thong in Luang Prabang, Laos. This design commemorates the community's origins, with ancestors who migrated from Vientiane, Laos. The temple houses the principal Buddha image, Phra Somdet Mahachakrapat, wearing royal attire, also known as Phra Chao Yai Wang Thong, and the secondary principal Buddha image, Phra Chao Sikanya, in a carved wooden shrine.



Open daily 08.00-18.30 hrs.



Wat Si Chomphu Ong Teu

Tha Bo District, Nong Khai

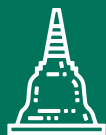


Wat Si Chomphu Ong Teu

Tha Bo District, Nong Khai



Located in Nam Mong Subdistrict, this temple was established in 1562 during the reign of King Chaiyachetthathirat of the Lan Xang Kingdom. Originally named Wat Kosin, locals commonly refer to it as “Wat Ong Teu.” The temple’s ordination hall houses a large Buddha image, Phra Chao Ong Teu, in the attitude of Subduing Mara, measuring 3.29 metres in lap width and 4 metres in height, cast from a mixture of gold, brass, and silver, weighing one “Tue” (an ancient measurement unit). It took seven years and seven months to construct, featuring beautiful Lan Xang art similar to Phra Chao Ong Teu at Wat Ong Teu Mahawihan (Wat Chaiyaphum or Wat Si Phum) in Vientiane, Laos. An annual ceremony on the 15th night of the fourth lunar month is dedicated to worshipping the revered Buddha image.



Wat Hin Mak Peng

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Wat Hin Mak Peng

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Wat Hin Mak Peng is located in Ban Thai Charoen, Phra Phutthabat Subdistrict. The name “Hin Mak Peng” refers to three stones resembling ancient gold weighing scales, locally called “Teng” or “Peng Yoi.” The word “Mak Peng” is a local dialect classifier for a fruit or similar spherical object.

The temple, established by Luang Pu Tes Tesrangsi, a disciple of Phra Achan Sao and Phra Achan Man, two highly respected Buddhist teachers, designated the area as a site for Dharma practice for monks, nuns, and laypeople, offering a peaceful and natural environment by the Mekong River. Wat Hin Mak Peng was declared a model development temple in 1980.



**Phra Suttham Chedi,
Wat Aran Banphot**
Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Phra Suttham Chedi, Wat Aran Banphot

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Located in Ban Mo Subdistrict, Phra Suttham Chedi, Wat Aran Banphot, serves as a museum and a stupa housing sacred Buddha relic. The exterior is white with a golden spire, while the interior is decorated in red and pink with exquisite mural paintings. Constructed by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand in honour of Luang Pu Rian Woralapho, a revered monk with numerous disciples, the temple features unique architecture, including Luang Pu Rian Woralapho Pavilion, a glass pavilion with four entrances. An annual festival is held in January.



For further details contact, Tel. (66) 4242 0299



Ban Wang Nam Mok
Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Ban Wang Nam Mok

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Located in Phra Phutthabat Subdistrict, this cultural tourism village emphasizes learning about the community's lifestyle, culture, and relationship with natural resources. Reflecting a blend of Lanna and Lan Xang influences, the village preserves age-old traditions in language, attire, and culinary arts, stemming from its historical ties to the Lan Xang Kingdom. Visitors can participate in traditional activities; such as, making Pha Lang lanterns, joining a Bai Si Su Kwan ceremony, and enjoying traditional meals. Homestay accommodations are available.



For further details contact, the Tourism and Cultural Coordination Center Tel. (66)8 3357 7035, (66)8 6232 5300



Wang Nam Mok Waterfall

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Wang Nam Mok Waterfall

Si Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai



Located in Phra Phutthabat Subdistrict, a 30-metre-high waterfall, features unique rock formations and cascading water over several levels, leading to a large pool and rock platform suitable for swimming. The best times to visit are from June - October when the Dok Krachiao (Siam Tulip) blooms beautifully, and from December - February, when cool mist covers the reservoir.



Wat Pha Tak Suea Skywalk

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Wat Pha Tak Suea Skywalk

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Wat Pha Tak Suea Skywalk is located within the temple grounds atop the Phu Pan Noi peak in Pha Tang Subdistrict. This viewpoint offers a magnificent panoramic view of the Mekong River, marking the border between Thailand and Laos. The walkway extends 6 meters from the cliff edge, featuring a 4 cm thick, laminated glass floor anchored to the rock base below. The glass pathway is 15 metres long, made from rust-resistant steel, and can support approximately 2,500 kg, or about 20 people. Clear glass sides match the pathway, ensuring unobstructed views. Information signs clearly outline visitor guidelines for the Skywalk.



For further details contact, the Pha Tang Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Tel. (66) 4241 4855



**Wat Tham Si Mongkhon
(Tham Din Phiang)**

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Wat Tham Si Mongkhon (Tham Din Phiang)

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Located in Ban Dong Tong, Pha Tang Subdistrict, this cave is commonly known by the locals as “Tham Phaya Nak” or the cave of the Naga serpent. The entrance to the cave is marked by a shrine where visitors can pay their respects to Pho Pu In Nakarat and Mae Ya Khet Nakarat and ask the guardian spirits for permission to enter the cave.

Legend has it that this cave served as a passageway between the underground city called Badal, the lair of the mythical Naga, and the human realm. With its perpetually moist interior and flowing water, the cave showcases natural stone spikes around the entrance which look as if they have been placed there to deter intruders. Visitors wishing to step inside Si Mongkhon Cave should contact a local guide and not attempt to enter the cave of their own accord.



Open daily 08.00-16.00 hrs.

For further details contact, Kruba Tui, Tel. (66)9 3067 7959



Phu Huai Isan

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Huai Isan

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Huai Isan is located in Ban Muang Subdistrict. This viewpoint on a small hill offers views of the district of Sangkhom and islets in the Mekong River. It's especially known for its beautiful sunrise views, especially when fog blankets the Mekong River in winter.

The best time to visit Phu Huai Isan for sunrise and fog views is from October - May. The rainy season is not recommended due to the steep, slippery access road. Personal vehicles cannot ascend Phu Huai Isan; visitors must use the local tractor service from Wat Kaeo Sadet Chai Mongkhon and arrive before 05.00 hrs. to catch the sunrise. The journey takes about 45 minutes.



Entrance Fee: Tractor ride 80 baht per person

For further details contact, Tel. (66)9 6068 2362



Phu Pha Dak
Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Pha Dak

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Pha Dak is located in Ban Muang Subdistrict. This adventure destination is famous for experiencing cold weather and morning fog, especially towards the end of the rainy season and during winter. Access requires an 800-metre trek, taking about 45 minutes to an hour. The summit offers a wide view of the fog, resembling sea of mist, with a 180-degree view. Guided by locals only, visitors typically arrive for the sunrise.



Open daily 05.00-09.00 hrs.

Entrance Fee: Guide service 500 baht per group (up to 10 people)

For further details contact, the Ban Muang Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Tel. (66) 4241 4871



Phu Nong

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Nong

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phu Nong is located in Ban Muang Subdistrict. This viewpoint offers stunning sunrise views and, in winter, views of sea of mist. The surrounding wooden walkway allows 360-degree views of the Mekong River. The best time for fog viewing is from 05.30-07.30 hrs. Personal vehicles cannot reach Phu Nong; parking is available at Wat Pa Ban Non Sawang with a tractor service covering the 2 km distance. The best tourist season is from November - January.



Open daily 05.30-17.00 hrs.

Entrance Fee: Tractor ride 60 baht per person.

For further details contact, Mr. Bunchin Kaeothamang
Tel. (66)8 0191 2769



Phan Khod San Krai
Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phan Khod San Krai

Sangkhom District, Nong Khai



Phan Khod San Krai, or Grand Canyon Nong Khai is located in Ban Muang Subdistrict. This tourist attraction on the Mekong River becomes visible during the dry season when the water level drops, revealing unique and varied rock formations along a stretch of more than 5 kilometres. These rocks are covered with hundreds of thousands of Willow-leaved Water Croton, creating a stunning and memorable sight. A boat trip is required to visit Phan Khod San Krai, accommodating up to 5 people per boat, lasting about 1 hour. Additionally, “Kaeng Pha” offers another beautiful spot for sunset views over the Mekong River.



Entrance Fee: Boat fee 400 baht per boat, with a maximum of 5 people per boat.

For further details contact, Mr. Piyaphong Yakaeo
Tel. (66)8 1061 0536



Wat Thai

Phon Phisai District, Nong Khai



Wat Thai

Phon Phisai District, Nong Khai



Nestled in Ban Chum Phon along the serene Mekong River, Wat Thai stands as a testament to ancient beliefs. Locals hold a deep-rooted belief that this sacred site is the legendary Naga Cave's dwelling. Adorning the temple's facade are symbolic structures reflecting these ancient beliefs. A replicated triangular city pillar adorned with a gate sculpted in the likeness of a Naga swallowing another Naga (symbolizing fertility) greets visitors. Within this underground city lies seven chamber-like structures, echoing the essence of ancient caves. Dominating the temple's forefront is a seated Buddha image "Luang Pho Yai" in the attitude of protected by the seven-headed Naga.

Wat Thai is a popular spot for observing the Naga fireball phenomenon during the end of Buddhist Lent, attracting visitors to reserve spots in front of the temple to witness this event. The surrounding area bustles with stalls selling various products and entertainment shows.

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Open daily 08.30-16.30 hrs.



Suvarnabhumi Airport

Arrivals Hall, 2nd Floor, Gate 3
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Open 24 hours

Don Mueang International Airport

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Open 24 hours

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Nong Khai, and Bueng Kan

