

THAILAND

Bueng Kan



**Interactive
Travel
Guides**

**Bonus
Naga
Cave
Trail**



**Your Interactive
Travel Guide Specialist**

MEGAWORLD ASIA

Bueng Kan Province



[Megaworld Asia Facebook Link](#)

This Interactive Travel Guide Promotes:

12GO ASIA

VERIFIED AFFILIATE

Your Thailand Travel Specialist

FOREWORD



Thanks for downloading this FREE interactive travel guide. You've made an excellent choice if you plan on **GETTING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK** in THAILAND. Before you delve into the content of this travel guide, please take a few minutes to read this foreword. It outlines how to make the best use of the information contained within.

First-hand experience: This travel guide has been put together using first-hand experience gained from traveling to, and exploring, all the locations presented within. The information and photos featured in my travel guides, have been collated over years of putting boots on the ground. There is no second-hand information, or information which is plagiarized from other travel sources, within this guide. Every cave, waterfall, river, viewpoint, jungle trail, temple site, guesthouse and restaurant presented, or promoted, I have been to and seen and/or experienced myself.

Getting off the beaten track: The primary focus of my travel guides is **ADVENTURE TRAVEL** (and activities) to locations which are non-mainstream tourist destinations. As an example, there is no information for the mainstream tourist locations of Thailand (except as transit hub's before heading off to a more remote location) listed in this travel guide. As such, the information in this guide is directed towards travelers (not tourists) who are keen for a bit of adventure - caving, climbing, jungle

trekking, kayaking - in an off the beaten track location, of South East Asia. If these types of activities aren't to your liking, then this travel guide won't be much use to you. There's no information in here about the party towns in South East Asia.

Budget travel: Knowing the importance of making the most of your hard-earned currency, my travel links (**12GO ASIA**) and accommodation links (**AGODA**) are predominantly budget oriented. They provide a range of options for getting to a central hub, or base, from which you can make your daily explorations.

Independent sightseeing: Instead of going on group tours, I strongly promote the idea of renting your own vehicle (car or motorbike) and venturing out yourself. To help you get to the exact location, there's always a **GOOGLE MAPS** link to show the route from a hub (hotel or guesthouse) to the sightseeing attraction. If there's a local tour operator offering excellent adventure type tours, or activities, I'll provide links to their website. A good example of a great adventure tour operator is **GREEN DISCOVERY LAOS**, who offer excellent caving, kayaking and trekking tours throughout Laos.

The Table of Contents: This is page four of the travel guide and has a sequential list of sections, which you can go to directly by clicking on the **GREEN** numbered tab.

YouTube Links: These take you directly to my YouTube Vlog (**Megaworld Asia**) where you can see short, high quality travel videos of the numerous attractions listed in my travel guides. If you enjoy the videos, please hit the like button and don't forget to subscribe to see my upcoming adventures.

Your next adventure is just one click away

Safe travels,

MEGA

Bueng Kan

Table Of Contents

General Info = Getting There, Accommodation, Transport & Dining

1: Foreword.....	Page	3
2: Table of contents.....	Page	4
3: How to use this interactive travel guide.....	Page	5
4: Bueng Kan Province - General info.....	Page	6
5: Bueng kan Province - Sightseeing summary.....	Page	8
6: Phu Sing Forestry Park - General info.....	Page	9
7: Phu Sing Forestry Park - Sightseeing.....	Page	10
8: The Three Whales Rocks - Photos & video link.....	Page	12
9: Wat Phu Tok - General info.....	Page	13
10: Wat Phu Tok - Sightseeing.....	Page	14
11: Chet Si waterfall - General info.....	Page	16
12: Tham Phra Waterfall - General info.....	Page	17
13: Tham Phra Waterfall - Sightseeing.....	Page	18
14: Tham Phra Waterfall - Photos & video link.....	Page	20
15: The Naga Cave Trail - General info.....	Page	21
16: The Naga Cave Trail - Sightseeing.....	Page	22
17: The Naga Cave Trail - The Snakes Head.....	Page	25
18: The Naga Cave Trail - Photos & Video link.....	Page	27



How To Use This Interactive Travel Guide

The Table Of Contents: To effortlessly move from the TOC to the page you want to view, simply click on the **page number**: 

YouTube Links: These will take you to a short highlights video, of the sightseeing attraction, in the section you're looking at:



Other Links: These take you to ancillary services such as recommended restaurants, or car and motorbike rental agencies, in the location you're traveling to:

ANCILLARY SERVICES

Travel Links: This takes you to **12GO ASIA**, an excellent travel group which provides a range of options for getting around the region:



The Table Of Contents: To move back to the TOC, click on the **yellow arrows**, at the bottom of each Page: 

Google Maps Links: These provide a route from a designated location (e.g., a hotel) to a particular sightseeing attraction:



Information Links: These links take you to information sites, such as Wikipedia or Wiki-voyage, to provide more in-depth info on a particular subject or location:



Accommodation Links: This takes you to the Agoda website to check accommodation availability and make bookings:



It's Time To Get Off The Beaten Track



BUENG KAN PROVINCE - GENERAL INFO

About: Bueng Kan was the last province (the 77th) formed in Thailand. It sits between Nong Khai and Nakhon Phanom Provinces. If you look at a map of Thailand it occupies the far north-eastern corner of the country, where the Mekong River does a big curve and heads south. It tends to be a place which is largely unknown and even most Thais I've spoken with, know very little about the place.

Few Tourists: To be sure it's a bit of an off the beaten track location with foreign tourists being few, and far between. Its primary attraction is the lack of development and it's unspoiled, natural beauty. The geology of the province is predominantly red-sandstone, which punctuates the landscape with dramatic, sheer-sided peaks and massive boulders. There are a number of exceptional wilderness areas which offer hiking to magnificent viewpoints, and picturesque waterfalls.

Getting there: If you're traveling from Bangkok, these are the available options for getting to Bueng Kan. **Note:** All transportation options from Bangkok will go to UDON THANI first.

Air Travel: The domestic carriers NOK AIR & THAI SMILE have regular daily flights to Udon Thani. Nok Air departs from DON MUEANG AIRPORT and Thai Smile departs from SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT.

Train Travel: Thai Rail has daily departures for Udon Thani, from Bangkok's main rail terminal - HUALAMPHONG.

Bus Travel: There are regular daily buses to Udon Thani, from Bangkok's Northern Bus Terminal - MORCHIT.

Click the link below to check the most suitable Bangkok to Udon Thani travel option:



Udon Thani to Bueng Kan: From Udon the best option is to rent a vehicle at the airport, and self-drive to Bueng Kan Township. Click the link below to check car rental options in Udon Thani:

UDON CAR RENTALS



The picturesque landscape of Bueng Kan Province

BUENG KAN PROVINCE - GENERAL INFO

Bus Service: There is a minivan service from Udon Thani to Bueng Kan. The departures are from a stand near Udon Central Shopping Plaza. However, there's no scheduled departure time, and the service is entirely dependent on numbers wanting to go. **Click the link below for directions from Udon Thani Airport to Bueng Kan:**



Accommodation: There's plenty of accommodation choices in Bueng Kan. The majority of hotels and guesthouses are in the 600-1000 THB price range. There are a number of smaller guesthouses along the riverfront road but if you have your own transportation, and aren't concerned about being on the riverfront, a good option is the BK PLACE HOTEL. **Click the following link for booking inquiries:**



Where to Eat: The riverfront road is probably the best location for dining in the evenings. There are a number of small, local restaurants, and cafés, to choose from. If you're there on a Friday evening, there's a large open market with a great selection of street food. **Click the link below for directions:**



BUENG KAN PROVINCE - SIGHTSEEING SUMMARY

Wat Phu Tok: A unique Buddhist Temple site, located approximately 45 km South East of Bueng Kan Township. The temple grounds include a large sandstone pinnacle which has been developed for sightseeing. Stairways, walkways and trails have been put in place to enable sightseers to ascend to the top of the pinnacle, and also circumnavigate it.

Three Whales Rocks: An exceptional sight-seeing attraction located in the PHU SING FORESTRY PARK. The site is situated approximately 27 km south east of Bueng Kan Township. It features two massive (and a smaller third one) horizontal, sandstone rocks, which protrude from a jungle covered peak, and have the appearance of whales. Spectacular views, and vertical drops to the surrounding landscape, are also a feature of the site.

Chet Si Waterfall: This is one of the best waterfalls in Bueng Kan province. The site is located approximately 60km south east of Bueng Khan Township. There is a waterfall trail which takes you up a number of levels but the best waterfall is at level two. Like most waterfalls in the area, it's best visited in the rainy season.

Tham Phra Waterfall: This is a picturesque waterfall area, located approximately 60km from Bueng Kan Township. Unfortunately, it's a bit difficult to find due to a lot of the directional signage being in Thai language only. There is a scenic boat ride to get to the start of the trail through the three levels at the site. At the first level, there's a small cavern with a number of gold Buddha statues within. The best time to visit is the rainy season.

The Naga Cave Trail: This is a challenging hiking trail in the southern section (near the border of Nakhon Phanom Province) of Bueng Kan Province. The trail is part of the PHU LANGKA NATIONAL PARK. It ascends the highest peak (455meters) in the province, and provides spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. It also has a couple of small caverns, with rock formations which have surfaces resembling the scaled skin of a snake.

Note: There is no public transport to these locations. You will need your own car or motorbike to get to them. Cars can be hired at Udon Thani Airport. Motorbikes can be hired from guesthouses or hotels in Bueng Kan Township.



The Three Whales Rocks

PHU SING FORESTRY PARK - GENERAL INFO

About: This is one of the best sightseeing locations in Bueng Kan Province, and has an attraction called the THREE WHALES ROCKS. Situated approximately 27 km south east of Bueng Kan Township, the Forest Park features two massive (and a smaller third one) horizontal, sandstone rocks, which protrude from a jungle covered peak, and have the appearance of whales. Spectacular views, and vertical drops to the surrounding landscape, are also a feature of the site. **Click the link below for directions from Bueng Kan Township:**



On site: There is a Forestry Park HQ, at the entrance to the site, which also has restroom facilities, some local restaurants and a large parking area. **Note:** This is not a designated Thai National Park and therefore has no entry fee. **However, there is a transportation fee.**

Tour fee: Although there is no park entry fee, there's a transportation charge for the tour around the site. The standard fee for the transportation is 500 THB.



Group tour: If you're in a group, you can divide the 500 THB fee among the numbers in the group. If you're going solo, and you can't find anyone to join with, you'll have to pay the full 500 THB.

Doing the tour: From the Forestry Park HQ it's approximately 6 km to the Three Whales Rocks site, and most of that is an uphill journey. For this reason, transport is provided in the form of a pick-up truck with open seating. The tour also includes short visits to three other attractions, aside from the Three Whales Rocks. **Note:** Walking to the various sites isn't permitted.



Phu Sing Forestry Park HQ

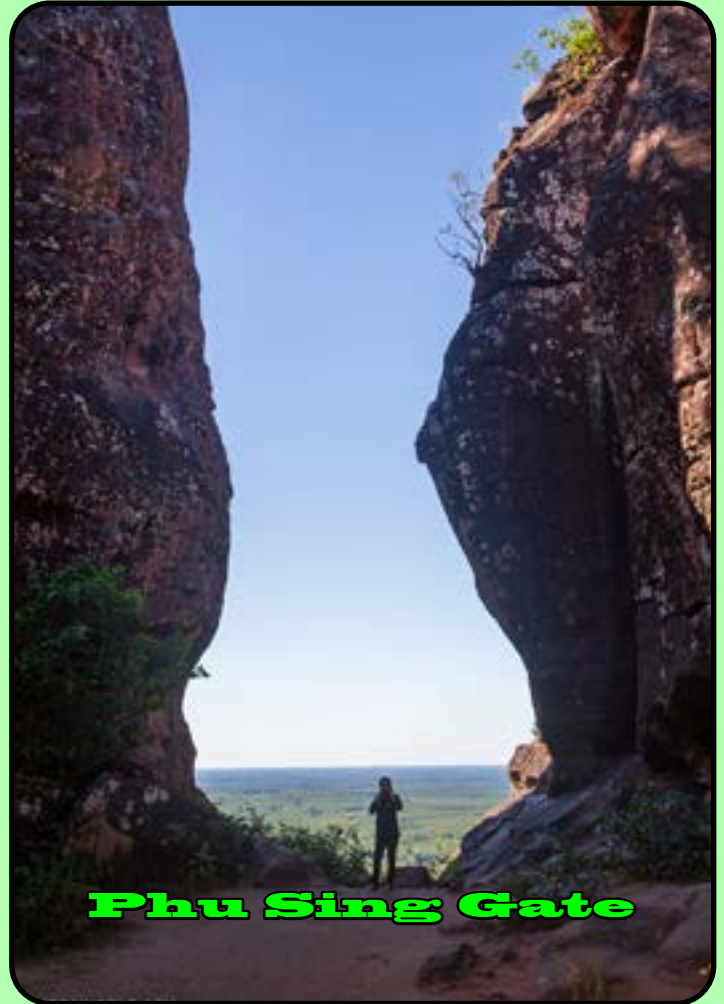
PHU SING FORESTRY PARK - SIGHTSEEING

Four locations: Although the Three Whales Rocks is the main attraction - and this is where you'll spend most of your time - there are three other interesting stops en-route.

Buddha Statue: The first is a Buddhist religious site with a gold Buddha statue against a back-drop of red sandstone. You're given a few minutes here to take photos before moving on to the Three Whales Rocks. There are two other locations where short stops are made, after viewing the Three Whales Rocks, on the drive back to the park HQ.

Elephant Rock: This location is a few meters off the track and has a large vertical, sandstone rock with the appearance of an elephant. This is a stop on the way back to the Forestry Park HQ.

Phu Sing Gate: This is the last stop on the way back to the forestry Park HQ. It features two large vertical rocks, with a gap in-between, which forms a keyhole with an uninterrupted view across the landscape.



Phu Sing Gate



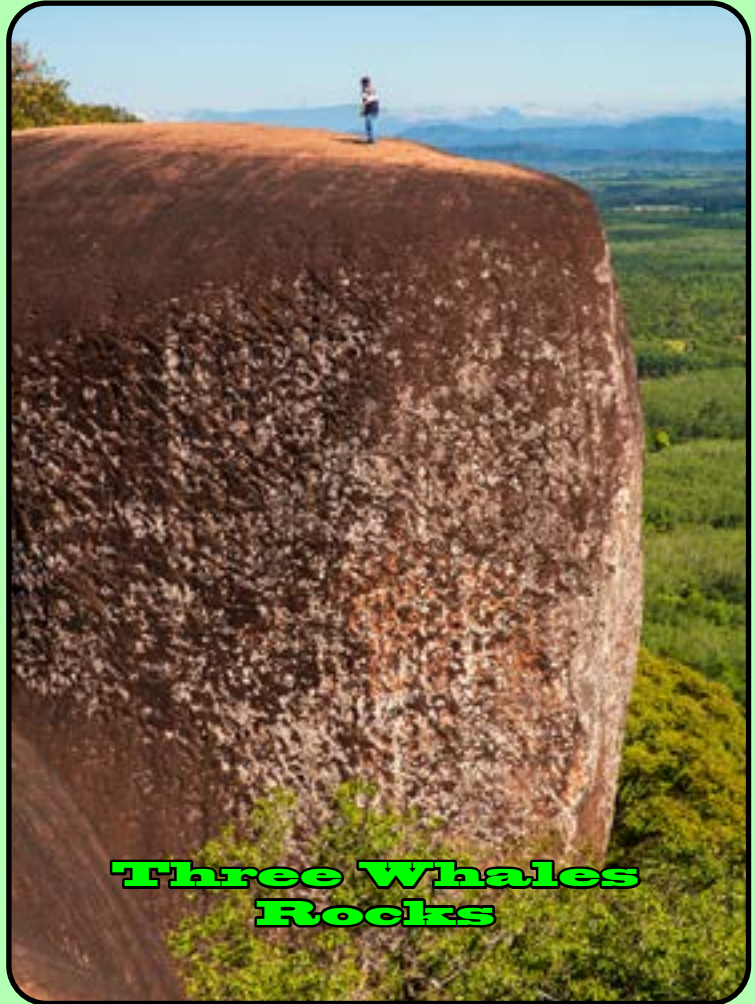
The Buddha Statues

PHU SING FORESTRY PARK - SIGHTSEEING

Three Whales Rocks: This is the main attraction of the park, and where you'll spend the majority of your time on the tour. The transport truck stops nearby the entrance to the site after which, there's short walk out to the rocks. The trail leads straight out on to the first massive rock and as you work your way to the end of it, you're provided with spectacular, uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape. The second big rock, which runs parallel to the first one, is to the right and can be accessed from a branching trail, back towards the parking area. The third rock is much smaller and is of lesser interest. There's also no access on to it.

Great photo opportunities: This is truly an impressive sightseeing attraction, which provides great photo opportunities. **Note:** Drones are allowed on-site but you need to show the forestry staff your ownership papers, prior to commencing the tour.

Sunrise tours: These are also available for those who can get to the Forestry Park HQ by 5 am.



Three Whales Rocks



The view along the second rock

THREE WHALES ROCKS - PHOTOS & VIDEO LINK



Click the link to the right to see video highlights of the THREE WHALES ROCKS:



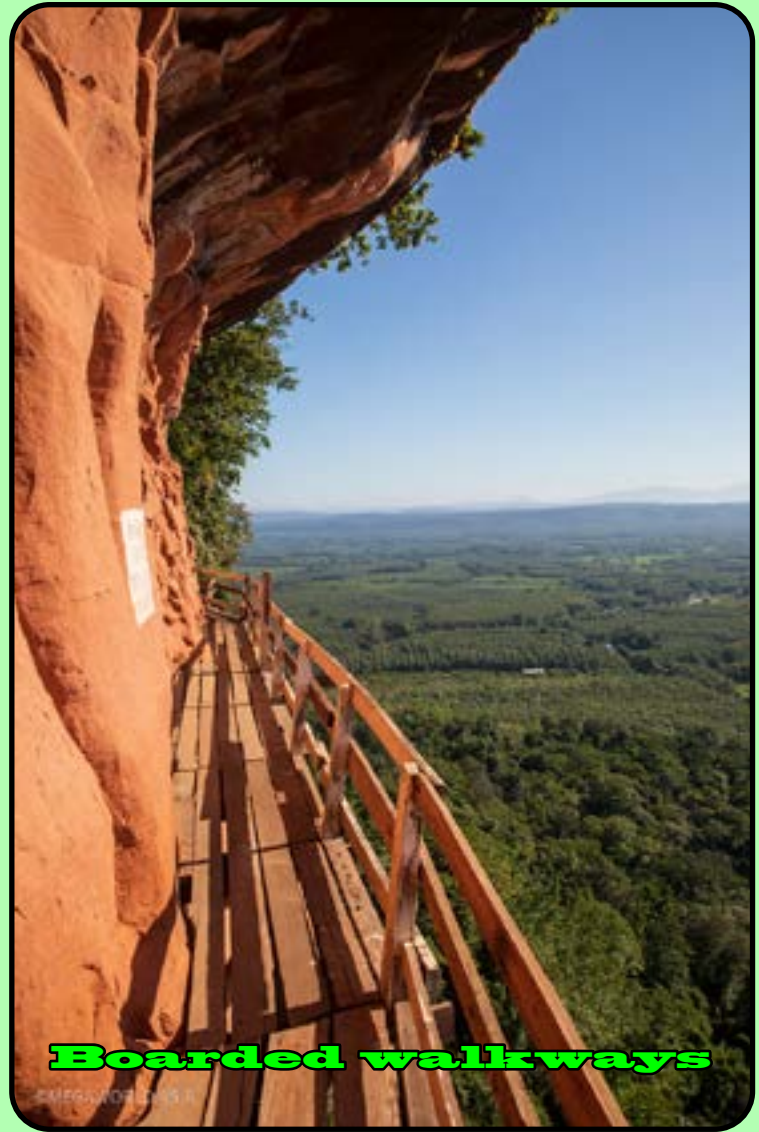
WAT PHU TOK - GENERAL INFO

About: This is a unique Buddhist Temple site, located approximately 45 km South East of Bueng Kan Township. The temple grounds include a large sandstone pinnacle which has been developed for sightseeing. Stairways, walkways and trails have been put in place to enable sightseers to ascend to the top of the pinnacle, and also circumnavigate it. **Click the link below for directions from Bueng Kan Township:**



On site: There's a large parking area, with restrooms nearby, inside the temple grounds. The site is well developed at ground level with ornate Buddhist Temples, Buddhist Statues, garden areas and waterfalls. There is very little signage in English, so finding your way to the start of the stairway up the pinnacle involves a bit of guesswork. If you have trouble locating the way up, just ask one of the ground staff.

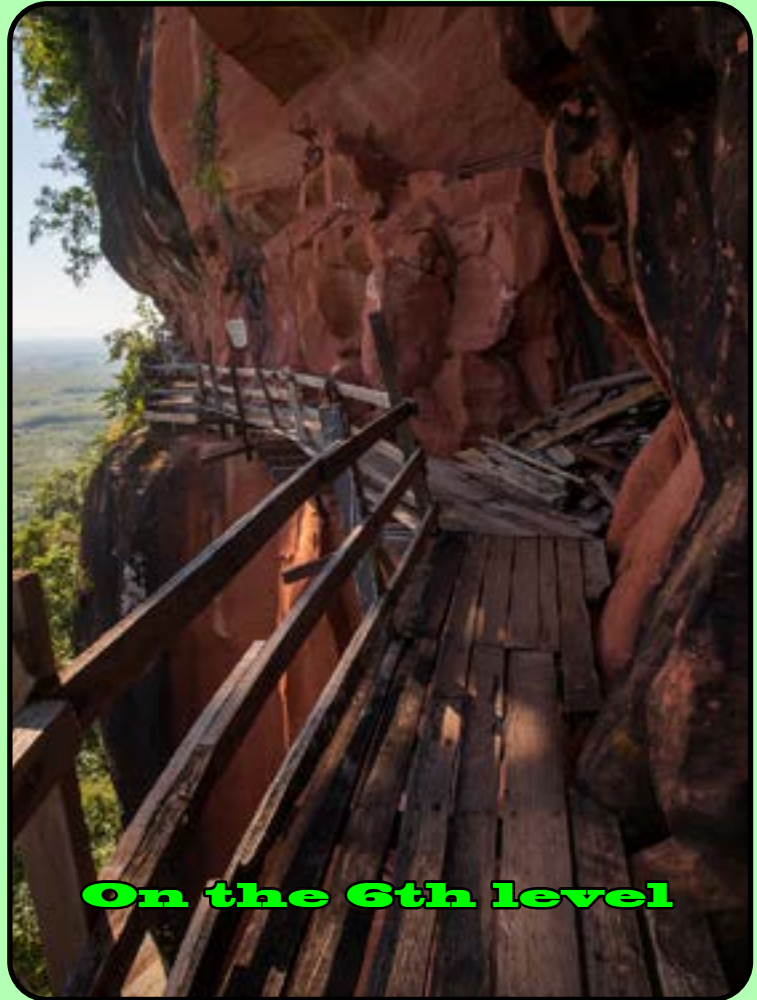
Tour fee: There is no tour or entry fee for this site. However, the tradition, as with other Buddhist Temples in Thailand, is that you make some sort of donation before you leave.



WAT PHU TOK - SIGHTSEEING

Boarded walkways: The boarded walkways are on the more vertical eastern side. Levels five and six are where there's long runs of these walkways (over 200 meters in length) affixed to vertical cliff faces. For a bit of excitement, and if you've got a head for heights, the best walkway is on level six. Note: A good way of doing the hike, up and around the pinnacle, is to go up the eastern side until you arrive at level six, and then take the boarded walkway all the way around to the northern end. From the northern end you'll be able to look down on the isolated pinnacle, with the viewing platform.

The isolated pinnacle: To get to the isolated pinnacle with the lookout, go to the northern end of level five. At the northern end of level five, a stairway takes you down to the walkway out to the isolated pinnacle. There's a solid pathway, with handrails in place for safety. The viewing platform, at the isolated pinnacle, provides fantastic uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape. Note: If you're on level six you'll need to drop down one level.



On the 6th level



The isolated pinnacle

WAT PHU TOK - SIGHTSEEING

The western side: After visiting the isolated pinnacle, returning to ground level, via the western side of the peak, takes you through a couple of interesting locations. The western side of the main pinnacle is less acute than the eastern side. The footpaths are predominantly cement walkways, leading through a forested landscape. There are some boarded walkways but these tend to be stairways for moving between levels.

Monks cavern: The fourth level has a large cavern, with a raised platform within, filled with rows of monk statues. Closer inspection reveals the facial features of each statue are different. Perhaps the statues are in remembrance of past serving monks?

The seventh level: It's actually possible to get right up on to the top of the main pinnacle, from stairways on the sixth level. However, care should be taken if doing this as there's no developed footpath, or stairways, beyond this point. There's a jungle track running along the top of the peak (the seventh level) but trip hazards, such as tree roots and rocks, should



Level five walkway

be observed. Additionally, there's no directional signage at this level.

Note: Going right to the northern end of the seventh level, provides great views over the isolated pinnacle and other peaks beyond. **Click the link below for video highlights of WAT PHU TOK:**



Monk's Cavern on the western side

CHET SI WATERFALL - GENERAL INFO

About: Chet Si is one of the best waterfalls in Bueng Kan. It is located in the PHU WUA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, and just a few km from WAT PHU TOK. There is a waterfall trail which takes you up a number of levels but from what I was able to learn from the locals, the best waterfall is at level two. Like most waterfalls in the area, it's best visited in the rainy season. **Click the following link for directions from Bueng Kan Township:**



Onsite: There's parking area next to a Buddhist Temple and a large sign (CET SI WATERFALL) to indicate you're at the correct location. However, if you are a tourist I would strongly recommend visiting on a week day. During weekends a lot of locals come here for picnics and partying. On the day I went there was a substantial amount of rubbish littering the carpark area.

Entry Fee: This is not a National Park, so there's no entry fee.

The Waterfall Trail: From the carpark there's a trail which takes you to the waterfall area. The distance from the carpark to the main waterfall site is 750 meters. There's directional signage along the way to ensure you don't get lost. The last section of the trail, before you arrive at the lower section of the falls, is over a sandstone plateau. There's a worn trail, from all the foot traffic, which is easy to follow until you arrive at the river.

Along The River: From there (you'll see a small sign in Thai with 200 meters on it) the trail runs along the edge of the river until you reach the first level. There is then some climbing to do to get above the first level. Above the first level there is some ropes in place (to aid in crossing the river) and a bamboo bridge which leads on to the short jungle trail, through to the main falls. There's a large sign to indicate you're at the correct location.

Note: Apparently the trail continues on to another five levels above the main falls site.



Chet Si Falls - level two

THAM PHRA WATERFALL - SIGHTSEEING

About: This is a picturesque waterfall area, located approximately 60km from Bueng Kan Township. Unfortunately, it's a bit difficult to find due to a lot of the directional signage being in Thai language only. **Click the following link for directions from Bueng Kan:**



On-site: There's a parking area next to the river, where there's a small jetty for the boat departures. The waterfall area is a ten-minute boat ride up-river and obviously, boat transportation will be required to get there.

Entry fee: There's no entry fee for the site but the transportation charge (boat fee) is 100 THB for foreigners. The ticket office is next to the steps down to the boat landing place.

Doing the tour: As mentioned, the first part of the tour is a ten-minute ride upriver by boat. The boats have comfortable seating and a roof to provide shading from the heat of the day. The boat ride offers a picturesque scene with thick jungle, and tree growth, all



Ticket office

the way along the edge of the river. There is a cement landing, at the rivers' end, to allow passengers to disembark safely. From here a stairway takes you up to the waterfall area, on a broad sandstone plateau.

Tour guide: For foreigners, the 100 THB fee also includes a local tour guide to lead you around the site. Unfortunately, they only speak Thai. If you don't speak Thai they're not much help, apart from pointing at various features around the site.



Ready to head upriver

THAM PHRA WATERFALL - SIGHTSEEING

Three levels: The waterfall area has three levels. Levels one and two are easy enough to get to without a tour guide. It's simply a matter of following the worn trail across the sandstone plateau. The tour guide is helpful if sightseers are wanting to get to the third level of the site. The trail, from the second level, goes up a cliff and through a forested area. It's a part of the site which sightseers, without a tour guide, tend not visit. Possibly because level two is the location of the main waterfall and once visitors have seen that, they decide there's no point to go further.

Level one: This is a broad sandstone plateau with a number of rivulets cutting across it to a larger pool at the lower end. To the left, and higher up, is the small cave (Phra Cave) with the Buddhist Statues. Just above the small cave is a large pool of water, created by a low brick wall which stretches across the width of the sandstone plateau. This has probably been built as a store of water during the dry season. As you climb up to level two the water storage pool offers a picturesque scene for photography.



Phra Cave



The water pool



The lower end of level one

THAM PHRA WATERFALL - SIGHTSEEING

Level two: This is just a short hike (200 meters) from level one, and is the location of the main waterfall. It should be noted that the best time to visit is in the wet season, when the water flow is visually more spectacular. In the dry season the flow is significantly less, but a visitation provides the opportunity to see some nice contrasting colouration of the sandstone behind the water rivulets. Note: The main waterfall site is shaped like a large horseshoe, with the waterfall at the center of surrounding vertical walls.

Level three: This is approximately 300 meters beyond level two. To get there, the trail goes uphill on the right-hand side of level two. If you don't have a guide, you'll need to back-track towards level one, and find the branching trail to level three. The first section goes up a steep sandstone rock, then levels out and descends through a forested area. Note: There's no constructed stairway in place, just a jungle track through a tangle of tree roots and rocks. The trail eventually leads on to another broad sandstone plateau, surrounded by



level two view

cliffs. The broad water-filled plateau narrows to a canyon, and as you follow the trail to the waterfall at the head, large sandstone boulders fill the landscape. This area is perhaps the most scenic of the three and well worth the effort to get there.

Note: The round trip, including viewing all three levels, will take approximately two hours.



Level two waterfall

CHET SI FALLS & THAM PHRA FALLS - VIDEO LINK



Click the link to the right for video highlights of CHET SI & THAM PHRA FALLS:



THE NAGA CAVE TRAIL - GENERAL INFO

About: This is a challenging hiking trail in the southern section (near the border of Nakhon Phanom Province) of Bueng Kan Province. The trail is part of the PHU LANGKA NATIONAL PARK. It ascends the highest peak (455meters) in the province, and provides spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. It also has a couple of small caverns, with rock formations which have surfaces resembling the scaled skin of a snake. **To get there from Bueng Kan Township, click the following link:**



Bueng Khong Long: This is a smaller town, with reasonable accommodation, which is nearer to the start point for the Naga Cave Trail.

Note: The distance from Bueng Kan Township to the parking area, and ticket office, for the Naga Cave Trail is approximately 90 km. A good option, to enable an early start and avoid hiking in the midday heat, is stay at BUENG KHONG LONG. A good accommodation choice in Bueng Khong Long is the THAI GUESTHOUSE. This is a new building on the main street with large, comfortable, air-conditioned rooms.

Click the following link for booking inquiries at the THAI GUESTHOUSE:



Click the following link for directions from Bueng Khong Long to the Naga Cave Trail parking area:



On-site: There's a sealed road right to the parking area at the start point for the Naga Cave trail. Around the parking area, there's also restrooms and food vendors. There's also a ticket office where you need to pay an entry fee, show some form of ID, and also your vaccination certificate.

Fees: This wildlife/hiking area is Phu Langka National Park and has an entry fee for those wanting to do the hike. As of October 2021, the entry fee for foreigners is 240 THB.



Fantastic landscape views

THE NAGA CAVE TRAIL - SIGHTSEEING

Guides: Due to the length of the hike, and the spread of the attractions, the use of a local guide is compulsory. There is no set fee for the use of a guide. However, the general consensus is you tip them something in the vicinity of 200 - 500 THB. Additionally, keep in mind that the guides only speak Thai.

Doing the hike: The distance from the entry point to the first snake cave is approximately 2.5 km. The greater part of this distance is up-hill and can be tough going at times. There are a number of rest spots along the way if you're feeling puffed, and need a few minutes to get the breathing rate back to normal. Additionally, take a good supply of drinking water - at least 3 liters per person.

The ascent: The first 100 meters of the ascent is relatively flat. However, once you begin the ascent up the side of the mountain, any thoughts this might be an easy hike are soon forgotten. There's an endless run of steel ladders which seem to go on forever. The arduous climb up the ladders has a few flat spots in-between to break up the climb but, for the most



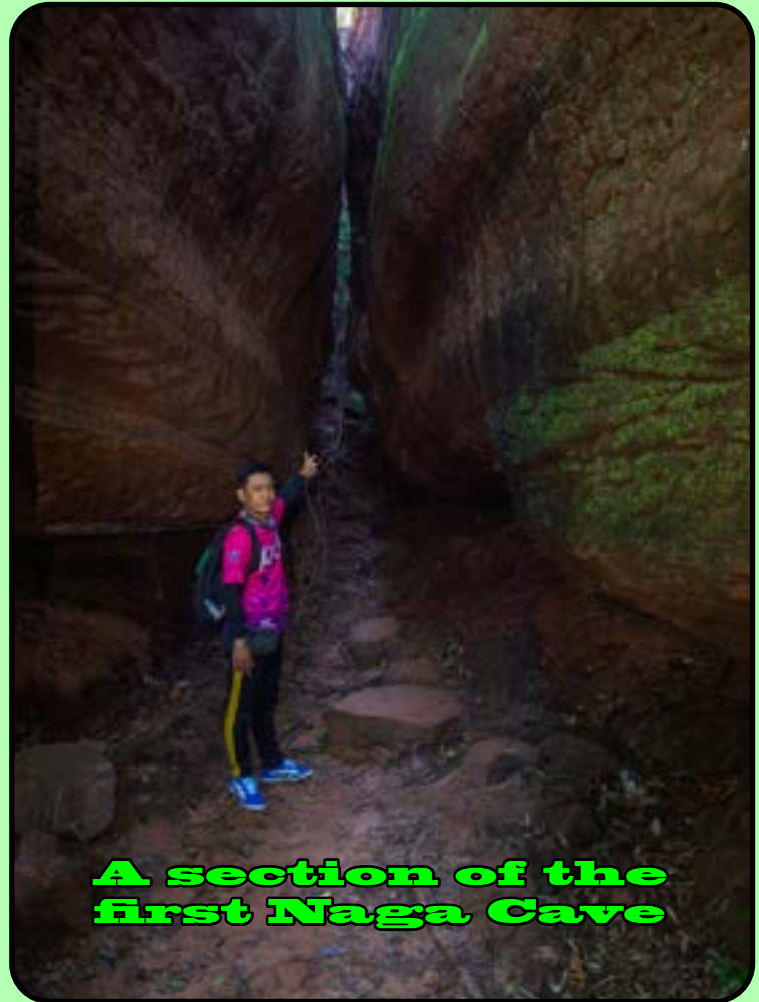
part, it's all sweat and toil as you work your way to the top. The only saving grace is the ascent trail is shrouded in thick jungle foliage which provides relieving shade for the climb.



THE NAGA CAVE TRAIL - SIGHTSEEING

At The top: The arduous ascent eventually levels out on to the broad plateau at the top of the mountain. Just when you think you're almost there, the guide points out a directional sign with 800 meters written on it. The terrain on top is mostly flat going, with a few small gullies to cross before arriving at the first cave entrance.

The first cave: At the entrance a stairway drops down through a tunnel formed by a small gap between a cliff face and a giant sandstone boulder. It's a bit squeezezy but the ten-meter stairway eventually opens out into a complex of small caverns formed by large boulders in close proximity to each other. The surface of the boulders has a texture remarkably similar to the skin scales of a snake. Towards the exit point there's a small gold statue which, according to my guide, is the guardian of the cave. Upon exiting it's back up to the top of plateau for the 500-meter walk to the next sightseeing location; a fantastic lookout which provides the amazing views across the landscape of Bueng Kan Province.



A section of the first Naga Cave



Heading into the first Naga Cave

THE NAKA CAVE TRAIL - SIGHTSEEING

Chedi Viewpoint: This is a Buddhist religious site, built right near the edge of the cliff. The approach trail, from the cave, also has a couple of excellent lookouts but the one at the Chedi is the best on the mountain. A large white Buddha statue sits next to the gold Chedi, where the local sightseers take a few minutes to pay their respects and pray.

Top of the peak: The next stop on the trail is another Chedi on the highest point of the mountain. You'll actually pass this on the way to the viewpoint so it's simply a matter of backtracking to the access stairway.

The serpent stairway: The stairway up to the top of the plateau is lined with two large, seven headed serpents. At the top of the stairway the ascent levels out on to a broad sandstone plateau with a further 200-meter hike to the Chedi at the very top of the peak. The Chedi is flanked by gold serpents and from here you also get magnificent 360-degree views of the surrounding landscape.



THE NAGA CAVE TRAIL - SIGHTSEEING

The second snake cave: From the top of the peak you'll retrace your steps down the serpent stairway and continue on to the second snake cave. This location is indicated on Google Maps as the "Snakes Head" and is approximately 200 meters from the base of the Serpent Stairway. The site itself is not really a cave, more of a cavern. The primary feature is a large rock which looks remarkably similar, in shape, to a snake's head.

Snake scales: The rock's surface has a texture which is like the scaled skin of a snake. Additionally, the colouration from the red sandstone, and green moss on the upper half, adds to the mythology of a giant petrified snake. For the visiting locals, paying homage to this mythology, this is quite understandable as Thai Buddhism tends to have a strong infusion of folk religion (animism) about it. Appreciation of inanimate objects, such as rocks and trees, is a well-regarded part of the Thai religious culture.



Heading down the serpent stairway



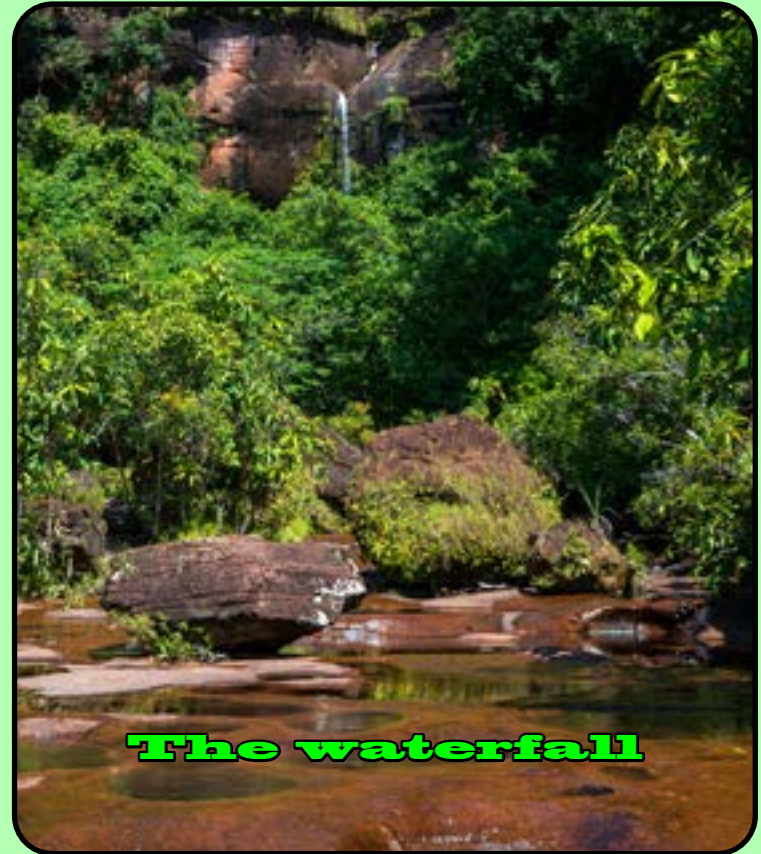
The "snakes head"

THE NAGA CAVE TRAIL - SIGHTSEEING

The waterfall: From the snakes head you begin the descent down the mountain. A side-trip to a waterfall site is offered if you've still got the energy reserves. Note: the waterfall, even in the wet season, only had a small flow. In the dry season, the flow may be non-existent. An interesting feature of the waterfall site is the multitude of pot-holes in the sandstone plateau at the base of the first level.

The second level: From here you can descend a short distance down a difficult trail, to the more impressive second level waterfall. From the second level your guide may offer you the choice of descending down all the levels, to ground level, or taking the easier route back to the designated trail. I chose the easier route. According to my guide, the descent down the waterfall is quite difficult due to no designated trail being in place. It's basically a form of canyoning and without the correct equipment/attire, could be a bit of a hazardous descent.

Back at ground level: After a 4 - 5 hours round trip hike it's certainly nice to be able to sit down in the shade and enjoy a cold drink,



The waterfall

while you reflect on the day's outing. The Snake cave Trail is an excellent hike, with some fantastic viewpoints, and is well worth the effort of getting there.



The second level

THE NAKA CAVE TRAIL - PHOTOS & VIDEO LINK



Click the link to the right to see video highlights of the NAGA CAVE TRAIL:



MEGAWORLD ASIA

**Off The Beaten Track
Travel and Adventure**

**With
Bonus
Locations**

- **Cambodia**
- **Laos**
- **Myanmar**
- **Thailand**
- **Vietnam**

**For use with
Mobile
Phones
and Tablets**

**With Interactive Links To
Google Maps, YouTube Videos
& Additional Information**

MEGAWORLD ASIA