

Loei

amazing
THAILAND

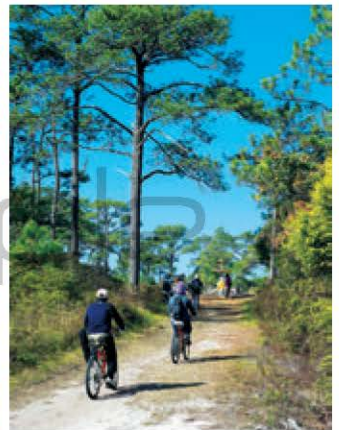
EXCERPT



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Example

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Phi Ta Khon

Loei

Loei is an ecotourism city surrounded by undulating mountain ranges whose summits are covered by foggy lines, abundant with various kinds of flora. The well-known ones are Phu Kradueng, Phu Luang and Phu Ruea. Its temperature is comfortably cool, with beautiful geographical surroundings, as well as, unique cultures and traditions; Phi Ta Khon, awaiting travellers to come and experience the miracle of this land.

Loei is 520 kilometres from Bangkok, covering an area of 11,424 square kilometres. It is a boundary province located in the upper northeastern part of Thailand, on the bank of the Mekong River along the Phetchabun mountain range. In the past, it was a small community in a prosperous empire during the same period as the Thai Kingdom of Ayutthaya. Later, the Lan Chang Empire became weaker, therefore, the community moved to be with Ayutthaya. During the reign of King Rama V of the Rattanakosin period, the community was upgraded to be Loei province. Loei is divided into 14 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Loei, Amphoe Wang Saphung, Amphoe Pak Chom, Amphoe Chiang Khan, Amphoe Tha Li, Amphoe Phu Ruea, Amphoe Dan Sai, Amphoe Phu Kradueng, Amphoe Na Haeo, Amphoe Na Duang, Amphoe Phu Luang, Amphoe Pha Khao, Amphoe Erawan, and Amphoe Nong Hin.

BOUNDARIES

- North : Connects to The Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- South : Connects to Khon Khaen and Phetchabun.
- East : Connects to Nong Khai, Nong Bua Lam Phu and Khon Kaen.

West : Connects to Phitsanulok.

HOW TO GET THERE

By car: From Bangkok, take Highway No. 1 or Phahonyothin Road, passing Amphoe Mueang Saraburi. Turn into Highway No. 21, passing Phetchabun. Then, take Highway No. 203, passing Amphoe Lom Sak, Lom Kao into Loei province at Amphoe Dan Sai, Amphoe Phu Ruea to Amphoe Mueang Loei. It takes approximately 7-8 hours. Otherwise, from Saraburi, take Highway No. 2, passing Nakhon Ratchasima to Khon Kaen, a total distance of 536 kilometres and turn left into Highway No. 12, passing Amphoe Chum Phae and take Highway No. 201 into Loei province through Amphoe Phu Kradueng, Amphoe Wang Saphung and Amphoe Mueang Loei, being a total distance of 540 kilometres.

By Bus: The Transport Co., Ltd. provides daily buses between Bangkok-Loei both normal and air-conditioned ones. The trip takes approximately 10 hours. For further information, please contact the Bangkok Bus Terminal (Chutuchak), Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road, Tel. 0 2936 2852-66 or at www.transport.co.th. Moreover, there are other private bus companies such as Air Mueang Loei Co., Ltd.'s Bangkok Office at Tel. 0 2936 0142 or Loei Office at Tel. 06 2986 5595, Chumpae Tour Ltd., Part's Bangkok Office at Tel. 0 2936 0142 or Loei Office at Tel. 0 4203 1459, Phet Prasoe Co., Ltd.'s Bangkok Office at Tel. 0 2936 3230, Amphoe Phu Ruea Office at Tel. 0 4289 9386, Amphoe Dan Sai Office at Tel. 0 4289 1908.

By Train: There is no railway station in Loei. However, visitors can take a train from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) to Udon Thani

and take a bus to Loei. For further information, please contact the State Railway of Thailand at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444 or www.railway.co.th or the Udon Thani Railway Station at Tel. 0 4222 2061.

By Plane: At present, Nok Air Co., Ltd. has provided the Bangkok-Loei Route on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Contact Tel. 1318 or www.nokair.co.th. Otherwise, the Bangkok-Udon Thani route provided by Thai Airways International Public Co., Ltd. or Air Asia Co., Ltd. can be taken.

Contact Thai Airways' Udon Thani Office at Tel. 0 4224 3222, Udon Thani Airport at Tel. 0 4224 6567, www.thaiairways.com, or Air Asia Co., Ltd. at Tel. 0 2515 9999 or www.airsasia.com. Then, continue with a bus or rent a car from Udon Thani to Loei.

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Loei to other districts

Amphoe Wang Saphung	23 kilometres
Amphoe Na Duang	32 kilometres
Amphoe Tha Li	47 kilometres
Amphoe Chiang Khan	47 kilometres
Amphoe Phu Luang	49 kilometres
Amphoe Phu Ruea	50 kilometres
Amphoe Erawan	50 kilometres
Amphoe Nong Hin	50 kilometres
Amphoe Pha Khao	70 kilometres
Amphoe Phu Kradueng	73 kilometres
Amphoe Dan Sai	82 kilometres
Amphoe Pak Chom	90 kilometres
Amphoe Na Haeo	125 kilometres

Distances from Loei to other nearby provinces

Nong Bua Lam Phu	106 kilometres
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Udon Thani	152 kilometres
Phetchabun	190 kilometres
Khon Kaen	206 kilometres
Phitsanulok	269 kilometres

Travelling around the province can be done by mini buses (Song Thaeo), departing from the Bus Terminal on Maliwan Road.

Travelling from the centre of the province to other districts and nearby provinces can be done by buses, departing from the Bus Terminal on Maliwan Road.

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Loei

Chaopho Kut Pong Shrine and the City Pillar Shrine (ศาลเจ้าพ่ออุตุปองและศาลหลักเมือง)

is located approximately 100 metres from the fountain roundabout next to the Kut Pong Public Park. It is an ancient shrine highly respected among the people. The city pillar shrine was constructed in 1982. The city pillar was made of the golden shower wood elaborately carved into a lotus shape at its top and gilded with gold leaf on black lacquer with a height of 139 centimetres.

Chaloem Phra Kiat Public Park, Pa Loeng

Yai (สวนสาธารณะเฉลิมพระเกียรติฯ ป่าเลิงใหญ่)

is situated in front of Loei Municipality. It is a 2-rai public park by the Loei River. There is a decorative garden with various kinds of flowers and decorative plants. Tourists can cross the hanging bridge into the park.

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Loei

Office Building (อาคารที่ทำการการท่องเที่ยวแห่งประเทศไทย สำนักงานเลย)

was previously the City Hall and Mueang Loei



Chaopho Kut Pong Shrine and the City Pillar Shrine

District Office, located within the compound of the Kut Pong Public Park, Charoen Rat Road, near Loei Municipality. Their Majesties the King and Queen stayed overnight at this building's first upper balcony when they visited the Loei people in November 1955. The Loei Provincial Council of Culture collected the King's chair at this place. The building was constructed in 1933. Nowadays, the Fine Arts Department has registered it as a national ancient monument for preservation.

Loei Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์เมืองเลย)

is located at the old building which formerly served as the Mueang Loei District Office (on the upper floor of the TAT Loei Office). It is also a national ancient monument under the responsibility of the Loei Provincial

Administration Organisation and the Loei Provincial Culture Office. History of Loei from the past to the present as well as local arts, culture, and traditions are on display at this Museum which is divided into three parts. The first part or Room 1 displays the history of Loei. Room 2 features important culture and traditions of Loei province, with a display of everyday life utensils in the past of the Thai Loei people. Room 3, which is called "Roi Sadet" or traces of the royal visit, exhibits the royal chairs of H.M. the King and H.M. the Queen during their three visits to Loei: a visit to plant conifers on Phu Kra dueng in 1955, a visit to meet their subjects in Amphoe Dan Sai in 1973, and a visit to boost the spirits of the National Defence Volunteers to protect the motherland at the forecourt of Loei Provincial Hall in 1981.

Loei Cultural Centre (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมจังหวัดเลย)

is located within the compound of the Loei Rajabhat University. It is a two-storey building, collecting and publicising various aspects of information on Loei such as religion, traditions and ways of living. The centre's building is divided into 3 sections; namely, the First Part: is a conference room with a slide presentation on Loei province and daily life utensils of the people in the past, the Second Part: is a temporary exhibition room presenting ancient Buddha images made of wood, sandstone, terra-cotta and silver, as well as, various Phi Ta Khon masks, ancient utensils and equipment donated by the local Loei people. Besides, there is an exhibition organised in rotation every 3 months, displaying various stories of Loei's festivals and traditions, the Third Part: is a "Boeng Thai Loei Room", presenting a permanent exhibition, considered as the major and the most distinguished part. This grand room displays every aspect of Loei covering its geology, geography, history, traditions and ethnology. Loei Cultural Centre is open daily from 8.30 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Please deliver a letter in advance for a group visit to the Loei Cultural Centre, Loei Rajabhat University, Loei-Chiang Khan Road, Amphoe Mueang Loei, Loei 42000. For further information, please contact Tel. 0 4283 5223-8 ext. 5128.

To get there: Take Highway No. 201 (Loei-Chiang Khan) for a distance of 5 kilometres.

Wat Tham Pha Pu or Tham Phiang Din

(วัดถ้ำผาปู หรือถ้ำเพิงดิน)

houses the remains of Luangpu Khamdi Paphaso, who discovered this place. The temple is a grand cave within a stone mountain. There

are Buddha images enshrined in the cave, as well as, stalagmites and stalactites. Outside the cave is a habitat of Phayre's langurs, gibbons and monkeys.

To get there: Take the Loei-Chiang Khan route from Amphoe Mueang Loei for 7 kilometres and turn left toward Amphoe Tha Li for 3 kilometres.

Phu Pha Lom Forest Park (วนอุทยานภูผาล้อม)

is situated in Tambon Nam Suai, 24 kilometres from the city. It is comprised of steep limestone mountains with various pointed summits similar to a wall surrounding the virgin forest in the middle. There are various kinds of plants, herbs, sightseeing points, and caves such as Tham Kao, Tham Pha Bong, as well as, Bo Nam Sap or Nam Phut, which is a sacred seepage pond located in the middle of the forest. It is believed to be a Naga hole, a water passage of Naga leading to the Mekong River. For touring the forest, there must be a ranger leading the tour. As for tourists who wish to stay overnight, there is a camping site near the office of the forest park. Tourists should contact 1 month in advance at Phu Pha Lom Forest Park, P.O. Box 7, Loei Provincial Post Office, Loei 42000.

To get there: Take the Loei-Na Duang route on Highway No. 2138 from the city for approximately 9 kilometres and turn left into the Loei-Ban Phia route along Highway No. 2249 for a further 9 kilometres. At Ban Phia where there is an intersection, turn right near Wat Liap into Highway No. 3117. Go straight on for 2 kilometres and turn left for 4 kilometres.



Wat Si Khun Mueang

Upper Huai Nam Man and Huai Krathing Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยน้ำหมานตอนบนและห้วยกระทีน)

is an earth-filled dam with a capacity of 26 million cubic metres, covering an area of 1,500 rai with a crest of 800 metres long. It was constructed for irrigation purposes. There is a beautiful atmosphere of bamboo forest and surrounding mountains.

To get there: Take the Loei-Phu Ruea route, 15 kilometres from the city and turn right for a further 5 kilometres.

Amphoe Chiang Khan

Chiang Khan is a small serene district on the bank of the Mekong River with accommodation, restaurants, and cruising service provided. Famous souvenirs of the district are quilts and glacé coconut which visitors should not miss

to buy. Moreover, there are beautiful attractions, awaiting to be admired.

Wat Si Khun Mueang (วัดศรีคูณเมือง)

is located on Chai Khong Soi 7 Road, to the north of Chiang Khan Market. It was constructed in 1942 with a boundary wall surrounding the Uposoth.

This temple is a collection venue of Lanna and Lan Chang arts presenting at the Uposoth whose roof is in many layers reflecting the Lanna style of art. There are also many objects of art such as a carved Buddha image gilded with gold leaf on black lacquer in the forgiving posture of the Lan Chang style. The image's hair is in small pointed buttons, while its ears are quite pointed and long. It is assumed to have been cast during the 19th – 20th century. Besides, inside the temple stands a carved wooden sermon pulpit gilded