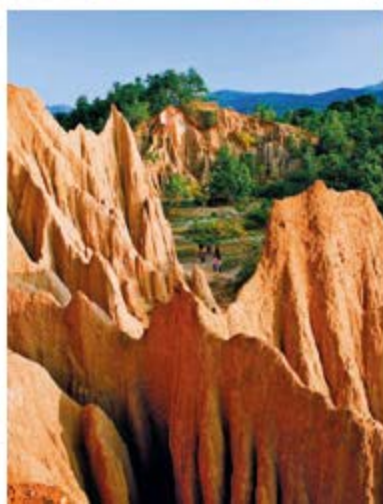


Nan | amazing
THAILAND



Nan Nan





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Thai Term Glossary

Achan	: Professor
Amphoe	: District
Ban	: Village
Chedi	: Stupa or Pagada
Khao or Doi or Phu	: Mountain
Khleng	: Canal
Mueang	: Town of City
Namtok	: Waterfall
Song Thaeo	: Pick-up trucks with a roof over the back
Tambon	: Sub-district
Tham	: Cave
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
SAO.	: Subdistrict Administrative Organization

Note : English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help from a Thai for directions, point to the Thai spellings given after each place name.

Nan covers an area of 11,472.07 square kilometres, is a frontier town of the eastern Lanna Kingdom with an abundance and mixture of cultures from the high mountain ranges to the plain. The town was as ancient as the Sukhothai Kingdom and was under the continuous ruling of 64 kings. It was previously called "Nanthaburi" or "Woranakhon" and was established by Phraya Phukha approximately in the 13th century on a plain in Sila Phet sub-district or Pua district at present.

In 1359, Phraya Kanmueang received the Buddha's relics from Sukhothai and chose Doi Phu Phiang Chae Haeng to house them, as well as, decided to move the town to the foot of

the mountain. In 1368, the Nan River changed its course; therefore, Phraya Phakong, son of Phraya Kanmueang, moved the town again to Ban Huai Khai, on the western side of the Nan River, the location of Nan province nowadays.

HOW TO GET THERE

By car : From Bangkok, take Highway No. 32 to Nakhon Sawan province. Then, take Highway No. 117 until reaching Phitsanulok and continue with Highway No. 11, passing Uttaradit province and Amphoe Den Chai of Phrae province. Proceed by taking Highway No. 101, passing Phrae to Nan province. The total distance is approximately 668 kilometres.

By bus : The Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road (Mo Chit 2) provides air-conditioned buses to Nan everyday. Contact the Transport Company Limited at Tel. 1490, 0 2936 2852-66 www.transport.co.th, Nan Bus Terminal at Tel. 0 5471 1661 and other private companies providing transportation to Nan; namely,

- Choet Chai Tour at Tel. 0 2936 0199, 0 5471 1362 www.chedchaitour.com

- Nakhonchai Air Tel. 1624, 0 2939 4999 www.nca.co.th

- Sombat Tour at Tel. 1215, 0 2030 4999 www.sombattour.com

By train : From the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong), get off at Amphoe Den Chai of Phrae and continue by bus to Nan. The distance is 118 kilometres. For further information, please contact the State Railway of Thailand at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444 www.railway.co.th

By Air : There are many direct flights from Bangkok to Nan everyday by;

- Nok Air Tel. 1318, 0 2222 0175 www.nokair.com.

- Thai AirAsia Tel. 0 2515 9999 www.airasia.com

For details, please contact Nan Nakhon Airport at Tel. 0 5471 0270

Transportation in Nan

For getting around in Nan city, Song Thaeo and motorcycle taxi is available. Moreover, there bus from Amphoe Mueang Nan to other districts as well as nearby provinces.

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Nan to other districts.

Phu Phiang	2	kilometres
Wiang Sa	25	kilometres
Santi Suk	32	kilometres
Mae Charim	38	kilometres
Tha Wang Pha	43	kilometres
Ban Luang	45	kilometres
Na Noi	60	kilometres
Pua	60	kilometres
Chiang Klang	76	kilometres
Na Muen	80	kilometres
Song Khwae	80	kilometres
Thung Chang	98	kilometres
Bo Kluea	133	kilometres
Chaloem Phra Kiat	140	kilometres

Distances from Nan to nearby provinces

Phrae	118	kilometres
Phayao	176	kilometres
Uttaradit	191	kilometres

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Nan

Nan's Morning Market or Tang Chit

Anuson Fresh Market (ตลาดเช้าเมืองน่าน หรือ ตลาดสดตั้งจิตอนุสรณ์)

Located on Kha Luang Road, Tambon Nai

Wiang, this morning market with its vibrant atmosphere truly reflects Nan's indigenous lifestyle. It offers visitors to partake in the morning alms-giving and taste a traditional breakfast, such as, Nam Phrik Num (Northern Thai green chili paste), Sai Ua (pork sausages with herbs), Khao Niao Chin Ping (Thai grilled pork on skewers with sticky rice), various chili pastes, and Thai-style clear soup with congealed pork blood. Tourists staying in Amphoe Mueang often borrow or rent a bike from their hotel to visit this market. It's open daily from 05.00 a.m. - 08.00 a.m.

Khum Chao Ratchabut (คุ้มเจ้าราชบุตร)

Located on Phakong Road, just behind Wat Phrathat Chang Kham Worawihan, the two-storey teak residence was founded in 1866 for Chao Noi Mahaphrom Na Nan (Chao Mahaphrom Surathada) and Chao Mae Srisopha. When he was appointed the 64th ruler of Nan, it was given to his son Chao Ratchabut (Chao Mok Fa Na Nan). At present, Khum Chao Ratchabut belongs to Chao Somprathana and Chao Watsana Na Nan, Visitors will enjoy the history of the rulers of Nan and way of life, as well as, display of artefacts, old pictures, and rare species of plants. It is open daily 08.00 a.m. - 04.00 p.m. Admission fee is 20 Baht.

Wat Phrathat Chang Kham Worawihan

(วัดพระธาตุช้างค้ำวรวิหาร)

Located on Suriyaphong Road, opposite the Nan Municipality Office. It was previously called "Wat Luang" or "Wat Luang Klang Wiang", constructed during the reign of Chao Pu Khaeng in 1406. It is a royal temple within the compound of Nan town. The architectural characteristics of the temple reflect the influence of the Sukhothai arts such as the



Wat Phwatthachang Kham Worawihan

chedi in the Lankan style (a bell shape) whose base is surrounded by sculptures of the front half of elephants made of bricks and cement. Five elephant sculptures are on each side and one at every corner. It looks as though they use their back to support or "Kham" the chedi. Within the wihan, the main Buddha image is very beautiful and large. It was made of stucco, representing the Chiang Saen style of art and the skills of Nan craftsmanship. Beside the wihan is houses of the holy scriptures, inside the hall "Phra Phuttha Nanthaburi Si Sakkayamuni" is enshrined. It is a bronze Buddha image, with 65% pure gold, in the posture of forgiveness with a height of 145 centimetres. Open daily 06.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m.

Wat Phumin (วัดภูมินทร์)

is a royal temple, located next to the Nan National Museum. In accordance with the Nan Chronicle, Phrachao Chettabut Phrommin, a Nan ruler, constructed the temple after he had governed Nan for 6 years in 1596. The mural paintings in the main assembly hall were painted the Buddhist Jataka stories. However, considering the depiction of the lifestyles of the people in town during that time, there are many interesting pictures such as

Yu Khuang Tradition of the Thai Lue people. Parents will allow the youngsters to meet at the courtyard outside their house during dusk, while the girl was spinning cotton or "Yu Khuang". If the girl agreed to get married, the ceremony would be organised called "Ao Kham



Wat Phumin

Pai Pong Kan" or meaning to become part of the same family.

Trades within the Community is a painting of the local or the hilltribe people doing "Poe" or carrying the merchandise from the forest on their heads and exchanging them with the town people.

The Pu Man-Ya Man Painting (Whispering) is honoured as the most beautiful one at Wat Phumin. There is a usage of red, blue, black, and dark brown colours similar to contemporary paintings.

The Lifestyle of the Nan people depicts a woman weaving with a local loom. Outside the traditional Thai house stands a small shelter where there are earthen water pots called "Ran Nam". Men in this painting have a traditional Thai hairstyle called Lak Chaeo or Mahat Thai presenting the

western influence combining with the local lifestyle of Nan. The Foreigners presents those who came into Nan during the reign of King Rama V. Their hair and costume reflects the popular styles in Europe during that time.

The distinguishing point of this temple is its 4-portico building, the only one in Thailand which seems to be standing on the back of 2 Nagas. This building serves as the 3-in-1 ubosot, wihan and the main chedi. The east-west axis is a wihan, while the north-south one is the ubosot. The Royal Thai Government once printed the picture of Wat Phumin on the 1-Baht banknote during World War II. Moreover, the Ancient City in Samut Prakan has constructed a replica of this wihan as a display within its compound. It open daily 06.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m.



Nan National Museum

Nan National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติน่าน)

Located on Phakong Road, opposite Wat Phrathat Chang Kham, near Wat Phumin. It is a European style building which came to Thailand during the reign of King Rama V combining with the local architecture of Nan. It was originally "Ho Kham", a palace and throne hall of Phrachao Suriyaphong Phraritdet, the last Feudal Lord of Nan. It was constructed in 1932 for the first city hall of Nan. Then, in 1974, the building was renovated into the Nan National Museum.

Natural light is used in the museum making the building well ventilated with windows on every

side. Visitors will feel like walking at home rather than at the museum, creating pleasure during the visit and watching the display.

The museum is divided into 2 floors. The lower one presents the lifestyles of various tribes in Nan, including major traditions and festivals such as the life extending ceremony, boat races, while the upper one displays the artefacts of various periods discovered in Nan since the pre-historic time until the period of the Nan rulers. The important piece is the black elephant tusk, the sacred and valuable object of Nan.

It is the left-side one with a length of 94 centimetres, a circumference of 47 centimetres, and a weight of 18 kilogrammes. The tusk was given



Wat Suan Tan

to Nan during the period of the 5th Nan ruler, Phraya Kanmueang. Other exhibits include the glazed ceramics, aged around the 16th century from Bo Suak Kiln Site, Mueang Nan district, the Buddha Image in Subduing Mara Posture, a Lanna art which reflects the influence of the myanmar style of art during the 20th century, and Phan Phrasi Footed Tray and Eramelled Silverware which formed the paraphernalia of the last ruler of Nan. The museum is open Wednesday-Sunday 09.00 a.m. - 04.00 p.m. (closed on Monday-Tuesday). Admission fee is 100 Baht. For more information, Tel. 0 5477 2777 www.finearts.go.th/nanmuseum

Wat Suan Tan (วัดสวนตาล)

Located on Maha Yot Road, was constructed by Phranang Pathumwadi in 1412. The chedi is beautiful and there are arched gates at 4 directions at the lower floor of the construction. Within the image hall is enshrined a significant Buddha image, Phrachao Thongthip. Phrachao Tilokkarat of Chiang Mai had the image cast in 1450. It is a grand bronze Buddha image in Subduing Mara posture. The width at its lap is 120 inches, with a height of 172 inches and weight 2,000 kilograms. During the Songkran festival, the ceremony to pay respect and pour water on the image is organised every year. It is open daily from 06.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m.

Wat Ming Mueang (วัดมิ่งเมือง)

Located on Suriyaphong Road. It was constructed in 1857. Its distinguishing point is the stucco reliefs on the outer wall of the ubosot, presenting the skill of the Chiang Saen craftsmen. The patterns are very exquisite. Within the ubosot are mural paintings depicting the lifestyles of the Nan people. Moreover, within the compound of the temple stands the city pillar in a cruciform-plan pavilion at its front. The city pillar is 3 metres high. Its base is decorated with engraved and gilded wooden design. The top of the pillar was engraved into 4 faces of the Brahma God, representing Phrom Wihan (Brahmavihara 4) the four sublime states of mind; namely, Metta-kindness, Karuna-compassion, Mudita-sympathy, and Upekkha-equanimity. It is open daily 06.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m.

Wat Phra Koet (วัดพระเก็ด)

Located in Tambon Nai Wiang. It is one of Nan's oldest temples presumably built in 1827 by Thoeng immigrants from Chiang Rai, who



Wat Ming Mueang



San Pira Koe Museum



Hong Chao Fong Kham

migrated to Nan in 1786. According to the stone inscription No. 72, this temple was probably built after Wat Phra Koet Khongkham located in Amphoe Thoeng of Chiang Rai province. The wihan or image hall enshrines the much revered Phuttha Sarira Khruem Khlang. Within the temple compound, visitors will also find the community museum of Ban Phra Koet, which was renovated from an abbot's wooden residence by using old wood around the temple. It houses artefacts (collection of Khruba In Phong) and other interesting donated objects from the community. The museum comprises 3 main parts: an exhibition area, Buddhist room, and folk wisdom room. Visitors will find some rare items; such as, gilded black

lacquer scripture boxes, Cho Fa (hornlike gable finial), Lanna alphabets, old Buddha images, etc. It is open on Thursday to Tuesday (closed on Wednesday) during 09.00 a.m. - 04.30 p.m. A group visit must contact in advance, Tel. 08 1882 3188, 08 9434 4889

Hong Chao Fong Kham (โฮงเจ้าฟองคำ)

Located behind Wat Phra Koet, this two centuries-old teak wood residence in the Lanna style belongs to Chao Fong Kham, who inherited it from Chao Si Bun Ma, Nan's royal bloodline. The residence comprises 3 wooden buildings connected by balconies. This traditional Thai house is joined together by a unique wood jointing technique, in which nails are not



Wat Phra That Chang Khram



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