

The Caves of Bueng Kan

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Amphoe Muang Bueng Kan

Tham Khieo Sa-un† BK0016
48Q 357858 2014424
Wat Tham Khieo Sa-un, Ban Loet Sin

The temple is 2 km north-east of Ban Loet Sin in tambon Kamnadee.

Tham Phai† BK0013
48Q 389001 2016384
Phu Wua Lang Tham Phai

The hill is 9 km west of the Mae Khong river and the H212 in tambon Boongklar.

Tham Phra† BK0017
48Q 351934 2028666
Wat Tham Phra, Ban Nong Na Saeng

The temple is in remote country 2.5 km west of Ban Nong Na Saeng.

Tham Saeng Dao† BK0026
48Q 376336 2015181
Tham Saeng Dao Priest's Camp Site, Ban Nong Yao

The camp site is located 4 km west of Ban Nong Yao.

Tham Sala Nam Yen† BK0027
48Q 376078 2015562
Tham Sala Nam Yen Priest's Camp Site, Ban Nong Yao

The camp site is located 4.5 km west of Ban Nong Yao.

Phon Charoen

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

Amphoe So Phisai

Tham Chan BK0008
48Q 341771 2024919
Wat Tham Chan, Ban Tham Chan, Si Chomphu
Other names: Tham Jan

Ban Tham Chan is near the village of Si Chomphu in amphoe So Phisai. Nearby villages are Ban Kham Phi (north), Ban Nong Moo (south), Bang Khong Kheaw (east) and Ban Pong Pleuai (west). The temple is set in 518 rai in moo 12 Ban Tham Chan. The cave is high up, without water, and is a labyrinthine network of natural rock formations that have been utilized as temples. The famous monk Ajan Chuan stayed from 1958 to 1962. Tiyanich (1997)

Tham Charoen† BK0012
48Q 339347 2014450
Ban Tham Charoen

The village is 14 km east of the H2095, turning off along a secondary road in Nong Yong.

Tham Si Chom Phu† BK0020
48Q 339734 2014732
Wat Tham Si Chom Phu, Ban Tham Charoen

The temple is 500 m north of Ban Tham Charoen.

Amphoe Seka

Tham Bucha† BK0021
48Q 389778 2007165
Wat Pa Tham Bucha, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area
Other names: Worship Cave

The forest wat is 2.5 km west of Phu Wua. This was a favorite cave of Ajan Chuan (b. 1920). He moved here in 1964 with fellow tudong monks intending to spend the next four rains retreats there. There were rumors the cave had many Buddha, some of them gold, but these had disappeared by 1964. Tiyanich (1997), (2003)

Tham Khong Phu Wua† BK0022
48Q 395814 2004567
Tham Khong Phu Wua Priest's Camp Site, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area
The campsite is 9 km west of the Mae Khong River and H216 and 5km east of the Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area.

Tham Phra† BK0019
48Q 393675 2005436
Wat Tham Phra, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area

This wat is near the Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area and south of Phu Wua. This is a rock shelter which is formed in sandstone.

Tham Saeng Chang Lai† BK0025
48Q 387288 2009158
Tham Saeng Chang Lai Priest's Camp Site, Ban Thung Sai Chok

The camp site is 2.75 km east of Ban Thung Sai Chok.

Amphoe Pak Khat

Tham Chong† BK0015
48Q 316821 2028509
Wat Tham Chong, Ban Tai

The wat is near the Mae Khong, 6 km north-west of the H212, along a secondary road from Pak Khat.

Tham Phra Wanaram† BK0014
48Q 315935 2029567
Wat Pa Tham Phra Wanaram, Ban Tai

The forest wat is near the Mae Khong, 7 km north-west of the H212, along a secondary road from Pak Khat.

Tham Sithom BK0007
Wat Sawang Arom, Pak Khat

Wat Sawang Arom is 500 m outside the town of Pak Khat.

A possible cave has been reported from this location. The wat is described as being located in a hilly area with rock formations, cliffs and stone platforms, but caves are not mentioned. Dunkley (1995)

Amphoe Bueng Khong Long

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

Amphoe Si Wilai

Tham Kaew BK0003
Wat Phu Tok

Phu Tok is located 27 km along the H222 from Bueng Kan heading towards Si Wilai, then going 20 km east.

Wat Pha Tok is a renowned forest wat founded in 1968 by Phra Ajan Chuan Kunchettho. The wat is famous for the wooden walkways that ascend the 150 m high outcrop of eolian sandstone in seven levels and took five years to build. The sandstone is Upper Cretaceous and has been called the Phu Tok Formation. These seven levels represent the seven levels of Buddhist enlightenment. There are several caves which are used as monastic retreats, with the main ones being on the fifth level. The caves range in size from 1 m x 5 m up to 15 m x 5m and can be up to 25 m long. Clarac & Pagau-Clarac (1985); Dunkley (1995); Mouret & Mouret (1994); Tiyanich (1997)

Tham Lek Lai BK0004
Wat Phu Tok

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Clarac & Pagau-Clarac (1985); Dunkley (1995); Mouret & Mouret (1994)

Tham Noi Nam Thip BK0023
48Q 376155 2012482
Tham Noi Nam Thip Priest's Camp Site, Na Sing

The campsite is 9 km east of Si Wilai and the H222.
The camp site has rock shelters in sandstone with percolating water.

Tham Pladuk† BK0024
48Q 375557 2014137
Tham Pladuk Priest's Camp Site

The campsite is 9 km east of Si Walai and the H222.

Tham Russi BK0005
Wat Phu Tok

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Clarac & Pagau-Clarac (1985); Dunkley (1995); Mouret & Mouret (1994)

Amphoe Bung Khla

Cave BK0006 BK0006
48Q 390000 2012000
Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area

A cave is marked on the 1:250,000 geological map between Tham Pho and Tham Sung.
Dunkley (1995)

Tham Chan Pha BK0010
Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area

When you reach the checkpoint walk towards the Cha Naen waterfall until you reach the stone bridge (khua hin) which is a natural phenomenon where the water disappears beneath the 100 m

long bridge. One website has a photograph of a stream sinking into a small cave at the base of a sandstone cliff. There are rumors of crocodiles still existing near here.

Tham Fun BK0009
ถ้ำฝน
Nong Daen, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area
Other names: Tham Ful

Tham Fun and the Tham Fun waterfall can be reached by taking the H212 for 7 km from Bung Khla and taking a turning on the left (signposted). Follow this road to the area office. Tham Fun is a 3 km walk from the office.

The waterfall is encompassed by a timber forest with a scenic view of the northern Phu Wua. A walking trail passes a rocky ground to the cascade which is seen along the long narrow channel on the sandstone cliff. There is water only in the rainy season. A couple of websites describe the cave as being "cool and refreshing" and "peaceful" so there might be a proper cave here.

Tham Pho† BK0001
48Q 387000 2018000
Phu Wua Lang Tham Pho, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area

Phu Wua Lang Tham Pho is marked on maps at the northern end of a long limestone ridge 30 km east of Bueng Kan.
Dunkley (1995)

Tham Phra BK0011
Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area

The Namtok Tham Phra waterfall is difficult to reach by road in the rainy season. It is 34 km from Seka town .
This might be the cave that was visited by Ajan Fan and two disciples, a monk (Phra Suphon) and a novice, in March 1950.
Tiyavanich (2003)

Tham Sung† BK0002
48Q 394000 2012000
Phu Wua Lang Tham Sung, Pha Phu Wua Wildlife Conservation Area
Other names: Tham Soong

Phu Wua Lang Tham Sung is highest point in the wildlife reserve at 448 m. It is at the southern end of a long limestone ridge 30 km east of Bueng Kan.
Dunkley (1995)

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