

## CAVE DESCRIPTIONS

The caves are grouped by province and amphoe (administrative district) and then listed alphabetically. The code letters were created by John Dunkley in "Caves of Thailand" and have been continued in the Thai caves database maintained by the author.

All co-ordinates are UTM grid on the Indian 1954 (Thailand-Vietnam) datum.

Abbreviations, acronyms and symbols used:

† = topographic name from map or gazetteer – it is possible that there isn't a cave at these locations.

Alt.: - altitude

APS - Association Pyrénéenne de Spéléologie, France

BEC - Bristol Exploration Club, UK

CSS - Canberra Speleological Society, Australia

RFD - Royal Forest Department, Thailand

SMCC - Shepton Mallet Caving Club, UK

VR - vertical range of the cave.

## CHIANG RAI

### *Amphoe Muang Chiang Rai*

†Tham Anakhari CR0066

ถ้ำอนาคาริก

Tham Anakhari Priest's Campsite, Ban Tham Pha Tong

The campsite is located 1.5 km up a dirt track from the road. The turning is at 47Q 594473 2221334 to the east of Ban Tham Pha Tong.

Tham Chang Luang CR0051

47Q 582800 2202400 Alt.: 410m

Wat Tham Phra

Tham Chang Luang is located about 150 m north of the Tham Phra.

The cave is small and dark, but has a constant draught.

Anon. (2004)

Tham Doi Kong Khao CR0044

ถ้ำดอยกองข้าว

47Q 581722 2201841

Wat Phra That Tham Doi Kong Khao

Other names: Tham Doi Khang Khao

Under Doi Khang Khao which is south of the river to the west of Chiang Rai town. The cave is behind the Boi Hang police box.

Barlow (n.d.); Ellis (2005)

**Tham Lom** **CR0039**

47Q 582200 2202400 Alt.: 410 m

Wat Tham Phra

This cave is in the same tower as Tham Phra, Tham Pha Cha Lui and Tham Russi, about 50 m from Tham Chang Luang.

It is not a long cave and has enough light to see all of the inside. There is a constant draught which gives the cave its name.

Anon. (2004); Dunkley (1995)

**†Tham Mae Khrua** **CR0062**

ถ้ำแม่ครัว

47Q 594896 2221243

Doi Tham Mae Khrua, Ban Tham Pha Tong

Doi Tham Mae Khrua is a kilometre north-east of Ban Tham Pha Tong.

**†Tham Mi** **CR0072**

ถ้ำหมี

47Q 590694 2186502

Huai Tham Mi, Doi Chik Chong, Ban San Pa Hiang

The Huai Tham Mi is on Doi Chik Chong to the west of Ban San Pa Hiang.

**Tham Pha Tong** **CR0027**

ถ้ำผาดอง

47Q 594794 2221617 Alt.: 403 m

Wat Tham Pha Tong, Ban Tham Pha Tong

Length: 5 m

Tham Pha Tong is located south-east of Mae Chan in moo 6 Ban Tham Pha Thong.

This is not much more than a notch cave at the base of the tower. The main shrine is below an overhang and behind it is a 5 m passage to an old bronze statue (head and torso only) that is not in the usual Thai style.

The cave was recorded by the SMCC in August 2010.

Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Phra** **CR0037**

ถ้ำพระ

47Q 582902 2202243 Alt.: 410 m

Wat Tham Phra

Length: 30 m

Other names: Buddha Images Cave; Tham Phra Historical Cave

This very well known cave is in a karst tower just north of the Mae Kok river in a small wat about 5 km outside of Chiang Rai. From the city centre go past Tham Tu Pu and the cave is signed as 'Buddha Images Cave'. It is on the itinerary of many package tours.

A flight of steps leads up the 5 m to the entrance. There is a large Buddha statue ahead of you and a second chamber, with more images, is on the left. This second chamber doubles back to a second entrance about 10 m from the first entrance.

The cave has been known since ancient times. In 1484 a governor of Chiang Rai, Thao Mui, made a Buddha image in the cave and provided eight families of slaves for its service and a regular income for its upkeep. This image may or may not be the brick-and stucco image that is seen in the cave at present while the inscribed stone slab which records the event is in the National Museum in Lamphun.

Sarasin conducted an excavation in the smaller cave with little result, but was unable to investigate the main one. The first recorded visit by speleologists was by the SMCC in 2005.

Anon. (2004); Boch (1994); Dunkley (1995); Ellis (2005b); Penth (1989); Sarasin (1933a), (1933b)

**Tham Russi** **CR0038**

ถ้ำฤๅษี

47Q 582200 2202400 Alt.: 410 m

Wat Tham Phra

Length: 20 m

Tham Russi is about 10 m higher up the limestone tower from Tham Phra (CR0037).

The cave consists of a small passage leading to a chamber about 5 m across.

Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Sai Than** **CR0070**

47Q 595191 2221

Ban Tham Pha Tong

**Tham Tu Pu** **CR0043**

ถ้ำตุปู

47Q 584403 2203087 Alt.: 415 m

Wat Tham Tu Pu, Doi Tu Pu

Length: 75 m

This meditation wat is at the base of a limestone tower near the Mae Kok river before reaching Wat Tham Phra when travelling from Chiang Rai.

The wat is famous for the bas-relief Buddha image in the cliff. A few metres past the bas-relief some steps lead up to the cave entrance. After a few metres a high level entrance enters from the left and the passage turns right. A large, white, concrete Buddha almost blocks the passage and is lit from a skylight. The cave soon closes down behind the statue.

The cave was visited by the SMCC in 2007.

Ellis (2005b)

**Tham Wai** **CR0052**

47Q 582800 2202400 Alt.: 410 m

Wat Tham Phra

Length: 100 m

Tham Wai Cave is located about 10 m from Tham Lom.

The cave is about 100 m long with the passage damp and dark. Inside there is a chamber and formations.

Anon. (2004)

### *Amphoe Chiang Khong*

**Tham Pa Lae** CR0017

47Q 650009 2204744

Ban Pa Lae

Near Ban Pa Lae, near 48 km post on east side of H1155, between Thoeng and Chiang Khong.

Dunkley (1995)

### *Amphoe Chiang Saen*

†**Tham Chat** CR0042

Ban Tham Chat, Sop Ruak

The village of Ban Tham Chat is about 6 km north-west of Sop Ruak.

Dunkley (1995)

### *Amphoe Doi Luang*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Khun Tan*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Mae Chan*

†**Doi Tham** CR0073

ดอยถ้ำ

47Q 581843 2231188

Ban Pa Miang

Doi Tham is 500 m south of the H1130.

†**Tham Chatumanaphrom Mongkhon Thepmoni** CR0063

47Q 582055 2231009

Wat Tham Chatumanaphrom Mongkhon Thepmoni

**Tham Pa Archa Thong** CR0069

47Q 583083 2235744

Wat Tham Pa Archa Thong, Sri Kham

## CHIANG RAI

Thirty monks live in the caves which are in the grounds of a forest temple. This forest was founded by Phra Khru Ba Neua Chai in the 1990s. It is well known for community work and the monks going on alms round on horse back. Kranlert (2008)

**Tham Pha Ma** CR0040

ถ้ำผาม้า

47Q 583913 2235348

Doi Pha Ma, Ban Mae Salong Nai

Doi Tham Ma is 1.5 km north of the H1130 in Ban Mae Salong Nai, which is 6 km north-west of the turning from the H1.

Dunkley (1995)

†**Tham Pong** CR0026

47Q 586632 2239671

Doi Tham Pong

Other names: Tham Pha Plong

Doi Tham Pong is south-east of Mae Chan.

Dunkley (1995)

### *Amphoe Mae Fa Luang*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Mae Lao*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Mae Sai*

†**Ban Tham** CR0059

47Q 592527 2247636

**Cave CR0005** CR0005

47Q 592139 2261528

Mae Sai

This cave is 15 minutes walk up the hill on the west side of Mae Sai (F. Stone pers. comm.). It is probably a second cave near Tham Pha Chom.

Dunkley (1995)

**Cave CR0011** CR0011

47Q 588728 2248597

Mae Sai

A cave is visible to the north-east of Tham Ku Kaeo, but has not been explored.

Dunkley (1995)

**Sai Thong Resurgence**                      **CR0002**

47Q 590400 2251400      Alt.: 480 m

Ban Na Pung

Other names: Source de Sai Thong

This resurgence is 1 km south of Tham Luang, at the foot of Doi Nang Non. Turn off the main road 7.5 km south of Mae Sai and continue straight west through Ban Jong to Khun Nam Nang Non RFD station. The resurgence forms a pool in the park.

This resurgence is probably draining the water from Tham Luang and was recorded by the APS in 1987.

Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Khunnam Nang Non**                      **CR0014**

47Q 588728 2248597

Mae Sai

A large temple cave 7.5 km south of Mae Sai, possibly the same as Tham Phra (CR0006). The cavern is located at the top of a long flight of stairs.

This much venerated site is composed of two large shrines filled with sculpture.

Dunkley (1995); Warren (1985)

**Tham Ku Kaeo**                                      **CR0010**

ถ้ำคูแก้ว

47Q 590552 2247832      Alt.: 400 m

Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah, Pong Pha

Length: 530 m                      VR: 10 m

Other names: Tham Ukaew; Tham Phu Kaeo; Tham Kou Khan; Tham Ku Khan

Within the grounds of Wat Tham Plah-Tham Phum, 50 m north-west of the main entrance a flight of naga stairs leads up to the entrance.

The entrance platform has a reclining Buddha. After 40 m the cave bends sharply right and appears to stop at a statue of a hermit, but a small hole on the left leads to the inner part of the cave. The next section is fairly tortuous with several crawls less than 50 cm high. After 150 m the cave opens into a more spacious passage 8-9 m wide by 5-6 m high, decorated with columns and suspended gour pools. 500 m from the entrance an irregularly shaped chamber has several short passages leading off it, all of which appear to be blocked. A couple of these cul-de-sacs house a marvellous collection of clay figurines representing the Buddha surrounded by the multitude of humanity going about their daily lives. Some of the breakdown sections in the floor are unstable and have pockets of bad air.

A monk called Kruba Boon Choom Yannawaro molded the Buddha Images in this cave since he was a novice. In 2497 B.E. a monk called Luangpo Kamon Soothiyano made a doorway into this cave and surveyed it. He found that it is a nice stalagmite and stalactite cave then he named it "Khoo Khaew Cave".

The fauna of Tham Ku Keao has been comparatively well studied and the following species have been recorded:

Spiders:-

*Psiloderces septentrionalis* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1995

*Belisana schwendingeri* Huber, 2005

Pseudoscorpions:-

Type locality for *Eukoenenia lyrifer* Conde, 1992

Collembola:-

*Troglopedetes multispinosus* Deharveng & Gers, 1993

Zygentoma:-

Type and only known locality for *Protrinemura leclerci* Mendes, 2002

Coleoptera:-

Type and only known locality for *Eustra leclerci* (Deuve, 1986)

The cave was explored and surveyed by the 1986 APS expedition.

Anon. (n.d.),(2004); Conde (1992); Deeleman-Reinhold (1995); Deharveng (1985); Deharveng & Gers (1993); Deharveng et al. (1987); Deuve (2001); Dunkley (1995); Huber (2005); Mendes (2002); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Zeitoun et al. (2008)

### **Tham Liang Pha**

**CR0008**

ถ้ำเลี้ยงผา

47Q 590700 2253400 Alt.: 500 m

Wat Ban Nam Cham, Tham Luang Forest Park

Length: 75 m VR: 50 m

Other names: Liang Pha Overhang; Mountain Goat Cliff; Tham Pa Lieng

The cave is 300 m south-west of Tham Luang Forest Park headquarters, about 15 minutes up the hill on a good path starting behind the visitor centre. After about 200 m turn left down into the doline in front of the cave. The path straight on leads to Tham Praya Naak.

Close to Tham Phaya Naak a magnificent amphitheatre of cliffs encloses a lush evergreen forest. The far end descends into a vast steeply sloping chamber 75 m long and 50 m deep with two separate entrances joining together at the back of the cave and a very high up window through which palms can be glimpsed. A semi-permanent muddy wallow at the bottom is frequented by wild animals such as serow after which the cave is named.

The cave was surveyed by the 1987 APS expedition.

Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

### **Tham Luang**

**CR0003**

ถ้ำหลวง

47Q 590928 2253553 Alt.: 440 m

Wat Ban Nam Cham, Tham Luang Forest Park

Length: 6,220 m

Other names: Tham Luang Nang Nom; Tham Nam Cham; Tham Yai; Tham Big Cave

Tham Luang is 3 km west of the H110 road from which there are two sign posted turnoffs 5.5 km and 7.5 km south of Mae Sai leading to the cave. The northern route is shorter, but unsurfaced. The southern route is surfaced all the way, turning north slightly before the Khun Nam Nang Non Royal Forest Department ranger station, then west after about 1 km for another 500 m into the headquarters of Tham Luang Forest Park. The cave is in the south-east corner of the forest park, less than 100 m from the car park. There is a visitor centre with a detailed map of the cave, but not much else.

An impressive entrance chamber 80 m long leads to easy walking in mostly spacious passages for the first kilometre along a well-formed, partly cemented path. Beyond this there are about 4km of small passages with occasional short tributaries. After 2 km the cave is accessible only at the end of the dry season, but little running water is seen and neither the active levels nor the resurgence have been located. In the Monk's Series the way on is

obvious, but very low and is followed by a strong air current. Elsewhere in the system several high level passages remain to be looked at. The existence of narrow avens opening into the main passage suggest the necessity of surface prospecting as the depth potential is over 600 m. The strong air current indicates that there is a link with the surface.

The entrance is only 3 km from Burma and local legend has long maintained that the cave passes under the border. However, it swings to the south-south-west presumably following the strike and its closest approach is 1 km from the border.

The spider *Belisana erawan* Huber, 2005 has been recorded from the cave and it is the type locality for the springtail *Troglopedetes multispinosus* Deharveng & Gers, 1993.

Tham Luang was explored and surveyed by the 1986 and 1987 APS expeditions.

Anon. (n.d); Deharveng & Gers (1993); Deharveng et al. (1987), (1988); Dunkley (1995); Ellis (2009); Huber (2005); Maffre (1988); Meel (1994); Pravitoun (2008); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Twelftree (1996); Zeitoun et al. (2008)

**Tham Mul Ti Ka Thea We      CR0057**

47Q 590814 2253232

Pong Pha

The only information on the cave are the co-ordinates.

**Tham Pado      CR0009**

47Q 590700 2252550      Alt.: 600 m

Wat Ban Nam Cham, Tham Luang Forest Park

Length: 100 m      VR: 15 m

On the edge of the massif to the south of Tham Luang. A path to the right on the track crosses the paddy fields (5 mins); after 10 mins of steep ascent one reaches the cave which opens on the left of the path.

A climb down of about a dozen metres gives access to a large circular chamber. A narrow passage is blocked after 20 m by boulders.

The cave was recorded by the 1987 APS expedition.

Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Pha Chom 1      CR0022**

ถ้ำผาจอม๑

47Q 591300 2260250      Alt.: 480 m

Wat Pha Chom

Other names: Tham Wat Phra Doi Wao

In Wat Pha Chom is on the outskirts of Mae Sai town, 2 km west of the town centre. At the international border post turn west along the river for about 1.5 km then south along a small side valley. The extensive temple complex is on the right after a few hundred metres.

This is probably the same cave referred to as Tham Wat Phra Doi Wao in Deharveng, et al. (1988) and Dunkley (1995) as Wat Doi Wao is much closer to the town centre and does not appear to have any caves.

Wat Pha Chom has two small dry caves, one of which is used by monks and is closed to the general public.

Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Pha Chom 2      CR0004**

## ถ้ำผาจอม๒

47Q 591300 2260250 Alt.: 480 m  
 Wat Pha Chom, Mae Sai  
 Length: 100 m VR: 10 m  
 Other names: Tham Wat Phra Doi Wao

In Wat Pha Chom on the outskirts of Mae Sai town 2 km west of the town centre. At the international border post turn west along the river for about 1.5 km then south along a small side valley. The extensive temple complex is on the right after a few hundred metres.

This is probably the same cave referred to as Tham Wat Phra Doi Wao in Deharveng (1988) and by Dunkley (1995) as Wat Doi Wao is much closer to the town centre and does not appear to have any caves. In 2009 the two entrances were gated and locked.

Wat Pha Chom has two small dry caves, one of which is electrically lit and tiled throughout. A narrow entrance opens into two small chambers on different levels separated by a short passage. The first chamber is dominated by a golden chedi surrounded by numerous shrines. The second chamber has a more aesthetic feel with a single Buddha image under a golden canopy and a painting of a fasting Buddha on the wall. Steps lead up to an upper exit with a terrace overlooking the valley.

There is a replica of the famous monk Archan Mun Phoorithatto.

The first speleological visit to the cave was by the APS in 1987.

Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Warren (1985); Zeitoun et al. (2008)

**Tham Pha Dtak CR0053**

## ถ้ำผาแตก

47Q 590762 2257518  
 Mae Sai

Turn off the main road 1.5 km west of Mae Sai town, just after the local police station and a few hundred metres before immigration. Cross over the canal and continue straight on towards a prominent rock outcrop on the edge of town. The cave is in the grounds of a small temple at the base of the outcrop.

Tham Pha Dtak consists of a pair of vertical rifts in an isolated limestone tower in the middle of a temple on the outskirts of Mae Sai. Each of the rifts has a concrete floor and a small shrine with a golden Buddha at the end.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Pha Mii CR0045**

47Q 589404 2256058  
 Doi Tung

Other names: Bear Cliff Cave; Tham Pah Mee

The cave is near to Tham Ukeaw and Tham Plah, off the road to Doi Tung, by an Akha village.

The limestone is of Middle Permian age, with shale near Tham Pha Mii.

Barlow (n.d.); Maxwell (2007)

**Tham Pha Ruea CR0054**

## ถ้ำผาเรือ

47Q 590912 2257509

Tham Pha Ruea Priest's Campsite

Length: 100 m

Other names: Tham Pha Lua; Tham Pha Rae

The cave is 2 km south-west of Mae Sai town. From Tham Pha Dtak turn south on a dirt track for 300 m to the next limestone outcrop. The cave entrance is at the top of a long flight of steps on the east side of the hill.

The entrance is reached by a steep climb up a flight of 215 steps. The main chamber has three openings which light up a glowing golden chedi and a large reclining Buddha statue beneath a graceful canopy, surrounded by miniature figures. Red lanterns suspended on poles lend a Chinese touch to the scene. A level passage behind the chedi leads to a small exit on the other side of the mountain after 100 m.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Phaya Naak****CR0007**

ถ้ำพญานาค

47Q 590700 2253450 Alt.: 520 m

Wat Ban Nam Cham, Tham Luang Forest Park

Length: 20 m

Other names: Tham Na; Naga Cave; Tham Pra Ya Nag; Tham Phaya Nak

Tham Phaya Naak is 250 m south of Tham Luang Forest Park headquarters, about 15 minutes up the hill on a good path starting behind the visitor centre. At the junction after 200 m, keep straight ahead and the cave is less than 100 m up the hill. The left branch of the path leads to Tham Liang Pha.

This is a series of shallow caves at the base of a 15 m cliff, sheltered by clumps of bamboo. The inner sections of the largest cave are full of rock fall and broken columns which completely block off the back of the cave, making further exploration impossible.

The 1987 APS expedition were the first cavers to visit the cave.

Deharveng et al. (1998); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Phra****CR0006**

ถ้ำพระ

47Q 590700 2253450 Alt.: 530 m

Wat Ban Nam Cham, Tham Luang Forest Park

Length: 60 m

Other names: Tham Pha

This cave is in the south-east corner of Tham Luang Forest Park headquarters, about 50 m from the car park.

A red devil-like guardian, Phra Ya Yom, with a trident in one hand and a skull in the other protects the entrance, where a large mauve Buddha sits in meditation. The cave itself consists of a single dry chamber 40 m long by 20 m wide by 15 m high and several short side passages without any features of interest.

The cave was visited by the 1987 APS expedition.

Deharveng et al. (1998); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Phum****CR0012**

## ถ้ำพุ่ม

47Q 589792 2250024 Alt.: 510 m  
 Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah, Pong Pha  
 Length: 192 m VR: 2 m

Between Tham Plah and Tham Luang, 3 km west of the main road 10 km south of Mae Sai. A twisting road with many junctions leads to the well-known temple close to the mouth of a steep-sided valley cutting through the mountains. The cave temple is at the top of a flight of steps just behind the temple.

This is one of the most sacred caves in Thailand, said to have been visited not only by Buddha Gotama himself, but also by three previous Buddhas and prophesied by the future Buddha Ariyametta as well. A naga staircase leads to a tiled platform at the cave entrance with a beautiful view out over the plain. A graceful vase-shaped passage houses a group of statues of the Buddha accompanied by nine disciples in orange robes. Further on a reclining Buddha and two seated Buddhas on brick pedestals have been placed in natural alcoves shaped like nagas. The main passage meanders on for another 120 m, ending at a shrine and group of decaying Buddha statues which are a potent reminder of the impermanence of worldly things. The whole cave has a concrete floor and electric lighting.

The following fauna has been recorded in the cave:-

Spiders:-

Type and only known locality for *Altheopus pum* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1995

Bats:-

*Taphozous melanopogon* Temminck, 1841

*Aselliseus stoliczkanus* Dobson, 1871

*Hipposideros lylei* Thomas, 1913

The first recorded visit was by Fred Stone in 1986.

Deeleman-Reinhold (1995); Deharveng et al. (1988); Dunkley (1995); Munier (1998); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Sponsel & Natadecha-Sponsel (2003); Yenbutra & Felton (1986)

**Tham Plaew Plong Fah CR0015**

ถ้ำปลวปล่องฟ้า

47Q 589070 2248286  
 Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah, Pong Pha  
 Length: 70 m

Within the grounds of Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah. Behind the pool there is a long flight of steps, guarded by stone lions, leading to the cave.

The cave is approached through a spectacular natural canyon formed by the collapse of the roof of a former extension of the cave. The cave itself consists of a single high rift chamber with a Buddha in front of a golden chedi naturally lit by a window high in the ceiling. A short cul-de-sac on the right houses another shrine with a golden Buddha accompanied by a hermit.

According to a legend of Yonok said that once the Lord Buddha came here and a villager gave him grilled fishes. The Lord Buddha wished those fishes became alive again and liberated them to a hole at Plew Plong Fah. Phra Anond, the Lord Buddha's follower, poured water from his bowl into the hole and it became a canal later. After that the Lord Buddha closed the hole and put his hair in a stone that he used for closing it. In 1500 B.E. King Uchutarat of Yonoknakhorn had established a pagoda for collecting a relic of the Lord Buddha at Plew Plong Fah cavern. There is another pagoda that not far from it called "In Plaeng

Pagoda". It is said that Indra (a name of god) disguised himself as a Myanmar's ascetic called U-Suai Lah built this pagoda in 2455 B.E. When the pagoda was done the ascetic disappeared and nobody have seen him since.

Anon. (1981), (2004); Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Sponsel & Natadecha-Sponsel (2003)

**Tham Plah** **CR0013**

ถ้ำปลา

47Q 589070 2248286 Alt.: 420 m

Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah, Pong Pha

Other names: Monkey Cave

1.5 km west of the H110 near kilometre post 879, 12 km south of Mae Sai. A surfaced road leads through Ban Huai Khrai to a large car park at the entrance to Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah.

This is a sacred spring issuing from the base of a cliff in Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah with no known access to the cave itself. The fish in the pool are said to be descendants of grilled fish that were offered to the Buddha Gotama when he visited the area and were miraculously brought back to life.

It is also known as the Monkey Cave due to the troupes of monkeys which inhabit the temple grounds.

Although there is no reported cave at Tham Plah the following fauna has been recorded:-

Snails:-

Type and only known locality for *Kryobylos tampla* Panha & Burch, 2004

*Gylotrachela khaowongensis* (Panha,1997)

Spiders:-

Type locality for *Psilodermes septentrionalis* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1995

Collembola:-

*Troglopedetes multispinosus* Deharveng & Gers, 1993

Bats:-

*Taphozous melanopogon* Temminck, 1841

*Aselliseus stoliczkanus* Dobson, 1871

Aggimarangsee (1992); Anon. (2004); Clarac & Pagau-Clarac (1985); Deeleman-Reinhold (1995); Deharveng & Gers (1993); Dunkley (1995); Munier (1998); Panha et al. (2004); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Sponsel & Natadecha-Sponsel (2003); Yenbutra & Felton (1986)

**Tham Pu Kaed** **CR0016**

Mae Sai

Length: 800 m

This cave, reported by Fred Stone, is possibly the same as Tham Sai Thong or Tham Ku Kaeo. Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Sai Thong** **CR0001**

ถ้ำทรายทอง

47Q 591426 2252541 Alt.: 480m

Ban Na Pung

Length: 940 m VR: 10 m

Other names: Tham Luek

1 km south of Tham Luang, at the foot of Doi Nang Non. Turn off the main road 7.5 km south of Mae Sai and continue straight west through Ban Jong to Khun Nam Nang Non RFD station. The cave entrance is on the far side of the pond, 5 minutes walk from the car park and food stalls.

The cave entrance is 15 m up the hillside and obscured by large boulders. A short descent of 5-6 m leads to a level passage 4-10 m wide and 3-15 m high with a floor of sand. The sandy sections make for easy walking, but are frequently interrupted by lengthy scrambles over huge unstable rockfalls. After 900 m the passage is completely blocked.

Tham Sai Thong seems to be the former route of the stream that resurges at the spring, but doesn't appear to connect at present. The spring is probably the resurgence for Tham Luang.

The cave was explored and surveyed by the 1987 French expedition.

Deharveng et al. (1987); Dunkley (1995); Maffre (1988); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Zeitoun et al. (2008)

### **Tham Sao Hin Phraya Naak CR0028**

ถ้ำเสาหินพญานาค

47Q 592014 2253450

Wat Tham Sao Hin, Pong Pha

Length: 80 m

Other names: Tham Sao Phraya Nak; Tham Phraya Nak; Rock Column Cave; King of Naga Column Cave

1 km south of Wat Tham Phum-Tham Plah, on the far side of a reservoir which can be reached on foot from the temple or from the main road at the check point near kilometre post 878, 13 km south of Mae Sai. The cave entrance itself can only be reached by boat, departing from in front of the food stalls on demand.

The lower entrance is next to the jetty and contains a small shrine of a Buddha on the back of an elephant. A squeeze up through a maze of columns leads to the second level which is connected to a third level by a bamboo ladder. Both of these levels display such an impressive array of stalactites, stalagmites and columns that some sections of the cave have been completely enclosed by them. From the third level you can exit the cave through a small window and return to the jetty along the edge of the cliff. Alternatively a small hole in the southeast corner of this level (easily located by the blast of air coming from it) leads down a steep muddy slope to a completely dark inner chamber with a large bat colony.

The obvious cave entrance in the cliffs to the northwest of the reservoir is just a shallow overhang and not worth the steep scramble up to it except for the view.

The bat *Aselliseus stoliczkanus* Dobson, 1871 has been recorded from the cave.

Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006); Yenbutra & Felton (1986)

## *Amphoe Mae Suai*

### **†Doi Tham CR0060**

47Q 554655 2156981

### **Tham Chang Puak CR0035**

Mae Suai

The cave is on west side of the H109, about 20 km north of Mae Suai.

Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Mae Suai** CR0018

ถ้ำแม่สรวย

47Q 555094 2176465 Alt.: 500 m

Wat Tham Mae Suai, Ban San Klang, Mae Suai

Other names: Tham Mae Saruai

The cave is in Ban San Klang moo 2 and was signed off the H109 and H118. Although a dam has flooded the valley. the new topographic map shows a road has been built around the side of the lake to the wat and cave.

This decorated cave has a Buddha perched above the entrance.

Barlow (n.d.); Dunkley (1995); Ellis (2005a)

**Tham Phrawihan Trai Lak Sana Khun Phut Sathan** CM0071

47Q 555006 2176573

Ban San Klang, Mae Suai

The cave is near CR0018 Tham Mae Suai and may be another name for that cave.

**Tham Sao Wihan** CR0065

47Q 555892 2175830

Tham Sao Wihan Priest's Campsite, Ban San Klang, Mae Suai

The campsite is on the south bank of the Mae Suai reservoir.

## *Amphoe Pa Daet*

**Tham Pha Charui 1** CR0020

ถ้ำผาจรูช๑

47Q 603888 2164104

Wat Tham Pha Charui, Doi Tham Pha Charui

Length: 25 m

Other names: Tham Pha Cha Lui; Tham Pha Ja Rui

In a prominent isolated tower in the remote country between Phan and Thoeng 100 m to the west of the H1128 7 km south of Chiang Khian and 2.8 km north of Ban Pai Ngae. The cave is behind the temple.

This is a series of high rifts with spectacular tree roots dangling down 20 m from the ceiling and a colony of bats. Fragments of bone and stone tools suggest that this was a prehistoric habitation site.

Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Pha Charui 2** CR0067

ถ้ำผาจรูช๒

47Q 603888 2164104

Wat Tham Pha Charui, Doi Tham Pha Charui

In a prominent isolated tower in the remote country between Phan and Thoeng 100 m to the west of the H1128 7 km south of Chiang Khian and 2.8 km north of Ban Pai Ngae. The cave is behind the temple.

The cave has a small gated entrance leading into a gloomy chamber with a multi-layered shrine and an overpowering stench of bats.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Pha Charui 3** CR0068

ถ้ำผาจรูญช๑

47Q 603888 2164104

Wat Tham Pha Charui, Doi Tham Pha Charui

In a prominent isolated tower in the remote country between Phan and Thoeng 100 m to the west of the H1128 7 km south of Chiang Khian and 2.8 km north of Ban Pai Ngae. The cave is behind the temple.

A flight of steps leads to a small cave. The entrance is flanked by stone lions and numerous white stupas.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

***Amphoe Phan***

**†Ban Tham** CR0023

47Q 572119 2168464

Turn west from the H1, 2 km north of amphoe Phan, then 10 km west on unnumbered road. Possibly the same location as Tham Pha Chor and Cave CR0025.

Dunkley (1995)

**Cave CR0025** CR0025

47Q 569920 2165510

Ban Tham

This cave is near Tham Pha Chor.

It appears to be a low wet cave.

Dunkley (1995)

**Nam Tok Pu Khaeng Caves** CR0058

47Q 571961 2149733

Doi Luang National Park

Caves are reported from near the Pu Kaeng waterfall in the Doi Luang National Park. Leave the Chiang Rai to Phayao road at Ban Pu Khaeng and follow it for about 8 km, to reach the 9 level limestone waterfall.

The area is reported to be blessed with many decorated caves.

Dunkley (1995); National Park Office (2006)

**†Tham Bampen Bun** CR0074

47Q 579360 2179254

Than Thong

**Tham Nam Lot** CR0031

ถ้ำน้ำลอด

47Q 568906 2156894 Alt.: 550 m  
 Ban Tham, Doi Luang National Park  
 Other names: Tham Thalu  
 Length: 166 m VR: 4 m

South-west of Phan town on the border of the Doi Luang National Park. Turn off the main street next to the town hall heading due west on a surfaced road for 6.5 km before turning south on another surfaced road for a further 6.5 km. A dirt track on the right leads after 1 km to a car park and picnic spot in front of the cave entrance.

The resurgence is set amongst lush semi-evergreen forest next to a rocky stream which is a popular picnic spot. The main passage is 4-6 m wide by 3-6 m high with very few active formations. A straight forward walk along the rocky stream bed re-emerges on the other side of the mountain after 115 m. Flood debris in niches several metres above the floor indicate that the cave is flooded almost to the roof after heavy rains.

The cave was explored and surveyed by Smart, Gardner and Sidisunthorn in 2003.

Dunkley (1995); Ellis (2005); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**†Tham Nong Pa** CR0034

47Q 578967 2177836  
 Nong Tham Nong Pa

West of the H1 about 15 km north of Phan, near the 795 km post.

Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Pha Chor** CR0024

47Q 569920 2165510  
 Ban Tham  
 Length: 20 m

This cave is near Ban Tham in a low outcrop.  
 There is one chamber with a few rift passages.  
 Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Pha Khong** CR0033

ถ้ำผาโขง

47Q 568824 2158115 Alt.: 600 m  
 Ban Tham, Doi Luang National Park  
 Other names: Tham Pha Rhong

South-west of Phan town on the border of the Doi Luang National Park. Turn of the main street next to the town hall heading due west on a surfaced road for 6.5 km before turning south on another surfaced road for a further 6.5 km.

This is a different cave to CR0031 Tham Nam Lot.

Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Pha Yao** CR0021

47Q 573438 2159991

Muang Khum  
 Length: 520 m  
 Other names: Tham Phaar Yaaw

This cave is 5 km south of the H1, 3 km south of Amphoe Phan, 45 km south of Chiang Rai. This is a large cave. The entrance is about 20 m wide and the decorated cave is 520 m long. Anon. (2004); Dunkley (1995)

**Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun 1 CR0055**

ถ้ำพระบำเพ็ญบุญ๑

47Q 579340 3179296

Wat Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun, Than Thong

Other names: Tham Bamphen Bun

East of the H1 between Phayao and Chiang Rai, a turnoff 18 km north of Phan winds through rice fields and a series of villages for 6 km before reaching Wat Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun. The main cave is at the base of the cliff face about 100 m from the parking.

There are two separate caves on different levels in an isolated limestone tower visible east of the main Phayao-Chiang Rai road. The lower cave is at the base of an overhanging cliff which provides shelter for a Buddha in saffron robes. The cave entrance is flanked by concrete monkeys and a locked gate. The cave itself is spotlessly clean with white tiles covering every available surface and netting over the window to keep out bats. The overhang outside has shells and fragments of bone buried in the floor sediments which suggests that it was a prehistoric habitation site.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun 2 CR0056**

ถ้ำพระบำเพ็ญบุญ๒

47Q 579340 3179296

Wat Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun, Than Thong

Other names: Tham Bamphen Bun

East of the H1 between Phayao and Chiang Rai, a turnoff 18 km north of Phan winds through rice fields and a series of villages for 6 km before reaching Wat Tham Phra Ban Pen Bun. The main cave is at the base of the cliff face about 100 m from the parking.

There are two separate caves on different levels in an isolated limestone tower visible east of the main Phayao-Chiang Rai road.

Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Phra Nong Pha Chao Phraya Ngu Lai CR0064**

47Q 577668 2175659

Sai Khao

**Tham Russi CR0032**

ถ้ำฤๅษี

47Q 575164 2165532

Ban Tham

This is a rock shelter in the vicinity of Ban Tham.

The village itself is named after this shallow overhang which used to be occupied by a hermit. The floor of the overhang is littered with bones and pieces of pottery and is almost certainly a prehistoric habitation site. A few curious 'donut'-shaped stones which are probably also of prehistoric origin have been collected by the locals and placed on the shrine. Dunkley (1995); Sidisunthorn et al. (2006)

**Tham Russi** **CR0046**

ถ้ำฤๅษี

Ban Huai Som

Other names: Tham Lue See

This cave is reported to be out to the west of Phan, on dirt roads just north of Lampang's northernmost point. It is east of the H118 at Ban Huai Som and west of Ban Klua Cow. Barlow (n.d.)

†**Wat Nong Tham** **CR0061**

47Q 571960 2169545

### *Amphoe Phaya Mengrai*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Thoeng*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Wiang Chiang Rung*

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.

### *Amphoe Wiang Chai*

**Tham Mae Ook Roo** **CR0048**

47Q 610999 2199149 Alt.: 385 m

Ban Rongha

Length: 300 m VR: 3 m

This cave is located in a limestone tower near the village of Ban Rongha. When travelling from Chiang Rai along the H1152 towards Phaya Mengrai the towers are first seen near Ban Pa Bong. Following the road through Ban Pa Bong a quarry is passed on the left and soon after there is a road on the left, near km 26. If you reach Ban Rong Ha you have gone too far. Heading down the side road a tower is right in front of you. At the foot of the tower there is a T junction where you turn right and after a couple of hundred metres there is an obscure resurgence on the left at the foot of the tower. There is a spirit house, a small parking area and some of the trees are wrapped with orange cloth.

After scrambling down through boulders there is an active streamway that starts off about 1.3 m high and gradually diminishes in height as you progress with the water and mud getting deeper. An inlet passage, said to extend for about a kilometre, is passed on the right.

## CHIANG RAI

After a couple of hundred metres the roof gets a lot lower and the mud deepens to about 50 cm which makes the going very difficult. Eventually one reaches a T junction with the stream coming in from the right. The way to a second entrance is on the left and the exit is soon reached. This is a squalid cave – wet, low and muddy. Most of the mud is grey dust from the nearby quarries.

A study by the National Human Rights Commission shows that water flows into the cave at two points to the north and south of the mountain. The stream resurges from the outlet at the northeast point of the mountain. The Environmental Impact Assessment reports that the water still flows from the resurgence in the dry summer season, when no water flows into the north and south entrances of the cave. A study done by the NHRC during the dry season also indicates that the spring does not dry up even in the dry season. The study found that the water flow out of the mountain into the creek was approximately ten times more than the amount of water which flowed into the creek from the two entrances.

The cave made it into the Thai national press in July 2003 due to an environmental dispute between local farmers and the quarry company. Expansion plans by one of the local quarrying companies, who have almost completely removed two neighbouring limestone towers, threatened the hill containing Tham Mae Ook Roo which is an important source of water for farmers during the dry season. Local villagers protested against the quarries' plans and the National Human Rights Commission visited the area and explored what they estimated to be 3 km of passage in the cave. In December 2002 the assistant village headman, who had been leading the protests, was shot and killed. This understandably frightened many of the villagers into withdrawing their protests.

Janchitfah (2003), (2004); Ellis (2005b); Wongruang (2004)

**Tham Phra Pha Ngam**                      **CR0036**  
47Q 610575 2197092  
Tham Phra Pha Ngam Priest's Campsite, Pha Ngam

The cave is in a 300 rai park north of the H1152, behind the tambon Pha Ngam office.  
Dunkley (1995)

### *Amphoe Wiang Kaen*

**Golden Dragon Cave**                      **CR0049**  
Ban Pha Taeng

The cave is near Ban Pa Taeng which is off the H1093 between Chiang Khong and Chiang Kham on Laos border. Branching off from the same little road that runs to General Lao Li's pavilion a footpath strikes south from near an agricultural project to two caves, known as the Golden Dragon Cave and the Lion Cave.

Goodden (1999)

**Lion Cave**                                      **CR0050**  
Ban Pha Taeng

The cave is near Ban Pa Taeng which is off the H1093 between Chiang Khong and Chiang Kham on Laos border. Branching off from the same little road that runs to General Lao Li's pavilion a footpath strikes south from near an agricultural project to two caves, known as the Golden Dragon Cave and the Lion Cave.

Goodden (1999)

**Tham Phet**

**CR0047**

47Q 657072 2202356

The only information on this cave are the co-ordinates.

***Amphoe Wiang Pa Pao***

No caves have been reported from this amphoe.