

BUENG KAN

[10 December 2016]

Bueng Khong Long

Tham Khaen† **BK0032**
 48Q 405355 1989620 Alt.: 190m
 Wat Tham Khaen, Ban Dong Chomphu

The temple is at the foot of the escarpment 2km east of Ban Dong Chomphu on the H2026.

Tham Pha Daeng† **BK0040**
 ถ้ำผาแดง
 48Q 404755 1984880 Alt.: 190m
 Wat Tham Pha Daeng, Pho Mak Khaeng

The temple is at the base of the massif at the southern end of the 350m high Pha Daeng cliff, 5km east of the H2026 at Bueng Khong Long.

Tham Phra Punyaram† **BK0030**
 48Q 396958 1994134 Alt.: 175m
 Wat Tham Phra Punyaram, Ban Sok Pho Sok Phok

The temple, shown on a GPS map, is in Ban Sok Pho Sok Phok on the north-eastern shore of the Bueng Khlong Long reservoir. No hills are apparent in this area on Google Earth.

Tham Saeng Tham† **BK0031**
 ถ้ำแสงธรรม
 48Q 405440 1990945 Alt.: 195m
 Wat Tham Saeng Tham, Ban Dong Chomphu

The temple is at the foot of the escarpment 1.5km north-east of Ban Dong Chomphu on the H2026.

Tham Thu Ta Nuson† **BK0039**
 48Q 399059 1994584 Alt.: 165m
 Wat Tham Thu Ta Nuson, Ban Na Kham

The temple, shown on a GPS map, is in Ban Na Kham to the north-east of the Bueng Khlong Long reservoir. No hills are apparent in this area on Google Earth.

Bung Khla

Cave BK0006 **BK0006**
 48Q 389577 2012324 Alt.: 290m
 Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

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

Tham Fun **BK0009**
 ถ้ำฟูน
 48Q 384297 2019783 Alt.: 170m
 Nong Daen, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary
 Other names: Tham Ful; Tham Foon

From Bueng Kan take the H212 east for 5.3km and then turn south (Tham Fun and the Tham Fun waterfall are signposted). Follow this road for 2.75km to the park office and then it is a 1.5km walk to the waterfall.

The waterfall is in a forest and has a scenic view of the northern Phu Wua mountains. 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 Hook **BK0041**
 Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

The cave is in the Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary.

This short sandstone cave is used as a temple. The solitary monk at the cave has been here since about 2000.

(Vogt 2013)

Tham Pho† **BK0001**
 48Q 386577 2018324
 Phu Wua Lang Tham Pho, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

Phu Wua Lang Tham Pho is marked on maps at the northern end of a long sandstone mountain of the Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary.

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(Dunkley 1995)

Tham Phra **BK0011**

ถ้ำพระ

Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

The Namtok Tham Phra waterfall is difficult to reach by road in the rainy season. It is 34km 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 Phrai **BK0013**

ถ้ำพราย

48Q 390550 2016303 Alt.: 345m

Phu Wua Lang Tham Phrai, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

From the Bung Khla ranger station take the nature trail to the top of the escarpment. From here follow the path south. There are signs 800m and 450m from the cave, but on a quick visit in January 2011 the cave was not found.

Tham Sung† **BK0002**

48Q 396330 2008765 Alt.: 448m

Phu Wua Lang Tham Sung, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

Other names: Tham Soong, ถ้ำสูง

Phu Wua Lang Tham Sung is highest point in the wildlife reserve at 448m and it is at the south-eastern end of the large sandstone mountain that forms the Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary.

(Dunkley 1995)

Muang Bueng Kan

Tham Khieo Sa-un† **BK0016**

ถ้ำเขี้ยวสะอื้น

48Q 357600 2014550 Alt.: 195m

Wat Tham Khieo Sa-un, Ban Loet Sin

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

(Vogt 2013)

Tham Phra† **BK0017**

ถ้ำพระ

48Q 351770 2028725 Alt.: 175m

Wat Tham Phra, Ban Huai Dok Mai

The temple is 1.5km south-east of the H5004 near Ban Huai Dok Mai.

Tham Saeng Dao† **BK0026**

ถ้ำแสงดาว

48Q 376040 2015560 Alt.: 185m

Tham Saeng Dao Monk's Camp Site, Ban Nong Yao

The camp site is located 4km west of Ban Nong Yao, on the eastern flank of the long, narrow Phu Sing sandstone mountain.

(Vogt 2013)

Tham Sala Nam Yen† **BK0018**

ถ้ำศาลาน้ำเย็น

48Q 375690 2015860 Alt.: 185m

Tham Sala Nam Yen Monk's Camp Site, Ban Nong Yao

The camp site is located 4.5km west of Ban Nong Yao, on the eastern flank of the long, narrow Phu Sing sandstone mountain.

(Vogt 2013)

Tham Sua† **BK0029**

ถ้ำเสือ

48Q 338950 2036935 Alt.: 170m

Wat Tham Sua Monk's Campsite, Ban A-Hong

The wat is 750m south of the H212, between Ban A-Hong and Ban Khai Si.

(Vogt 2013)

Pak Khat

Tham Chong† **BK0015**

ถ้ำจอง

48Q 316590 2028550 Alt.: 165m

Wat Tham Chong, Ban Tai

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

Tham Phra Wanaram† **BK0014**

ถ้ำพระวานาราม

48Q 315500 2029700 Alt.: 180m

Wat Pa Tham Phra Wanaram, Ban Tai

The forest wat is near the Mae Nam Mae Khong, 1km east of Ban Tai and 7km north-west of the H212, along a secondary road from Pak Khat.

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Tham Sri Thon**BK0007**

ถ้ำศรีธอน

48Q 321150 2024250 Alt.: 175m

Wat Sawang Arom, Pak Khat

Other names: Tham Sithom

Wat Sawang Arom is in Pak Khat, 500m east of the H212.

Dunkley mentions a report of a possible cave at this location.

(Dunkley 1995)

Phon Charoen**Tham Mongkhon†****BK0038**

ถ้ำมงคล

48Q 356526 2003854 Alt.: 175m

Wat Tham Mongkhon, Ban Lao Yai, Si Samran

The temple is at the southern end of Ban Lao Yai, tambon Si Samran, on the H3002.

Seka**Tham Bucha****BK0021**

ถ้ำบุชา

48Q 389355 2007489 Alt.: 230m

Wat Pa Tham Bucha, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

Other names: Worship Cave

This famous forest wat is located on the south-western escarpment of the Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary. It is accessed by a 5.25km road which turns east off the H2013 in Ban Don Siat.

This was a favorite cave of the meditation monk Ajan Chuan. He moved here in 1964 with other 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.

(Tiyavanich 1997, Tiyavanich 2003)

Tham Chan Pha**BK0010**

48Q 383995 2013350 Alt.: 185m

Namtok Chanaen, Ban Thung Sai Chok, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

From Ban Thung Sai Chok take the track signposted to Tham Chum Chang and Tham Sok Chang to the Chanaen waterfall checkpoint, which is 3.5km from the

H3024 and 1km north of Tham Sok Chang. The cave is a 500m walk from here.

Tham Chum Chang†**BK0028**

ถ้ำชมข้าว

48Q 384900 2011760 Alt.: 180m

Wat Tham Chum Chang, Ban Thung Sai Chok

The cave is sign posted off the H3024 in Ban Thung Sai Chok, along the same road as Tham Sok Chang.

Tham Khong Phu Wua†**BK0022**

ถ้ำโขงภูวัว

48Q 395391 2004891 Alt.: 270m

Tham Khong Phu Wua Monk's Camp Site, Ban Non Samran, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

The camp site is on the southern end of Phu Wua mountain, 3.5km north of Ban Non Samran in tambon Sok Kam.

(Vogt 2013)

Tham Phra†**BK0019**

ถ้ำพระ

48Q 393470 2005590 Alt.: 185m

Wat Tham Phra, Ban Non Samran, Phu Wua Wildlife Sanctuary

The temple is on the southern end of Phu Wua mountain, 5km north of Ban Non Samran in tambon Sok Kam.

This is a rock shelter which is formed in sandstone.

Tham Saeng Chang Lai**BK0025**

ถ้ำแสนช้างไล่

48Q 386804 2009518 Alt.: 210m

Wat Tham Saeng Chang Lai, Ban Thung Sai Chok

Length: 25m

The wat is 3km east of Ban Thung Sai Chok and is signed off the H3024. From the temple a very good path and bridges lead to the rock shelter at the base of a long, low cliff.

This impressively large rock shelter, formed in a sandstone cliff, is about 25m deep, 250m long and is 5m above the valley floor. It has been developed by monks as a shrine.

The rock shelter was visited by the SMCC in January 2012.

Tham Sok Chang† **BK0037**

ถ้ำโสกช้าง

48Q 384400 2012495 Alt.: 170m

Wat Tham Sok Chang, Ban Thung Sai Chok

The temple is sign posted off the H3024 in Ban Thung Sai Chok, along the same road as Tham Chum Chang. It is at the base of the Phu Wua escarpment.

Si Wilai**Tham Ajarn Chuan** **BK0034**

48Q 381686 2005432 Alt.: 294m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen
Length: 10m

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

This is the main shrine cave on the fifth level. The cave is about 10m deep and 50m wide. The sandstone is the Upper Cretaceous Phu Thok Formation.

The cave was visited by the SMCC in January 2012.

Tham In See **BK0033**

ถ้ำอินทรีย์

48Q 373922 2018267 Alt.: 199m

Wat Tham In See, Khok Kong
Length: 3m

The wat is sign posted as being 5km east of Ban Rai. Follow the laterite road for about 5km through the rubber plantations to the forest temple at the foot of the escarpment.

Behind the main building at the foot of the cliff there is a hole under a large sandstone boulder that has behind developed into a small shrine.

The site was recorded by the SMCC in January 2012.

Tham Kaew **BK0003**

48Q 381730 2005405 Alt.: 300m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen

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

Wat Pha Phu Thok is a renowned forest wat founded in 1968 by Phra Ajarn Chuan Kunchettho. The wat is famous for the wooden walkways that ascend the 150m high outcrop of eolian sandstone in seven levels and took five years to build. These seven levels represent the seven levels of Buddhist enlightenment. The sandstone is Upper Cretaceous and is known as the Phu Tok Formation.

(Clarac and Pagau-Clarac 1985, Dunkley 1995, Mouret and Mouret 1994, Tiyanich 1997, Vogt 2013)

Tham Lek Lai **BK0004**

48Q 381720 2005390 Alt.: 290m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen

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

Wat Pha Phu Thok is a renowned forest wat founded in 1968 by Phra Ajarn Chuan Kunchettho. The wat is famous for the wooden walkways that ascend the 150m high outcrop of eolian sandstone in seven levels and took five years to build. These seven levels represent the seven levels of Buddhist enlightenment. The sandstone is Upper Cretaceous and is known as the Phu Tok Formation.

(Clarac and Pagau-Clarac 1985, Dunkley 1995, Mouret and Mouret 1994)

Tham Noi Nam Thip **BK0023**

ถ้ำน้อยน้ำทิพย์

48Q 375731 2012806 Alt.: 185m

Tham Noi Nam Thip Monk's Camp Site, Na Sing

The camp site is 9km east of Si Wilai and the H222, at the base of the western flank of the long and narrow Phu Sing sandstone mountain.

There are rock shelters in sandstone with percolating water.

Tham Pha Daeng† **BK0027**

ถ้ำผาแดง

48Q 372645 2020405 Alt.: 210m

Wat Tham Pha Daeng, Khok Kong

This wat is sign posted as being 2km east of Ban Rai, along the same road as Tham In See.

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Any cave in this location will be formed in sandstone.

Tham Pladuk† **BK0024**

ถ้ำปลาดุก

48Q 375010 2014525 Alt.: 200m

Tham Pladuk Monk's Camp Site

The camp site is 9km east of Si Wilai and the H222, at the base of the western flank of the long and narrow Phu Sing sandstone mountain and 1.75km north of Tham Noi Nam Thip.

Tham Ruesi **BK0005**

ถ้ำฤๅษี

48Q 381326 2005739 Alt.: 305m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen

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

Wat Pha Phu Thok is a renowned forest wat founded in 1968 by Phra Ajarn Chuan Kunchettho. The wat is famous for the wooden walkways that ascend the 150m high outcrop of eolian sandstone in seven levels and took five years to build. These seven levels represent the seven levels of Buddhist enlightenment. The sandstone is Upper Cretaceous and is known as the Phu Tok Formation.

(Clarac and Pagau-Clarac 1985, Dunkley 1995, Mouret and Mouret 1994)

Tham Wihan Kot **BK0035**

ถ้ำวิหารคด

48Q 381737 2005453 Alt.: 296m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen

Length: 25m

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

This is the large cave on the fifth level just west of the main shrine. This is a large cave formed on a joint. It is egg timer shaped with two tubes above one another, extending back about 25m. The sandstone is the Upper Cretaceous Phu Thok Formation.

The cave was visited by the SMCC in January 2012.

Tham Wihan Yao **BK0036**

ถ้ำวิหารยาว

48Q 381717 2005500 Alt.: 304m

Wat Pha Phu Thok, Ban Na Kham Khaen

Length: 10m

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

This is the wide rock shelter to the east of the main shrine cave and Tham Wihan Kot. This rock shelter is about 10m deep and 50m wide. The sandstone is the Upper Cretaceous Phu Thok Formation.

The cave was visited by the SMCC in January 2012.

So Phisai

Tham Chan **BK0008**

ถ้ำจันทร์

48Q 341520 2025100 Alt.: 180m

Wat Tham Chan, Ban Kham Phai

The temple is on a low hill just to the west of Ban Kham Phai, which is on the H5004.

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 Ajarn Chuan stayed here from 1958 to 1962.

(Tiyavanich 1997, Vogt 2013)

Tham Charoen† **BK0012**

ถ้ำเจริญ

48Q 339450 2014610 Alt.: 185m

Ban Tham Charoen

The village is on the H5004, 14km east of the H2095.

Tham Si Chom Phu† **BK0020**

ถ้ำศรีชมพู

48Q 339310 2015100 Alt.: 190m

Wat Tham Si Chom Phu, Ban Tham Charoen

The temple is on a low hill to the north-west Ban Tham Charoen which is on the H5004, 14km east of the H2095.

(Vogt 2013)

Cave Data (Listed by code number)

Number	Name	Co-ordinates	Altitude	Length	VR
BK0001	Tham Pho	48Q 386577 2018324	300		
BK0002	Tham Sung	48Q 396330 2008765	448		
BK0003	Tham Kaew	48Q 381730 2005405	300		
BK0004	Tham Lek Lai	48Q 381720 2005390	290		
BK0005	Tham Ruesi	48Q 381326 2005739	305		
BK0006	Cave BK0006	48Q 389500 2012300	290		
BK0007	Tham Sri Thon	48Q 321150 2024250	175		
BK0008	Tham Chan	48Q 341520 2025100	180		
BK0009	Tham Fun	48Q 384297 2019783	170		
BK0010	Tham Chan Pha	48Q 383995 2013350	185		
BK0011	Tham Phra				
BK0012	Tham Charoen	48Q 339450 2014610	185		
BK0013	Tham Phrai	48Q 390550 2016030	345		
BK0014	Tham Phra Wanaram	48Q 315500 2029700	180		
BK0015	Tham Chong	48Q 316590 2028550	165		
BK0016	Tham Khieo Sa-un	48Q 357600 2014550	195		
BK0017	Tham Phra	48Q 351770 2028725	175		
BK0018	Tham Sala Nam Yen	48Q 375690 2015860	185		
BK0019	Tham Phra	48Q 393470 2005590	185		
BK0020	Tham Si Chom Phu	48Q 339310 2015100	190		
BK0021	Tham Bucha	48Q 389355 2007489	230		
BK0022	Tham Khong Phu Wua	48Q 395391 2004891	270		
BK0023	Tham Noi Nam Thip	48Q 375731 2012806	185		
BK0024	Tham Pladuk	48Q 375010 2014525	200		
BK0025	Tham Saen Chang Lai	48Q 386804 2009518	210	25	
BK0026	Tham Saeng Dao	48Q 376040 2015560	185		
BK0027	Tham Pha Daeng	48Q 372645 2020405	210		
BK0028	Tham Chum Chang	48Q 384900 2011760	180		
BK0029	Tham Sua	48Q 338950 2036935	170		
BK0030	Tham Phra Punyaram	48Q 396958 1994134	175		
BK0031	Tham Saeng Tham	48Q 405440 1990945	195		
BK0032	Tham Khaen	48Q 405355 1989620	190		
BK0033	Tham In See	48Q 373922 2018267	199	3	
BK0034	Tham Ajarn Chuan	48Q 381686 2005432	294	10	
BK0035	Tham Wihan Kot	48Q 381737 2005453	296	25	
BK0036	Tham Wihan Yao	48Q 381717 2005500	304	10	
BK0037	Tham Sok Chang	48Q 384400 2012495	175		
BK0038	Tham Mongkhon	48Q 356526 2003854	175		
BK0039	Tham Thu Ta Nuson	48Q 399059 1994584	165		
BK0040	Tham Pha Daeng	48Q 404755 1984880	190		
BK0041	Tham Hook				

Number of caves: 41

Total length: 73m