

NONG KHAI

June 2013 WGS84

Pho Tak

†**Tham Dan Ok** **NK0019**
 48Q 228094 1984185
 Wat Tham Dan Ok, Ban Pha Siao

The temple is 6.5km north-west of the H2266 along a secondary road from Ban Pha Siao.

†**Tham Han** **NK0017**
 48Q 218483 1989511
 Wat Pha Tham Han, Ban Don Khanun

This forest wat is in remote country 3km north-west of Ban Don Khanun.

†**Tham Muthita** **NK0023**
 48Q 219855 1988198
 Wat Tham Muthita, Dan Si Suk

†**Tham Phra Ngam** **NK0021**
 ถ้ำพระงาม
 48Q 220848 1988359
 Tham Phra Ngam Monk's Camp Site, Ban Don Khanun

The campsite is 750m north on Ban Don Khanun, on the west side of the reservoir.

†**Tham Phra Ruesi** **NK0025**
 ถ้ำพระฤๅษี
 48Q 227079 1981673
 Wat Tham Phra Ruesi, Dan Si Suk

Sangkhom

Tham Pha Daeng **NK0010**
 ถ้ำผาแดง
 48Q 212638 1989877
 Ban Dong Tong, Pha Tang

This is a tourist attraction near Ban Dong Tong. The village is 6km east of the H2376 near the border with Udon Thani. The co-ordinates are for the village school.
 Dunkley (1995)

Tham Phatak Sova **NK0008**

The cave is near Sangkhom.
 Dunkley (1995)

Tham Phiang Din **NK0007**
 ถ้ำผีขงดิน
 Main entrance: 48Q 214264 1987915 Alt.: 349m

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Exit: 48Q 214218 1987890 Alt.: 354m
 Wat Tham Si Mongkhon, Ban Dong Tong
 Length: 375m VR: 9m
 Other names: Tham Din Phiang; Tham Paeng Din; Tham Si Mongkhon

Wat Tham Si Mongkhon is signed to the south of the H211. A good road, with frequent signs, goes for 20km to Ban Dong Tong and then on to the large wat.

A stream sinks into the sandstone below the large Buddha. A few metres away is a naga shrine and some steps lead down into the small entrance. After a narrow, triangular section with knee deep water the cave opens out into a small chamber. Off from the chamber is a maze with every joint eroded every couple of metres. The roof and floor are of a different, harder sandstone and the passages are about 1.5m high. The stream passage was has not been followed to a conclusion as it lowers to a crawl with bats flying out, but the resurgence is only 200m away. The guided tour goes out of the cave following a different stream passage, without the maze of passages. At one point it is necessary to crawl under a stalagmite. The upper end of the cave is a boulder choke, with one small crawl leading to a chamber. This is gated as it is used by monks for meditation. A short climb up the boulders leads to a small shrine chamber and then a 3m metal ladder goes to the to the surface, about 50m from the other entrance. The cave has been developed with electric lights and is a guided tour. Although the guides don't appear to want paying a donation is requested for the temple. The tour is done bare footed.

The cave is in sandstone, possibly of the Cretaceous Khok Kruat Formation which has calcareous sandstones. The stream rises at 48Q 214455 1987997 320m. Run off from a road sinks into a hole at 48Q 214329 1987946 339 m. These two points, plus the two entrances, are almost in a straight line. In the valley with the main rising there is a seasonal rising in the south bank with a hole big enough to get into at 48Q 214529 1987905 331m. Further down this valley there is a short shaft to running water at 48Q 214590 1987876 321m. In tributary valleys to the south there are seasonal risings at 48Q 214340 1987770 349m and 48Q 214417 1987768 340m. These shallow valleys join and the combined valley has a seasonal rising at 48Q 214529 1987905 331m. Upstream of the cave a seasonal rising was seen at 48Q 214167 1987909 354m and there are several other risings and sinks in this area.

Wat Tham Si Mongkhon or Wat Tham Phiang Din is the 38th temple of amphoe Sangkhom. It was built in 1938 by Luangphu Hom who stayed here as a monk on austere practices. Luangpu Sang came to stay at this temple in 1947. In 1960 Luangpu Song arrived here and joined the building of a preaching hall. Later more buildings and monk cells were established. At present the temple covers an area of 150 rai having nine monks and two novices. The most important place in this temple is Tham Phiang Din, the cave which the temple is named after. It has been told for generations that the cave was a channel used by a monk on pilgrimage from Laos to come here without crossing the border by boat. Only virtuous men or noble monks could see the path in the cave. Later, the cave was discovered by a hunter who chased his prey to this cave and entered the cave through its tiny entrance. The cave was similar to the underwater world of nagas (mythical serpent) according to the belief of the villagers. According to hearsay the cave has no end and the deeper it runs the lesser moisture it has. Several very large spiders were seen in the cave in January 2012.

The first visit by speleologists was by a SMCC/NSS team in June 2009. The cave was then visited by John Dunkley in February 2011 who carried out a basic survey of about 375 m of passage. On a return visit in January 2012 the SMCC/NSS team GPSed the entrances and several other sinks and risings, including the main rising for the stream.

Bohwongprasert (2009); Dunkley (1995); Freeman (2000), (2003)

†Tham Sua

NK0018

ถ้ำเสือ

48Q 338904 2036957

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.

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Si Chiang Mai

†**Tham Bo Pha Se** NK0022
48Q 229720 1988075
Wat Tham Pu La, Phra Phutthabat

At the turning to Wat Tham Pu La, to the south of the H211 and a few kilometres east of Wat Hin Mak Peng, this cave was signed along a footpath on the opposite (northern) side of the road.

The rocks in this area are sandstone.

The site was recorded by a SMCC/NSS team in June 2009.

†**Tham Hai** NK0016
48Q 232460 1985089
Wat Pa Tham Hai, Ban Kham Kaeo, Ban Mo

This forest temple is 1.25km south-east of Ban Kham Kaeo and 2.5km south of the H211.

†**Tham Pha Bok** NK0024
48Q 225724 1990994
Wat Tham Pha Bok, Phra Phutthabat

†**Tham Pu La** NK0015
ถ้ำปู่หล้า
48Q 229705 1987516 Alt.: 195m
Wat Tham Pu La, Phra Phutthabat

The forest wat is signed to the south of the H211 a few kilometres to the east of Wat Hin Mak Peng. Take a fork to the left to reach the wat.

The wooden wat was under construction on a visit in June 2009. The rocks are sandstone and the cave was not looked for.

The site was recorded by a SMCC/NSS team in June 2009.

Tha Bo

†**Tham Tao** NK0020
48Q 219932 1768853
Huai Tham Tao

The stream is 3km west of the Mae Nam Mae Khong river.
Dunkley (1995)

Unknown Amphoe

Cave NK0011 NK0011
Ban Nam Phu

One of two caves reported in the hills near Ban Nam Phu.
Dunkley (1995), Parkes (1992)

Cave NK0012 NK0012
Ban Nam Phu

The other of two caves reported in the hills near Ban Nam Phu
Dunkley (1995), Parkes (1992)

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Cave NK0013**NK0013**

Pung Ka

One of the two temple caves reported from Pung Ka.

Cave NK0014**NK0014**

Pung Ka

The other of the two temple caves reported from Pung Ka.

Bibliography

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Cave Data (Listed by code number)

Number	Name	Co-ordinates	Altitude	Length	VR
NK0001					
NK0002					
NK0003					
NK0004					
NK0005					
NK0006					
NK0007	Tham Phiang Din	48Q 214264 1987915	349	375	6
NK0008	Tham Phatak Sova				
NK0009					
NK0010	Tham Pha Daeng	48Q 212638 1989877			
NK0011	Cave NK0011				
NK0012	Cave NK0012				
NK0013	Cave NK0013				
NK0014	Cave NK0014				
NK0015	Tham Pu La	48Q 229705 1987516	195		
NK0016	Tham Hai	48Q 232460 1985089			
NK0017	Tham Han	48Q 218483 1989511			
NK0018	Tham Sua	48Q 338904 2036957			
NK0019	Tham Dan Ok	48Q 228094 1984185			
NK0020	Tham Tao	48Q 219932 1768853			
NK0021	Tham Phra Ngam	48Q 220848 1988359			
NK0022	Tham Bo Pha Se	48Q 229720 1988075			
NK0023	Tham Muthita	48Q 219855 1988198			
NK0024	Tham Pha Bok	48Q 225724 1990994			
NK0025	Tham Phra Ruesi	48Q 227079 1981673			

Survey

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