

Phang Nga Information

Introduction

Phang-Nga is a primarily agricultural province in the south of Thailand. The chief cash crop is rubber, and rubber plantations cover a considerable area, especially noticeable along the roads. Aside from that, however, large areas are also given to food crops. Considerable amounts of rice, vegetables and fruits are produced in Phang-Nga. Phang-Nga province has an area of 4,170 sq. kms., a large part of which is forest.

Boundary

North	Borders Ranong Province and Surat Thani Province
South	Borders Phuket Province and the Andaman Sea
East	Borders Surat Thani Province and Krabi Province
West	Borders the Andaman Sea

From Phang-Nga city to its districts :

- Kuraburi 125 kms.
- Thap Put 26 kms.
- Kapong 47 kms.
- Takua Thung 14 kms.
- Takua Pa (No.4090) 59 kms.
- Takua Pa (No.4) 129 kms.
- Thai Meuang 57 kms.
- Ko Yao 138 kms.

From Phang-Nga city to nearby provinces :

- Ranong 226 kms.
- Surat Thani 196 kms.
- Krabi 86 kms.
- Phuket 87 kms.

Major Events

The Turtle Releasing Festival

Phang-nga Province has an annual 7-day Turtle Releasing Festival in March. Turtles raised by the Fisheries Dept. are released by festival participants into the sea at Thai Muang Beach.

Shopping

Artificial Flowers are made by village women from rubber tree leaves. These are ingeniously conceived and handmade. They can be purchased from the Agricultural Dept. Office in Phang-Nga Town, and also from the Farm Women's Group in various districts. Call the Agricultural Dept. Office at (076) 412019 between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for further information.

Agricultural Products and Seafood

Phang-nga is famous for its shrimp paste, called kapi, which comes in several styles, e.g. Kapi Koh Yao and Kapi KO Panyee. Also popular is gung siab, which is dried shrimp eaten with a kapi based spicy condiment called nam prik. These items can be found in local stores and markets everywhere

How to get there

By Road

From Bangkok, take Route 4, passing Prachuab Khirikan, Chumpon, and Ranong. Total distance is 788 kms. and travel time to Phang-Nga Town is approximately 12 hours.

From Phuket, use route 402, pass the parallel spans of Sarasin and Thao Thep Krasatri Bridges. You are now in Phang-Nga province. To go on to the provincial capital, go north to the town of Kok Kloy. Turn right (at Bangkok Bank), and follow Route 4 to Phang-Nga Town. You will pass Takua Thung along the way and cover a distance of 87 kms. Travel time is about 90 minutes

By Air

One can travel via Bangkok-Phuket flight and extend the journey by road for another 58 kilometers.

[Please click here to reserve flight ticket or to preview flight schedule](#)

Tourist attractions

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Muang Phang Nga

Rusisawan Cave and Luk Sua Cave

These two caves are located on Khao Chang Road in the vicinity of Muang Phangnga municipal area near Phetchakasem Highway, slightly opposite to the Provincial Court. One can walk inside from one cave through another. The Rusi Sawan Cave is in front of Luk Sua Cave facing the edge of Phetchakasem Highway. The municipality utilizes this area as a public park for the people.

Phung Chang Cave

This cave is located, in Muang Phangnga municipal area, behind the Provincial Hall before entering Phangnga Market area make a turn via a 500 meter asphalt road to Wat Praphat Prajimbkhet where one can walk to the cave.

Sa Nang Manora Forest Park

This, also known as Sa Nang Manora Waterfall, is located in the area of Tambon Nop Pring Amphoe Muang. To access the park one has to use Phangnga-Krabi route (Highway No.4) for a distance of five kilometers where a turn is made at the Electricity Generating Station via a three kilometer late rite road to the fall area. The park occupies an area of 180 rai and, in general, it is a pleasant forest having various kinds of plant and wood species. The outstanding characteristic of this park is the fall originating from a stream flowing along the hillside and cascading down to the big reservoir all year round.

Ao Phangnga National Park

This marine park is situated in the vicinities of Amphoe Muang, Takua Thung, and KO Yao occupying an area of 250,000 rai and it was announced as the national park area on April 29, 1981. To access AO Phangnga from the township area, one has to use Highway No.4 heading southward to Tambon Khok Kloi passing the Provincial Hall and when arriving at KM.8 make a left turn for another four kilometer distance via Highway No.4144 to Ao Phangnga National Park. At the Customs Check Point Pier one can find boating services operated by private enterprises (besides this pier, one can use the Surakul

Pier or Kasom Pier in Amphoe Takua Thung). Those who travel as a big group tour should use the boating service at the Customs Pier because suitable vessels are available here. Sightseeing route will commence from the pier passing Khao Machu, Khao Khian, Ko Panyi and stops will be made at Tham Lot, Khao Tapu, Khao Phing Kan.

Attractions in The Area of Ao Phang Nga Natural Park are :

Ko Panyi

Ko Panyi is a small flat island of about one rai. There are about 120 households and the majority of the population earn their living from fishery, selling souvenirs and food to tourists. There is one public school named Ban Ko Panyi School, and the villagers are mostly Moslem.

Khao Phing Kan

This small hill is located in the area of Amphoe Takua Thung. The origin of this name is that a rocky hill is broken apart and the smaller piece slid down with the base sunk in the earth while the upper part still abuts on another posing the present leaning hills. Behind Khao Phing Kan the scenery is very picturesque and when looking afar to the sea "Khao Tapu" is seen amidst the sea. It looks like a nail, e.g., having a big top while the bottom part touching the sea is slim.

Tham Lot

This cave is located in Ao Phangnga area. Stalactites and stalagmites found in the cave are very beautiful.

Khao Machu

This rocky hill has a shape similar to a dog. It is located on the way to Ko Panyi.

Khao Hong

Khao Hong comprises small and big hills situated in a mixed-up manner like the stage partitions of a theatre. Looking around on a boat when sailing in, one will feel like staying in a big hall having two doors. Tourists mostly do not visit Khao Hong because it is located outside the usual sightseeing route. To visit it properly, careful timing must be taken into consideration to match with the proper tide level because its beauty will be decreased by too high a tide while too low a tide requires smaller vessel for boating inside the area.

Ko Phanak

Ko Phanak is a beautiful island having various stalactites and stalagmites caves with small levelled waterfalls inside.

Tham Kaeo

This cave is a home of swallows and there are beautiful reflecting rocks inside.

Khao Khian

It is located on the way to Ko Panyi and there are various paintings of animal of different types. The Fine Arts Department has studied and found that the age of those paintings is not less than 3,000 years and it is believed that those paintings were made by seamen, in the ancient days, who stopped over to hide from a heavy storm.

Tham Nak

The name of this cave is given in compliance with the shape of stalagmites which look like a big curled up snake.

Ko Khai

There are two small islands named Ko Khai Nok and Ko Khai Nai having beautiful beaches and rocks. There are also coral reefs around the islands.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Ko Yao

Ko Yao

Ko Yao covers an area of 137.6 square kilometers consisting of 2 main islands, Ko Yao noi and Ko Yao Yai, and several surrounding islets. Beautiful beaches include:

Hat Pa Sai

This clean white sandy beach is located seven kilometers from the office of Amphoe Ko Yao. It is surrounded with pleasant shady-trees and swimming can be done safely. Looking out from the beach several islands of Krabi Province are seen.

Hat Tha Khao

This rocky beach is located five kilometers from the office of Amphoe Ko Yao. There are colourful rocks and gravels with various designs on the beach. Not so far from the shore, there is a small island called Ko Nok where one can access by walking during the low tide time. On the island there are wild plants and orchids which are lovely to see.

Ao Tikut

This bay has white clean sand and there is a picturesque rocky cape at the northern area of the bay. Pine trees line the shore making a pleasant shady area.

Ao Khiong Son

This clean white sandy beach is pleasant with shady pine trees. There are small rocky cliffs and colourful rocks on the left. Swimming can be done safely here and beautiful coral reefs can be observed. During low tide one can pick up beautiful shells for collection.

Loparaet

This is a shady beach surrounded with coconut groves. The long beach is covered with white powdery sand. There is a rocky cape located at the north of the bay. Swimming can be done at any time here.

Laem Hat

This is a very long white powdery beach and looks pleasant with shady coconut groves, chashew nuts, and pine trees. It is conveniently accessible by road and by boat.

Ao Hin Kong

This beach is pleasant with shady Khiam forest but it is not good for swimming because of a huge number of ray fingerlings.

Laem Nok Ok

This cape has a beautiful beach with rocky cliffs and colourful rocks and it is the place where one can swim at all times.

Ao Sai

This is a white powdery beach with beautiful rocky cliffs and swimming can be done at all times.

Ao Lan

This is a beautiful sandy beach where swimming is possible but the northern part of the cape is a steep cliff with deep water under the cliff. Water transportation is more convenient than land transportation to reach there.

To get to Ko Yao, you are recommended to travel by passenger boat, chartered boat, or speed boat from Ao Po Pier, Phuket Province. The travel takes

about one hour and 15 minutes. Chartered boat is also available at Ao Phangnga Pier and Learn Sak Pier Amphoe Ao Luk, Krabi Province.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Thap Put

Tao Thong Waterfall

This waterfall is in the vicinity of Tambon Bo Saen. To access the waterfall, the same route to Sa Nang Manora Park has to be used but one has to go further to Mu 3, Tambon Bo Saen where a laterite road of 11 kilometer distance branches off to the fall.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Takua Thung

Wat Suwan Khuha

This monastery is located at Mu2, Tambon Krasom. To get there one must use the Phangnga-Khok Kloi route (Highway No.4) for a distance of seven kilometers to arrive at Mu 2 (KM. 31), Amphoe Takua Thung, a one kilometer asphalt road branches off on the right.

This Wat Suwan Khuha is generally called, by the villagers, "Wat Tharn" which is an interesting monastery having the most importance in Phangnga due to its being an important historical archaeological site. In the vicinity of the monastery area, there is a mountain having several big and small caves situated in both low and high locations. The important caves are: Tham Yai, Tham Chaeng, Tham Mued, and Tham Kaeo.

Tham Yai is located at the lowest level where one must pass through prior to entering other caves. The size of this cave is larger than any other caves having a width of more than 20 meters, and a length of more than 40 meters. The cave floor is flat while the ceiling has a semi-circle shape like a boat roof. There are decorations with earthenware of various colours, sizes, and designs along the entire cave length. Tham Yai is used as a Vihara enshrining various sizes of stucco Buddha images; the most important one is a very beautiful 15 meter Reclining Buddha.

Raman Waterfall

This fall is situated near Wat Tham Suwan Khuha, i.e., from KM. 31, there is a seven kilometer branch road on the right leading to the fall. Raman Waterfall, medium sized falls, is surrounded by thick jungle providing water all year. There is a large sized rest pavilion but other facilities are not available there.

Tha Nun Seashore

Branching Highway No. 4 through Highway No.402 to Phuket one can see sandy beaches on both sides of Pak Phra Channel before arriving at Phuket Island. There are sea turtles laying eggs on these beaches every year during the season.

Khao Pilai Seashore

This locality is situated in the vicinity of Tambon Khok Kloi and it is adjacent to Tha Nun Beach. Even there are some rocky cliffs on the white sandy beach, swimming can be done.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Thai Muang

Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Muang National Park

This park covers an area of 45,000 rai and was proclaimed as a national park area on April 14, 1986. Places of interest in the vicinity of this national park are:

Lampi Waterfall

This fall is situated in Mu 6, Tambon Thai Muang, along the Phetchakasem Highway (Highway No.4). Between KM. 32-33, a laterite road of 1.5 kilometers branches off on the left to the fall. Lampi Waterfall, medium sized falls, has three levels each of which is about 100 meters in height. The falls exist all year round and more people like to visit during rainy season.

Ton Phrai Waterfall

At KM. 28-29, a seven kilometer late rite road branches off on the left but a foot trip is still needed for another kilometer to view the fall. This is a large sized waterfall with cascading water all year round and a trip to see this waterfall should be made during the dry season for travelling convenience.

Thai Muang Seashore

This is located in the vicinity of Thai Muang Sanitary area where a 1.5 kilometer asphalt road branches off on the right to join the beach road. for another five kilometer to reach the office of the national par Thai Muang Beach is a 13 kilometer clean sandy beach paral to the Highway. The water is clear, good for swimming; fro November to February sea turtles will come up to the beach f laying eggs. This started a tradition of walking to observe eg laying turtles in the bright moon night. After the hatching peril there is also a turtle releasing festival called "Turtle Walkil Tradition"

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Takua Pa

Bang Sak Beach

This beach is situated in the vicinity of Tambon Bang Muang along the Phetchakasem Highway at KM. 75-76 where a one kilometer road branches off on the right. Bang Sak Beach has clean white sand and good weather. The grilled fish here is very famous the same as at Rawai Beach of Phuket Island.

Khao Lak-Lam Au National Park

Declared national park in 1989, Khao Lak-Lam Ru covers a " total area of some 93,750 rai of Amphoe Thai Muang, Amphoe Ka Pong, Amphoe Ta Kua Pa, and Amphoe Muang and consists of the following attractions :

Khao Lak

Taking the route No.4 (Thai Muang-Ta Kua Pa) for 25 kilometers from Amphoe Ta Kua Pa then turning left between kilometer markers 56-57, Khao lak Mountain with a shrine of Chao Pho Khao Lak is situated opposite to khao Lak Seashore renowned for its stony beach.

Lam Ru Waterfall

A 5-tiered yearlong waterfall on Kradao Range, Lam Ru Waterfall is accessible by a branch road from the Highway No.4090 via Amphoe Ka Pong with a 1-kilometer turn to the falls.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Ka Pong

Wat Narainikaram

Situated at Tambon Le, some 14 kilometers from Amphoe Ka Pong, the monastery is where the sculptures of Narayana, Laksaman, and Sita, all related to the historical backgrouhd of "Takola" (former name of Ta Kua Pa), are enshrined. They also attest to the spread of Indian culture to this region.

Ka Pong Hot Spring

The mineral spring of 65 degree c. is located at Tambon Tha Na, 8 kilometers from Amphoe Ka Pong.

Tourist Attractions in Amphoe Khura Buri

Ban Thung Tuk Ancient Town

This remains are located on the back part of Tambon Ko Kho Khao, Mu 3 area, Amphoe Khura Buri between the ends of Muang Thong Canal and Thung Tuk Canal which is the mouth of Takua Pa River area. Characteristics of the area are sand, plain, covered with trees and some spots are brushes. The reason why it is generally called, by the villagers, "Thung Tuk" is that there are at least three archaeological remains. They look similar to a building or sanctuary, on this sand plain in the brush area. Parts and components of a Bhraman religious place and religious symbols, such as stone carved into a pedestrian shape with a pit at the bottom, it looks like a base whereupon a Siva Unga or an idol is placed. In addition, pieces of Chinaware, earthenware, coloured glass containers as well as various types and colours of beads, Indian coins are scatteredly found on the ground of this Thung Tuk archaeological remains. The majority of archaeological expert has resolved that Thung Tuk was a location of an ancient port town where Indians, Arabians, and Malaysians were so well acquainted due to its being an important spice market situated on the west bank of the Malayan Peninsula. It is located in a suitable locality having appropriate natural circumstances to anchor in safety from big storms. Besides its perfect natural resources, it is situated nearby the deep open sea where big vessels can access conveniently, and yet located on the mouth of Takua Pa River which is also the center of water communication.

Mu Ko Similan National Park

This park occupies an area of 80,000 rai and was announced as the national park area on September 1st 1982. There are two ways to access the Similan, i.e., taking a boat trip from the pier in Ban Thap Lamu, Amphoe Thai Muang, through a distance of 40 kilometers which takes about three hours or taking a boat trip from a pier in Amphoe Khura Buri through an approximate distance of 40 kilometers and it also takes about three hours. Similan, a small archipelago in the Andaman Sea comprises nine islands. It is appraised by the Skin-Diving Magazine of USA as one of the top ten islands having both surface and under water beautiful scenery.

A tourist can enjoy scuba diving or angling and it is convenient to start the trip from Phuket where boat-hire service is available for tourists. The best time to make a trip for diving and angling is from late December to mid April. March is regarded as the month with best weather, free from storm, and clear water.

Some attractive islands of the national park include :

Similan Island

With wonderful underwater scenery and rather shallow sea level, the horseshoe-shaped island, partly encircling a small bay in the west, is suitable for skin diving to look at coral reefs and colourful fishes. In the north, large stones of different shapes and sizes are noticeable from a distance. Ko Similan is the largest island among the Similan Islands.

Ba Ngu or Hua Ka Lok Island

Ko Hua Ka Lok or Skull Island is the seventh island in the Similan group. A rocky island of peculiar shape, it looks like a skull when viewed from one certain point. Ko Hua Ka Lok is renowned for its breathtaking underwater beauty on a many-tiered seabed.

Hu Yong Island

Ko Hu Yong is well-known for its longest stretch of white sandy beach where sea turtles lay their eggs.

Miang Island

With sufficient supply of fresh water. Ko Miang is the second largest island where the office and guesthouses of the Similan Marine National Park is located. The island is famous for its beautiful beaches and colourful coral reefs.

Mu Ko Surin National Park

This park is situated at Mu 5, Tambon Ko Phra Thong, occupying an area of 84, 375 rai. It was announced as a national park area on July 9, 1981. To access Surin National Park, the shortest distance between the park and Phangnga is to use the fish marketing pier of Ban Hin Lat around the mouth of Nang Yon Canal area (the folks there call it Thun Nang Dam Canal). The access road to the fish marketing pier is a one kilometer earth road which branches off from Ranong-Takua Pa Highway at KM. 110 (from Ranong), 5 kms. from Amphoe Khura Buri. To travel from this pier take only 4-5 hours. Travelling by boat from Phangnga (township area), it will take about 13 hours. If boating from Kapur of Ranong the time will be seven hours approximately.

The best time to visit Mu Ko Surin National Park is only from December to March.

Attractions within the national park are :

Surin Islands

The area consists of Ko Surin Nua and Ko Surin Tai with more than 10 bays among which Mae Khai or Mae Yai Bay is renowned for its serenity while Ao Luk or Deep Bay is famous for its deep dark green waters with a most beautiful coral reef in the shallows.

Seamen

Sing tribe, the last seamen living a primitive life in their houseboats in Thailand, inhabit Ko Surin Tai beach. Opposite to the national park office, there is a carved wood sculpture similar to an American Indian totem. It is most revered by the seamen tribe. The tribe convene here annually for a 3-day gathering on the full moon night of the 3rd lunar month to pay respect to their totem spirits.

REMARKS :

The most appropriate time to go sightseeing in the Andaman Sea is from the beginning of November to mid summer around the end of April. However, prior to starting each trip information on weather status should be obtained from the Weather Forecasting Division, Department of Meteorology (Tel: 2580437-9) in advance for safety.

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