

# Khao Chamao- Khao Wong National Park

*Evergreen forests blanket over 83.68 square kilometres of the rich wilderness and natural scenic region. The park offers many attractions for naturalists. The area of Khao Chamao - Khao Wong National Park covers parts of Klaeng district in Rayong province and Kaeng Hang Maeo in Chanthaburi province.*



## History

In 1974, during when the government was considering to establish Khao Chamao - Khao Wong National Park, the idea was fully supported by world-renowned biologist and conservationist, Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, who was Secretariat of the Association of Conservation of Wildlife and Natural Resource Conservation Club of Srinakharinwirot University - Pratumwan Campus and a column published by the Siamrat Daily Newspaper. Shortly, it became Thailand's 13<sup>th</sup> national park in 1975.

## Geography

The mountain range of Khao Chamao has a peak elevation at 1,024 metres above mean sea level. The watershed forest is origin to the Prasae River, a significant lifeline of Rayong province. The Khao Wong forest region encircles the range with very beautiful scenic cliffs into nearby Chanthaburi province.

## Climate

Heavy rains from May to October bring an annual rainfall of 3,000 millimetres to the entire region. Winter months from November to February bring cooler temperatures making the park quite comfortable to visit. Summer months of March and April are quite warm with temperatures at 26-27 degree Celsius.

## Flora and Fauna

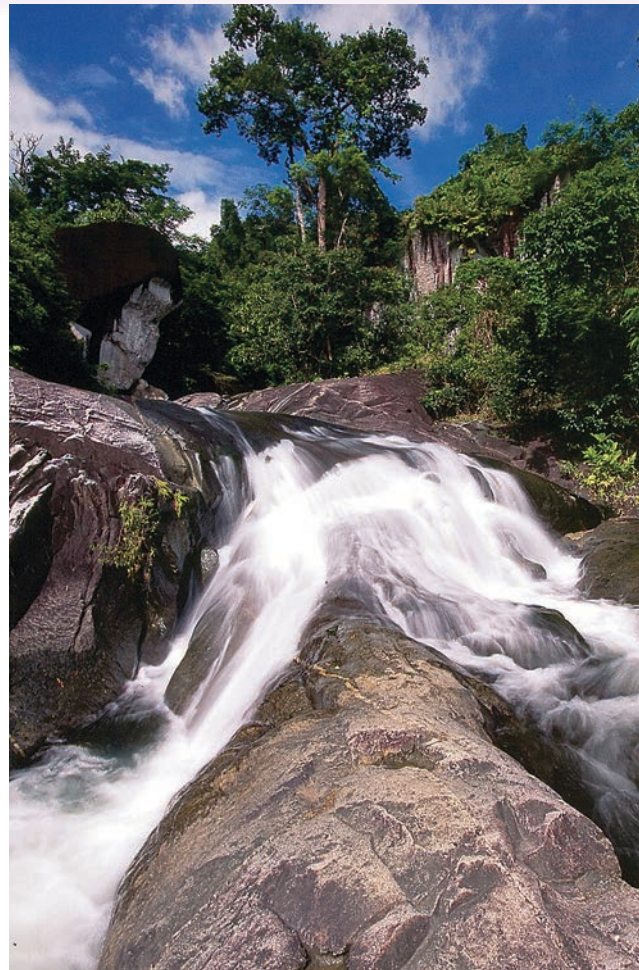
The Evergreen forests in Khao Chamao - Khao Wong National Park is ideal for a variety of many plants including *Irvingia malayana*, *Chukrasia tubularis*, *Lagerstroemia calyculata*, *Peltophorum dasyrachis*, *Markhamia stipulata* and *Syzygium* sp. as well as wild orchids. Plants that grow in the dense shrub layers are *Calamus* sp., *Bambusa bambos* along with different kinds of ferns.

The forest is home to many wildlife species including Asian Elephant, Guar, Southwest China Serow, Sun Bear, Wild Boar, Northern Red Muntjac, Sambar and Pileated Gibbon.

Many bird species can be seen such as Hill Myna, Red Junglefowl, Silver Pheasant, Common Iora, Black Drongo, Rufescent Prinia, Greater Coucal, and Lineated Barbet.

## Attractions

◆ **Khao Chamao Waterfall.** This waterfall is quite close to the office and a kilometre from main road. The crystal-clear stream cascades for 3 kilometres through many steps and pools.



## Getting There

- From Bangkok, motorists can take Highway 3. After passing through Ban Khao Din Market, turn left to Highway 3377 (Ban Khao Din-Phatthana Intersection). The park's entrance is at km. 17 and the park headquarters is 1 kilometre from the main road.



There are many beautiful corners nice for picnic such as Wang Matcha, Wang Morakot, Pha Kluaimai, Namtok Hok Sai and Pha Sung. At Wang Matcha, you can enjoy the clear stream and bigschool of Soro Brook Carp living densely there.

◆ **Pha Sawan.** The towering cliff is just ahead of Khao Chamao Waterfall. Its 900 metres trail is beautified by various kinds of flora and fauna.

◆ **Khlong Pla Kang Waterfall.** The waterfall is one of the most beautiful in the area. Surrounded by rich wilderness and densely blanketed by ferns and wild orchids.

◆ **Khao Wong Cave.** The small cave can be divided into 80 chambers, each of which has unique styles. For example, some chambers are shaped like a priest, theatre, diamonds and a pagoda. Today, sixteen chambers are opened for the public to see. The mountain is habitat for large gatherings of Serow.

Khao Wong is 18 kilometres from Na Yai Am Market in Tha Mai district, Chanthaburi province.