

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park

Doi Suthep Mountain was formerly known as Doi Oi Chang. Its present name comes from a hermit who practiced meditation in this mountain a thousand years ago. The forest was combined with 13 more forests nearby. In 1981, it was declared Thailand's 24th national park. A year later, more area was united along the park's boundary.

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park stretches over 261.06 square kilometres area in Mae Rim, Mae Taeng, Hang Dong and Mueang districts of Chiang Mai.

Geography

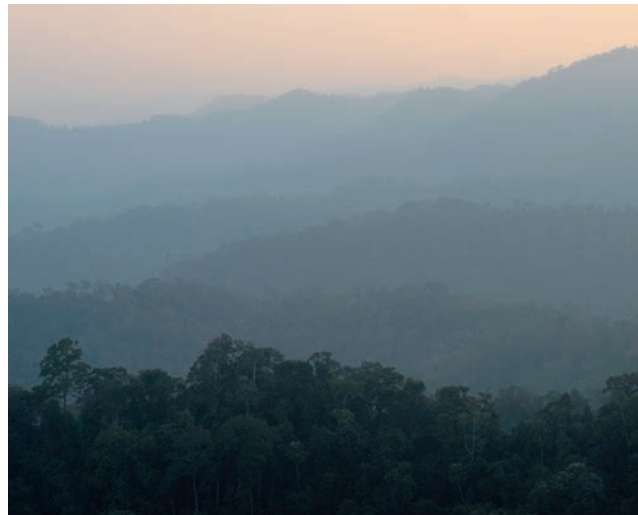
As part of the upper Phi Pan Nam range, the national park features rugged mountain range. Significant peaks include Doi Suthep, Doi Buak Ha, and the highest, Doi Pui, sits at 1,685 metres above mean sea level. The watershed mountain range originates streams namely Huai Kaeo, Huai Chang Khian and Huai Mae Hia, which are tributaries of the Mae Ping River.

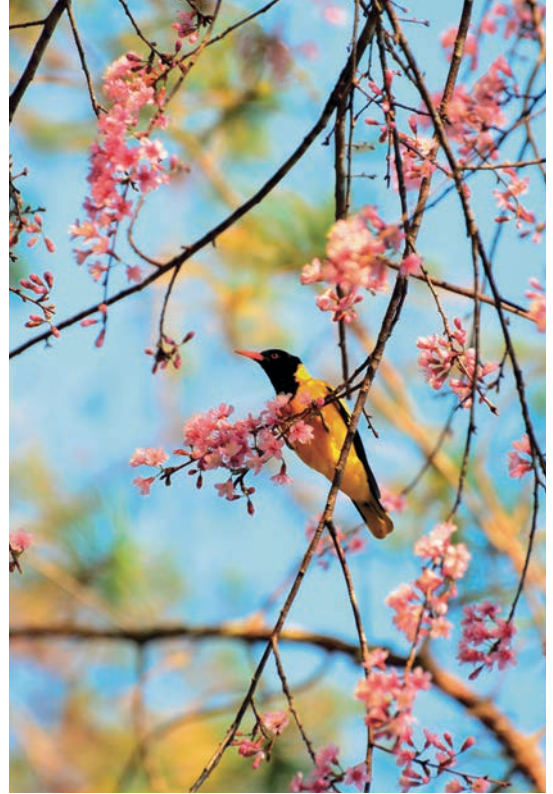
Climate

The average temperature is 16 degree Celsius. Winter season is cold and summer season is comfortable.

Getting There

- The park's headquarters on the Huai Kaeo Road, which is located at the foot of Doi Suthep Mountain, opposite Khru Ba Siwichai Monument and near Chiang Mai Zoo.





Flora and Fauna

The park features montane rain forest, deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed deciduous forest and pine forest. The lush forests comprise of various plants such as *Shorea obtusa*, *S. siamensis*, *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, *D. tuberculatus*, *Lagerstroemia tomentosa*, *Dalbergia* sp, *Hopea odorata* and *Pinus kesiya*.

At present wildlife in the park is interrupted by local people and hill tribes. However, one can often find Northern Red Muntjac, Sambar, Phayre's Leaf-monkey and over 200 species of bird such as Large Hawk-cuckoo, Mrs Hume's Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, Silver Pheasant, Black-naped Oriole, Vernal Hanging-parrot, Asian Paradise-flycatcher and Scarlet Minivet.

Attractions

◆ **Bhubing Palace.** Famed for its remarkable beauty, the hilltop palace is the northern royal palace for His Majesty the King and the royal family. The palace was built in 1961 and its architecture is Thai style. Nature around the palace remains highly conserved while the palace gardens contain various types of beautiful flora. The palace is 17 kilometres from the park headquarters.

◆ **Phra That.** The significant temple houses a stupa, sacred building of Buddhism, which shares history with the foundation of Chiang Mai. Built in 1384 and its architecture Lanna style, the Naga stairs lead to the ancient temple whose stupa houses Lord Buddha's relic. The temple is quite precious for people and pilgrims.

◆ **Khruba Siwichai Monument.** The monument was built to commemorate Khru Ba Siwichai, a Buddhist monk, who led the local people and helped to build the 12 kilometres uphill road to Phra That Doi Suthep Temple in 1934.

◆ **Huai Kaeo Waterfall.** Huai Kaeo stream flows from Doi Suthep and cascades through Huai Kaeo waterfall. Not far upstream is Wang Bua Ban, where the legendary love story of Chiang Mai lady occurred.

◆ **Montha Than Waterfall.** The 3 steps waterfall is the most beautiful one in the park.

◆ **Mae Sa Waterfall.** It is one of the most beautiful waterfalls. The large waterfall cascades through 8 level steps, each of which is 100-500 metres away from others. The other waterfalls from the same stream are Sri Sangwan, Mahidol, Tat Mok-Wang Hang and Mok Fa Waterfall.