

Namtok Mae Surin

National Park

Situated in remote jungle amidst rugged mountains in the Khun Yuam and Mueang districts of Mae Hong Son, the park stretches over 396.60 square kilometres. An aerial survey has found that the forest around Mae Surin Waterfall is rich and dense. The coneshaped Doi Pui Mountain has a unique landscape with flat-top summit which is blanketed with cold weather all the year round. Its waterfalls, Mae Surin and Pha Bong, are major natural attractions. Thus, Thailand's 37th national park was established in 1981.

Geography

Most of the park is made up of rugged ranges, rocky mountains and towering cliffs particularly at Doi Khun Nam Rin and Doi Pui. The vast wilderness is the watershed of many tributaries that contribute to the Pai River.

Climate

It is quite cold during the winter. Heavy rains occur in the rainy season. So, winter and summer are the best times to make a visit to the park.

Flora and Fauna

Mixed deciduous and deciduous dipterocarp forests blanket low land by the streams whose high moisture nourishes the trees. Its major plants include *Dipterocarpus alatus* and *Terminalia bellirica*. Pine forest covers most steep ridges where *Pinus merkusii* and *P. kesiya* can be found.

Numerous kinds of wildlife can be found here such as Bears, Sambar, Northern Red Muntjac, Wild Boar, Common Palm Civets, Civets, Macaques, Langurs, Gibbons and Tiger as well as different kinds of birds.

Attractions

◆ **Mae Surin Waterfall.** It is one of the highest waterfalls in Thailand. Mae Surin Stream crashes onto the cliffs and rocks 180 metres below. Situated 38 kilometres from Khun Yuam district, it can be accessed during the dry season only.

◆ **Pha Bong Waterfall.** Dam Khon Stream falls through 2 levels from 30 metres. It is 12 kilometres from Mae Hong Son.





◆ **Pai River.** The river has a lovely beach which is a perfect place for camping. An exciting white water rafting tour is available on this river.

◆ **Nong Khiao.** The vast plain situated on the ridge is covered with pine forest. You need to trek 2 hours from Mae Surin Waterfall to reach this area.

◆ **Doi Pui Peak.** Famous for its cold weather, the flat top mountain is home to many temperate climate plants.

◆ **Nam Hu Haichai Cave.** It is a strange natural phenomenon. Every 25 minutes, the cave wall expels water from the holes on its surface. It is assumed that such an occurrence is a result of water pressure built up deep underground. The cave is in Pha Bong district. To reach the cave, you are required to walk for 3-4 hours from Ban Huai Nam, Mae Saku.

Getting There

■ From Mae Hong Son, use highway 1095 for 9 kilometres to Pai. Then turn right and continue for 3 kilometres to the park's headquarters. To Mae Surin waterfall from Mae Hong Son, take highway 108 (Mae Hong Son-Khun Yuam) for 63 kilometres. Mae Surin waterfall is 38 kilometres from Khun Yuam district.

