



National Park Office
National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department

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National Park Bulletin

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Si Satchanalai National Park
in Honor of His Majesty the King

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The National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department is very grateful for the King's commitment and diligence towards Thai people. He has a strong understanding of the decline in natural resource and environmental deterioration, recognizing in particular the important inter-relationships between soil, water and the forest. Consequently he has shared his visions for managing natural resources and the environment. He is a great source of motivation and initiative for Thai conservation.

On this occasion of his birthday, on 5th December 2005, officers of the National Park Office wish his majesty The King a long life and strong health, so that he may continue to be the foundation of Thai society, serving to inspire and nurture Thai people for ever.

Chairat Chayamarit
Director of National Park Office

Special Report

Dark-tipped Cabbage

This butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) was discovered by Mr. Pisut Ekamnuay during October 2004 in Mae Cham District, Chiang Mai Province. Although

it looks similar to the Indian Cabbage Butterfly (*Pieris brassicae*) common in north Thailand, it can be identified by the sharper angle on the corner of the fore wing and a wider black strip on the wing edge. Studies show that *Pieris rapae* adults metamorphose from March to October.

Report by Kampol Sukhumalind



W i l d l i f e

Giant Mountain Crab

The world's newest freshwater crab

In more than 30 years of dedicated study on freshwater crabs, Professor Paiboon Naiyanet, Thailand's only one freshwater crab specialist from the Chulalongkorn University, has identified many new crab species, in Thailand and throughout the world. Several of these species have been named, by asking permission of using the Thai royal family, due to celebrating Thai royalty and bringing honour to Thai crab taxonomy. Such as Regal Crab (*Demanietta sirikit*), first found in Western of Thailand at Ban Nam Chon, Sai Yok District, Kanchanaburi Province; Princess's Crab (*Phricotelphusa sirindhorn*), discovered from Southern Thailand at Ngao Waterfall of Namtok Ngao National Park in Mueang District, Ranong Province; and Crimson Crab (*Potamon galyaniae*), a spectacular crustacean found in jungle creeks of Sisawat District, Kanchanaburi Province, Western Thailand. The last new specie of Crab that

was find is the Giant Mountain Crab, which was discovered for the first time in the world at Phu Luang Wildlife Sanctuary, Wang Saphung District, Loei Province in the Northeast of Thailand. Notable for the dark brown coloring of the shell, legs and pincers, Giant Mountain Crab can be distinguished from other crabs by purple coloration on the inside of the pincer, contrasting with brown-orange at the edge. After carefully comparing Giant Mountain Crab with other freshwater crabs around the world, it was found to be previously unreported. Permission for royal naming of the new species of freshwater crab has been obtained and Thailand newest freshwater crab has been bestowed with the scientific name *Potamon bhumibol*, in honor of His Majesty the King Bhumibol.

Further studies have shown that the Giant Mountain Crab is the biggest freshwater crab in Thailand but is also

extremely rare freshwater crab; very few have been found along small stream in broadleaf evergreen forest at over 1,000 m. high from sea level and only known from Loei Province.



P l a n t - l i f e

The Graceful Climber
Kan Phai Mahidol

Thailand is situated in the middle past of South East Asia where is sending bio-geographic regions-Himalaya, Indo-China and Indo-Malaya. Therefore Thailand is the high biodiversity and has many endermic species that found only in Thailand. One of those is the rare climbing shrub Kan Phai Mahidol, found only in western Thailand.

Kan Phai Mahidol is a perennial legume specie. It is made distinctive by small thick hairs that grow on many parts of the plant. The thin leaves are elliptic in shape with pinnate arrangement, covered with the thick hairs on the underside. Each stem produces 4-6 individual flowers which are purple and have a structure typical of pea flowers. From August to November this plant can found on limestone mountains in Kanchanaburi Province. It has been named *Afgekia mahidolae* in honour of the King's Mother.

Si Satchanalai National Park

Diamond of Sukhothai

Si Satchanalai, Sukhothi province is a historically significant, area with a huge collection of artifacts and many significant sites, such as Nang Phaya Temple, Phrasimahatat Ratchaworawihan Temple, Kaeng Luang Waterfall, and Tao Thuriang, where artisans follow their forebears in sculpting clay bowls.

The importance of Sukhothai today, however, lies not only in its cultural heritage, but also in its fertile forests with their variety of plants, creatures and magnificent scenery. Si Satchanalai National Park protects over 200

sq. km. of these forests. It is Thailand's 26th National Park, established in 1981, after recognition of the forest's value as a watershed area. The park contains rugged forest at elevations from 300 - 1,200 m. Forest covered mountains, such as Doi Mae Wang Chang and Doi Mae Mok are the watershed area of Huai Manao, Huai Chang, Huai Mae San, and Huai Sai Khao. The climate in the park is quiet comfortable, due to the high elevation. The coolest time is from November to February.

Si Satchanalai National Park has a complex ecosystem, containing mixed deciduous forest, dry dipterocarp forest, and hill evergreen forest. There are also various species of birds, rare and endangered species, such as Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*), Pheasant, Serow (*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), and Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*).

Various beautiful recreation sites await visitors. For example, Tat Dao Waterfall, the most impressive in Si Satchanalai National Park, falls 30 m. over 3 cascades, with a large pool beneath the final fall. Tat Duean Waterfall, just 300 m. from park headquarters, is



▲ Perfect hill evergreen forest of Si Satchanalai



▲ Sunset at viewpoint



▲ The climate is cold as Chiang Mai



▲ Wild orchid of Si Satchanalai

smaller but also offers a beautiful pool and safe swimming.

For those who love to adventure into caves, Si Satchanalai National Park has two caves – Thara Wasan Cave, and Khang Khao Cave. There are interesting flora and fauna in the vicinity of Thara Wasan Cave, such as the understory plant *Dracaena loureiri*, Serow and many species of colorful wild bird. Inside are astonishing stalagmites and stalactites of many shapes and sizes. The Khang Khao Cave is home to more than 100,000 insect eating bats. Si Satchanalai National Park also has lovely forest creeks like Huai Sai Khao and Huai Pha Cho for you to investigate. Why not visit Si Satchanalai National Park – you will be impressed by its beauty.

Prepare to enjoy the rainforest:

- Bring an umbrella, raincoat, or poncho in your pack.
- Take spare clothes or swimsuit, so you can swim in the waterfall.
- Get information about walking trails from park staff or ask them to guide you.

Tourism Calendar

The Clear Water and Colorful Birds of Si Phang-nga National Park, Phangnga Province.

3 days, 2 nights

Si Phang-nga National Park, in the south of Thailand, is a great place for people who love wilderness and the tranquility of rainforests. There are many waterfalls and a large variety of plant and bird species to see along the way

Day 1

- Arrive at Phangnga in the morning (start traveling the night before) and unpack your things at accommodation near park headquarters. Prepare a packed lunch, water and snack food for your lunch.
- Enjoy the lush un-polluted forest at Tam Nang Waterfall, which has a large pool of cool water. Swimming is safe and cool here and it's just a 500 m. walk from park headquarters.
- In the afternoon, take time to watching the beautiful birds, butterflies and dragonflies that are numerous along the creek. In the evening, savor your dinner in the cool atmosphere.

Day 2

- Take a morning walk along the creek with rocks of curious and strange shape to Ton Toei. The trail will pass by Ton Toei Noi Waterfall, just 10 m. high, before bringing you to the beautiful Ton Toei Waterfall, 45 m. in height. This is an easy and relaxing walk of just 1 hour, with plenty of birds to see along the way.
- Be ready for another walk after lunch, this time to the impressive Ton Ton Sai Waterfall, that cascades off a high cliff. Many fig trees surround the waterfall, giving rise to the name 'Ton Ton Sai' – the Thai name for 'fig tree'.

Day 3

- Following breakfast on the final morning, walk along the Nature Trail, amid welcoming bird calls and a cool breeze. Just 2 km. long, it stops at a splendid viewpoint, from which you can see the ocean and fertile mangrove forests of Phangnga. Along the way you will see some beautiful bird species also *Sapria himalayana*, a parasitic plant with one of the biggest flowers in Thailand.
- Return to Bangkok in the afternoon.

