



unesco
Global Geopark

Travel Guide Book

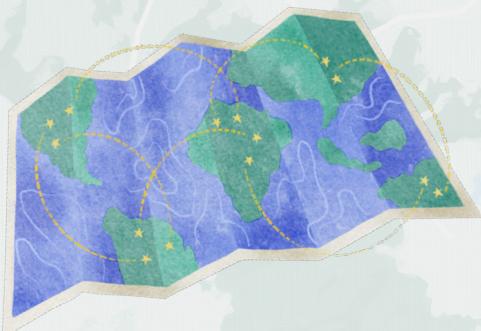
Khorat Global Geopark

An essential guide to the breathtaking landscapes,
rich heritage, and untold wonders of Nakhon Ratchasima.





Learning from the past
Understanding the present
And Imagining the future





Welcome to KHORAT Global Geopark!

Global Geopark. Here, fossilized treasures meet the warmth of traditional Thai hospitality.

Whether you're here for adventure, photography, or slow travel, this guide will help you explore like a local



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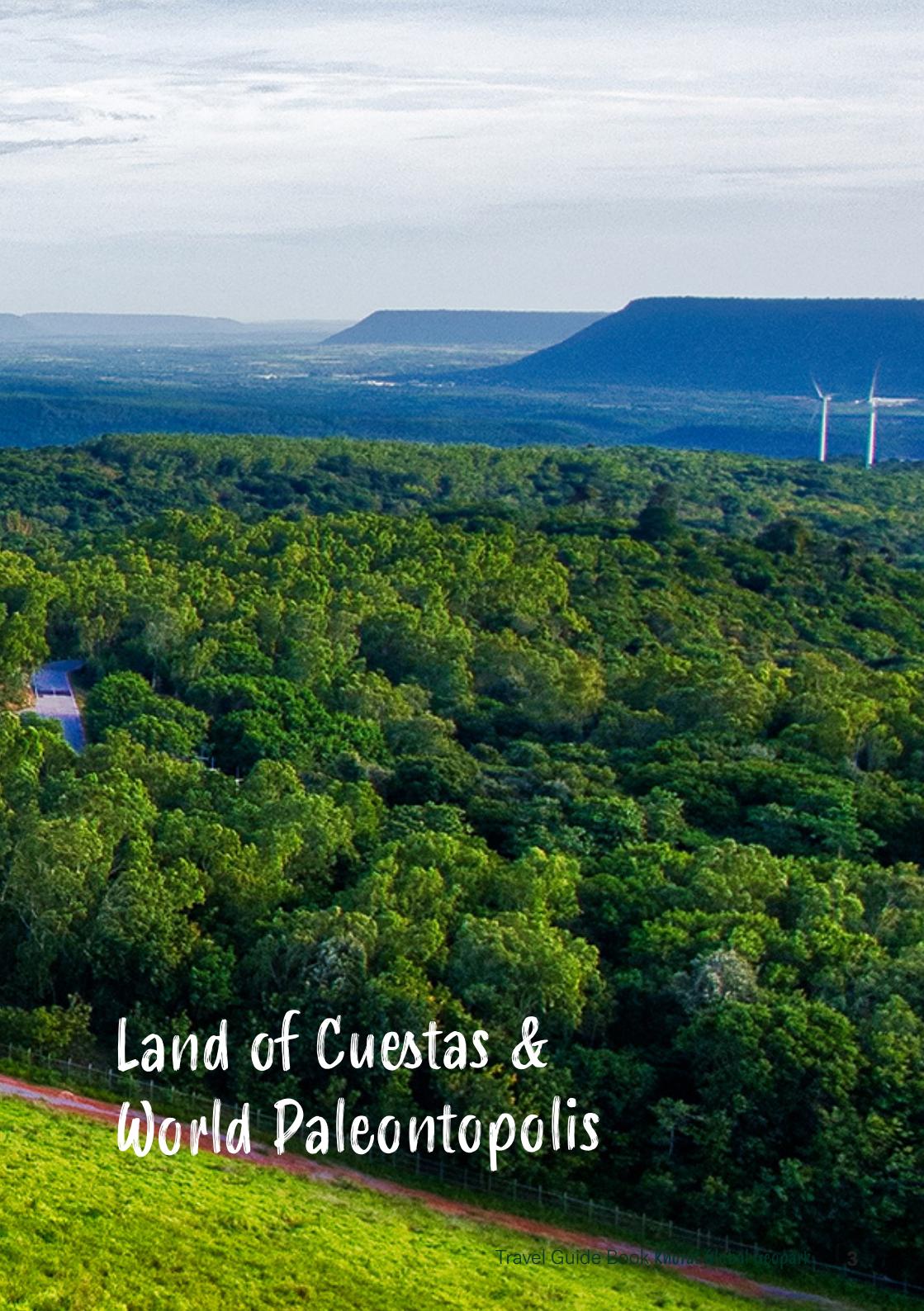
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Land of Cuestas & World Paleontopolis

About Khorat Global Geopark

Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand's second UNESCO Global Geopark, was designated in 2023. Khorat UGGp is recognized for its fossils (dinosaurs, petrified wood, ancient elephants), distinctive landscape, and natural and cultural heritage. It covers an area of 3,167 km² in five districts of Nakhon Ratchasima Province: Mueang, Sikhio, Sung Noen, Kham Thale So, and Chaloem Phra Kiat.

“Land of Cuesta and Paleontopolis.”



Highlight

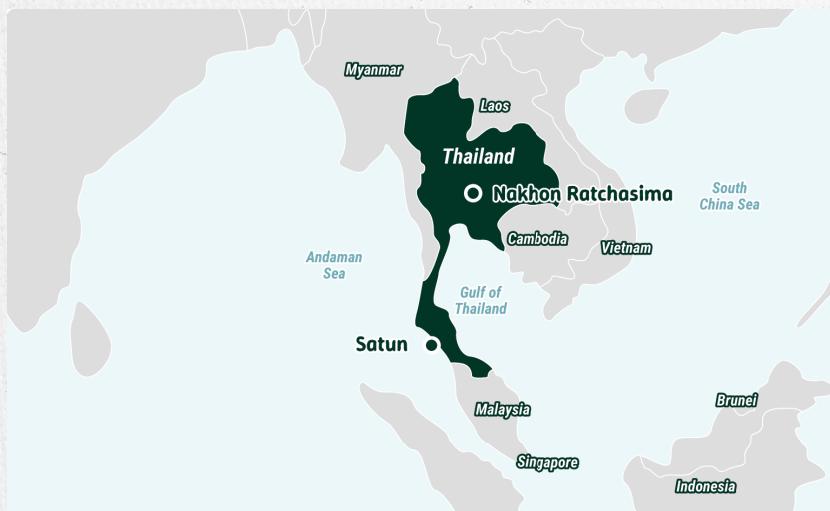


A Fossil Legacy
Home of
dinosaurs and
ancient elephants.



Travel Made Simple
A well-connected
infrastructure.

Panoramic Beauty
Striking cliffs and
sweeping vistas.



The Khorat Geopark is a UNESCO Global Geopark in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand. It is internationally recognized as a UNESCO-designated site, similar to the Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (World Heritage Site) and the Sakaerat Environmental Research Station (Biosphere Reserve), which serve as practical learning centers for appreciation and conservation of geological, natural, and cultural heritage, sustainable development, and climate change education.



The Geopark's landscape is defined by its prominent cuesta landforms and its location within the Lam Takhong basin. Geologically, it is famous for its rich fossil deposits. These deposits provide crucial evidence of the area's evolutionary history dating back millions of years.

Triple Heritage City

Nakhon Ratchasima Province has three UNESCO earth heritage sites.



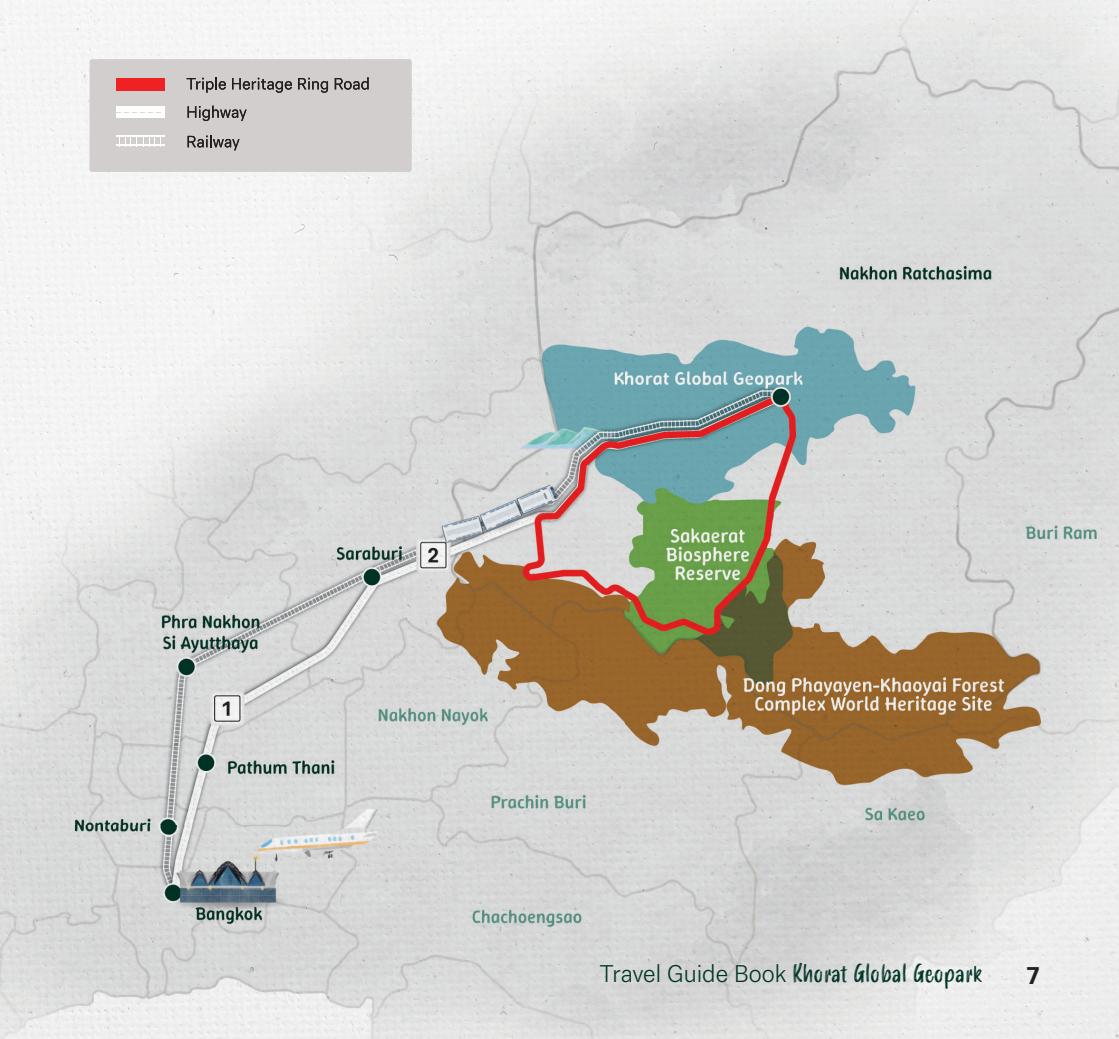
Khorat Global Geopark
(UNESCO Global Geopark)



Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai
Forest Complex
(UNESCO World Heritage Site)



Sakaerat Environmental
Research Station
(UNESCO Biosphere Reserve)





Best Time to Visit



**November –
February**



Cool and Breezy, perfect
for biking and sightseeing

**March –
May**



Hot but lively - Discover the
unearthed treasures and the
museum.

**June –
October**



Green season – Lush
landscapes, culture, and
people.

How to Get Here



From Bangkok:

- A.** By Car: 3–4 hrs via Mittraphap Road.
- B.** By Train: Bangkok Nakhon Ratchasima (4–5 hrs).
- C.** By Bus: From Mochit Bus Terminal (4–5 hrs).



Getting Around:

Rent a car or motorbike for flexibility. Local taxis and "songthaew" (shared pickup trucks) are also available.

Travel Tip

Avoid national holidays if you want quieter trails. Weekdays are the best for calm views and fewer crowds.



Must-Have Travel Apps

Stay connected and travel smart with these:



Google Maps

Navigate like a local



LINE / Grab

Contact locals & book rides



Agoda / Booking.com

Find great stays



Wongnai

Discover local restaurants



Google Translate

Bridge any language gaps

Easy Thai Phrases

Say it with a smile

English	Thai	Pronunciation
Hello	สวัสดี	Sa-wat-dee
Thank you	ขอบคุณ	Khob-khun
Delicious	อร่อย	A-roi
How much?	เท่าไหร่	Tao-rai
Yes / No	ใช่ / ไม่ใช่	Chai / Mai-chai
Beautiful	สวย	Suay





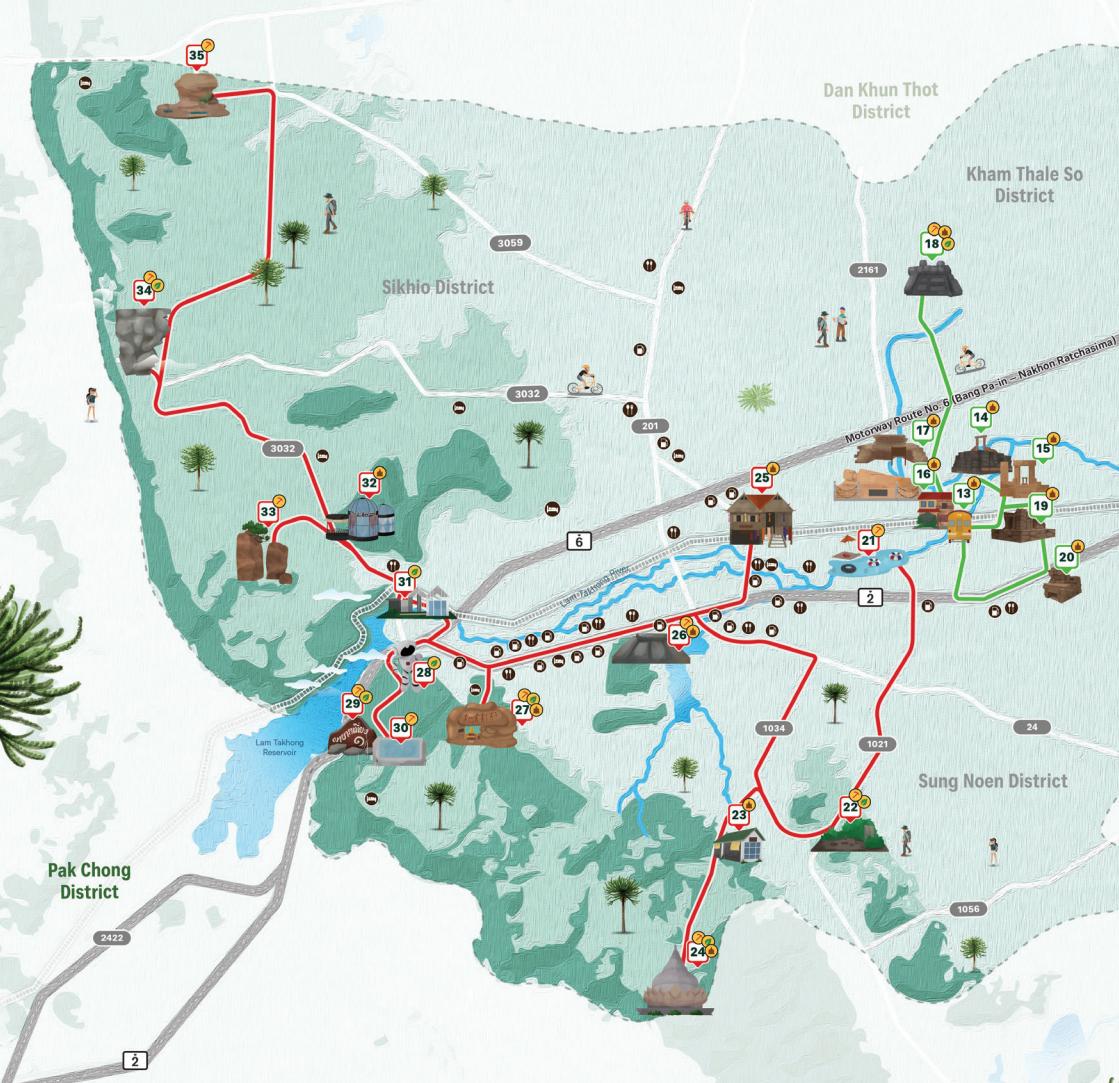
00 Landmarks

7 Geological Site

11 Cultural Site

11 Natural Site

11 Learning/ Information Center



00 Main Highway
00 Highway

River
Railroad

Restaurant
Gas Station

Homestay, Resort
Souvenir Shop

Non Thai District



Geotourism Route

1 Paleontopolis Route

- 1 Khorat Fossil Museum and Petrified Forest
- 2 Chaloeum Phra Kiat Sandpit
- 3 Chaloeum Phra Kiat Banyan Tree
- 4 Geopark Learning Center, Thachangratbamroong School

2 Korat Way of Life and Historical Route

- 5 Chumphon Gate and Thea Suranaree Monument
- 6 Korat Museum
- 7 Phanom Wan Stone Sanctuary
- 8 Nam Cha Market
- 9 Pong Daeng Gravel Pit
- 10 Learning Center of Phan Dung Salt Field
- 11 Tourist Center and Phan Dung Salt Field
- 12 Roi Rai Forest, Wat Pa Charoen Tham

3 Khom-Dvoravati Sri Chonosa Civilization Route

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- 15 Mueang Khaek Stone Sanctuary
- 16 Dvaravati Sandstone Reclining Buddha
- 17 Sema Historical City
- 18 Ban Som Keb Ngam Sandstone Historical Quarry
- 19 Muang Kao Stone Sanctuary
- 20 Bu Yai Stone Sanctuary

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- 33 Pong Nok Escarpment
- 34 Sai Ngam Cliff
- 35 Wat Wang Krasual Potholes

1. Paleontopolis Route



1 Khorat Fossil Museum and Petrified Forest



Explore Khorat's paleontological heritage at this complex of three specialized museums. See vast petrified wood deposits and exhibits on the Ancient Elephant and Dinosaurs. It is your starting point for understanding Khorat's geological history and prehistoric life



3 Chaloem Phra Kiat Banyan Tree



A 200-year-old Banyan Tree, covering approx. 0.32 hectares near Mun River in Chaloem Phra Kiat District, is a vital ecological component. It provides essential habitat and shelter for various semi-aquatic birds and serves as a critical stopover site for migratory species.

2 Chaloem Phra Kiat Sandpit



Khorat Geopark

The sandpit exposes a 30-meter-thick deposit of ancient Mun River alluvium, dating approximately 16–0.01 million years ago. This site is renowned for its exceptional fossil mammal record, particularly its remains. Notably, the deposits have yielded 10 of the 55 known proboscidean genera worldwide. The site is the type of locality for newly described ancient mammal species.

4 Geopark Learning Center, Thachangratbamroong School



The school serves as a dedicated Geopark Learning Center. This facility promotes and educates the public, particularly students, about the area's geological and natural heritage, including ancient elephants. The center's curriculum integration plays a vital role in connecting students and the local community directly with conservation through hands-on learning.

2. Korat Way of Life and Historical Route



5 Chumphon Gate and Thao Suranaree Monument



The Chumphon Gate is one of the four original principal gates, constructed using red brick, laterite, and sandstone. It has been restored, maintaining its original architectural style and historical importance. Nearby, the Thao Suranaree Monument stands as a powerful symbol of courage and the spirit of Khorat.

6 Korat Museum



This museum documents and preserves the origins and history of Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The collection features a wide array of ancient artifacts, cultural objects, and community-donated items. A key focus is on demonstrating the relationship between these artifacts and the subsequent societal and economic transformations.

7 Phanom Wan Stone Sanctuary



The principal feature is a standing sandstone pagoda, dating from the 11th to 12th centuries, and built in the Khom architectural style. Originally a 10th-century brick pagoda, the sandstone sanctuary was made of local resources, primarily white and red sandstone.

8 Nam Cha Market



Located near the Lam Takhong River pier in Kham Thale Sor District, it offers a vibrant glimpse of traditional local life. Villagers gather to share, exchange, and sell products, including fresh produce and prepared foods. Don't miss the historical local delicacy, Mi Nam Cha, prepared specially on weekends.



2. Korat Way of Life and Historical Route (Cont.)

9

Pong Daeng Gravel pit



This significant geological site features excavated pits that reveal a history spanning 2.6 million years (Ma) to the present. The layers expose petrified trees from an ancient forest, with distinct layers of gravel and sand. These sedimentary layers document the geological changes.

10

Learning Center of Phan Dung Saline Soil Salt



Located at Pan Dung School, this Khorat Global Geopark educational facility highlights the history of Kham Talay Sor and traditional salt production. It uses an exhibition to highlight the history of Kham Talay Sor and traditional salt production, which stems directly from the region's unique saline soil geology and local wisdom.

11

Tourist Center and Phan Dung Salt Field



Known as Dern Gluea Phan Dung, an important Saline Soil field within Khorat Global Geopark, demonstrating ancient salt production. Brine naturally seeped up from the salty earth and was heated, often in earthenware pots, to produce crystalline salt. This salt was a vital commodity for consumption, medicine, and food preservation.

12

Roi rai Forest, Wat Pha Charoen Tham



This place is a peaceful, rural Buddhist temple, with simple living and meditation. A Roi rai (40-acre) forest around the temple has conserved, making it an ideal destination for visitors seeking a tranquil retreat, offering a unique opportunity for immersion in nature and restorative, mindful practice.

3. Khom-Dvaravati Sri Chanasa Civilization Route



13

Sung Noen Railway Station Memorial



This site commemorates the completion of Thailand's first royal railway line, linking Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima (265 km, finished in 1900). The carefully preserved and renovated building now serves as a multi-purpose center. It is dedicated to Education, History, Tourism, Community Recreation, and Cultural Preservation.

14

Non Ku Stone Sanctuary



Located in Sung Noen District, Non Ku Stone Sanctuary is a significant ancient temple complex reflecting the region's rich history. Constructed primarily from sandstone and laterite, this sanctuary was likely built as a Hindu or Buddhist focal point to house deities or relics for the local community.

15

Mueang Khaek Stone Sanctuary



Prasat Mueang Khaek, located near Non-Ku Stone Sanctuary, is a significant remnant of the Khom civilization. Constructed from sandstone and brick, this sanctuary is generally dated to the 8th–10th centuries. It was built in the Shaivism tradition of Brahminism, providing key evidence of ancient regional influence.

16

Dvaravati Sandstone Reclining Buddha



This Reclining Buddha statue, constructed from large red sandstone blocks, is a significant artifact dated to over 1,300 years ago. Its style is a notable fusion of the Dvaravati artistic tradition with indigenous local art. Excavations also revealed a monolithic sandstone Dharma Wheel (Dharmachakra), distinctly carved with four interconnected wheels.

3. Khom-Dvaravati Sri Chanasa Civilization Route (Cont.)

17

Sema Historical City



Mueang Sema is an ancient city site defined by its unique, visible egg-shaped layout. The irregular city is structured into two layers—inner and outer—surrounded by a moat and earthen embankment, built using laterite and sandstone. Numerous historical sites dot the area, including a significant Reclining Buddha image in the southern sector.

18

Ban Somkob Ngam Sandstone Historical Quarry



Located 9 km north of ancient Sema, the Quarry features a natural stone terrace in the community forest. Fossils, including those resembling dinosaur bones, are embedded in the rock. Significant remnants of red sandstone cutting are evident, showcasing past human ingenuity in utilizing this resource to construct prominent cultural structures.

19

Mueang Kao Stone Sanctuary



Located in Sungnoen district, the Sanctuary functioned as an Arokayasala (hospital). Commissioned by King Jayavarman VII (c. 1181–1218 AD), this was one of 102 hospitals built during his reign. Constructed with laterite and sandstone, the site also includes a Baray (Sacred Pond), essential for the hospital's operation.

20

Bu Yai Stone Sanctuary



This Sanctuary is an 11th–13th centuries Khom ruin, currently undergoing excavation and restoration. The site features beautifully carved sandstone elements, including a surviving false door and an intact lintel depicting a lion and vegetal scrolls. Recent finds include a pristine Shiva linga.



4. Cuesta Route



21 Wang Nen Waterfall



Wang Nen features rocky rapids in the Lam Takhong River, creating a low cascade. The site offers natural pools suitable for swimming in a shady, tranquil atmosphere. With various riverside restaurants, it is ideal for relaxing under the trees and enjoying the fresh air.

22 Khao Sam Sib Saeng



This location, part of the Sung Noan National Forest Reserve, is managed by residents for natural resource conservation and as a vital watershed. Geographically, it features two hill with visible sandstone formations within the Korat Geopark's Phu Phan Cuesta landscape. The site also hosts a significant Learning Center for the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy based on Royal Initiatives.

23 Dong Ma Fai Coffee Community Enterprise



The enterprise cultivates Arabica on the Cuesta Hill Range, surrounded by dry evergreen forest; the unique geography imparts a mellow flavor and aromatic scent. This coffee naturally has a low 1% caffeine level.

24 Wat Pa Phu Pha Sung



This location is a Dharma practice temple situated in a dry evergreen forest atop the Khorat Cuesta (approx. 760 m ASL), established for forest and wildlife protection. The site features 160-million-year-old fossil burrows. It is home to the famous Phra That Jom Pha.

4. Cuesta Route (Cont.)

25

Sikhio Thai-Yuan Community



The community traces its ancestry to the original Thai Yuan inhabitants from Northern Thailand. They settled here, sustained by the Lam Takhong River. Their unique cultural capital includes attire, weaving, language, housing styles, and traditional beliefs.

26

Sikhio Sandstone Historical Quarry



This ancient quarry provided the primary material for a stone sanctuary approximately 1,000 years ago. Visible evidence of historical extraction and carving is present on the sandstone mound, showing where rectangular blocks were cut. It also serves as an important geological site for students studying local sandstone and the area's geological setting.

27

Khao Chan Ngam Cave and Prehistoric Paintings



This location is a tranquil meditation retreat set on a hill characterized by sandstone boulders and cave overhangs. The serene site features 3,000-to 5,000-year-old rock paintings on a cliff shelter. Created with red pigment, the 12 groups of figures depict the lifestyle of former communities. The temple's unique setting among diverse flora and trees gives it both geological and cultural significance.

28

EGAT Learning Center, Lam Takong



The center managed by EGAT is an educational hub focused on electricity and energy production. The facility features 7 dedicated zones covering a broad spectrum of generation methods, including fossil fuels, renewable sources, and the Wind Hydrogen Hybrid system. It is open Tuesday through Sunday.



4. Cuesta Route (Cont.)

29 Khao Yai Thiang Geoviewpoint



The geoviewpoint (approx. 650 m ASL), managed by EGAT, features a wind turbine field and a pumped storage reservoir. Known for its cool climate, it offers stunning views of the Lam Takhong Reservoir and the surrounding cuesta landscape. Visitors can rent bikes or use an electric shuttle to enjoy the beautiful natural scenery.

30 Yai Thiang Escarpment



This escarpment on the Khao Yai Thiang Ridge (approx. 650 m ASL) functions as a premier viewpoint. Visitors stop here to admire the striking natural scenery and fresh air. It offers clear views of the Lam Takhong Reservoir and the distinctive geological features of the Khorat Cuestas, highlighting the unique aspects of the Khorat Geopark.

31 Plant Genetic Conservation Center, Khlong Phai



This center, under the Royal Initiative of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, applies the "King's Philosophy" to resource management. Its mission is to collect and preserve plant genetic resources and operate a training center. It aims to strengthen agricultural and community development through sustainable and organic practices, supporting school botanical gardens.

32 Khao Phrik Agricultural-Industrial Correctional Institution



This institution launched a new landmark project on the Royal Initiatives of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendira Debyavati. The project uses an agricultural-industrial approach to teach inmates skills and Sufficiency Economy practices for post-release reintegration. As part of this, the "Cook & Coff@Khao Phrik" initiative features a restaurant and coffee shop.



4. Cuesta Route (Cont.)

33 Pong Nok Escarpment



Location is on cuesta ridge, offering strikingly beautiful panoramic views. It provides views of distant, undulating limestone ranges, highly regarded for sunsets and stargazing.

34 Sai Ngam Cliff



Located on the edge of the Khorat Geopark's cuesta ridge, this destination offers strikingly beautiful panoramic views of the community and undulating limestone ranges. It is an ideal retreat for visitors seeking immersion in nature and a tranquil escape.

35 Wat Wang Krasuai Pothole



Wat Wang Krasuai Pothole is located on the sandstone cuesta landscape, featuring numerous circular geological depressions called potholes. This common phenomenon occurs when rapid water flow spins trapped rocks, gravel, or sand within the sandstone layers. This abrasive action progressively erodes and deepens the basins, creating these distinctive features.





Where to Eat

Dadad Steak

Steakhouse featuring Thai-style 'Jaew' dipping sauce and Korat Geopark inspired dishes



Open time : 10.00 - 22.00 hrs.

+66 (0)44 277959

Dadadsteakjimkajaew

119 Soi 36 Suebsiri Road, Nongjabok, Muang Nakhonratchasima District Nakhonratchasima

Mori Kawa Café

A cozy cafe nestled in the heart of nature. Serving coffee, refreshing drinks, and homemade bakery.

Pet-friendly atmosphere.



Open time : 10.00 - 22.00 hrs.

+66 (0)98 8261645

Mori Kawa Cafe

456 Moo 4 Tumbon Sikhiu, Sikhiu District Nakhonratchasima

Gai yang Thachang

Experience the original Tha Chang grilled chicken along with a variety of flavorful Isan favorites ; Somtum, Larb Tomkab. Tasty, fresh, and clean



Open time : 08.00 - 17.00 hrs.

+66 (0)44 321216

274 Phetmatukhla Road, Tumbon Thachang, Chaloemphrakiat District Nakhonratchasima

Buddha Coffee & Restaurant

A unique cafe where art meets relaxation. Immerse yourself in an atmosphere filled with exquisite carved Buddha images



Open time : 08.00 - 15.00 hrs.

+66 (0)81 5792598

buddhaArtandCoffee

79 Mittraphap Road Moo 4 Tumbon Klongphai, Sikhiu District Nakhonratchasima

Salapao Look kra tiam

A legendary eatery of Sung Noen. Mini fried buns. Crispy & Soft various fillings available Also try our Steamed Buns, Dumpling and Chinese Pastries.



Open time : 08.00 - 18.00 hrs.

+66 (0)44 419311, +66 (0)81 9668287

Lookkratiam

841 Moo 11 Tumbon Sung Noen, Sung Noen District Nakhonratchasima

Baan Nam Cha Market

A charming community market it's the perfect spot to experience authentic local vibes.



Open time : 7.00 - 17.00 hrs. (Sat & Sun)

+66 (0) 89 1905545

Tumbon Pongdaeng, Kham Thala So District Nakhonratchasima

Where to Shop



Khao Yai Thieng Community Market

📍 Sikhiu District Nakhonratchasima



Khorat Fossil Museum Shop

📍 184 Moo 7 Mittraphap - Nhongpling Road, Muang Nakhonratchasima District Nakhonratchasima



Mee Korat 5 Dao

📍 904/2 Mukmonthi Road Muang Nakhonratchasima District Nakhonratchasima



Khao Chan Ngam Khorat Geopark Tourism Information Center

📍 Lertsawad Temple Tumbon Ladbuakhao Mittraphap Road, Sikhiu District Nakhonratchasima

Where to Stay

Chayada Resort Hotel Nakornratchasima



Experience resort living in the city center. Enjoy a serene and private atmosphere surrounded by greenery, with easy access to Korat's top landmarks.

📞 +66 (0)82 215 3515

🌐 chayada.resort

📍 131/4-9 Soi Thatako Mittraphap Road,
Muang Nakhonratchasima District
Nakhonratchasima

Sima Thani Hotel



Where Korat's heritage meets modern living. Perfectly situated in the city center, we offer a unique stay that celebrates the arts and history of Thailand's gateway to Isan. Explore our beautifully designed rooms and venues, and create lasting memories with us.

📞 +66 (0)44 213100

🌐 Sima Thani

🌐 www.simathani.com/th/

📍 2112/2 Mittraphap Road, Muang
Nakhonratchasima District Nakhonrat-
chasima

Baan Suan Noi Wonderland Resort



Escape to Baan Suan Noi WonderLand! From cozy Hobbit homes to Harry Potter's magic and a massive costume gallery of princesses and superheroes—experience the ultimate fantasy getaway.

📞 +66 (0)81 2915160

🌐 Baan Suan Noi WonderLand

📍 292 Moo 15 Tumbon Ladbuakhao
Mittraphap Road, Sikhiu District Nak-
honratchasima

ChanNgarm Mountain View Resort



Immerse yourself in nature, fresh air, and total privacy. Located on the Khorat Cuesta mountain of ancient civilization.

📞 +66 (0)44 756685

🌐 ChanNgarm Mountain View Resort

🌐 www.channgarmmv.com/th

📍 111 Moo 12 Tumbon Ladbuakhao
Mittraphap Road, Sikhiu District Nak-
honratchasima

Pong Burapha Camping



Service the campsite, lakeside view, recreation activities ; boating, rafting, fishing, cycling, ATV riding, date palm plantation tour, Mini Grand Canyon view and Petrified

📞 +66 (0)81 8672642

🌐 โปงบุราพา Camping

📍 205 Tumbon Pongdaeng Kham Thala
So District Nakhonratchasima

Travel Agencies



Khorat Geopark Office

- 📞 +66 (0)44 370739-40
- ✉️ khoratgeopark@gmail.com
- 🌐 Khorat Geopark - อุทยานธรณีโคราช
- 🌐 www.khoratgeopark.com
- 📍 102/3 M.2, Mitraphap Rd, Muang, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000



Trekking Thailand Tour

- 📞 +66 (0)89 7190750, +66 (0)81 9978805
- 🌐 Trekkingthailandtour
- 🌐 trekkingthailandtour.com
- 📍 Pakchong District Nakhonratchasima



Ducky Tour

- 📞 +66 (0) 95 6053687, +66 (0)82 3242356
- ✉️ duckytour1976@gmail.com
- 🌐 Ducky Tour
- 🌐 www.duckytour.com
- 📍 Tumbon Joho, Muang Nakhonratchasima District Nakhonratchasima

Contact Support

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) – Korat Office

General Tourist Information

 +66 44 253 416

 tatkorat@tat.or.th

 www.tourismthailand.org/korat

 102/3 M.2, Mittraphap Rd, Muang, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000

Transport & Road Assistance

 **Highway Police / Road Safety**
1193

 **Local Taxi / Grab Support**
In-app support via Grab

Tourist Police

 **English-speaking**
1155
 www.touristpolice.go.th

Hospitals / Medical

 **Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital**
+66 44 253 333

Korat Ram Hospital

+66 44 240 900

Sikhiu Hospital

+66 44 326 060

Ambulance

1669

Embassy / Consulate (for foreign tourists)

 **Embassy of the United States – Bangkok**
+66 2 205 4000

British Embassy – Bangkok

+66 2 305 8333

Australian Embassy – Bangkok

+66 2 344 6300



Khorat Global Geopark

🌐 www.khoratgeopark.com



Scan to enter the website

🌐 **Khorat Geopark - อุทยานธรณีโคราช**

📷 **koratgeopark**

📞 **+66 (0)44 370 739-40**

✉ **koratgeopark@gmail.com**

📍 **Korat Global Geopark Office**

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Krok Duean Ha Village Suranaree Sub-District,
Muang District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province 30000

