



Population 1,783,035

Currency Exchange 1 US\$ = 32.5 Baht ( On 1 Jun'08 )



# Welcome to Ubon Ratchathani

Survive the usual knot of choked access roads and Ubon will reveal an altogether more attractive face. Racked up against Mae Nam Mun, Thailand's second-longest waterway, the southern portions of the city have a pedestrian, sluggish character rarely found in the region's big conurbations. Temples pepper the surrounding area, the urban push-and-shove is easily escaped and despite the quick-time march of modernization, a deep sense of Isan identity continues to live on. Few cities in Thailand reward aimless wandering as richly as Ubon.



## Emergency Calls

Police & Emergency : 191

Tourist Police : 1155

International Airport : 045 245 612

Tourism Authority of Thailand : 045 243 770

Lost or stolen credit cards : American Express : 02 273 0022-44

Master Card : 02 299 1990-2

Visa : 02 299 1990-2

## Internet Resource

<http://www.ubonratchathani.go.th>



Candle Parade

## Festival

### Ubon's Candle Parade

Hae Tian features gigantic, elaborately carved wax sculptures and is a part of Khao Phansa, a Buddhist holiday marking the commencement of Wan Awk Phansaa, the Rains Retreat (Buddhist Lent) in July. You can see the floats the rest of the year on most temple grounds, where they are kept until it's time to melt them down for the next parade. The festival is very popular with Thai tourists and the city's hotel rooms are often all booked for the event.



## Day Tripping

### Ubon National Museum

Once you've dropped your bags in the hotel and slipped on a clean shirt, your first stop in town should be the informative Ubon National Museum (045 255 071; Th Kheuan Thani; admission 30 THB.; 9am - 4pm, Wed - Sun). Occupying a pretty former palace from the Rama VI era, this is the spot to come to swot up on background information before venturing out into the wider province. And there's plenty on show, from Buddhist ordination-precinct stones from the Dvaravati period and a 2,500-year-old Dong Son bronze drum to Ubon textiles and betel-nutsets. The museum's most prized possession is a 9th-century Ardhhanarisvara, a composite statue combining Shiva and his consort Uma into one being; one of just two ever found in Thailand.



Pha Taem

### Pha Taem National Park

Up the Mekong from Khong Jiam is a long stone cliff named Pha Taem - the centerpiece of Pha Taem National Park. From the top you get an amazing bird-eye view of Laos, and you can see the first sunset in Thailand. Down below, reached via a trail, the cliff features prehistoric rock paintings that are at least 3,000 years old. Mural subjects include fish traps, plaa beuk (giant Mekong catfish), elephants, human hands and geometric designs. The second viewing platform fronts the most impressive pictographs.

*Price : 400 THB./ person The best way to get there on your own is to rent a motorcycle in Khong Jiam, which will set you back 150 - 200 THB.*

*Tel : Pha Taem National Park 045 266 333*



Soi Sawan Waterfall

### Soi Sawan Waterfall

A 25m-tall waterfall flowing from June to November, is another popular spot. It's a 19 km drive from the visitor centre, but it's best reached by the 9 km hiking trail tracing the cliff. What the park calls Thailand's largest flower field (blooming late October to end of December) lies just beyond the falls. The far north of the park, where roads are so bad they are best traveled on two wheels, holds many more waterfalls and wonderful views. Pa Cha Na Dai cliff serves Thailand's first sunrise. Scattered across the 340-sq-km park are several areas called Sao Chaliang, mushroom-shaped stone formations similar to Phu Pha Thoep in Kukdahan National Park.



Chong Mek

### Chong Mek & the Emerald Triangle

The small trading town of Chong Mek on the Thai-Lao border, is the only place in Thailand where farang can cross into Laos by land (that is, you don't have to cross the Mekong). The southern Lao capital of Pakse is about 45 minutes by road from Vangtao, the village on the Lao side of the border, where you can now get a 30-day visa on the spot. Buses crossing here wait for passengers to complete the paperwork.



"Ho Trai" or The Hall of Tripitaka - Thung Si Mueang Temple

### Wat Thung Si Mueang

Wat Thung Si Mueang was built during the reign of Rama III (1825-51) and has a haw trai (Tripitaka library) in good shape. Like many haw trai, it rests on tall, angles stilts in the middle of a small pond, surrounded by water to protect the precious scriptures from termites. Nearby, the interior of the little bot is painted with 200-year-old murals depicting the life and culture of the day.

Place : Luang Rd.

### Khongjiam

Khongjiam is a district located 80 km from Ubon Ratchathani overlooking the Mekhong River. Boats are available for hire here to visit the Kaeng Tana cataract and to go sightseeing at Mae Nam Song Si or the two coloured river where the Mekhong and Mun Rivers meet.

### Sirindhorn Dam

one of the major multi-purpose dams in the Northeast, lies around 70 km. from town in Amphoe Phibun Mangsahan. It is capable of producing 36,000 kilowatts or an annual 13.5 million units of electricity.

### Wat Maha Wanaram

The principal temple of Ubon, houses the sacred Phra Chao Yai Indra Plang image which is highly venerated by the people of Ubon and neighboring provinces.

### Kaeng Saphu

Kaeng Saphu rapids lie south of Amphoe Phibun Mangsahan market, 45 km from Ubon. During the dry season, cascading currents make beautiful images over rocks and outcrops which are completely immersed during the high tide season.

### Wat Nong Bua

located in the suburb of town on the way to Amnat Charoen province, is the only Buddhist monastery in the country with a Buddhagaya-style stupa. Within the Stupa are several important Buddha images.



Nong Bua Temple

### Phu Chong Nayoi National Park

Stretching across the 'Emerald Triangle', the jungle-clad intersection of the Lao, Thai and Cambodian borders, is the little-known Phu Chong Nayoi National Park, one of Thailand's wildest parks and healthiest forests. Fauna includes barking deer, monkeys, gibbons, Malayan sun bears, Asiatic black bears, black hornbills, red jungle fowl and the endangered white-winged ducks. Elephants and tigers often cross over the border into the park.

Price : 400 THB. / 24hr

Tel : 045 411 515



Huai Luang Waterfall - Phu Chong Nayoi National Park



## Shopping

**Grass-Root** hand-woven cotton and you'll find a fantastic assortment here.

Place : 87 Yutthaphan Rd.

Open Daily : 9.00 am. - 6.00 pm.

Tel : 045 241 272

**Camp Fai Ubon** Signed as Peaceland, this is another good place for hand-woven cotton.

Place : 189 Thepyothi Rd.

Open Daily : 8.00 am. - 8.00 pm. Mon - Sat

Tel : 045 241 821

**Punchard**

Place : 158 Ratchabut Rd.

Open Daily : 9.30 am. - 8.30 pm. Mon - Sat

Tel : 045 243 433

**Punchard 2** stock a wider array of handicrafts.

Place : 156 Pha Daeng Rd.

Open Daily : 9.30 am. - 8.30 pm. Mon - Sat

Tel : 045 265 751



Laab Pla Cartoon Restaurant

## Eating

**Fern Hut**

Place : Ratchathani Rd. Mueang

Tel : 045 244 305

**Indochin**

Place : Saphasit Rd. Mueang

Tel : 045 254 126

**Jiew-Ki**

Place : Kuean Thani Rd. Mueang

Tel : 045 254 017

**Krua Im-Em**

Place : Phadung Rd. Mueang

Tel : 045 263 025

**Laab Pla Cartoon**

Place : 31/1 T. Nai Mueang, Mueang

Tel : 045 234 020

**Rosthip**

Place : Chayangkul Rd. Mueang

Tel : 045 254 401





Lai Thong Hotel

## Sleeping

### • Budget

**Apple Guest House** - Kaewpradit Rd. Khong Jiam  
Tel : 045 351 160 (r 150 - 300 THB.)

**Montana Hotel** - 179/1-4 Uparat Rd.  
Tel : 045 261 748 (r 400 THB.)

**Nevada Inn** - 436 Chayangkun Rd.  
Tel : 045 313 351 (r 550 - 1,500 THB.)

**Nonthaveth & Ounchith Guest House**  
Tel : 045 485 237 (r 200 - 500 THB.)

**Phiboonkit Hotel** - Phiboon Rd. Phibun Mangsahan  
Tel : 045 441 201 (r 200 - 300 THB.)

### • Midrange & Top End

**Sri Isan Hotel** - 62 Ratchabud Rd.  
Tel : 045 261 011  
<http://www.sriisanhotel.com> (r 650 - 1,400 THB.)

**Lai Thong Hotel** - 50 Pichit Rangsana Rd.  
Tel : 045 264 271  
<http://www.laithonghotel.net> (r 1,300 - 3,000 THB.)

**Tohsang City Hotel** - 251 Palochai Rd. Mueang  
Tel : 045 245 531  
<http://www.tohsang.com> (r 2,000 - 4,000 THB.)

**Tohsang Khong Jiam Resort** - 68 Moo 7 Baan Huay-Mak-Tay  
Khong Jiam Mueang  
Tel : 045 351 174-6  
<http://www.tohsang.com> (r 2,500 - 9,500 THB.)

## Getting Around

**Songthaew** The town's main bus station is located on the northern outskirts of the city, as is the airport. The railway station is in Warin Chamrab. Public transport within the city is by Songthaew, which follow fixed routes in Ubon, Warin and the surrounding area. Routes are indicated by numbers and the colour of the vehicle.

Photos by [www.hflight.net](http://www.hflight.net)

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