

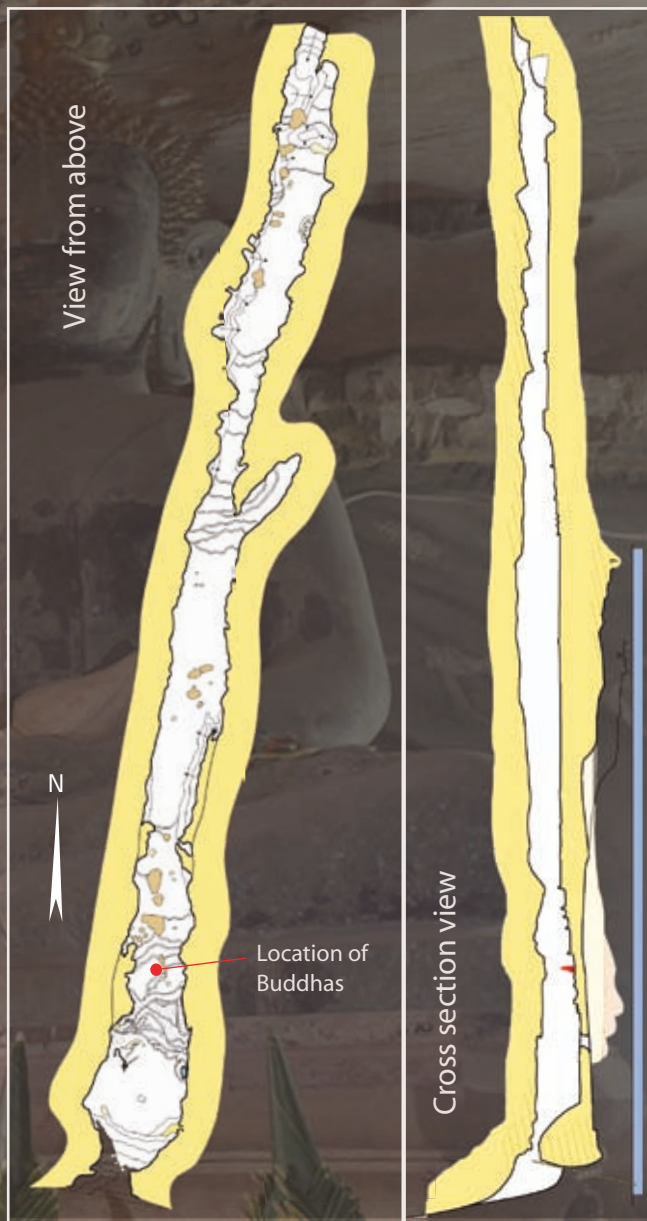
One of the natural wonders inside the cave are the spectacular petrified lizard's eggs, which were laid on the cave ceiling many years ago. They are different from normal house lizards. From the number of eggs observed in the cave one might expect to find plenty of lizards inside the cave, however there are only a few. The "unknown lizards eggs" are one of the many mysteries of the cave. Similarly, little is known about the content of the Buddha manuscripts also found in the cave. The resurgence cave, which is located below the Buddha cave, has water flow

all year round. This cave is also spectacular with many stalactite formations. The small lake in front of the cave has a variety of fish species. The total length of this cave is about 200m. It is possible to

go inside the cave by boats using torches. In the wet season, longer excursions can be taken on the flooded wetlands with fine views of the surrounding landscape.



THAM NONG PA FA  
Ban Nakhangxang - Lao PDR  
UTM 48 Q 484235-1932302-146m  
Topographie G. Mouret, K. Khamlasy.  
C & J. Ghommidh-2004

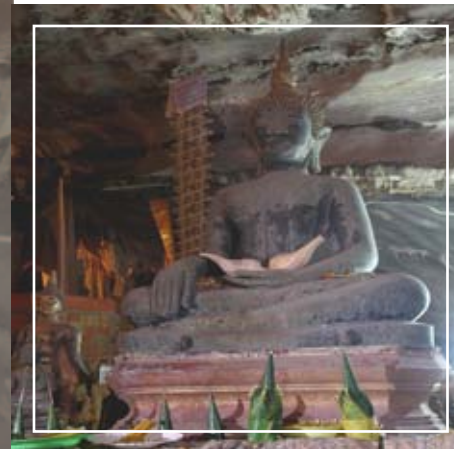


Lao National Tourism Administration



# Tham Nong Pa Fa

(Buddha Cave)



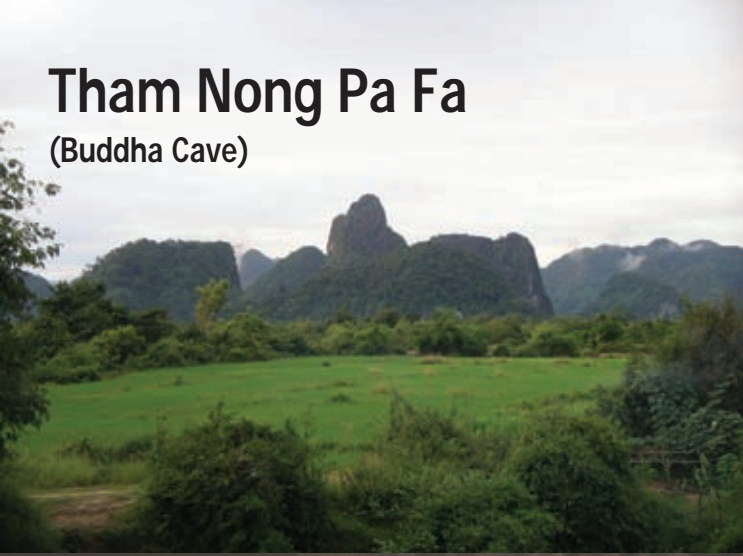
This religious site is of historical, cultural and natural importance to Lao people. Owned by all Lao people, we ask everyone to contribute to the conservation and protection of this site for future generations to visit and study.

Produced by the Khammouane Provincial Tourism Office  
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# Tham Nong Pa Fa

(Buddha Cave)



## Location and Access

Tham Nong Pa Fa or Buddha Cave is located near the village of Ban Na Khang Xang in Thakhek district, Khammouane Province. Access to the site is limited in the rainy season, but in the dry season visitors can use any vehicle to reach the site. Leaving Thakhek, follow route No 12 East. At KM 7 on your left hand side, you will see the sign to the cave. After turning left go about 500m, then turn right and continue your journey along the old French railway built in the colonial era. You will cross Nam Don River on the historic railway bridge. Eventually the road bears left and you travel approximately 4 km along a dirt road.

Continue until you see a village located 100 m from the road on your left. This is Na Khang Xang community. Turn left, and enter the village.



Tractor rides can be arranged to take you the remainder of the 3 km to the Buddha Cave area. The journey from Thakhek to Buddha Cave is very scenic, passing



through paddy fields, Karst limestone mountains, traditional villages and secondary forests.

Tham Nong Pa Fa is actually composed of two caves. The upper one is a dry cave where the 229 bronze (some gold plated) Buddhas are located. The other is a resurgence (water) cave below. To enter the dry cave, you must first climb a 20m ladder. From the entrance you can see Elephant Mountain before climbing down into the cave.



Inside the cave there are many different sizes and types of Buddhas which are placed on terraced “rims,” a natural formation of the cave. Archeologists estimate the Buddhas inside the cave are over 600 years old. Next to the Buddhas there are 2 manuscript boxes and other artifacts. Going deeper inside the cave (not open to the public) are other natural wonders such as stalactites, “shield” formations and cave pearls. Please remember during your visit that this is a religious shrine and that you should dress appropriately. Photography is not allowed inside the cave. You may also be asked to leave your bags with the ticket collector for security reasons. Enjoy your visit !

