

VELA Dhi Udon Thani

VELA
VIEW
INSIDER

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Ladies and gentleman, welcome to Udon Thani - allow us to introduce you to this marvelous city we love.

Udon Thani is one of four major cities in Isan. As one of the less touristed regions , Isan is considered Thailand's forgotten backyard. Known for its rich history, unique culture, as well as distinct cuisine, Isan is the perfect place for a one-of-a-kind experience. We hope you enjoy these hidden gems we've curated for you. Should you require assistance, our crew members would be pleased to assist you.

-VELA Dhi Team





RED LOTUS LAKE (TALAY BUA DAENG)

Home to millions of lotuses, Red Lotus Lake (Talay Bua Daeng) is one of Isan's top attractions. Thais travel from all over the country to see the bloom, covering the entire lake in shades of pink. It is absolutely a spectacular sight that should be on the top of your list. This lotuses showcase their beauty in the cool season, October to February, with January to February being the best time. Sitting on a boat surrounded by flowers that stretch beyond the horizon? What a place to spend Valentine's Day! The lake is located approximately 40km from the city of Udon Thani. There's no public transportation there so ask one of ours hosts to help book your ride!

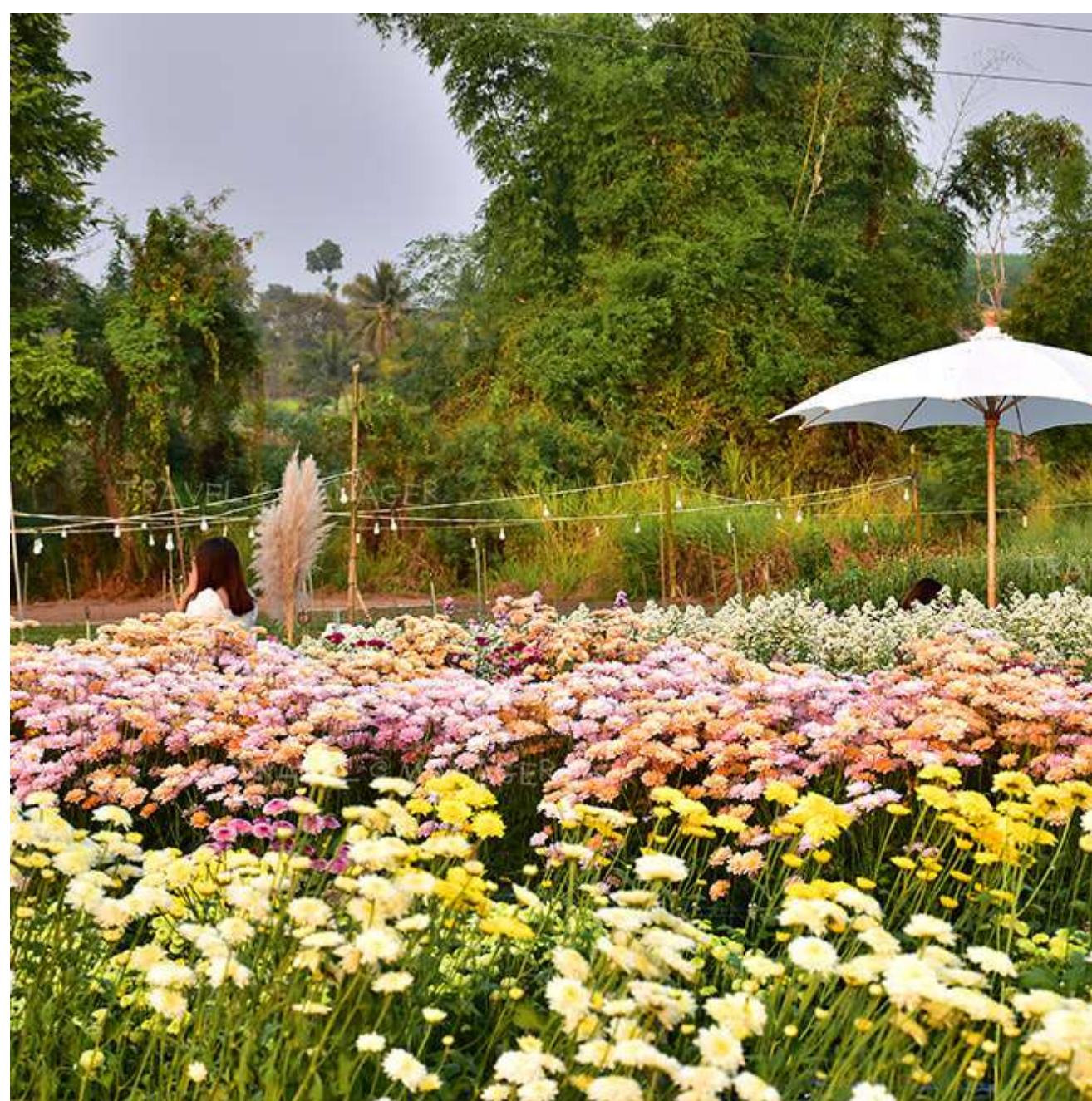
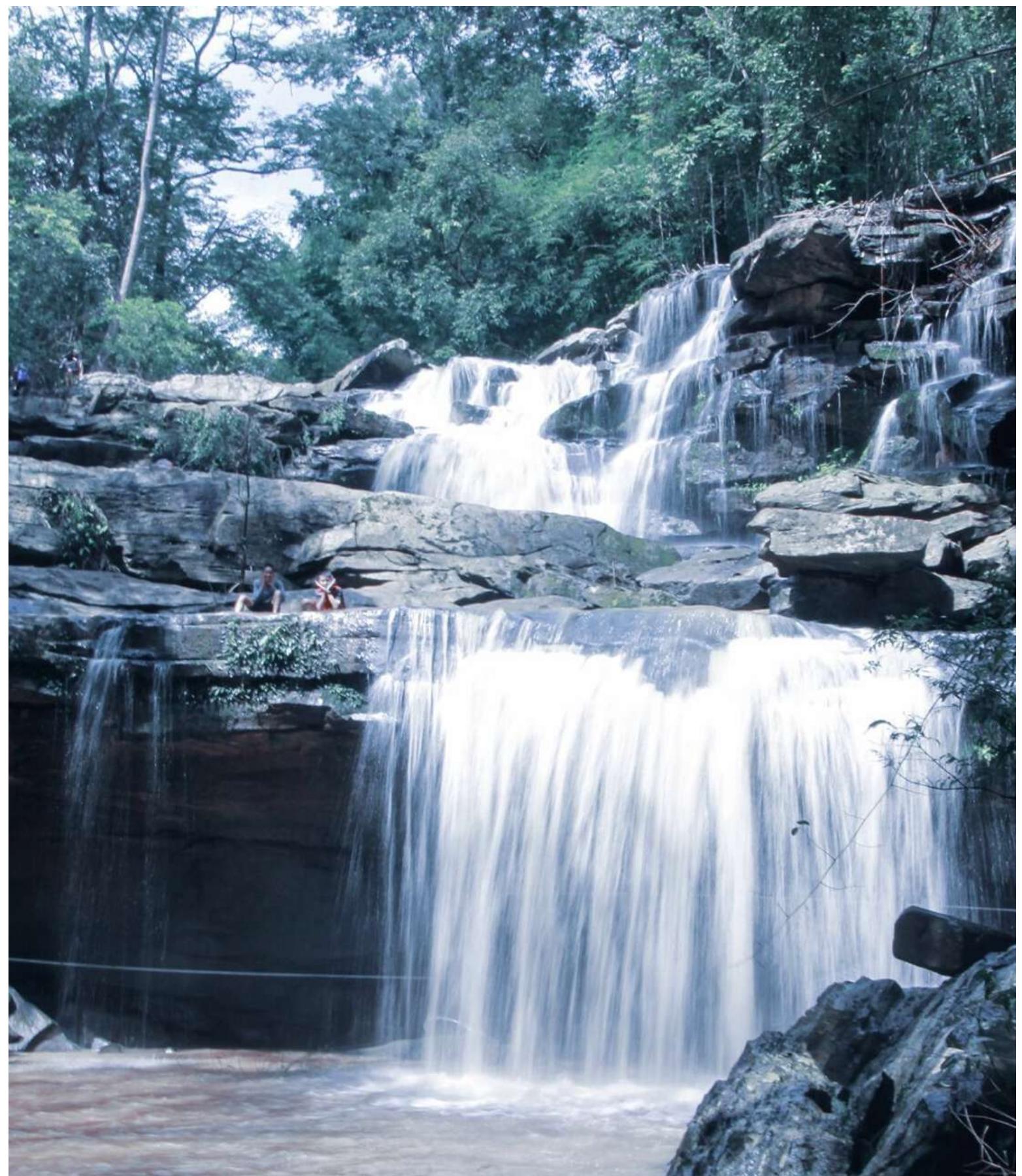


HOST'S INSIDER TIP

From the Red Lotus Lake, take a quick ride to Pa Dong Rai Temple. Unlike other temples, Pa Dong Rai Temple's main chapel is shaped like a lotus. The insides of the chapel are spectacular work of arts. The park in which the temple is in is quiet and secluded, making it the perfect quick escape from the bustling city.

NA YUNG - NAM SOM NATIONAL PARK

If you're a nature lover, you're not going to want to miss this! While situated in Udon Thani, the park is the site in which 3 provinces - Udon Thani, Loei, and Nong Khai - meet. It is home to various mountain ranges, and an abundant forest. The spot features Yung Thong waterfall, a three-tiered waterfall with a pond for visitors to play in; as well as Pha-Daeng View Point, the ideal location for that perfect panoramic shot!



SITTIKORN GARDEN

Sittikorn Flowers Garden features fields of blossoming flowers, a perfect photo opportunity! Because the flowers bloom seasonally, the Garden is only open from January to March. We recommend you head there bright and early to get that soft golden hour lighting!



HUAI LUANG RESERVOIR

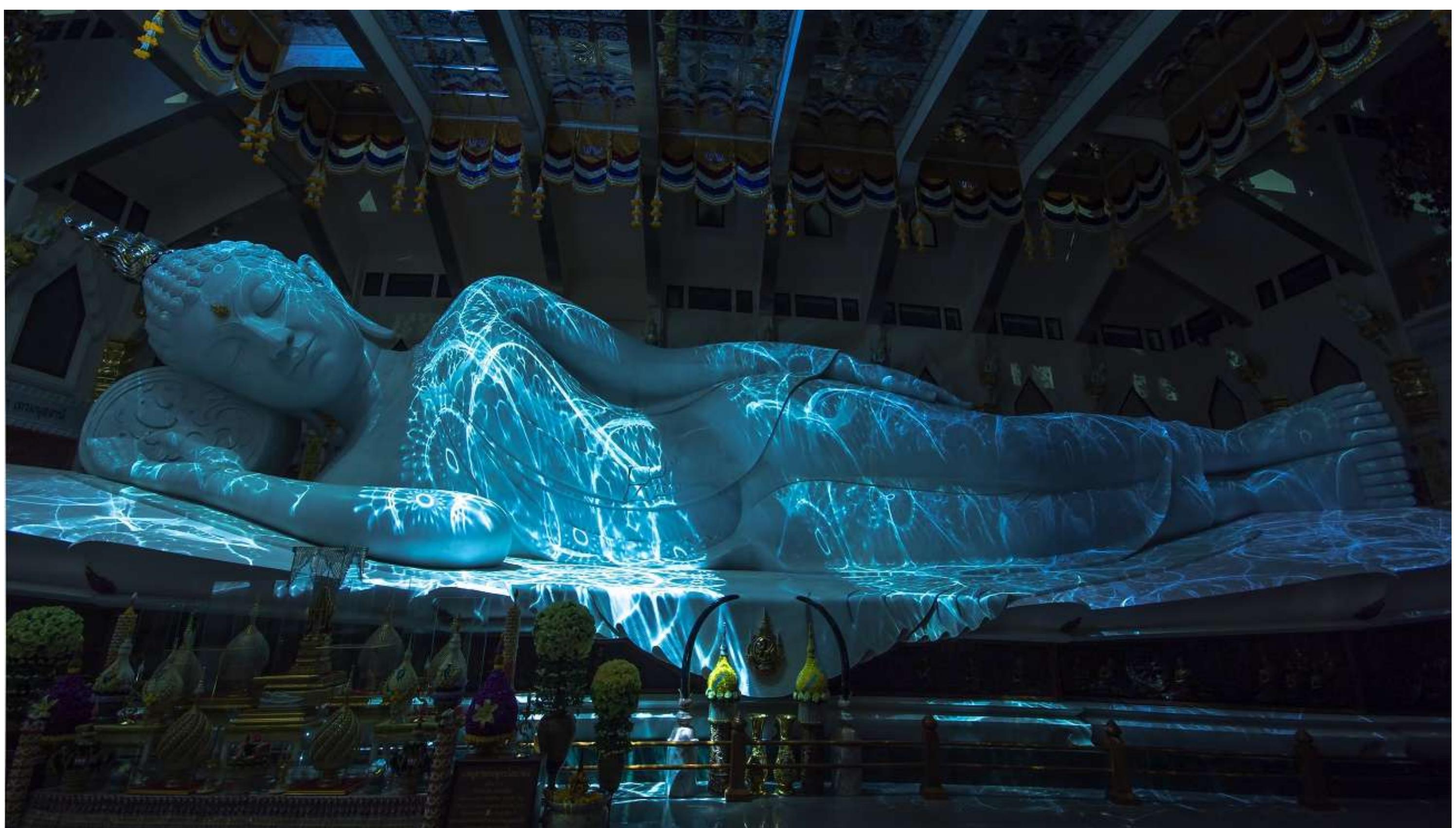
Huai Luang Reservoir, covering over 20,000 rai, was built for agriculture, fishery and water supply purposes. Yet, it is also serves as an attraction for tourists to enjoy the spectacular view! It also hosts the late Princess Mother's (HRH Princess Srinagarindra) villa, which is open for visits. Keep in mind, you must contact the officer in advance to tour the villa.



HOST'S FAVORITE

WAT PA PHU KON

A temple located high up in the mountains surrounded by lush greenery has truly become a must visit spot while travelling in Udon Thani. Become a part of nature and breathe in the fresh air to cleanse both your mind and body. Don't forget to admire the 20m long Buddha statue made entirely from white marble that took as long as 6 years to finish.



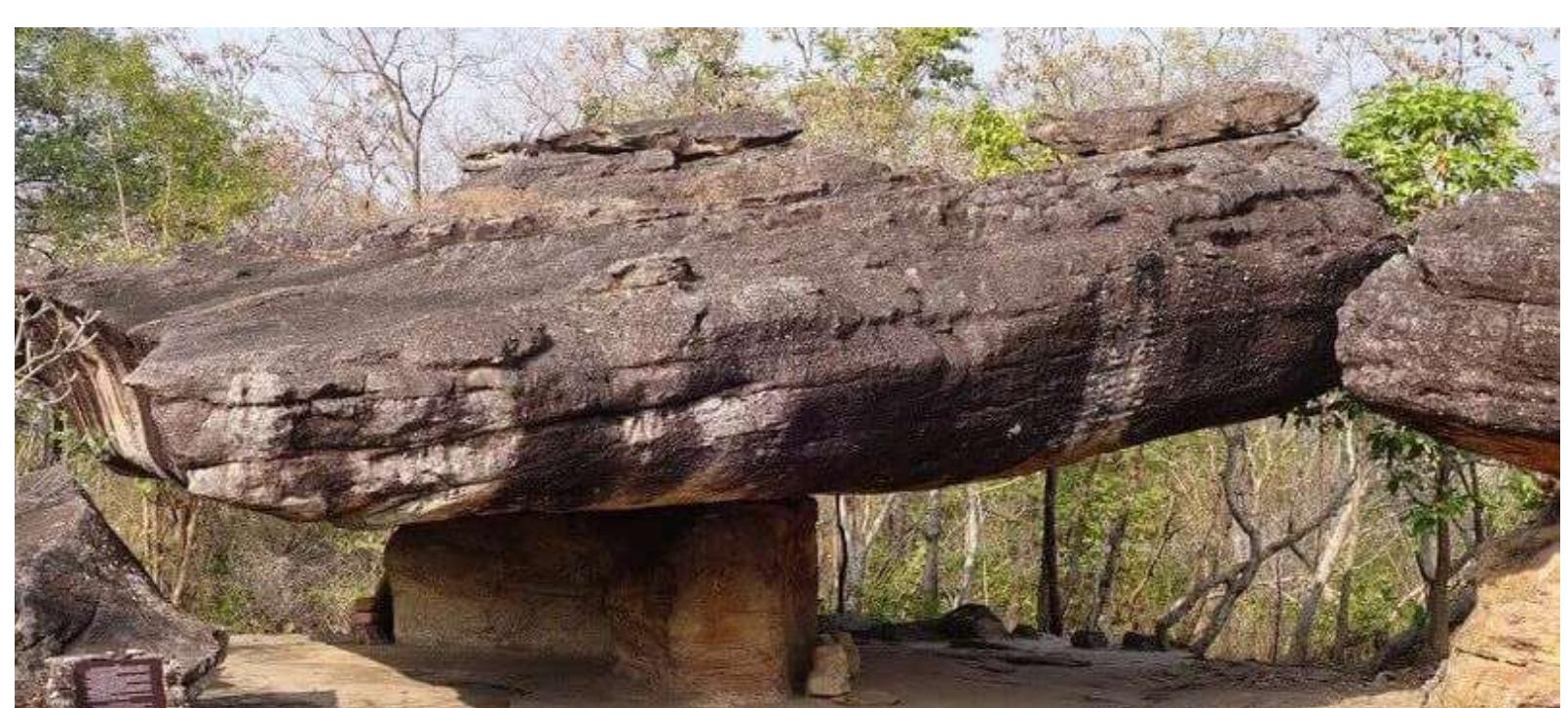
BAN CHIANG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

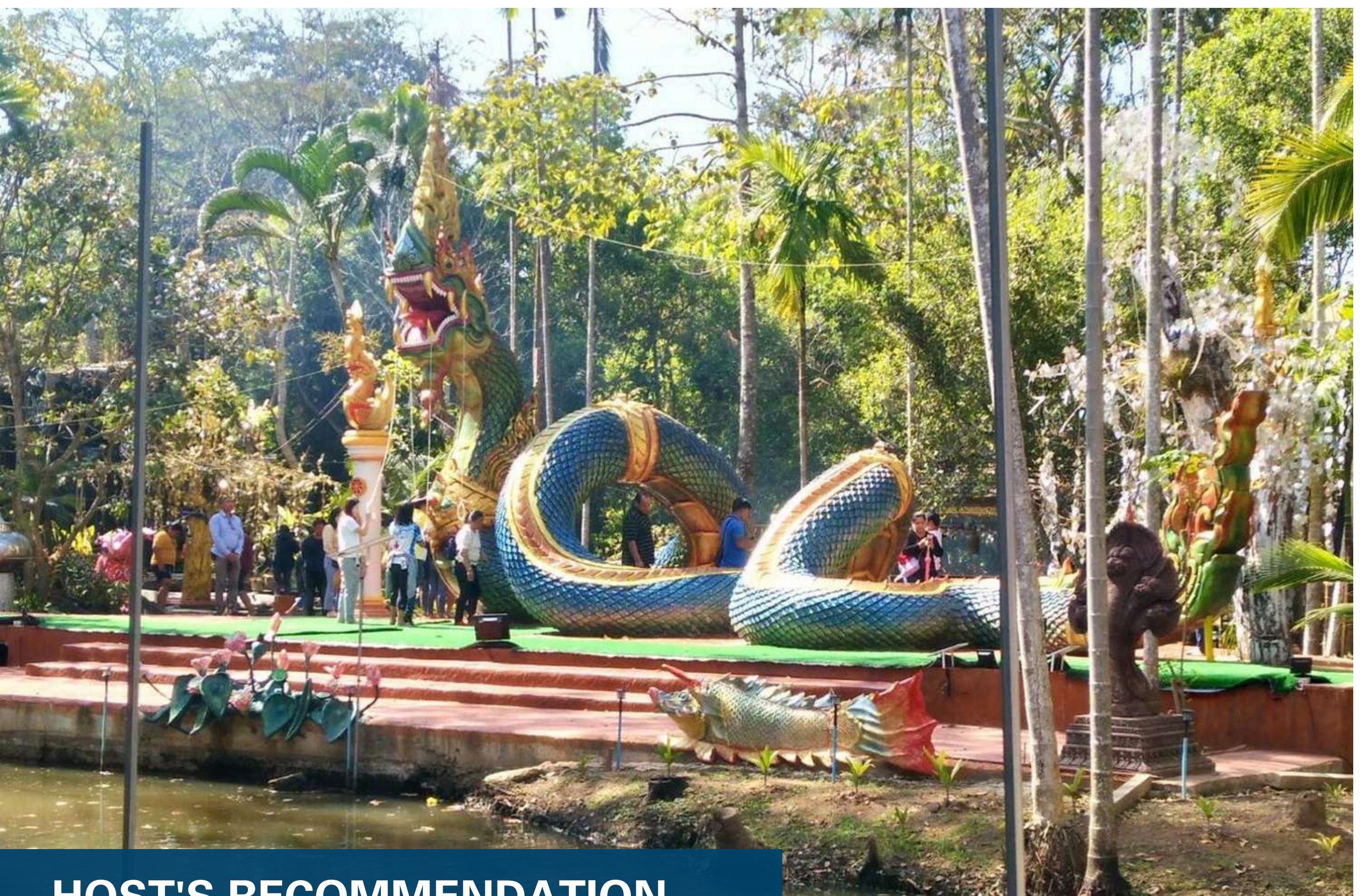
Take an evolutionary journey back to 2100BC as you spectate skeletal remains and Bronze Age artifacts at Ban Chiang Archaeological Site. Listed as one of five UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Thailand, Ban Chiang showcases some of the earliest evidence of primitive agricultural society in Southeast Asia. While you're there, we recommend visiting the craft stores in the village, or even giving pottery painting a try at the Ban Chiang Pottery and Painting Group!



PHU PHRABAT HISTORICAL PARK

Phu Phrabat Historical Park is a distinctively beautiful landscape that showcases the history of different civilizations that traces back to over 3000 years ago. No one really knows the history of this place, but that's what makes it so mysteriously compelling. There are also cave walls lined with paintings and chiseled motifs, alluding to a primeval force. Head on over there and see what secrets you uncover!

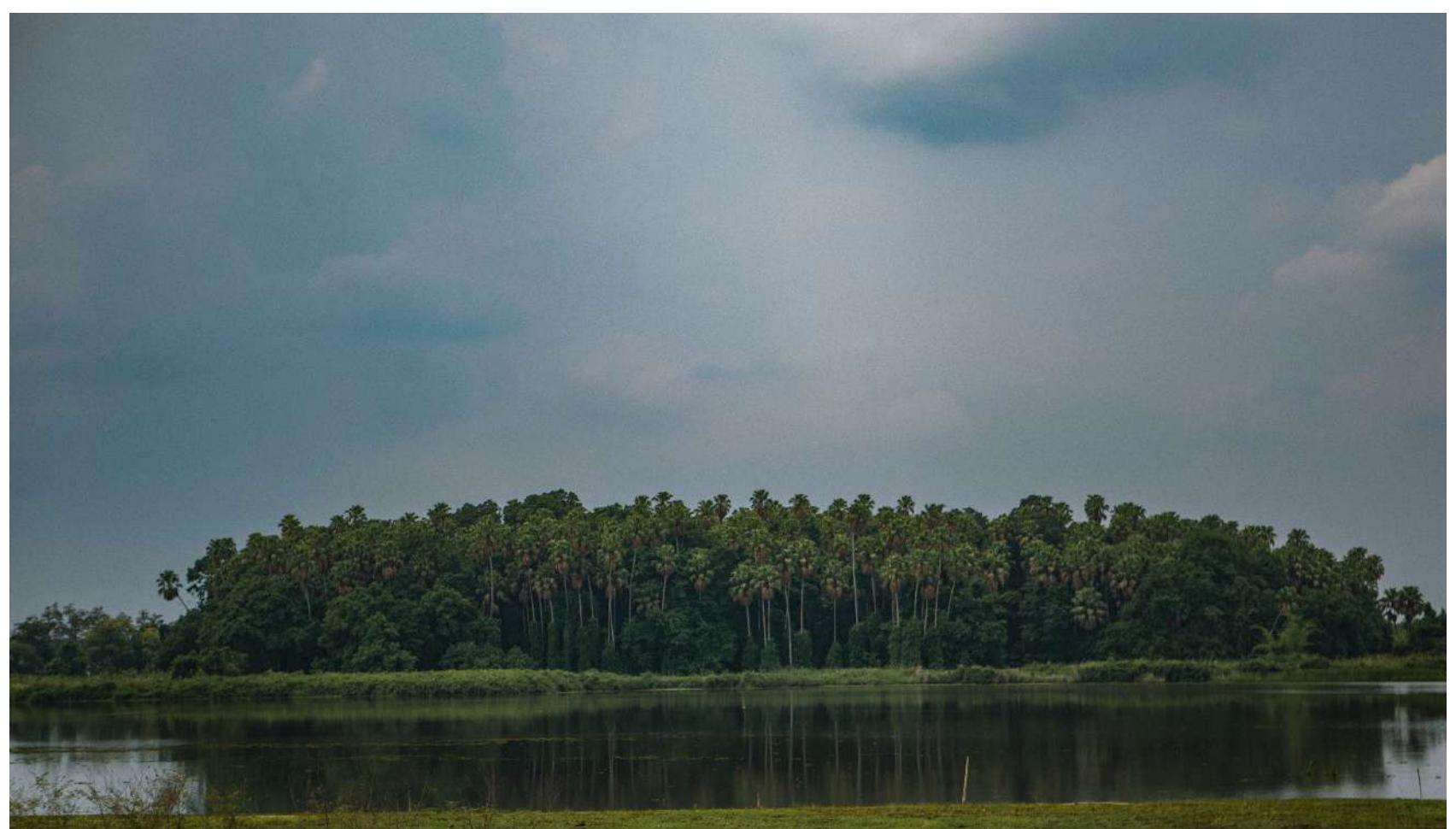




HOST'S RECOMMENDATION

KHAM CHANOT

Kham Chanot is probably the most visited tourist attraction in Udon, and while we're all about the off-beaten track, we couldn't leave this one off our list! People from all over the country travel to this Buddhist forest temple to pay their respects to Naga Pu Si Suttho, whom is believed to live here. The temple derives its name "Kham Chanot" from the Chanot trees around the temple, which only grows in this area. It is believed that these trees can reveal lucky numbers for the next lottery. Outside the temple is also a permanent market for some shopping at the end.



KHAO PIAK (ข้าวเปี๊ยะ)

You won't truly make it to Udon if you don't try Khao Piak, a rice noodle soup that originated from Laos. It is typically eaten for breakfast in Udon and most parts of Isan. Amongst many, Khao Piak (yes, the restaurant is named after the dish) is our favorite. It has a pretty limited menu, but there's nothing on there we don't love! It opens as early as 5:30am so it's the perfect place to kickstart your day.



Madam Pahtehh (มาดามพาเทห์)

Madam Pahtehh is another popular spot amongst locals. Like most breakfast places in Udon, the menu has influences from Laos and Vietnam. The restaurant has 2 branches; we recommend you go to the new branch - Google Madam Pahtehh 2515 for this one! The added bonus of this branch is it's beautifully decorated, taking you back in time with their vintage theme.

HOST'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Luang Pra Bang Salad
2. Happy Three Friends (Bread, Roti and Croissant)
3. Rice Soup With Soft Ribs Pork and Chinese Mushroom
4. Beef/Pork Pho



Somtum Je Kai Udon (ສັນຕຳເຈົ້າໄກ່ອຸດນ)

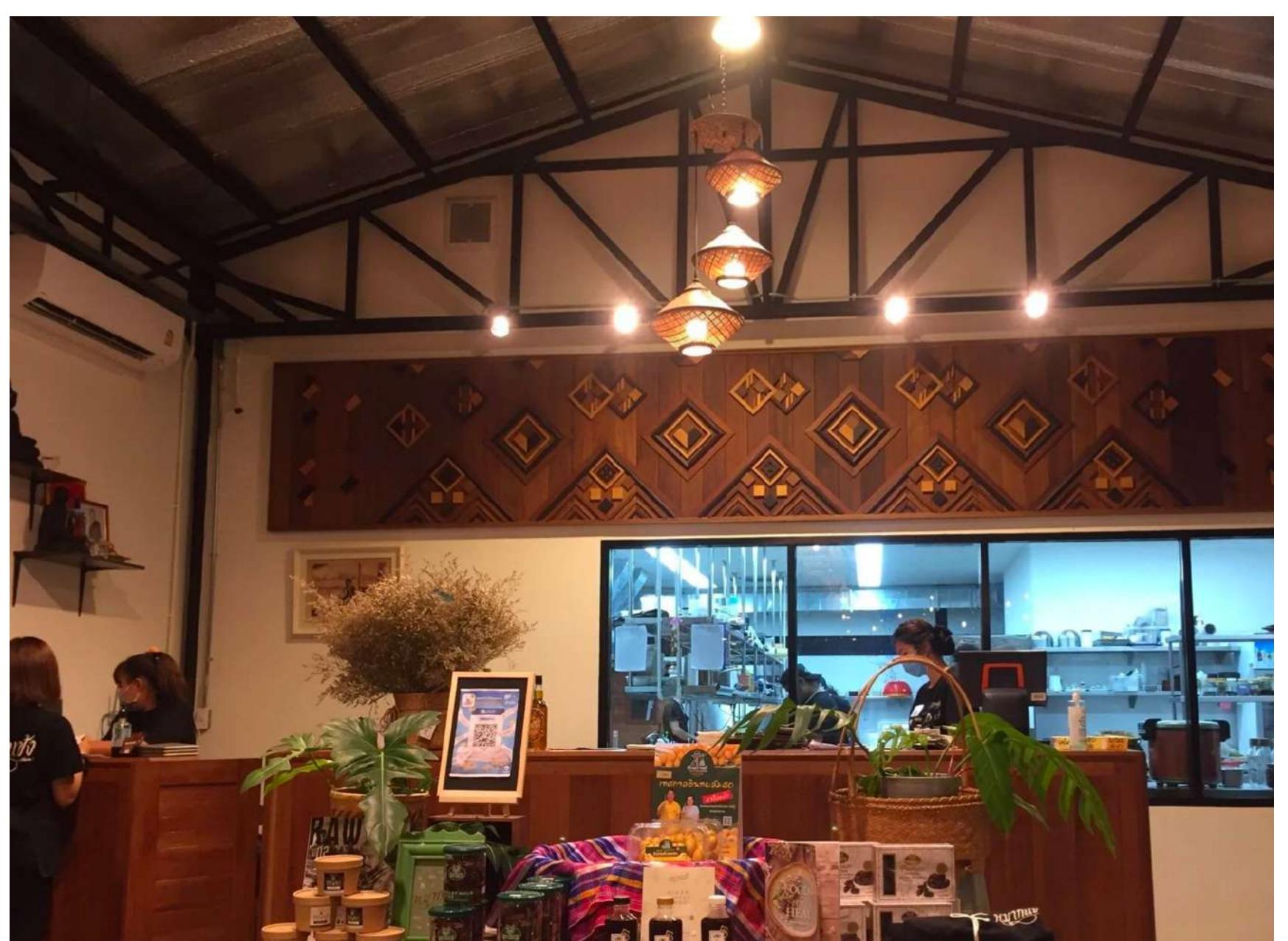
Somtum, or papaya salad, is one of Thailand's most popular dishes, and it originated in Isan. Therefore, it's a must to try authentic somtum during your trip to Udon, and we've got the place just for that! Som Tum Je Kai is a hit amongst locals, and is also some of our hosts' favorite somtum spot! The menu is extensive with a variety of somtum to choose from. To help you with the base flavor, 'Tum Thai' tends to be on the sweet side, while 'Tum Lao' or 'Tum Plara' tends to be spicier and saltier. From here, you can pick your favorite add ons - pork, seafood and more! We also recommend ordering the grilled chicken and grilled fish Tilapia.



HOST'S FAVORITE

Mak Khang (ມາກແຂ້ງ)

Mak Khang is an Isan fusion themed restaurant that prides itself on high-quality ingredients that are locally sourced. Their menu is slightly limited, but every dish is perfectly crafted in terms of taste and presentation. We also love the desserts here so if you've got a sweet tooth, you can't miss ordering at least one, if not more!



HOST'S INSIDER TIP

The nightlife here at Udon Thani is slightly different. Unlike Bangkok, it is much more relaxed as locals prefer to dine and drink over partying, so you won't find as many clubbing options. But, don't worry, we've curated the best and we promise you'll have fun with what we have in store for you.

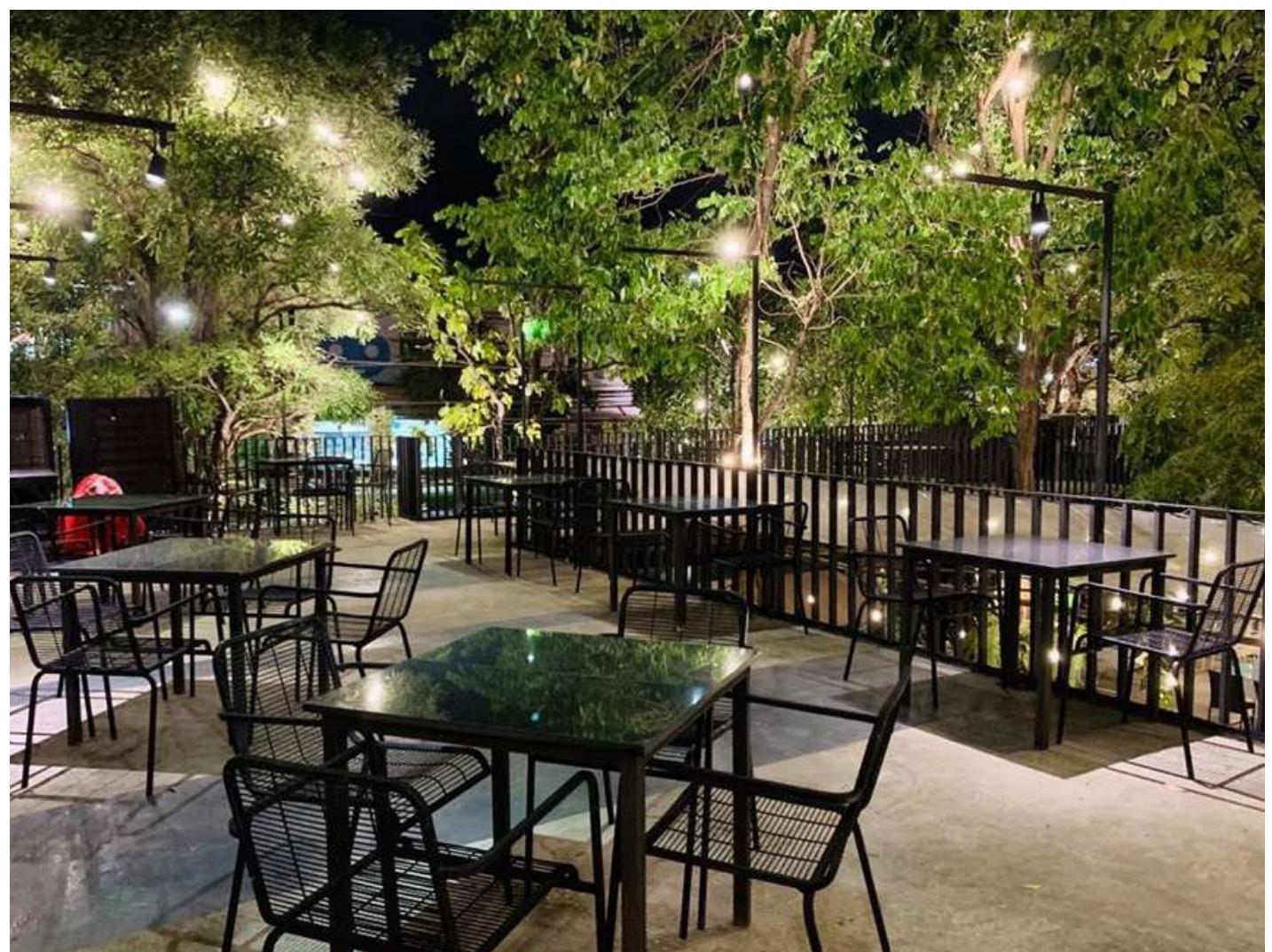


Phetkasem Udon

Looking for a place to wind down? Maybe, have a couple of drinks? Head over to Phetkasem Udon, which is only down the street from the hotel! Open in the evenings, the spot has daily live music for you to enjoy while eating and drinking with your friends. The menu is extensive so you'll have lots to select from.

Bar'ista Brasserie

For similar vibes as Phetkasem, we recommend Bar'ista Brasserie. It is open during the day as a café and restaurant, and transforms into a pub at night. They too have daily live music shows. The casual ambience and its prime location, only a few minutes from the hotel, makes it a hot spot among locals. Both indoor and outdoor are available!



While there aren't as many options for the clubbers and dancers, we recommend you head to **Roo** (ຮູ້ອັດຍາວຸ); **Rhythm and Bar Udon** (ຮົກສິນແອບນຫຼາວ ອຸດຍາວຸ); and **Safehouse Udon Thani** for your best bets.