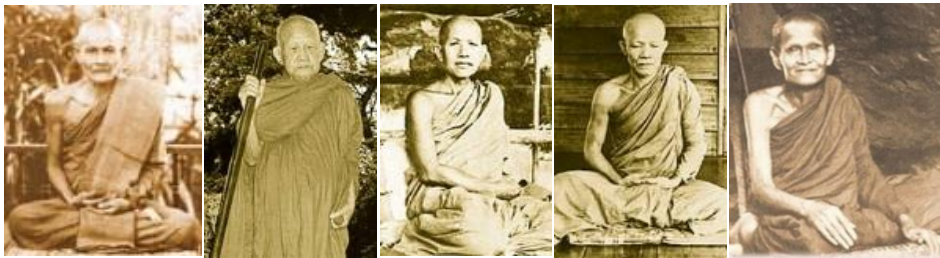


5D4N Forest Tradition Buddhist Pilgrimage



Cover the legacy of **Ajahn Mun & his disciples** and **unique tourist attractions** in **Sakon Nakhon, Udon Thani & Nong Bua Lamphu** like **UNESCO World Heritage Ban Chiang archaeological site, Chalerm Phra Kiat Lotus Park, Wat Tham Pha Daen cliff temple, the Lotus Temple, etc.**

Visit **Relic Stupas** of (Left to Right): Luang Pu Mun, Luang Pu Louis, Luang Pu



Fan, Luang Ta Maha Bua & Luang Pu Khao

Ajahn Mun Bhuridatta Thera (20 Jan 1870 – 11 Nov 1949) or Luang Pu Mun, is a much revered monk who revitalised the **Thai Forest Tradition** of Thai Buddhism. The Thai Forest Tradition emphasizes strictly on the original monastic rules of discipline laid down by the Buddha and on meditation practice with the goal of realizing enlightenment, as the focus of monastic life. Pay respects to the relics of Ajahn Mun in **Sakon Nakhon** (where he **spent his last years**) and those of **his eminent disciples** in **Udon Thani & Nong Bua Lamphu provinces**.

DAY 1: SAKON NAKHON Arrival

(D)

Morning, 11am flight from Kuala Lumpur to Don Muang Bangkok airport, arriving 12.15pm. Catch 4pm flight to Sakon Nakhon, arriving 5.10pm.



Transfer to visit **Wat Phra That Choeng Chum Worawihan**, a major Buddhist temple & stupa of Sakon Nakhon province where you pay respect to the **4 Buddha Footprints**, which locals believe to be that of the Buddhas Kakusandha, Konagamana, Kassapa & Gautama respectively. The chapel houses Luang Por Ong Saen, a sacred Buddha statue of the province.

Dinner and overnight in Sakon Nakhon city.

DAY 2: SAKON NAKHON – WAT THAM PHA DAEN – SAKON NAKHON (B/L/D)



Transfer to visit **Wat Pa Sutthawat**, the forest monastery where the late **Ajahn Mun** passed away and was cremated. Pay respects at **his relics shrine**, which also displays items which he used as a monk. Nearby is the relics chedi of the late **Luang Pu Louis Chanthasaro** (11 Feb 1901 – 25 Dec 1989), a disciple of Ajahn Mun, who as a youth was a Christian (hence his ‘Western’ name Louis) before converting to Buddhism and ordaining as a monk in 1923. See also the kuti of the late **Luang Ta Maha Bua** and his relics on display.



Morning, visit **Wat Tham Pha Daen**, a temple located on a hill cliff with many rock carvings depicting the Buddha and famous monks. With beautiful landscaping of flowers and trees, you will enjoy the scenery of the surrounding area from the cliff viewpoint. Includes the ticket for the return transfer by pick-up truck up the cliff to the temple.



After lunch, continue to **Kram Sakon Center** where you learn the art of making the province’s signature blue & white coloured tied-dyed cloth; a tied-dyed shirt or scarf would be a perfect Sakon

Nakhon souvenir. Visit **Tha Rae Village**, which is unique due to its community of Catholics of Vietnamese descent. Here you will see their St. Michael Cathedral, some buildings with French influenced design as well as ruins of a stone house dating back to end of 19th century. Proceed to **Nong Han Lake viewpoint** (the lake is Northeast Thailand’s largest natural lake) and then to **Chalerm Phra Kiat Lotus Park**.

Dinner and overnight in Sakon Nakhon city.

DAY 3: SAKON NAKHON – UNESCO BAN CHIANG - UDON THANI

(B/L/D)



Morning, after breakfast, check out hotel and transfer to visit the **museum & relic stupa of Luang Pu Fan Acharo** (20 Aug 1899 – 4 Jan 1977; a renown disciple of Ajahn Mun) at Wat Pa Udom Somporn. The outer wall panels of the stupa depict the story of his life. Inside are items which he used as a monk. Walk around the forest monastery and feed the fishes in the pond.



Continue to **Wat Pa Bhurittathirawat**, the forest monastery where **Ajahn Mun spent 5 rains retreat**. In the compound is the kuti of Ajahn Mun as well as that of his disciple, the late Ajahn Maha Bua. Here you will find a name **list of 29 monks and 4 novices** that formed the Sangha of this monastery from the Buddhist year 2488-2489 (1945-1946). Many of them were themselves highly attained meditation masters, the result of Ajahn Mun's tutelage.



Visit the newly built **Museum of Ajahn Mun**, whose construction was supervised by the late Luang Por Viriyang Sirintharo (Ajahn Mun's disciple and former abbot of Wat Dhammamongkhon in Bangkok) and opening was officiated by the present King of

Thailand (King Maha Vajiralongkorn). Statues of the many disciples of Ajahn Mun flank the side and rear pavilions.



Proceed to Udon Thani province with lunch en-route and then stop at **UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site of Ban Chiang**, where analysis suggests human settlement there began around 2000 – 1700 BC. Visit the **Ban Chang Museum** to see the famous collection of excavated ancient red painted pottery, bronze

objects and depictions of settlement life; and the nearby **Wat Pho Si Nai excavation site**.



Then visit **Wat Pa Dong Rai (Wat Santiwanaram)**, also known as the **Lotus Temple**. An evening visit will produce stunning photos especially if the temple is lighted up during dusk.

Transfer to Udon Thani city for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: UDON THANI – NONG BUA LAMPHU – UDON THANI

(B/L/D)



After breakfast, transfer to visit **Wat Pa Baan Taad**, the forest monastery established by **Luang Ta Maha Bua (12 Aug 1913 – 30 Jan**

2011), a disciple of Ajahn Mun highly revered by the Thai people. Following the death of Ajahn Thate in 1994, he was considered to be the head monk of the Thai Forest Tradition lineage until his death in 2011. Visit the newly completed **Chedi & Museum of Luang Ta Maha Bua**.

NOTE: if your group wishes to offer morning alms to the monks at Wat Pa Baan Taad, your group should depart Udon Thani city by latest 6am.



Continue to **Nong Bua Lamphu province** to visit **Wat Tham Klong Phen**, a forest monastery that is dotted with rock formations and caves. Visit the **relic stupa & museum of Luang Pu Khao**

Analayo (28 Dec 1888 – 16 May 1983) and the pavilion built beside a cave. A disciple of Ajahn Mun, Luang Pu Khao Analayo was a married man for 11 years but renounced lay life to be a monk at the age of 30 after discovering his wife was cheating on him. Wat Tham Klong Phen was his last monastery of residence, from 1958 to his death in 1983.



Visit nearby **Wat Phu Khong Tong** forest monastery, where Germany born **Ajahn Martin Piyadhammo** currently resides. He ordained as a monk in 1995 under the tutelage of Luang Ta Maha Bua at Wat Pa Baan

Taad. From 2006 onwards, he started giving Dhamma talks in English and German to visiting foreigners. He has also travelled overseas to give Dhamma talks and meditation instructions, such as to Germany, Malaysia and Singapore. His Dhamma talks are available on Youtube.

OPTIONAL: subject to approval, you can stay at monastery for meditation retreat.

