

## Phimai National Museum

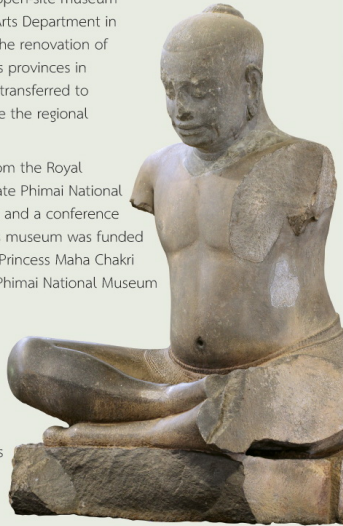
Phimai National Museum is situated on Tha Songkran Road near Tha Songkran Bridge by the Moon River Bank, Nai Muang Sub-District, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. It is 300 meters northeast from Prasat Phimai and 59 kilometers north of Nakhon Ratchasima District.

### Background

In 1964 Phimai National Museum was established as an open-site museum under the supervision of the Archaeology Division, Fine Arts Department in order to keep and display antiquities discovered during the renovation of Prasat Phimai and other antiquities gathered from various provinces in northeastern Thailand. Later in 1975, its supervision was transferred to the National Museums Division, and it was declared to be the regional museum of Lower Isan.

In 1989 the Fine Arts Department requested for funds from the Royal Contribution Project (or the Green Isan Project) to renovate Phimai National Museum by constructing an exhibition building, an office and a conference room based upon museological principles. After that this museum was funded continuously until it was successfully completed. H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided at the official opening ceremony of Phimai National Museum on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1993.

At present Phimai National Museum is a center of historical and archaeological knowledge. It contains various collections of antiquities, artifacts and exhibits of the background and evolution of Isan culture which existed in Lower Isan near the Moon-Chi River Basin in Nakhon Ratchasima, Chaiyaphum and Buri Ram provinces from the prehistorical period (3,000 years ago) until the present.



Fine Arts Department

### Phimai National Museum

Tha Songkran Road, Nai Muang Sub-District,  
Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province 30110  
Tel. +66 (0) 4477 1167  
[www.finearts.go.th/Phimai\\_museum](http://www.finearts.go.th/Phimai_museum)  
[www.facebook.com/PhimaiNationalMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/PhimaiNationalMuseum)

### Educational Services

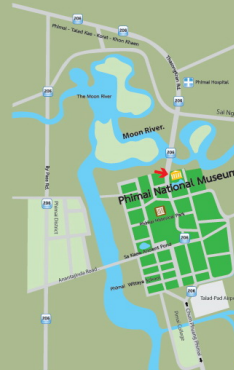
- Museum tours
- Academic lectures
- Mobile exhibitions
- Movies and slides
- Special exhibitions
- Academic pamphlets

### Opening hours

Open: 9.00 – 16.00 from Wednesday to Sunday  
Closed: Monday, Tuesday and National Holidays

### Entrance fee

Thai 20 baht / Person  
Foreigner 100 baht / Person



NATIONAL MUSEUM  
PHIMAI



Fine Arts Department



**Pottery**  
Prehistoric period, 2,600-2,200 years ago  
From Ban Prasat Archaeological Site, Non Sung District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Axe**  
Prehistoric period, 2,500-1,500 years ago  
From Ban Prasat Archaeological Site, Non Sung District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Standing Buddha on Vanaspati (a Mythical Creature)**  
Dvaravati Culture, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Phimai, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Buddha in Meditation**  
Dvaravati Art, 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found in Lam Ploi Mat District, Buri Ram Province



**Buddha sheltered by the Naga's hood**  
Lopburi Art, 13<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Phimai, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**An Ornament of a Hindu Deity**  
Lopburi Art, 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Ban Thonon Hak, Nong Buri Mat District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Lintel, depicting the Buddha subduing Mara**  
Lopburi Art, 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Phimai, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Standing Buddha**  
Ayutthaya Art, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
From Ban Wat Temple, Khong District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Phra Kajjaya**  
Ayutthaya Art, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Phimai, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province

## Prehistoric period

This exhibition displays archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period at significant archaeological sites. These sites include Ban Prasat, Non U Loke, Ban Non Wat and Ban Lum Khao archaeological sites in Non Sung District as well as Ban Suay archaeological site in Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The sites date back 3,000-1,800 years.

## Dvaravati Culture

Dvaravati Art or Dvaravati Culture existed in the early Proto-historical period in Thailand influenced by Buddhism from India. It was located in central Thailand between the 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century AD and Theravada Buddhism was the main religion. Later it was spread to various regions including Lower Isan and the central part of Moon River Basin in Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram and Chi River Basin in Chaiyaphum. In these locations considerable archaeological evidence of communities and ancient towns was discovered as well as antiques, all reflecting Dvaravati culture. The significant archaeological site is Muang Sema Archaeological Site, Sung Noen District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province.

## Lopburi Art or Khmer Art in Thailand

Khmer (or Lopburi) Art influenced on central, eastern, lower northern and northeastern (Isan) Thailand between the 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century AD. In addition, however, Khmer culture had a significant influence on lower Isan between the 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century AD. This is based on evidences from a number of archaeological sites such as Prasat Phnom Wan, Muang District; Prasat Muang Khaek, Sung Noen District; Prasat Phimai, Phimai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province; Prasat Phnom Rung, Chalem Phrakiet District; Prasat Muang Tam, Prakhon Chai District, Buri Ram Province. The evidence includes a large number of antiquities discovered at these archaeological sites.

## Ayutthaya and Rattanakosin Art

After the decline of Khmer Culture between the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century AD, culture from the Lan Chang Empire (modern day Laos), Ayutthaya and Rattanakosin played an important role and had an influence on this region.



**Black Phimai Potteries**  
Prehistoric period, 2,500-1,300 years ago  
Found in Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Boundary Stone**  
Dvaravati Culture, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Century AD



**Lintel, depicting Vamanavater or Trivikrama (The fifth avatar or incarnation of Vishnu)**  
Lopburi Art, 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
From Prasat Muang Khaek, Sung Noen District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Sacred Gold Leaf**  
Lopburi Art, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
Found at Prasat Phnom Rung, Chalem Phrakiet District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province



**Ganesha**  
Lopburi Art, 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD  
From Prasat Muang Tam, Prakhon Chai District, Buri Ram Province



**Buddha in Abhaya Mudra**  
Lan Chang Art, 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century AD