

Krung Ching Waterfall at Khao Luang NP, Thailand July 2025



Banded Linsang (camera trap)

As almost all trip reports from Thailand cover Khao Yai and/or Kaeng Krachan, I decided to report on someplace different. The Krung Ching Waterfall trail at Khao Luang NP was discussed on one of the podcast episodes, but I don't think any trip reports have come from there. My friend Chris, a birder who lives in Thailand, wanted to go there for birding so I joined him for a few days in July 2025. As we did a lot of birding during the day, our available time at night was limited, but we did manage to squeeze in a couple of short night drives on the road that leads into the park. We spent most of the days on the Krung Ching Waterfall trail, which is only open from 8AM to 4:30 PM (although one may be able to get onto the trail earlier if you stay in the park housing, which we opted not to do). It's a 4.7 KM out-and-back trail to a big waterfall.

We stayed at a nice new place, 'Happy Home', that's right on the road that goes into the park. Our host was great, as were all the people that we met outside of the park. The park staff were very inflexible about early morning access to the trail. We offered to pay a day in advance to go in earlier the next morning, but they did not allow it because it was 'dangerous'. One day we did not go on the trail at all but instead stayed on the public road before the park headquarters. The next day park staff told us that we had to pay for the previous day, even though we had never used the park trail on that day and only walked on

the road that locals regularly use for walking and jogging at no charge. Despite such difficulties with some park staff (including one un-uniformed, apparently self-anointed and strident enforcer of entrance rules) the younger rangers all seemed quite friendly.

On the days that we took the park trail leading to the Krung Ching waterfall we encountered a few groups of **dusky leaf monkeys** and a group of either **long-tailed or pig-tailed macaques**. We also heard **white-handed gibbons** singing every day (at least two groups). In addition, on the road that goes into the park we saw two groups of pig-tailed macaques and on a night drive also saw a **slow loris** (although I lost sight of it quickly so I'm not 100% sure of the ID). The primates that we encountered were all much shyer than the more habituated animals seen in large parks to the north (e.g. Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan). At Krung Ching they would typically run away and/or hide silently in the forest as soon as they heard us.



Most primate views were fleeting (L: dusky leaf monkey, R: pig tailed macaque)

Other mammals that we spotted from the trail included a couple of **common tree shrews**, several **lowland slender squirrels**, **northern gray-bellied squirrels**, **Southeast Asian striped squirrels** (a.k.a., Himalayan or Burmese striped), and at least a dozen **giant black squirrels**. Birders have reported seeing cream-colored giant squirrels from the trail too, but we had no luck with them. On the trail at around km 3 we also found fresh **Malayan tapir tracks** crossing the trail.

Brief spotlighting/thermal imaging forays at night along the road leading into the park revealed the (likely) **slow loris** mentioned earlier, as well as a **masked palm civet** on the way out of the park, shortly before one gets to the start of houses. We also saw two masked palm civets running away as we were driving out of the park on the last morning, in approximately the same area as we had seen the one on a previous night.



This bat flew off before I could get a good photo. All suggestions for a possible ID are welcome!

For two nights we set a couple of camera traps on small animal trails leading off the waterfall trail. These captured a **Lesser oriental chevrotain** and an **Indomalayan Long-tailed Giant Rat**.

On the road leading to the park there is a helicopter landing pad, and behind it there is an unmarked trail that is easy to follow and goes a long way (we followed it for about 2km, but it goes further). I set a couple of camera traps along that trail for two nights, and that is where I got the picture of the **banded linsang**,

Although we never saw the animal (so sadly, it will not yet get on my life list), we may have encountered it. About three hours before the camera trap picture was taken, we were on the trail within a few minutes' walk from the camera trap location, when we stopped to look at a bird and suddenly heard what sounded like something leaping from a tree (not 20 feet away) and then bolting very rapidly away down the trail. We saw the plants moving as it ran, but the animal was too short to be seen above them. At the time I thought perhaps it was a small pig, but that wouldn't explain how it had leapt from a tree. And the speed at which it moved was impressive. The trail from the helicopter landing pad follows a long-abandoned roadway, and for large sections (including the one we were on) there is a steep hill on the right and a sharp drop off to the left, so the trail essentially becomes a choke point with few means of escape for any animal that is approached by a stealthy mammalwatcher. I would be happy to share more details on the camera trap's location, if anyone is interested.

Because we were active mostly during the day, our mammal count was relatively low for this trip. Anyone devoting more nighttime hours to this location than we did is sure to be rewarded!

Bonus animal: we saw this Brown wood owl on the road. We also saw a Buffy fish owl on the trail. Because owls are so cool, I consider them to be honorary mammals.



Additional bonus information: before heading down to this park, I was working up at Khao Yai NP, and I checked on a couple of previously reported mammal locations from older trip reports. I am happy to report that there are still lesser false vampire bats roosting in a tree at km 33 of the park entrance road, and that a serow still shows up at dawn at the top of a hill across from the parking lot at 14.547736,101.420213.