

# Thailand 1st - 15th April 2019

24 Species



A trip report by Jono Dashper

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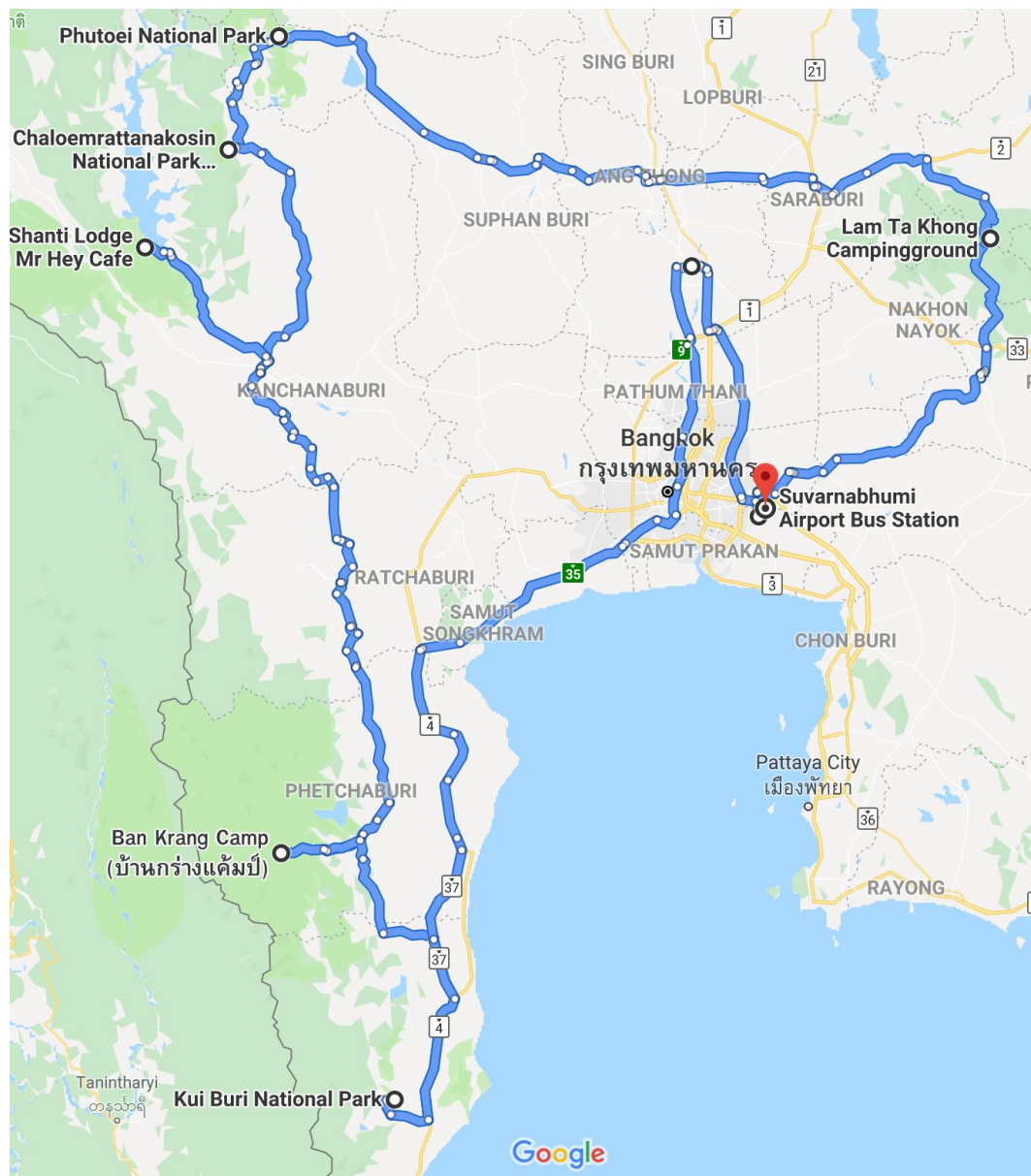
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## Context:

My Partner and I are currently traveling the world. My main passion is wildlife photography and we have been on the road for 9 months now. In Thailand we were meeting a good friend of ours, hiring a car and traveling around central-ish Thailand for 2 weeks. The purpose of the trip certainly wasn't mammal watching, but we picked up some decent mammals at the 6 national parks we visited. My Partner and I are in Thailand for a different project for a further 6 weeks.

## Logistics:

We had a rough route planned but not much booked so plans could change, and they did. In the end we followed the below route anti-clockwise from Suvarnabhumi Airport.



We hired a medium sized car from Thai Rent A Car. It served its purpose and got us around where we needed to go, nothing special. Driving in Thailand was much easier than expected, with very little stress involved.

We tried to camp or stay in National Parks as much as possible, to keep costs down and to be close to the action.

No Guides were used throughout the trip except on safari in Kui Buri National Park.

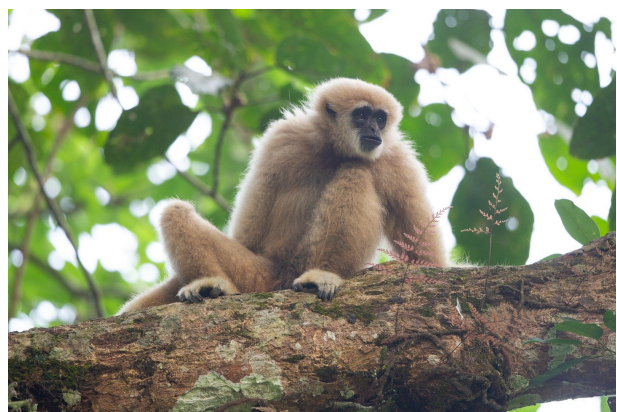
### **Bangkok: 1 - 2 April**

Catching up with a friend and eating some Thai food after 6 months in India/Sri Lanka - only saw Finlayson's squirrel near our hostel - Baan 89.

### **Khao Yai National Park: 2 - 5 April**

Camping at Lam Ta Khong in Khao Yai was an excellent experience, all camping equipment can be rented (although we had sleeping bags) and the tents are reasonably comfy and waterproof. Food can be a bit tough to come by as the restaurants were unreliable (not always open) but we survived on noodles and snacks for the majority of the time. The campsite was home to family of **Sambar Deer**, and spotlighting around the camp produced **Malayan porcupine** (which made awful noises in the night outside our tent) and **Asian palm civet**. A spotlighting in session just outside the camp (over the small suspension bridge) produced a surprise **Leopard Cat** (cover photo) which sat nicely for a photo even though I only had a 100mm lens with me. **Indian muntjac** was common near the visitors center and on road sides in the early morning, as were **Northern Pig-tailed Macaque**. We had a nice encounter with **White-handed Gibbon** near the Long-tailed Broadbill nest (14.443776, 101.36919).

On an evening walk to Pha Dia Dai lookout, we saw a small grey shrew - presumed to be **Asian Gray Shrew**. The drive back to the campsite produced a surprise **Mainland Serow**.







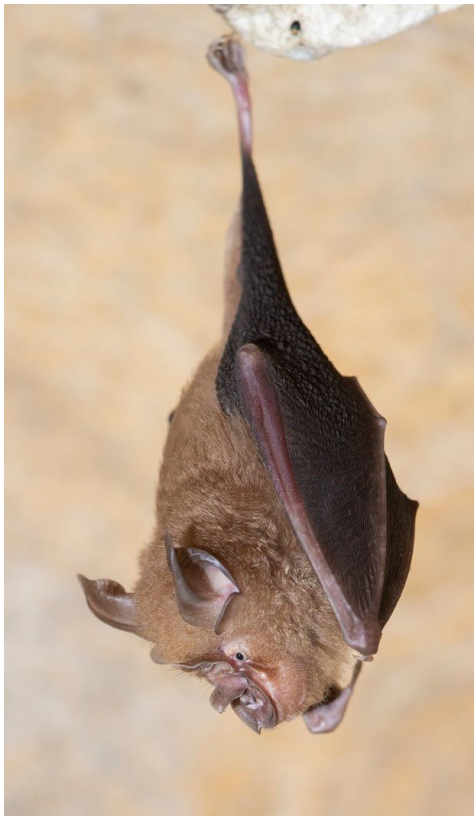
### Phu Toei National Park: 5 - 6 April

With no plans after Khao Yai we found ourselves heading to Phu Toei after reading a promising trip report. Unfortunately for us, the park was not very productive. We first tried to enter the park from the east, with plans to drive through it to the campsite in the west. Upon arrival the man at the gate told us it wasn't possible in a two wheel drive car, so we had to take the ~60km detour to the other end of the park. The park itself may have had potential, but the parts we could access (on foot only) had recently been heavily burnt, and was also interrupted by sections of (illegal?) clearings. The only mammals seen were a **Red-cheeked Flying Squirrel** (I think, pictured below), a *Hipposideros* spp. and a large rat with a white tail running through the bamboo. No food was available within the park and the cabins were average.



### Chaloem Rattanakosin National Park 6 - 8 April

After our bust at Phu Toei, we promptly made our way to the nearby Chaloem Rattanakosin, a small but beautiful National Park. We got ourselves a very comfortable cabin with a lovely garden. Spotlighting revealed a **Red Giant Flying Squirrel** in a hollow near our cabin. Chaloem Rattanakosin is home to the excellent Than Lod Cave. This cave had three species of bat; **Cave Nectar Bat** and two species of **Hipposideros**, pictured below if anyone wants to identify them. Birds and herps at the NP were fantastic, the food was also very good (although not open for dinner).



### Shanti Lodge Farm (Erawan National Park): 8 - 11 April

Our first time staying outside of a national park in nearly a week, although the living conditions weren't much better. This place was basic but clean and had great food. We had several animals visit out unsealed hut at night including a bat but I couldn't tell what species. The highlight of staying here was finding a **Bengal Slow Loris** in the bamboo forest at the back of the property. We visited Erawan Falls which was nice for a dip but no mammals. We also visited Pra That Cave, which was hugely impressive and had at least 2 species of bats, but to visit you had to be accompanied by a guide and they rush you through the cave, so I don't have any photos. **Stump-tailed Macaque** was also seen on the side of the road during drive here.





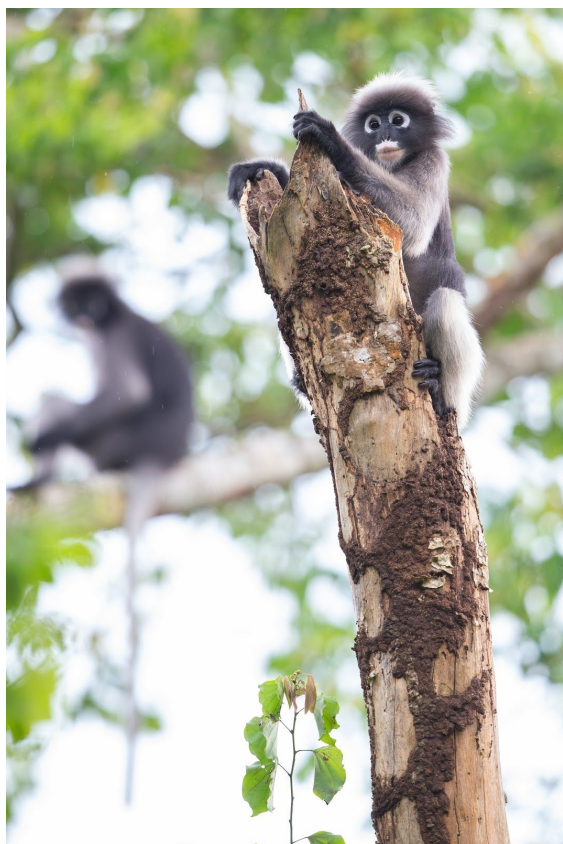
### Kaeng Krachan NP with visits to Baan Maka & Nuy Hide: 11 - 13 April

On our way into the park we stopped at Baan Maka Nature lodge for lunch and some info on the bird hides within the area. While eating lunch we saw **Himalayan Striped Squirrel**, **Grey-bellied Squirrel** & **Pygmy Treeshrew**, these three were also seen at Nuy Hide. Again we were camping, this time at Ban Krang Campsite. At the time of visit the road west of the camp was closed for "construction work", so only relatively little of the park is currently accessible. The campsite was home to **Dusky Leaf Monkey** and apparently Sun Bear does stroll through the camp although we did not see one.

Night walks produced **Sambar Deer** and **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**, while day walks produces more **Sambar**, **Black giant squirrel** and **White-handed Gibbons**. Camping here was very hot and humid, with daily storms, but there was a reasonable restaurant that was open everytime we needed it.







### Kui Buri National Park: 13 April

As we hadn't seen any elephants (which was a surprise), we decided to cut Kaeng Krachan one night short and head to Kui Buri National Park. This national park is only able to be visited between 2 - 6pm, and only by pickup safari. We found this national park well managed and reasonably priced (especially after coming from India), and were quite happy with how it ran. We had a pickup to ourselves and a friendly guide. We saw a total of 6 **Indian Elephants** with some excellent close views, and also my first elephant with tusks. The only other mammal we saw was **Gaur**, of which we saw two herds, mostly at a distance. From here we drove to Ayutthaya and back to Bangkok, with no other wild mammals seen.



### Species List:

Indian elephant	( <i>Elephas maximus indicus</i> )
Pygmy Treeshrew	( <i>Tupaia minor</i> )
Bengal Slow Loris	( <i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i> )
Stump-tailed Macaque	( <i>Macaca arctoides</i> )
Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	( <i>Macaca leonina</i> )
Dusky Leaf Monkey	( <i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i> )
White-handed Gibbon	( <i>Hylobates lar</i> )
Malayan Porcupine	( <i>Hystrix brachyura</i> )
Black Giant Squirrel	( <i>Ratufa bicolor</i> )
Red-cheeked Flying Squirrel	( <i>Hylopetes spadiceus</i> )
Red Giant Flying Squirrel	( <i>Petaurista petaurista</i> )
Grey-bellied Squirrel	( <i>Callosciurus caniceps</i> )
Finlayson's Squirrel	( <i>Callosciurus finlaysonii</i> )
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	( <i>Tamias maclellandii</i> )
Asian Gray Shrew	( <i>Crocidura attenuata</i> )
Cave Nectar Bat	( <i>Eonycteris spelaea</i> )
Hipposideros spp. x 2	
Leopard Cat	( <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> )
Asian Palm Civet	( <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> )
Sambar Deer	( <i>Rusa unicolor</i> )
Indian Muntjac	( <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i> )
Gaur	( <i>Bos gaurus</i> )
Mainland Serow	( <i>Capricornis milneedwardsii</i> )

If there are any errors in taxonomy or species identifications, please contact me so they can be rectified.