

## Abstract

The Mun River is the main river streaming through all 5 provinces in the Lower Northeastern Region: Nakornratchasima, Surin, Buriram, Sri Saket and Ubolratchathani. It runs also through the southern part of Roi Ed province.

The Mun River was historically documented from a survey by Etienne Aymonier in 1882-1884. Artifacts and ancient buildings along the river indicate the earliest culture since the Pre-historic period (before 2,500 years). Travels along the river since the 12th century to present were studied.

Archaeological and historical sites along the Mun River belong to extinct, ancient civilizations; Pre-historic cultures and the Khmer civilization (Chenla and Kampuchea Kingdoms) and the present tribal cultures; Thai, Mon, Kui, Khmer and Lao. Cultural sites 15 kilometers from the river are described by provinces.

Existing services, tourism routes and travelling problems along the Mun were studied and evaluated. Existing water routes are offered only for natural site seeing. They are not paid attention to cultural sites. Six potentially cultural water routes are then proposed as integration of natural and cultural site visits. They are truly waterway eco-tourism routes. High-medium routes exist in 2 provinces; Nakornratchasima and Ubolratchathani. In Nakornratchasima, 3 routes are proposed to visit 1) Phimai, 2) Cai Ngam (Banyan trees) and villages, and 3) Ta Chang fossil beds. In Ubolratchathani, 3 routes of the 12th century Chenla waterway are proposed from Khong Jiem to Pibul Mungsahan districts.

Tourism development are recommended ranging from the provision of basic infrastructure ie. piers, foot paths, landscaping, information boards and signs to newly supporting projects ie. the Mun River cultural museum and beach island, a Fossil site museum and archaeological site conservation.