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VIENTIANE - VANG VIENG EXPRESSWAY

VIENTIANE

Transfer options between Vientiane & Vang Vieng have since the opening of the Express way in December. The first-of a kind-in-Laos toll way, shortens the travel distance from 160KM to 110KM, and reduces transfer time from 4-5, to just 1,5 hours only. The smooth 4 lane tollway, cuts through lush mountains and includes 45 bridges and the 1st road tunnel in Laos.

We continue to suggest traversing the backroads visiting villages and with plenty of sights and stops on the way, as this is a much more interesting journey. Thhe reduced number of cars & trucks on this route will help to keep the roads in better condition then previously.

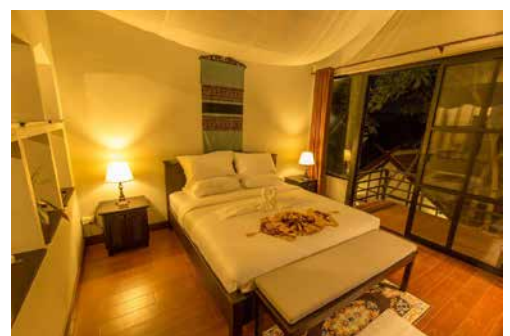
The expressway now offers some new transfer options, such as a direct transfer from Vang Vieng to Vientiane Airport on departure day.



POU VILLA

LUANG NAMTHA

Luang Namtha in Northern Laos has been a favorite for more adventurous travelers. Well known for the complex ethnic diversity as well as the Nam Ha Natural Protect Area, Luang Namtha offers stunning nature and experiences for its visitors. Accommodation has been limited but with the opening of Pou Villa there is a great new option. Pou Villa consists of 9 comfortable accommodations in 2 classes and is situated on the edge of the hill, overlooking the town and takes in the surrounding mountain views. The small restaurant offers some tasty dishes and great views. Pou Villa is good value and an excellent option for any visitors to Luang Namtha



UPCOMING EVENTS

Vat Phou Festival
26-28 January 2021

Lao Elephant Festival
13 February 2021

Laos New Year
14-16 April 2021

OUR GUIDE IN FOCUS; MR. DET PAKSE

During these challenging times, we continue to work closely with our guides. In this edition of the newsletter, we are pleased to introduce you to one of our expert guides, Mr. Detoudorn Souvannalath. Det was born and raised in Pakse and has been with Nakarath Travel from the early days. He knows Central & Southern Laos throughout and has a special interest in and outstanding knowledge of the complex flora & fauna in the country.

Q: Please tell us a bit about your personal life.

A: My name is Det and I am 43 years old. I live in Pakse with my wife. I love animals and I have many pets. I also like to play football with my friends. I have been a tour guide since 2002, so for almost 20 years now. I love my job and I miss it very much. I look forward to welcome guests from all over the world to share stories and experiences.

Q: How has COVID-19 influenced your work & life?

A: 2020 has been a very hard year. My last tour ended on 23rd of March 2020 and I have not had much income since. The first months of lock-down, I used to finish our first house which my wife and I started to build after our wedding in 2019. My wife still has an office job and luckily, we do not need to pay rent anymore now our house is finished. We can survive from my wife's salary for now, but I cannot wait to have work and an income again.



What destination in Laos should visitors flock to again when possible?

My favorite is Champasak. A beautiful and very historic town which was once the capital of the Kingdom of Champasak. It is also the gateway to the UNESCO Heritage Site of Vat Phou Temple. This Ruined Khmer Hindu Temple outdates its larger brother Angkor Wat which is only 240 KM away. I recommend visiting Vat Phou in the early morning to have this magical place all for yourself.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN APRIL 2021