

NEWSLETTER

Issue 52 - January 2025


NAKARATH TRAVEL



Overnight Mekong Cruises

NORTHERN LAOS

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The Mekong cruise options have expanded with two new boats offering multi-day overnight journeys. The Bohème boat, operated by Mekong Kingdoms, was first announced in 2017 and set sail on its maiden voyage this month.

This 50-meter-long vessel features 13 well-appointed suites, each measuring 30m², and is equipped with a spa, bar, lounge, and a spacious sundeck. The cruise follows a leisurely-paced itinerary over 6 days and 5 nights between Luang Prabang and Vientiane, operating in both directions. This journey could be a nice fit for clients who have the time to explore a rarely visited stretch of the Mekong River at a very relaxed pace.



Also returning to the Mekong is the Anouvong, part of the Heritage Line collection. After a challenging first year marked by technical and service issues, the boat was retired for renovations.

The cruise, featuring eight staterooms, has resumed its original 4-day, 3-night itinerary between Chiang Rai and Luang Prabang, as well as extended cruises to and from Vientiane.

We look forward to seeing the Anouvong team settle in over the coming months.

La Residence Phou Vao

SOUTHERN LAOS



One of our favorite hotels in Luang Prabang, the esteemed La Résidence Phou Vao, has entered a new chapter. After 18 years under Belmond Hotels, the luxurious property has been acquired by KS Resorts—a group of seasoned hoteliers with a strong regional portfolio, including the renowned Shinta Mani hotels in Siem Reap.



The 34-suite luxury hotel is located on Phou Vao Hill in Luang Prabang. Spanning over 2 hectares, this hilltop retreat is incredibly spacious, with large, well-appointed suites offering stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the iconic Phousy Mountain temple.

Newly appointed GM, K. Aliz, is working closely with the local team, many of whom have been with the hotel for an extensive period.

We are impressed with the changes and the exceptional service, and are confident in recommending La Résidence as an upgraded deluxe hotel for your guests in the years to come.



GUIDE IN FOCUS: MR. CHEE NOU

LUANG PRABANG

This month, we're introducing Mr. Chee Nou, one of our top guides in Luang Prabang.

Born and raised in Oudomxay in Northern Laos, Chee Nou is of Hmong ethnicity and has extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of the mosaic of ethnicities in Laos. He is kind, active, and very welcoming, making him an excellent guide for your clients.



Q: How long have you been a guide?

A: I became a guide in 2015, after spending three years working in a restaurant. I have a passion for sharing my country's rich history and culture, and my goal is to ensure visitors experience the very best of Laos.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself.

A: I grew up in a small village before moving to Luang Prabang in 2010 to pursue my studies at college. Now, I am married with two young daughters. I truly enjoy my job as a guide, as it allows me to meet people from all over the world. In my free time, I love playing pétanque.

Q: What is your favorite destination?

A: My favorite destination is my hometown, Luang Prabang, which has so much to offer. I also love Nong Khiaw, which is just 3 hours away, nestled along the stunning Nam Ou River.

Q: which Lao dish would you recommend?

A: Everybody should try laab, a tasty salad made with minced meat, plenty of mint, and other fresh herbs. It can be prepared with various meats, fish, or even mushrooms for a delicious vegetarian option.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sikhottabong Festival

10-13 February 2024

Vat Phou Festival

12 February 2025

Lao New Year

14-16 April 2025