



ISSUE16: JANUARY 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Ethnic Diversity
2. Sinouk Coffee Pavilion
3. Upcoming Festivals
4. New Villa by Kiridara
5. Guide in Focus
6. ITB-Berlin

NEW YEAR & THE ETHNIC DIVERSITY LAOS

On behalf of the Nakarath team, I wish you all the best for the New Year!

Laos's next New Year is not far away. Next week, is Khmu New Year. The Khmu are the indigenous inhabitants of Northern Laos, and are with almost 400.000 one of the biggest of not less than 149 ethnic groups in Laos. Each preserves their own dialect, customs, culture and tradition. This ethnic diversity is what makes Laos so unique, and should not be missed by any visitor.

For every type of traveler there are opportunities to experience in Laos;

Witnessing the common practice of almsgiving at sunrise, participating in a Baci, or for the adventurers, staying with the village elderly of the Mouchi tribe in the far north of Laos.

Nakarath is pleased to also in 2016, work with you to create the best experiences for your clients.

SINOUK COFFEE PAVILION VIENTIANE

Also clients who do not travel to the south, now have the opportunity to learn about a treasure of Laos; coffee.

Coffee entrepreneur Mr Sinouk, famous for the Sinouk Coffee Resort on the Bolaven Plateau, has established a beautiful Coffee Pavilion just outside of Vientiane on the way to the Buddha Park. The pavilion holds a small museum, a roastery and a coffee garden, where clients can learn about coffee or simply enjoy a cup on their way to the Buddha Park.



UPCOMING FESTIVALS

XAYABOURY & CHAMPASAK

Two very interesting, off-the beaten path festivals coming up. 19th-21st of February will be already the 9th edition of the Annual Elephant festival in Xayaboury, which was first organized in 2007 to draw the public's attention to the condition of the endangered elephant, whilst acknowledging and celebrating the ancestral tradition of elephant domestication and the way of life chosen by the mahout.

From 18th-22nd February will be the Boun Wat Phou. This annual festival At Wat Phou temple in the south of Laos, is held to honour all those who have contributed to this wonder of ancient architecture. Wat Phou which translates to "mountain temple" was built during the late 10th to early 11th century and is a temple dedicated to Shiva, one of the Gods of the Hindu Trimurti, which makes it older than its big Cambodian brother; Angkor Wat.

There will be traditional Laos dance and musical performances throughout the festival and during the final day, senior dignitaries and religious figures from around the country come to take part in a traditional Tak Bat (alms ceremony)



NEW LUXURY VILLA BY KIRIDARA

LUANG PRABANG

The latest addition to Kiridara Hotel and Villas is idyllic located along the Mekong, about 6km east from the centre of the Old Town. Comprising three spacious independent suites within a secured compound, Villa Ban Mekong is ideal for couples, families and small groups of friends who prefer the privacy. The 300sq meters Villa Ban Mekong can be booked as a large four-bedroom unit or as three smaller independent suites. There is also an infinity pool on the villa grounds where guests can relax while soaking in the river view.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

Info@nakarath.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese New Year
8 February 2016

Vat Phou Festival
18 - 22 February 2016

Lao Elephant Festival
19-21 February 2016

Boun Khoun Khao
22- March 2016

Boun Phavet
22- March 2016

OUR GUIDE IN FOCUS; MR. SAKHONE VIENTIANE

We place a lot of emphasis on sourcing the best guides and they are a key part of our success at Nakarath. This newsletter we are pleased to introduce you to our guide; Mr. Sakhone. Sakhone has guided numerous clients throughout the country, and is a true specialist of his hometown Vientiane

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

A: I lived the first 11 years of my life in the United States after my parents fled the Country in 1976 during the 3rd Indochina War. We returned in 1990 to Laos and I have been studying until I decided to become a tourguide in the year 2000. Ofcourse my fluency in English is a great step ahead.



Q: What is your favorite destination in Laos?

A: My favorite destination are the Islands in the far south. A perfect place to take in typical Lao life and to relax.

Q: Which Lao dishes should travellers make sure to try?

A: When in Laos, travelers should not miss Laap Paa, which is a spicy fish salad, prepared in a traditional Lao style with fresh mint, chiles and a lot of spices.

Q: Why should travellers come to Laos?

A: Travellers should come to Laos to experience such a different and unique culture at first hand. This in combination with excellent opportunities to relax in the slow-paced country, makes it a perfect holiday destination.

ITB-BERLIN GERMANY

Nakarath Travel will be represented by Product Manager Ait Geurts at the shared booth of the Laos Ministry of Tourism. Contact Ait at ait@nakarath.com if you are planning to visit the ITB and would like to discuss our newest products in person.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

Info@nakarath.com

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN APRIL 2016