

2022: NOV 2 – 9 & DEC 14 - 21



Thailand
& Laos

2023: JAN 4 – 11, FEB 1 – 8 & MAR 8 -15

Naga Route along Mekong River Tour

DAY 1 WED: KL – (flight via Bangkok) - Udon Thani (D)

At KLIA2, take 11.35am flight to Bangkok, arriving 12.50pm. Connect to 17.15pm flight to **Udon Thani**, arriving 18.30pm. Transfer for dinner at local restaurant located beside **Nong Prajak Lake**. Check in hotel and overnight in Udon Thani.

DAY 2 THU: Udon Thani - Kamchanod - Bueng Kan (B/L/D)



Morning, transfer to **Kamchanod**, where in a swampy forest reserve, is located a temple to worship the Naga. Locals believe the swamp is a gateway to the Naga realm.



Proceed to **Bueng Kan**, Thailand's latest province (no. 76), carved out from Nong Khai province in 2011. Visit **Ahong Silawat temple**, which has a replica of the famous Chinnarat Buddha statue. It is located besides a deep whirlpool in the Mekong River nicknamed "**The Navel of Mekong**". A powerful Naga is believed to reside in its depths. Overnight in Bueng Kan.

DAY 3 FRI: Bueng Kan – Phu Tok - Bueng Khong Long Lake (B/L/D)



Visit **3-Whales Rock (Hin Sam Wan)** with 3 giant rock formations looking like 3 whales swimming in a sea of trees (father, mother and baby respectively). Look at **Phu Singh** rock, one side like a Lion's Head, the other like a Sleeping Buddha. Then visit **Wat Phu Tok**, a temple of the late Forest Tradition monk, Ajahn Chuan, located on a hill top that can only be accessed via wooden stairways built by devotees.

Visit **Bueng Khong Long Lake**. Stop at **Pu U-Lue temple** and learn about the legend of the fight between humans led by a shaman named Pu U-Lue and the Nagas. Then go for **boat ride** to enjoy the scenery of the lake. Enjoy **dinner** with **sunset views** over the lake. Overnight at Bueng Khong Long Lake.

DAY 4 SAT: Bueng Khong Long Lake – Nakhi Cave – Nakhon Phanom (B/L/D)



Transfer to **Phu Langka National Park**, walking along concrete path with signage providing information of fauna & flora found in the park. Stop to admire the **waterfall** coming down from top of the cliff. Those who are fit & healthy can go up the stairway network to visit **Nakhi Cave** (cave of the female Naga), **rock formations** that resemble **scales of Nagas** and the **viewpoint** overlooking the area.

After lunch, transfer to visit **Wat Phutthanimit** (Tambon Nong Thao, Amphoe Tha Uthane) which has an ordination hall decorated with exquisite carvings. Then **stop to view the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge No. 3**, built in 2011 across the Mekong River to connect Nakhon Phanom city with Tha Khaek town of Laos. Arrival in Nakhon Phanom city and go for **evening Mekong River Dinner Cruise**, enjoying dinner as the beautiful riverside attractions pass by. Overnight in Nakhon Phanom.

DAY 5 SUN: Nakhon Phanom – Phra That Phanom – Mukdahan (B/L/D)



Morning, visit **Phra That Nakhon** (this principle stupa of the city that is a holy place for people born on a Saturday), **Giant Naga monument** on the riverfront, the unique 2 storey **7-Eleven with rooftop viewing deck**, **riverfront walking-cycling boardwalk** with **colourful shop houses**, **Old Clock Tower** (built in 1960 by the local Vietnamese community), **Old Governor House Museum** (where King Bhumibol stayed a night in 1955; now it is a museum documenting the King's visit and the history of Nakhon Phanom; closed Mon & Tue) and **Saint Anna Church** (originally built in 1926; this current version dates from the 1970s).



Then visit **Mekong Underwater World** aquarium (with a collection of fishes of the Mekong River and other rivers) and **Chakri Dynasty Honour Celebration Building** museum (covering the present dynasty starting from King Rama 1 to the present King Rama 10)



Visit **Ho Chi Minh Shrine** and **House of Ho Chi Minh**. Ho Chi Minh, in his youth, had stayed here before returning to Vietnam to free Vietnam from colonial French rule.



Lunch in Nakhon Phanom. Then visit **Phra That Phanom**, which according to legend, contains The Buddha's breast bone, therefore making it one of the most important Theravada Buddhist structures in the region. It was originally built in the 16th century by the Laotian King Setthathirath of Lanxang, but has seen undergone many rebuilds and renovations. In Thai folk Buddhism, it is a popular pilgrimage destination for those born in the year of the Monkey. Arrival **Mukdahan** for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 MON: Mukdahan – Savannakhet - Mukdahan (B/L/D)



Visit **Wat Roi Phra Phutthabat** which is located atop **Phu Manorom** hill. Be amazed at the **Phra**

Chao Yai Kaeo Mukda Sitirait Giant Buddha, with a lap width of 39.99 metres and a height of 59.99 metres, in the posture of subduing Mara. The total height from the base to the top is 84 metres. The statue was built on the occasion of King Rama IX's 84th birthday anniversary, 5 December, 2011. There is also the **Phaya Si Mukda Maha Muni Nilapala Nakkharat**, the **giant Naga** statue, built to be a guardian of the Giant Buddha. This majestic and greenish-blue-coloured Naga statue is 122 metres long, with a 1.5 metres diameter, and is 20 metres high.



Transfer to **Savannakhet** city of Laos, by crossing **Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge No. 2** (opened for traffic on Jan 2007). Visit **Dinosaur Roundabout**, **Bungva Lake** (have lunch here) and **Phra That Ing Hang**, a holy site of Laos, with a 16th-century chedi that is about 9 metres tall and is believed to house one of Buddha's bones.



Then to **Dinosaur Museum** to see dinosaur remains excavated in the surrounding area (open Mon to Fri 8-11.30am & 1-4pm, closed Sat & Sun). Photo stops at **house of former president Kaysone Phomvihane** and the **Old Governor Office**.



Walking Tour of Savannakhet Old Quarter, stop at the following places for photos:

- 1) Vietnamese Temple
- 2) Chinese Temple & School
- 3) St. Theresa Church & Talat Yen
- 4) Museum inside Lin's Café (closed Sun)
- 5) Lao Vietnam Association building
- 6) Sala Savanh Guest House
- 7) Theatre "Lao Chaleun"
- 8) Si Muang House
- 9) Public Works Office Building
- 10) Mekong Hotel
- 11) Wat Xaiyaphoum Temple
- 12) Houma Ho Sak Shrine.

Transfer back to Mukdahan for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7 TUE: Mukdahan - Nakhon Phanom (B/L/D)



Visit **Phu Pha Thoeb National Park** with bizarre rock formations; some mushroom

shaped and **one resembling a camel**. Visit Mukdahan **Indo-China market**, a trading point of goods from Thailand, Laos & Vietnam. After lunch, visit **Mukdahan Tower** for views and the local museum. Transfer to **Nakhon Phanom** for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 WED: Nakhon Phanom – (flight via Bangkok) - KL (B)

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Nakhon Phanom Airport for 10.25am flight to Bangkok, arriving 11.35am. Connect to 2.55pm flight to KLIA2, arriving 18.10pm.

RATES: per pax, twin sharing, according to group size indicated

8 paxs: RM 3,390 7 paxs: RM 3,500 6 paxs: RM 3,650 Sgl. Sup.: RM 500

Rates & itinerary subject to change in FOREX rates, unforeseen surcharges, weather, local conditions, etc.

INCLUSIVE:

a) Airport transfers and tour excursion on private basis using 9-seater VIP van

b) 3 star hotel accommodation

UDON THANI: Charoen Hotel or similar

BUENG KAN: The One Hotel or similar

BUENG KHONG LONG: Huen Kiang Bueng Resort or similar

NAKHON PHANOM: The River Hotel or similar

MUKDAHAN: Vieng Khong Hotel or similar

c) Full-board meals as indicated in itinerary above

d) English speaking tour guides: Thai & Laotian (Savannakhet tour)

e) Entrance fees for attractions as per itinerary including all National Park fees and the pick-up truck excursion at Phu Singh National Park.

f) Boat trip at Bueng Khong Long & Mekong River Dinner Cruise, Nakhon Phanom

g) Thai-Laos Friendship Bridge Immigration crossing fee

h) 2 x 500ml bottles of drinking water /person/day (except arrival & last day)

EXCLUDING:

a) Air Asia ticket, airport taxes & fuel surcharges.

b) Travel insurance – can be arranged separately

c) Tipping (recommended): Guide 500 baht /traveller for whole tour
Driver 200 baht /traveller for whole tour

d) Malaysian passport holders don't need visa to enter Thailand. Other nationalities to be advised.

e) Expenses of personal nature such as optional activities not part of itinerary, laundry charges, room mini-bar charges, tipping for hotel/restaurant/etc. staff.