**DNHG Trip to Northern Laos**

**Trip Leader –  Binish Roobas**

**Dates – November 29- December 6th, 2019 (8 days, 7 nights)**

**Price\* (10 pax):  AED 2800 per person twin sharing**

Laos is a Southeast Asian country traversed by the Mekong River and known for mountainous terrain, French colonial architecture, hill tribe settlements and Buddhist monasteries. Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. Its thickly forested landscape consists mostly of rugged mountains, the highest of which is Phou Bia at 2,818 metres (9,245 ft), with some plains and plateaus. The Mekong River forms a large part of the western boundary with Thailand, where the mountains of the Annamite Range form most of the eastern border with Vietnam and the Luang Prabang Range the northwestern border with the Thai highlands**.**

Northern Laos is a mountainous region of Laos. It shares borders with Thailand, Myanmar, China and Vietnam. In the north, the country is bounded by a mountainous 423-kilometre border with China and shares the 235-kilometre-long Mekong River border with Myanmar.

Day 1 (29th Nov, Friday) -  Arrival in Lauag Prabang – City Tour

Arrive in Luang Prabang. Meet our guide & driver, then transfer to our hotel.
After lunch or Afternoon, Visit National museum,  we visit the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun and the shrine of Wat Aham**,**Wat Mai; visit Wat Xieng Thong, we then climb up to the top of Phousi Mount for an enjoyable exploration of the sacred, gilded stupa as well as a beautiful sunset view of the city and the Mekong River. From there, we explore Street Night Market, where you can find the lovely collection and handmade textile by local and hill tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

**Accommodation: 2\* star Hotel/Superior room**

Day 2 (30th Nov, Saturday): Luang Pranbang- Phonsavanh (Breakfast)

Around 0800am, Meet your guide  and we are driving about 7hours to Phonsavanh, which was devastated by American bombing between 1964 and 1973. Upon arrival, Visit Mulberry Organic Farm to see local silk production. Visit MAG Office, where displayed about bombing film during the Indochina War. Overnight in Phonsavanh.

**Accommodation: 2\* star Hotel/Standard room**

Day 3 (1st Dec, Sunday): Phonsavanh- Plain of Jars-Muang Khoun (Breakfast)

Around 0830am, Meet your guide and Visit Phonsavah market to see local lives before we drive out to visit the Plain of Jars, an impressive archaeological site 1 where hundreds of large stone jars are littered all over the plateau, also visit site 2 & site 3, both similar to site 1 but smaller than site 1.

Afternoon,  We continue visit the old capital of Muang Khoun Province and the nearby villages, home to the Hmong hill tribe and Tai Dam people. They have an interesting local culture and a colorful history. Some stupa, former French building, temples bombed by US Army during the Indochina war still be seen there. Overnight in  Phonsavanh.

**Accommodation: 2\* Star Hotel/Standard room**

Day 4 (2nd Dec, Monday): Phonsavanh- Muang Kham – Hua Muang District- Son Khua village (Breakfast and Dinner)Around 0830am, Meet your driver and  continue to Nam Nern Village in Hua Muang Muang District  through Muang Kham about 6hour drive. En route, Visit Hot Spring Water or Tham Piew in Muang Kham. Along the way, You can see some Hmong, Lao Terng or Kamu living both side of the road. You can stop and explore, Just consult with your driver. Arrive at Nam Nern Bridge 2, Take nice photos and continue to Son Khua Villlage. Dinner at villagers’ house. Overnight at Son Khua Village.

**Accommodation: Village Home Stay (Local villager’s House)**

Day 5 (3rd Dec, Tuesday): Son Khua Village- Nam Nern Night Safari at Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Around 0900am, Meet your Village guide and boatmens will be awaiting you to greet you and take you on a short tour of the village where you will learn about daily life and the animist tradition of appeasing the village spirits. At around 10-11am guests embark on a 1.5-¬hour journey to the park substation on the Nam Nern River by long-¬tail boat, along the way learning about upland rice cultivation and having opportunities to spot monitor lizards (depending on the time of year) and bird life. After arriving at the park substation, visitors will be shown to their accommodation, bamboo huts close to the river, and will then be offered a lunch prepared by the village cooking group. After lunch, you will receive a briefing by park staff about the on-¬the-¬ground efforts in protecting tigers and their prey.

Afternoon, the group takes the boat again to continue the journey upriver. After about 50 minutes the boats will stop, and the group will hike into the forest to visit a salt lick. The local guide, a skilled hunter and tracker, explains how local people track deer and other wild ungulates. The guide points out evidence of wildlife, such as tracks or scat at the salt lick.

The boats continue upriver to the dinner site, a sandy, flat bank, where the group takes a picnic around a campfire. After dinner, the guides might share with you the Khmu folktales and stories about dragons, wildlife, and ghosts. The guides educate tourists about the species of animals they might see during the spotlighting and explain the rules and expectations for spotlighting. Evening-The group departs for the night spotlighting once it’s total dark, floating down the river with engines off. The guides (1 per boat) use their headlamp to spot wildlife. If they see something, they will give a clear sign. Then you can switch on your own flashlight to have a better look at the animal. Animals that might be seen include Sambar deer, otters, barking deer, various species of civets, loris, porcupine and owls. (Seeing tigers is very rare because they usually don’t come close to the river.)

**Accommodation: Nam Nern  Eco Lodge or Meeting House-Living Room**
[http://www.namet.org/wp/nam-nern-night-safari/](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.namet.org%2Fwp%2Fnam-nern-night-safari%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C639fbe7056024d26d3c308d715ad3302%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637001705935011820&sdata=%2FfjwfLwsEHO1%2Bfonqezojf%2FTDSE31LCG6TpkW9rGrC8%3D&reserved=0)

Day 6 (4th Dec, Wednesday):  at Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area – Son Khua Village- Muang Hiem- Nong Khiau (Breakfast)

Morning Before breakfast, local guides take you on a walk around the jungle, teaching about the use of some medicinal plants and explaining the history of the site, which was once a major settlement during the Secret War. After breakfast, the boats float back through the core zone at a relaxing pace with engines off, while the guides point out wildlife along the way. Upon arrival in the village, you are invited to fill out a wildlife monitoring form that is used to monitor wildlife abundance and indicate the amount of bonuses put into the village development fund from the tour costs. After that Return to Sonkhua village. Upon arrival at Son Khua village, Meet your driver and continue to Nong Khiau about 3hour & half drive along mountainous landscape. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel.

**Accommodation: 2\* star resort**

Day 7 (5th Dec, Thursday):  Nong Khiau- Ou Cave- Luang Prabang (Breakfast)

After breakfast, Meet your guide and We return to Luang Prabang about 3hour drive. Arrive Ou village, Take a boat cross Khong river visit to the mysterious of Pak Ou Caves, crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes. We then continue cruise down to Luang Prabang. Along the way, we stop at the village of Ban Xanghai, where they make the distillation of local rice wine. On return, we take a short drive to Ban Xang Khong, well known for its hand weaving. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

**Accommodation: 2\* star Hotel/Superior room**

Day 8 (6th Dec, Friday): Luang Prabang- Kuang Sii Fall – Departure (Breakfast)

Meet your guide and we then drive out of town 30km to the beautiful Kuang Sii Fall, where you can relax, Take nice photos, swim, also visit Bear Sanctuary Center. After then return to town, transfer you to airport for your departure flight. Wish you enjoy the rest of your vacation.

**Tour Price include:**

All land Transports by air-con Vehicle

Experienced English speaking guide

Entry fees

Mineral drinking water

Nam Nern Night Safari Package Day 5&6 (Wildlife watching)
Private Boat trip from Ou Cave-Luang prabang

Accommodations based on Twin sharing room included daily breakfast

Government Tax

**Price excludes:- flights, visas, meals not mentioned in program, personal expenses, insurance, and tips.**

**For more information and sign-up, contact Binish Roobas at****johanruphus@hotmail.com****. A deposit of AED 1500 will be required for sign-up.**