



THAI-LAO BRIDGE BOOSTS MEKONG TOURISM

Travel and tourism to and within the Greater Mekong Sub region is having a significant boost since the opening of the second Friendship Bridge between Thailand and Laos on the 20th December 2006.

The bridge is celebrating its first anniversary.

It started construction in March 2004, and was officially inaugurated by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Lao Vice President Bounngang Vorachit in the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

Linking the Lao province of Savannakhet with north eastern Thailand's Mukdahan province, the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge is a key component of a major economic and infrastructure development plan to facilitate transportation, trade, investment, and tourism in the Mekong Sub Region.

Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said the bridge would foster intra-regional trade and investment, facilitate travel to Myanmar and Vietnam and "in the future help to extend the corridor to China, Korea, India and Bangladesh".

Lao Prime Minister



The first Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge over the Mekong linking the Thai province of Nong Khai and the Lao capital of Vientiane was opened in 1994 with Australian funding.

The second 1.6-kilometre, two-lane bridge was funded via loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to the tune of 4,011 million yen to Laos and 4,079 million yen to Thailand. It was JBIC's first Overseas Development Assistance loan for a cross-border infrastructure development embracing two countries.

The bridge now plays

a major part in giving landlocked Laos access to ports in Thailand and Vietnam.

In Thailand, JBIC has financed improvement work on existing national highways that are part of the East-West Corridor. The new bridge will connect all these routes.

Although the bridge has international border control checkpoints, visitor flows only began after the relevant agreements were finalised between Thailand and Laos. Cars travelling across the bridge are charged 50 baht each and larger trucks, 350 baht.

The two provinces that certainly benefit on both sides of the river are Savannakhet and Mukdahan, where the people share a lot of cultural, historical and ethnic heritage.

Home to an interesting mixture of cultures from various tribes since ancient times, Mukdahan is a land of fantastic natural rock formations and also renowned for its sweet tamarind fruit.

Savannakhet can be easily explored by foot and has a number of interesting temples and architectural landmarks dating back to the colonial French days.



Bousasone Bouphavanh said the bridge was important to a landlocked country such as Lao PDR, and would enable it to boost the potentiality for transport services and expand trade and tourism with its neighbours.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung also attended the ceremony.

FARANG PLACES IN ESARN

When you go "up-country" (to another province) in Thailand it is convenient to know the places where farangs (foreigners) meet and exchange information about that area of Thailand

"Pattaya People Weekly" list here some of these places. Please do not hesitate to inform us of any other places and any changes.

Please contact Email: dragonpattaya@yahoo.co.uk.

Khon Kaen:

BEER HOUSE

Michael D. LaSpina 98/12 Soi 5 Perisagica Khon Kaen 40000
Tel.: 08-4333-3047,
0-8971 10325
Email: thaimichael@msm.com

LEO'S BAR,

3/28 Prachasamran Road, (Opposite Sofitel Hotel), Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand.
www.leoskhonkaen.com
email: thaiduncan@hotmail.com

Korat:

PASINEE RESTAURANT

428 Suranarec Road A. Mueng Korat 30000
Tel.: 08-1073-9735

PIZZA SHOP

430 Suranaree Road Muang Korat 30000
Tel.: 08-4426-1251
Email: koratpizzashop@yahoo.com

LAMAI HOMESTAY/ GUESTHOUSE AND ESARN TOURS

23/1 M.3, Ban Kho Pet, Tambol Kudjok, Bua Yai, Korat 30120
www.thailandhomestay.com.
Ring: Jim White
Tel.: 08-6258-5894
Email: annmoore@quik.com

Nongkhai:

OUTBACK BAR & GRILL

Khun Yai & Glen
1129/9 Soi Netsapat Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 08-4246-1120
Email: ntglass@lycos.com

THE DANISH BAKER

Khun Miau & Jan
"Janne" Axman
434 Meechai Road Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 08-4246-0840
Website: www.danishbaker.dk

GIRAFFE Khun Pe & Jeff
277/2 Soi Yodgaw Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 0-87454-1446

TWO WHEELS

84/14 Panang Chonparthan Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 08-4246-4198

THE MEETING PLACE

1117 Soi Chuen Jitt Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 08-4241-3348
Email: paul@meetingplace.nongkhai.com
Website: www.meetingplace.nongkhai.com

SWEET ORCHID RESTAURANT

Kelvin Indian & Thai Food
Meechai Road Nongkhai 43000
Tel.: 08-7953-0266

LUCCA RESTAURANT

The Danish & European Restaurant
Wilawan & Patrick Pasanon
242/2 Chaiyaporn Road
43000 Nongkhai
Email: lucca@luccarestaurant.info
Website: www.luccarestaurant.info

VICTORY PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

191 Moo 1 Tambol Khai Bok Wan Amphor Muang Nong Khai 43100
(042) 407-296-300
(042) 407-296 #22

Surin:

FARANG CONNECTION

Martin
257/11 Jitbumroong Road
Surin 32000
Tel.: 08-4451-1509

N&N RESTAURANT - MINIMARKET

noi +nobby
3/75 Sirirat Road
Surin 32000
Tel.: 044-518391/081-6624137
www.nnrestaurant.co.nr

Sisaket:

FRANK'S & NONG'S

Livin' in the Past
Pizza Steak European Food
Tanon Wijitnakorn Soi 13
Amphur Muang
Sisaket 33000
Tel. 044-511509
Email: nongfrank@yahoo.de

Udonthani:

ERWIN'S BUNGALOW & RESTAURANT

Erwin
25/15-22 Watphortivararam Lane, Phosi Road Udonthani 41000
Tel/Fax: 08-4224-7827
Website: www.erwinsbungalows.com
Email: erwins_bungalow@hotmail.com

HARRY'S BAR & RESTAURANT

19/4 Banliam, bypass Loei to Nongkhai Udonthani 41000
Tel.: 08-4234-8837
Email: harrysbar_udon@yahoo.com

STEVE'S BAR & RESTAURANT

254/26 Prajak Silapkhom Road Udonthani 41000

Tel.: 08-4224-4523
Email: steve5339@yahoo.com
www.stevesbarudon.com

IRISH CLOCK

19/5-6 Sapantamit Road, Makkhaeng Udonthani 41000
Tel.: 08-9276-5996
08-6128-4881 (Tom)
Email: info@irishclock.com

AUSSIE PUB & RESIDENCE

277/136-139 Charoensri Complex, Teekathananont Road, Markaeng Muang Udonthani 41000
Tel.: 08-5756-9001,
08-9252-7129

BAMBOO GARDEN GUEST HOUSE RESORT

542 Soi 10 Moo 2 T.Non Song, Udon Thani 41330
Tel.: 0-4229-5229
Mobile: 08-4442-0291
Fax: 042207575
Email: info@bamboogarden.guesthouse.com
Website: www.bamboogarden.guesthouse.com

THE ENGLISHMAN'S RETREAT GUESTHOUSE & LEISURE CLUB

447/15 M 7, Pan sam Road, Nong Sam Rong Udon Thani
Tel: 08-45 125 025
www.englishmansretreat.com

Ubon Ratchathani:

WRONG WAY CAFE

Run by Ratsami (Ting) & Richard (American) in 49/4-5 Phadaeng Road. More info on their website: http://wrongwayhome.com

SUAN LOONG DAENG FARMSTAY

Guesthouse with aircon rooms, restaurant/bar
Thai and western food and drinks in a peaceful area
215 M. 6 Tamboon Koksaaad, Namkhun
(Road 2248 between Khao Phra Wihan and Nam Yun)
34260 Ubon Ratchathani
Email: trond_anton@yahoo.com
www.suanloongdaengfarmstay.com

THE ENGLISHMAN'S RETREAT GUESTHOUSE & LEISURE CLUB

447/15 u7, Pan sam Road Nong Sam Rong Udon Thani
Tel: 08-45 125 025
www.englishmansretreat.com

Buriram:

TIMEOUT

Fishing park, restaurant, bar, pool, petanque.
Ludo and Am
118 Moo 9 Bankadon Paisan Prakhonchai Buriram
Tel: 08-6253-5962 (Am)
08-1660-0032 (Ludo)
www.bankadon.com
timeout@bankadon.com

THE นิตยสารแผนที่อุตรดิตถ์
UDON THANI
GUIDE
MAGAZINE, MAP & WEBSITE
Available at the Pattaya People office and all major locations in Udon Thani
udonmap.com
Udon Map Co Publications