

# *Blue Jade, Les Parfums d'Asie du Sud-Est*

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## **THAILAND**

### ***A railway project started in September***



Thailand began to realize a project of 400 billion baht (10.4 billion Euros) for the construction of railway lines in September. This extensive site is the latest initiative of the military Government to boost the economy and modernize its rail network. Bangkok has an agreement with Beijing to build 873 km of railways from Nong Khai, on the border with Laos, ports and industrial areas in the East of the country. Another line should connect Bangkok to Saraburi province, in the centre of the country. "We believe that it will cost 400 billion baht and it will be completed two or three years after the begin of the work," said the Chief Commander of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of transport. The works began on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### ***Chinese New Year in Thailand***



Chinese New Year is the opportunity for an important celebration in Thailand, because a good part of the population, especially in the cities, has Chinese origins. It's essentially a family celebration. Nothing happens, all shops are closed for 4 days and the bus, trains and hotels are crowded. The most spectacular events were held in Nakhon Sawan, North of Bangkok, while in Bangkok, Chinese New Year inflamed Chinatown during a disproportionate festival, with many small concerts and uncountable canteen, installed in the streets closed to traffic for the occasion. A good bath of crowd to try if you're in the area on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015. By 2015, we enter the year of the goat.

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# *Blue Jade, Les Parfums d'Asie du Sud-Est*

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## *Bangkok is full of art galleries to discover*



Besides Buddhist temples, shopping malls, theme parks and other attractions that make the success of the Thai capital, Bangkok isn't lacking of art galleries which worth to be visiting. Charoen Krung Soi 36 welcomes the new Artha gallery dedicated to modern Asian art galleries and several others galleries close to each other. Situated in a renovated historic building, OP Garden, Modern Art Gallery and Gallery Serindia offer exhibitions of paintings and sculptures. The ATTA gallery, specializing in contemporary jewelry, regularly presents international designers. The lively Silom Road also focuses a lot of galleries and Pan Road Little India and its surroundings. Around the temple Sri Maha Mariamman, the two floors of the Kathmandu gallery and its library are devoted to photographic works. A little farther in the street, a hippo sculpture welcomes visitors to Toineinbangkok that offers a wide range of works, from sculptures to paintings to the beautiful interior design objects. Artery Gallery, Silom Soi 19, looks like an ordinary coffee however local and international artists are exposed. The place is very quiet and allows devoting in long contemplations. On the other side of the Chao Phraya River on Charoen Nakhon Road, near the Khlong San quay, the Jam Factory, after the rehabilitation of a brown field site includes a library, a gourmet restaurant and an art gallery all linked by a central courtyard with a single tree. A multitude of small galleries in the capital in addition of course the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre where all the year are held major exhibitions of local and international art. The bookstore and shop can acquire some fine books and objects.

## *Thailand to the Superbike calendar 2015 for 3 years*



Following the signature of an agreement of three years, the Dorna WSBK Organization and FIM (International Motorcycling Federation) announced the arrival of a new circuit on the calendar 2015 of the World Superbike Championship. Located in Buriram, northeast province of Thailand, Chang International Circuit will welcome the Eni FIM Superbike World Championship for the first time, from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015. After inspection, the FIM and Dorna representatives have approved the circuit homologation and were able to verify that the racetrack and infrastructure were ready to receive the WSBK. The Chang International Circuit can welcome 40000 spectators. The runway is 4,554 km long with 12 turns designed for high speeds. The Thailand will be the 24<sup>th</sup> country to host the World Championship Superbike.

Website: [www.worldsbk.com](http://www.worldsbk.com)

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## **MYANMAR**

### ***The Nhtet Pyit Taung pagoda festival in Bagan***

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the Nhtet Pyit Taung pagoda festival in Bagan takes place. This local festival celebrated by the villagers is the opportunity to discover local products, and the preparation of the HTAMANE, a dish made from sticky rice prepared with peanuts, ginger, and onions and shared with all.



### ***Union day***



This day celebrates the federal union and Aung San, who managed to unify the different ethnic groups of the country. During the two weeks preceding the Union day, the Burmese flag goes from town to town February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. In 1989, the country took the name of "Union of Burma" and then the "Union of Myanmar", consisting of several States. Those in the North are theoretically habited by the no-Burmese. There are also, in the South, provinces or administrative "divisions" inhabited by Burmese. The Panglong Agreement, signed on February 12<sup>th</sup> 1947, recognizes the administrative autonomy of the border regions.

### ***The Bawgyo festival in Thipaw***



The old Payá Bawgyo pagoda (ten kilometers from Thipaw, on the road to Lashio), highly revered sanctuary, rises for more than 700 years. The legend holds that in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, a deity offered to King Narapathisithu a big piece of wood in which he carve four Buddha. The four Buddha in question are presented to the public on the occasion of this festival. For 6 days and 6 nights, from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, the crowd will scroll to pay tribute. The festival has also of course its secular perks: funfair, theatre and singers Street, as well as countless artisans and merchants selling their products in an indescribable atmosphere. Local benefits to consult astrologers and street diviners. On occasion, men engage in the passion of the game, away from prying eyes. The festival takes place in March, between the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the rising moon and the day following the full moon of the month Tabaung (March).

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# *Blue Jade, Les Parfums d'Asie du Sud-Est*

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## *LAOS*

### *The Saleuy waterfalls*



The province of Houaphanh is one of the northern provinces of Laos. Its common border with Vietnam makes it an economic crossroads. It has several cultural, historic and natural places of interest, whose the waterfall of Saleuy, very appreciated by the inhabitants and the visitors of loving beautiful landscapes and protected nature. Situated between the villages of Saleuy and Phonxay, in approximately 36 kilometres of the city of Houaphanh, it's an ideal site to take advantage of the nature, swim, picnic and to rest in peace. Nearby, they are several spaces reserved for the picnickers with individual barbecue, as well as a restaurant and small food stands were held by the inhabitants of the nearby villages. Some also sell vegetables, bamboo shoots and mushrooms produced locally. If you want to feast in this idyllic site, command grilled chicken, a fish dish, a soup of bamboo or a salad of green papaya. The waterfall is approximately about 100 meters high, and the bed of the river, 10 meters wide, offers uncountable ponds to bathe. The site, by the diversity of its nature, is ideally suited to photography. The province of Houaphanh also contains leading historic and archaeological sites, as the caves of Viengxay and the archaeological park of Hintang, which contains curious menhirs of prehistoric origin. The caves of Viengxay form a vast network browsing the Limestone Mountains. 490 of them were used by Lao Pathet during the Indochina War to protect itself from American bombardments. Up to 23 000 people lived in these caves, which sheltered a hospital, a school, the Pathet Lao offices, bakeries, stores and even a theatre. The area was used as a basis for revolutionary forces fighting the royalist Lao forces based in Vientiane. These caves were used to live and work. People of the country tell that the farmers had to work at night in fields to escape the raids of bombers. Viengxay was chosen by the revolutionary strengths due to its proximity with Vietnam, which allowed obtaining a logistic and political backup. The Lao government hopes to make of these caves a tourist destination similar to the tunnels from Ho Chi Minh City to Vietnam. It's an original site, where we can visit a base of the Lao Revolution remained almost intact. Finally, the region of Houaphanh is considered in all Laos as the excellence of its textile traditions. Silk trades made around Xamneua are among the most beautiful of Asia.

### *Boun Phavet (feast of monasteries)*



The Lao commemorate one of the incarnations of Buddha by ordering monks and inviting them in the festivities of villages from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> 2015. Boun Pha Vet is an opportunity of many receptions in the family, in the feasts rooms of the pagodas and monasteries. To the program: ritual readings of the Buddha's teaching, processions and chants. Many lay people participate in offerings. We celebrated this feast during the dry season, when farmers are freed from farm work. Moveable Feast n horses between February and mid-April.

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## *Sikhottabong Festival*



The Sikhottabong stupa is one of the most sacred religious sites in the country. This stupa was built at the time of the Sikhottabong Kingdom (in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries). It's here that the bones of Buddha are conserved. It's the King Phothisarath who did build and decorate the top of the stupa with flowers of lotus in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. King Xaysethathirath made renovations of this stupa that we can see today. The other elements of the Stupa were built in the 1950s as well as in 1970. Sikhottabong festival

takes place at the stupa Sikhottabong festival, located to approximately 8 km to the South of Thakhek, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fair is also held at the feast with the sale of products of more than nine districts of this central province as well as the goods from Thailand.

## *The elephant festival*



The Asian elephant has his day, in fact "two days", in mid-February when Laos turn his eyes towards the province of Sayabouly and the Festival of the elephant. Launched in 2007, the annual festival attracts more than 80,000 fans of elephants consisting of ceremonies, processions and performances to pay tribute to the national symbol of the "country of a million elephants". Place with the largest population of elephants in the country, the province Sayabouly is the natural choice to host this event

which also aims to raise awareness of the need to protect the endangered Asian elephant. The elephant has played a vital role in the life of the people, the culture and heritage of the country. After an opening ceremony, a procession of elephants enters the home village through a bamboo arch. Elephants bathe and are blessed by monks before the election of the "Elephant of the year". Then the show starts: the performance of pachyderm, concerts, outdoor movies, dance performances and fireworks in a carnival atmosphere that includes tours of elephant and a "Fun Fair". After the procession of the second day and the religious ceremony, the mahouts led their massive mammals for a day of entertainment and education, combined with the coronation of the elephant of the year.

## *Têt Festival (Vietnamese or Chinese New Year)*



Chinese or Vietnamese New Year is the most important Festival of the country, a real highlight of the calendar, on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015. It's also the Chinese New Year. This day marks the end of a lunar year and the beginning of a new year. We celebrate Têt between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the lunar year, that to say between the last week of January and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February (either before or after this period). We're celebrating the event with great flowers, firecrackers and Fireworks. In short, any activity of the country seems suspended to celebrate the

feast of feasts in the joy and exuberance. This feast is lived mostly in the main cities. By 2015, we enter the year of the goat.

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## **VIETNAM**

### ***Têt Festival, Vietnamese New Year (Tet Nguyên Dán)***



The Vietnamese New Year is the most important feast of Vietnam. The Tet also marks the arrival of the spring, whence its Vietnamese name which means "feast of the First Dawn". The Vietnamese take advantage of it to take their holidays at this moment: 3 bank holidays. Attention: offices close their doors, hotels and flights are full, public transports work in slow motion. Why the Tet is so important? Because it's the only day of the year, according to the tradition, where the souls of the deaths come back to earth. So, you shouldn't miss the meeting with them. The alive must necessarily be present to receive them in front of the altar of the Ancestors. Firecrackers making every year victims, they are totally forbidden since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995. During the preceding days, markets are full of flowers, the branches of plum trees with yellow flowers (cây mai) being the most search to decorate houses. Families forgather. In pagodas, sandalwood is burned in censers. We present to the genius guard of the home trays of candies and paper objects. This ceremony of "the farewell to the lares gods" is supposed to mark the journey towards the Sky of the Earth Spirit who goes away to make an annual report on the alive to Almighty jade Emperor. Before the day of the Têt, we make the bánh chung, a sticky rice cake. The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the New Year is of a crucial importance for the Vietnamese. Everything that is said and is made this day influences the rest of the year. The first person who crosses the threshold of the house has to be a virtuous and a fortunate person, to bring prosperity and happiness on the family during the next 365 days. It's forbidden to quarrel this day, to swear, to break dishes. The former don't make manual labour the day of the Têt, because these acts announce effort and sweat for all year! That's it, the Têt! A really unique feast, at the same time religious and civil, none Vietnamese can't celebrate it, on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Feast of the Quan Dam procession***

The custom was to make firecrackers, but now we used artificial firecrackers, made with paper. Villagers carry Quan Dam in procession and a ceremony is also organized to wish long life to the elderly. The Festival will take place February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015, Dong Ky (province of Bac Ninh)



### ***Chua Hung (Perfume Pagoda Festival) at Hung Son***



This Buddhist pilgrimage is celebrated in a beautiful mountainous landscape. After the Vietnamese New Year, Hung Son, 70 km south of Hanoi, attracts Vietnamese and foreign tourists. It's one of the longest Vietnamese celebrations. It extends in fact from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> lunar month to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lunar month, from February 24<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The event generally culminates between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> lunar month (that to say from March 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015).

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## *Circulate in Hanoi between juggling and balancing*



In the Vietnamese capital, the motorcycle is Queen. Petite, she sneaks around and ensures the rapid movement. But alternatives exist. Without, however, allows escaping the jams at peak hours. Lap.

In Hanoi, they are ubiquitous: Italian or Japanese, automatic or semi-automatic, red, black, pink or white... no matter! Motorcycles, fast and convenient, arrived at every street corner. Their concentration gave the town the appearance of a great ocean, which moves a shoal of conductors

rather homogeneous. Although, often strewn with individuals who just do as it pleases. Reflexes, ability of anticipation and adaptation of drivers are therefore put strain; especially at peak hours, where the concentration of motorbikes per square meter is disturbing. Just as the decibels emitted by the incessant honking. But you don't have a motorcycle? For fear of traffic, by ecological sensitivity, for lack of means? Alternatives exist. Even if they do not avoid the traffic jam.



To circulate the hair in the wind but hassle, opt for a xe ôm (motorbike taxi)! Sitting on their bikes, the drivers hail the passers at every crossroads. «Motobike, motobike. Couldn't miss them, even if they don't wear uniforms or distinctive signs. Their prices are not fixed, so you have to negotiate. If you flee the haggling, the xe ôm van minh, so 'civilized' xe ôm exist. But they don't run the streets in Hanoi. Their price per kilometer is fixed: 8,000 dong. They are dressed in light blue vests. From 21:00, it

becomes more difficult to find any form of motorcycle taxi. Drivers typically offer helmet, which is more similar to a cap or a riding bomb! For regular customers, invest in a headgear that protects the skull and ears is undoubtedly more careful. To unearth a good driver and retain him will also optimize your routes and to get lower prices. You hold your man, so let's go!! Queens of the road twenty years ago, bicycles are now rare. But still exist, frequently overloaded food. Lighter and more manageable than a motorcycle, they are obviously slower. Another rhythm in the boiling of the capital.

Hanoi also has a rather dense bus network, detailed on the most basic tourist cards. Yellow and red, they look like heavy truck in the city traffic and don't fail to indicate too regularly their presence by incessant horns with a characteristic sound. First step and not the easiest, locate the stop. No visible item, bus shelter for example, puts you on the track. Once in the good streets, only remains to lift eyes to the sky to locate the blue signs that indicate stops. A cluster of motionless people on the side of the road can be a lead. No need to take a ticket. You have to get on the bus and an employee of the company will advance towards you. The tariff, between 7,000 and 9,000 Dong the race, is ideal for the small grants. Although cheaply, we have to accept some inconveniences. At rush hours, the buses are crowded. So crowded that it's impossible to go up. Claustrophobic refrain. Only the controller fights his way through traffic to collect the money. It's better indeed to prepare his money in advance and should not be overloaded. Direct bus, but crowded bus

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To succeed your outing, anticipate! The doors are open only few seconds... In general, the bus stops systematically. Often for nothing. You don't where go down? An infographic representing the journey and the stops is glued to the ceiling of each vehicle. Count the stops or try to understand the announcements made by a speaker. Don't lose heart, we spotted quickly! When it comes to direct routes, the bus is efficient. Whenever it's necessary to take several buses to get to destination, it's complicated.

Safe from the horrors of the time, the bus also provides a feeling of domination and safety on the road. You are the greatest! The taxi also protects from the outer chaos. And in winter, from the cold that ice motorcycle drivers. But he sometimes struggles to forge a way through the traffic. The price, when it's distributed among several, becomes interesting.

Rest both feet. Effective to move and hunt around old town or in your neighborhood. Otherwise little competitive. On the sidewalk, littered with foods, vehicles, places where to eat, the agility is required. Each browsed meter takes of a gymkhana. Then, start, test, and combine these different possibilities!

## *Airport Hanoi: the new terminal opened*

Vietnam Airlines inaugurated with a flight to Singapore the new Terminal 2 of Hanoi-Noi Bai airport, with an initial capacity of 10 million passengers per year.



The Vietnamese national flight on December 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 launched the program of movements of international flights to the

new terminal, covering an area of 139 200 m<sup>2</sup> on four levels, which cost some \$ 960 million. The T1 has 96 check-in counters, half reserved to Vietnam Airlines, ten self-service kiosks, and 17 Gates (32 additional parking places for aircraft). We can reach it from the T1 with a free shuttle; passengers will find duty-free shops, a Bank and the usual business room (on the top floor). *Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV)* manager, who highlights the use of large glass surfaces to let pass the daylight and "facilitate economies of energy during the day," said in his presentation that the first phase of development of the T2 will bring its capacity to 10 million passengers by 2020, and then to 15 million by 2030. The official opening took place on December 31<sup>st</sup>, date in which it welcomed all international flights; domestic flights will be left to the T1, where renovation work will begin. Vietnam Airlines will operate some flights to Singapore, Bangkok, Taipei, Kaohsiung or Kuala Lumpur, as the low-cost Viet Jet Air (Bangkok) or Tigerair (Singapore). Noi Bai Airport welcomed last year 13.5 million of passengers, while its theoretical capacity allows only 9 million. It's served from Europe by Aeroflot and Finnair (Air France share its codes with Vietnam Airlines from Paris); also it lands the aircraft of All Nippon Airways (ANA), Asiana Airlines, China Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Dragonair, EVA Air, Japan Air Lines, Korean Air, Lao Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Qatar Airways, Silk Air, Singapore Airlines and Thai Airways among others, and planes of low cost like Jetstar Pacific Airlines, Air Asia, Cebu Pacific, Jeju Air or Thai AirAsia .

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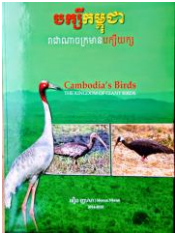


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## **CAMBODIA**

### ***Cambodia, Kingdom of the giant birds***



Various photos on 12 species of giant birds were presented in "the birds of Cambodia: the Kingdom of giant birds", a new book published by a photographer and a well known writer, Moeun Nhean. These giant birds include Antigone cranes, white shoulder ibis, giant ibis, white ibis, black storks, colorful storks, white storks, black cormorants, pelicans, etc. This 48-page book was published with the financial support and ideal of Say Samal, Minister of the environment, said Moeun Nhean.

Photos of various species of giant birds in Cambodia have been taken from the year 2000 till now, he added. All these birds are the natural heritage of Cambodia from the past time until our days as sculptures still exist on the walls of Cambodian temples, in particular temples of Angkor, a world heritage site, he said. According to him, there are lots of photos of other kinds of animals and birds he had taken until now, unfortunately, he hasn't sufficient funds to publish them. Moeun Nhean, a talented photographer, currently works for the Phnom Penh Post, and he was a former Chief editor of a magazine on nature and the landscape in Cambodia.

### ***The cleanest city contest***

Twenty-six cities across Cambodia, including the Phnom Penh capital, will participate in the "contest of emulation of the clean cities of Cambodia by 2015", while the royal Government has reserved a budget of 5 million U.S. dollars for these cities to effectively manage their dry and liquid wastes. It's what the Minister of the environment informed at a recent press conference. Furthermore, the Minister said that the environment Ministry and the Interior Ministry were discussing with the economy and finance Ministry in order to allocate this budget to subnational governments so that they can develop a plan for their own city. According him, this contest is designed to promote the good management of waste, polluting and hazardous substances for the environment, to protect and reduce the pollution of the environment, to enhance public health and the sustainability of socio-economic development and the quality of the environment. The city of Siem Reap is the first on the start of the competition line. Provincial authorities have recently formed a new group of cleaning. It comes in addition to the existing group whose origin is a private company.



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# *Blue Jade, Les Parfums d'Asie du Sud-Est*

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## *Festival KaZantip in Sihanoukville*



The KaZantip festival programming, made with techno and house music, makes vibrate the shores of the Black Sea. DJs are unleashed the dancers on the improvised open-air dance floors, 24 hours a day. The principle is that the progress of events is not limited by the strict framework of a predefined program, but the concerts are improvised according to desires, fantasies and the energy of the DJs and dancers.

A DJ who will make its proofs to the mixing table can stay there for hours: it's the public who decides. During the KaZantip Festival, couples marry on the beach... but beware, the marriage is recognized by the *KaZantip Republic* ! By 2015, the KaZantip moves: it won't take place as usually in Crimea, but in Koh Puos Island in Sihanoukville from February 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2015.



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# *Blue Jade, Les Parfums d'Asie du Sud-Est*

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## *The Agenda:*

**Here is a sample of the holidays don't miss through Southeast Asia**

### **THAILAND**

Full Moon Parties on the island of Koh Phangan: from January 4<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 15  
Pimex, Phuket International Boat Show in Phuket: from January 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2015  
In Chiang Mai, Flower Festival: from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Chinese New Year in Thailand: February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Magha Puja in Thailand: March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015  
Earth Hour: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015  
The Chakri dynasty day: April 6<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Songkran (Buddhist New Year or Water festival) in Thailand: from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2015  
The release of turtles Festival in Phuket: April 13<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Cricket Week in Phuket: from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Coronation day: May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Visakha Puja: May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 (full moon)  
Rune Paradise, Phuket international marathon: June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Asalha Puja: July (full moon)  
Khao Phansa (Candles Festival) in Thailand: July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015  
Feast of the mothers Wan Mea and anniversary of the Queen Sirikit: August 12<sup>th</sup> 2015  
International festival of dance and music in Bangkok: September / October  
Festival of the Sakon Nakhon wax castles: October 2014  
Ok Pansa in Thailand: October 27<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Chulalongkorn day: October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015  
World Film Festival in Bangkok: November 2015  
Loy Krathong, festival of lanterns: November 2015  
Bangkok marathon: November 15<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Laguna Phuket Triathlon in Phuket: November 2015  
Monkey festival in Lopburi : November 2015  
Silk and Phuk Seow Festival in Khon Kaen: November / December 2015  
Loy Krathong, festival of lanterns: from November 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Yi Peng Festival in Chiang Mai: from November 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Birthday of his Majesty the King: December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Constitution Day: December 10<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Anniversary of the King: December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Thailand International Balloon Festival in Chiang Mai: December 2015  
New year: December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

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## **CAMBODIA**

If the working week capped at 44 h, in return, Cambodia is one of the most spoiled countries in bank holidays... Twenty-six annual holidays sometimes given in series of three consecutive days - New Year, the King's birthday, the day of the local dead and the waters Festival, allowing most city dwellers to join their village and their families for a well-deserved rest. These days are marked by a sharp slowdown of the commercial activities of the Kingdom because they are all cities that began to turn at idle...

Marion Bochea, Buddhist celebration day: February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015  
Festival KaZantip in Sihanoukville: from February 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Tet Festival (Vietnamese or Chinese New Year) in Cambodia and Laos: February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015  
International women's day: March 8<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Earth Hour: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Khmer New Year (Bon Chaul Chhnam): from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Visak Bochea day: May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015  
Buddha's Birthday to Vietnam and Cambodia: May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Day of royal plowing - feast of the sacred furrow: May 6<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Genocide Day: May 9<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Labor Day: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
King Sihamoni's Anniversary: May 14<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Cambodian and international children's day: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
Queen Mother Monique's Birthday: June 18<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Constitution Day: September 24<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Celebration of Pchum Ben, day of the dead: mi October 2015  
Ccommemoration Day of the King Father Norodom Sihanouk: October 15<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Day of the Paris agreements: October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015  
Crowning of the King: October 29<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Independence Day: November 9<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Water (Bon Om took) Festival: mid November 2015  
Human rights day: December 10<sup>th</sup> 2015  
International New Year: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
National holiday: January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

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## **MYANMAR**

Union Feast: February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Baw - gyo Thipaw Festival: from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Feasts of peasants: March 2015  
Full moon of Tabaung: March 2015  
Armed forces day: March 27<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Earth Hour: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Thingyan Festival (water Festival): from April 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Birman New Year: April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Labor Day: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
Full moon of Kasone: May 2015  
Full moon of Waso: July 2015  
Martyrs Day: July 19<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Nat Taungbyon (Mandalay) Festival: August 2015  
Celebration of the Phaung Daw Oo to Lake Inle: October 2015  
Kyaukdawgyi pagoda festival At Mandalay: October 2015  
Thidingyut Festival (Festival of lights): October 8<sup>th</sup> 2015  
The elephants dance festival to Kyaukse (Mandalay): October 2015  
Pagoda festival at Kyaik Hti Yo (to the Golden Rock): October 2015  
Hot Air Balloon Festival in Taunggyi: November 2015  
Tasaungmone Festival: November 6<sup>th</sup> 2015  
National day: November 16<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Karen New Year: December 21<sup>st</sup> 2015  
Shan New year: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015  
New Year: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016  
Pyatha (Independence Day): January 4<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Kachin Manaw Festival in Myikyina: January 10<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Naga New Year Festival (Kaing Bi): January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016

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## **DAYS OF THE MARKET AT INLE LAKE**

2015 / MONTH												
DAYS	JAN	FEB	MARC	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	A	B	E	A	A	B*	B*	C	D	D	E	E
2	B	C	A	B	B*	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
3	C	D*	B	C*	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
4	D*	E	C*	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
5	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
6	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E	E
7	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
8	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
9	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
10	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
11	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E**	E**
12	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
13	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A**	A**	B	B
14	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
15	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B**	C	C	D	D
16	A	B	E	A	A	B**	B**	C	D	D	E	E
17	B	C**	A	B**	B**	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
18	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
19	D*	E	C**	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
20	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
21	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E	E
22	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
23	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
24	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
25	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
26	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E*	E*
27	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
28	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A*	A*	B	B
29	D	X	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
30	E	X	D	E	E	A	A	B*	C	C	D	D
31	A	X	E	X	A	X	B	C	X	D	X	E

Has:HEHO (animal market) - TAUNG TO (on the road to Kakku)

B:FLOATING MARKET (Ywama) - TAUNGGYI - AUNG BAN - KYAUK TA LONE

C:MINE THAUK (East coast of Inle Lake)-PAUNG DAW OO - KYAUK TAING - PWE HLA (on the road to Pindaya)

D:KALAW - KHAUNG DAING (side of Lake Inle) - INN TAIN - SHWE NYAUNG

E: NYAUNG SHWE (market town) - NAM PAN (the wider market in Inle) - SAGAR - PINDAYA

\* Full moon day

\* Black Moon day

NOTE: all the markets can be made a day in advance at the time of full moons

One of the most authentic markets is the market of Indein Pagoda on the shores of the Lake but that becomes more and more frequent. We must therefore come very early in the morning, climb immediately to the pagoda to see people come out of the villages and get off at the market in the middle of the ruins of ancient pagodas.

The market of Sagar is also still very authentic. We really need to leave very early because the canoe ride is long (at least 2 hours).

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## **Vietnam**

- Founding of the Vietnamese Communist Party Anniversary: February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015
- Chua Huong (Perfume Pagoda Festival) at Huong Son: February 2015
- Tết Festival, Vietnamese New Year (Tết Nguyên Đán): February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Feast of the Quan Dam procession at Dong Ky (Bac Ninh province): February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015
- Chua Huong (perfume Pagoda Festival) at Huong Son: from February 24<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Lim Festival or Festival of Hội in Lim (Bac Ninh province): March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015
- Feast of Trang-Nguyen (first winner): March 5<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Earth Hour: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Thay Pagoda festival (Ha Tay province): April 2015
- Fishermen Festival in Hoi An: April 4<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Khmer New Year festival: from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Cold foods Festival at Tết Han Thuc: from April 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2015
- Thay Pagoda festival (Ha Tay province): from April 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Bach Dang festival (Quang Ninh province): from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- Van Vi village festival (Ha Tay province): from April 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Truong Yen festival (Ninh Binh province): from April 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Anniversary of the capture of Saigon: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Kites launch celebration of Ba Giang (Ha Tay province): from may 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015
- Buddha's Anniversary to Vietnam and Cambodia: may 4<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Ba Chua Xu festival to Chau Doc: from June 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Thât-Tich (the obscure seven or the double seven days): August 20<sup>th</sup> 2015
- National Day: September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015
- Festival of Quang Lan (Bac Ninh province): from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Do Son Buffalo fighting Festival: September 21<sup>st</sup> 2015
- Mid-Autumn Festival (children feast): mid-September 2015
- Tran Festival to the Temple of Nam Dinh: September 2015
- Festival of Double-nine at Trung Cuu: October 2015
- Autumn festival of Keo pagoda in Thai Binh: October 2015
- Waters Festival (Or Om Boc) in Sóc Trang: November 2015
- Tết Festival, Vietnamese New Year (Tet Nguyen Dán): January 2016

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## **LAOS**

Nights of the full moon and Mahakhabousa to Wat Phou in Champassak: from October 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 may  
1<sup>st</sup> 2015

Boun Phavet (Monasteries festival): from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

Festival of Tet (new year Vietnamese or Chinese) in Cambodia and Laos: February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015

Makha Bucha (Magha Puja) in Luang Prabang: March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Pii mai or Songkran (Buddhist New Year): from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

Earth Hour: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

Boun Khao Padabdin (day of the dead): Early September 2015

Boun Ok Phansa and Boun Xouang Heua: October 27<sup>th</sup> 2015

Boun Ok Phansa boat races on the banks of the Mekong River: October 27<sup>th</sup> 2015

Pha That Luang Festival in Vientiane: November 2015

National holiday (Vanh Saad): December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Hmong New Year: December 2015

Têt Festival (Vietnamese or Chinese New Year) in Cambodia and Laos: January 2016

*All the mentioned dates are subject to change.*

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