

ANOTHER QUIET AMERICAN: STORIES OF LIFE IN LAOS

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The author graduates from Princeton and takes a job with the Laos Tourism Bureau in Vientiane in 1998. The book recounts his work experiences and interactions with co-workers and personal experiences with other Laos citizens.

LAOS BACKGROUND; AUTHOR'S WORK EXPERIENCE

- Laos Median Age: 19.3, youngest in Asia
- Attention and infrastructure on capital city with little attention to rural areas
- 19th Century France incorporates Laos into Indochina with Vietnam and Cambodia
- Laos same size as Great Britain
- Three main ethnic categories based upon the elevation at which they live: Lao Soung (10-20%, high mountain), Lao Theung (20-30%, low mountain), and Lao Loum (50%, lowland, traditional rulers) - somewhat arbitrary as at least 68 different ethnic groups (own language, culture, etc.)
- Economy heavily reliant on exports to Thailand - baht slides, Laos kip depreciates as well - low foreign reserves to withstand
- Single most heavily bombed country in the history of warfare - secret war in Laos, US drops more bombs on Laos than in all of WWII; \$2 million per day, every day from 1964 through 1973

VIENTIANE TRAVEL INFO

- "Tourism on the rise, but if this effort ever succeeds, I wonder if anyone will still want to visit."
- Patuxay - Arc de Triomphe
- Nem Neuang - grilled Vietnamese pork balls and rice noodles
- Le Banneton - tartine and latte
- Bar Martini
- Morning Market baguette vendors (visit at midnight)
- Lan Xang Avenue - Avenue de France similar to Champs Elysee
 - ◆ Samsenthai one of three main thoroughfares perpendicular to Lan Xang Avenue
- Liao Ning - Chinese dumpling shop
- Just for Fun Restaurant
- *Air America* - US film about Laos