

GOLFING IN LAOS

There are excellent golf courses in Laos. The most recent one is in Luang Prabang in the North, built between the mountains and the Mekong river, which recently hosted the first PGA Asia tournament.

Others are located in Paksé and Savannaket in the South and in the Capital, Vientiane which boasts three courses and another an hour's drive away in the hills.



Tim choosing his Caddy

Luang Prabang costs \$100 a round, but golf in Vientiane is only \$30-\$40, plus \$6 for the assistance of a pretty caddy. All have excellent changing rooms, shower facilities and bars and restaurants are inexpensive and spacious.

Vientiane has a golf-playing population of government officials and a growing wealthy mid-upper class; the car parks are full of 4x4 Toyotas, Lexus, two Hummers, BMW's, Mercedes and a Porche Cayenne or two.....and me on my scooter

Got one!...little Caddy & big Beer Lao



On the Vientiane courses, a golf-party can be up to 6 and sometimes 8 players. Some with two caddies, one to pull the golf cart, the other to carry an umbrella (for sun or rain), and a chair and give a back & shoulder massage while waiting at each hole!

Imagine the crowd of 15 to 20 on and around the green, some having a massage off to one side while waiting their turn, others on their mobile phones and everyone chatting away as if in a garden party instead of on a golf course.

The atmosphere is friendly, big smiles and everybody is there to have a good time....despite the golf.....although many of the big groups play for money and take ages over their putting!

Ton, Han & Tim with our caddies



Many courses have lighting so that play continues after the sun sets about 6pm.

Is that a snake that I see on the left?(no it's a hose-pipe silly!)



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