

World Volunteer and The International School of Macau
Service Learning Project in Luang Prabang, Laos
The Eco Bungalow Project,
Proposal May 2016





HELLO! LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES...

World Volunteer designs and manages high impact service learning experiences in Laos with the ultimate ambition of strengthening participating students self-esteem, promoting cultural exchange and creating awareness for international issues based on students own experiences.

With this proposal World Volunteer presents the opportunity for the students at The International School of Macau to attend a service learning program in Laos. World Volunteer recognize and shares the organizational values of The International School of Macau and looks forwards to a potential collaboration.

PROPOSAL OUTLINE

- Project background and itinerary
- The Eco-Bungalow project
- Social output
- The trip
- Pre-course activities
- Post-course activities
- General information about World Volunteer

SEPERATE DOCUMENTATION

- Appendix 1: Risk assessment
- Appendix 2: Terms and conditions

Learn about the challenges, participate in
the solutions

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Laos PDR is one of the least developed countries in the world with major social, political and financial challenges. In the northern part of the country diversification of traditional shifting cultivation and income generation is important as a means to maintain or improve on the livelihood and welfare of these ethnic minorities.

Laos is receiving increasing numbers of tourists each year. Large portions of the visitors are interested in the traditional Asian culture. Eco-tourism agencies are expanding their operations in to Laos but they rarely understand or cooperate with the most vulnerable ethnic minority communities, often due to a lack of suitable lodging facilities for the visitors.

THE ECO-BUNGALOW IN LONG LAO MAI VILLAGE, NORTHERN LAOS



THE ECO-BUNGALOW PROJECT

Students participating in the Service Learning Project project will build and develop an Adobe clay Eco-Bungalow that will be rented to visiting ecologically minded tourists. The bungalow will provide one village in the Luang Prabang district the opportunity to generate their own alternative income from small scale tourism. Since the culture and traditions of the village should be respected and maintained a limited number of visitors per day are granted stay in the bungalow.

Tiger Trail Outdoor Adventure, a Fair Trek certified company based in Luang Prabang, has agreed to promote the Eco-Bungalow as part of their community based tourism projects. The tour operator will guide small groups to the village and after each visit ensure that payments to the Eco-Bungalow and the village fund are made accordingly.

SOCIAL OUTPUT FROM THE ECO-BUNGALOW

The bungalow will provide the village with a facility that will generate cash income as well as labor opportunities for years to come. The bungalow will also demonstrate how villagers in the future can build their own eco-friendly house cost effectively. The raw materials for the clay bricks can be found on site, providing a self-sufficient and natural source of building materials.



DAY 1

The flight from Macau leaves in the morning and arrives late afternoon in Luang Prabang via a connecting flight through Bangkok. Minivans will pick us up at the airport and drop us off at the hotel. After a brief check-in at the hotel and group orientation we walk to our friends at the Big Tree Cafe and enjoy dinner alongside the Mekong River. We get back to the hotel at around 10pm.

DAY 2

The day starts bright and early with a healthy breakfast before being picked up by our transport. After a short drive we continue on foot through the Laos jungle. It is an incredible hike through the lush mountainside taking in breathtaking scenery. After arriving at the village we will divide into smaller homestay groups and be introduced to our host family. All participants will get a phrase book in order to be comfortable with the host. After a typical Laos lunch we will take a tour of the village and the project site where we will get an introduction to the building process and our work for the week. We have dinner around 8pm and enjoy some free time before bedtime around 10pm.

DAY 3 & 4

Let the work begin! The day begins with a yoga class as the sun comes up before breakfast. This is a great way to start the day. Breakfast is served around 7.30am. After breakfast we meet at the project site where we're divided into working groups that rotate at the various working stations as the day progresses. We have a fruit break around 10am and have a two hour lunch break at 12. We get back to the site again around 2pm and work through until 5. Evening activities vary but usually include playing cards, discussing the day around a bonfire and interacting with the villagers.

WAT HO PHA BANG TEMPLE,
LUANG PRABANG

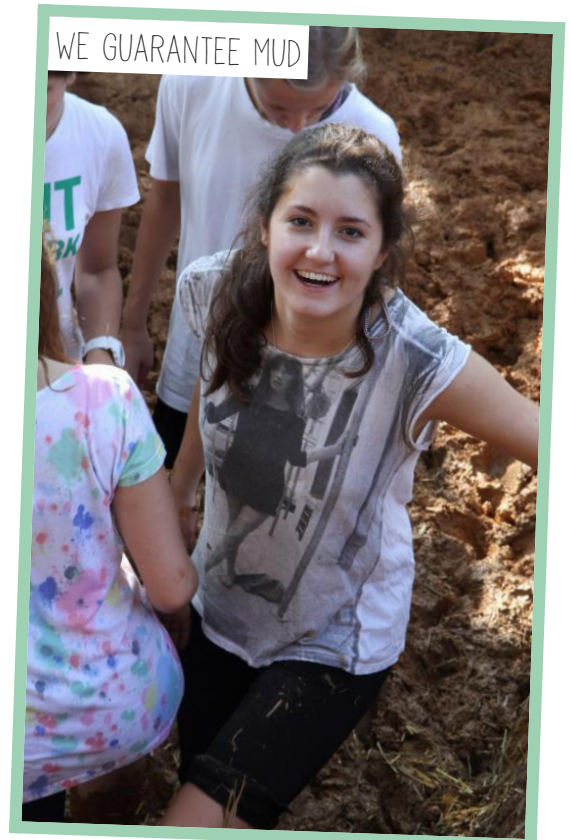


DAY 5

This is the last day in the village. Believe us, the time flies. After breakfast we hike to a wonderful cave located 45 minutes from the village. We listen to old myths and stories about the caves and the surrounding area. In the afternoon we trek to Lake Ban Nongkhuay, which is beautifully located by the mountains. In the evening we will be invited to a traditional Baci ceremony. This is a very unique and special ceremony carried out by the village elders as a way to show their appreciation for all our hard work at the project site. It is a really moving experience and something we will never forget.

DAY 6

Waterfall day! We get up early and hike to the beautiful Kuang Si waterfall. It's a three hour walk through the Laos jungle and a perfect opportunity to bring the camera. We will spend the morning swimming and jumping in the turquoise pools. After lunch we visit the nearby Black Bear Rescue Center before getting the bus to take us back to Luang Prabang. In the evening we have dinner along the Mekong River. After dinner we visit a local art gallery where we have a workshop about the local culture. On our way home to the guesthouse we do some shopping at the night market. We get back to the guesthouse at around 11pm.



KUANG SI WATERFALLS, LUANG PRABANG





DAY 7

After breakfast we visit some of the many beautiful temples in the area. We learn about the UNESCO World Heritage site of Luang Prabang and its colonial history. After lunch we take a relaxing boat ride up the river to the Pak Ou Caves. It's a fantastic way to experience the beautiful Lao countryside way of life. In the evening we enjoy our last night with a party together playing volleyball in a great restaurant overlooking the Mekong River.

DAY 8

We leave in the morning with a connecting flight in Bangkok. The group is back in Macau in the late afternoon.

PRE-COURSE ACTIVITIES

In order for the participating students to get as much experience, knowledge and enjoyment from the trip to Laos as possible, World Volunteer will prepare the students before the departure in a seminar. The preparatory seminar sessions can be arranged at the school or online. The seminar usually includes topics on cultural sensitivity, specific development challenges facing Laos and an in-depth explanation of the development output of the Eco-Bungalow project. All students will receive a pre-departure information pack containing YouTube videos, articles and other online material in order to gain further insight of the project and the destination. If needed, an information meeting for parents can also be arranged during the same evening.

POST-COURSE ACTIVITIES

On return to Macau a second seminar will be arranged. During this seminar we present your project video. This short, professionally produced, film is yours to keep and showcases our time in Laos and the village. We will also take the students through a series of reflective exercises looking back on the experiences in Laos. Students will be able to follow the development of the project via our Facebook group page as well as receiving quarterly email updates.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Health and sanitary conditions will vary depending on location. The major cities (Vientiane, Luang Prabang) will have a higher level of sanitation than remote areas. Medical facilities and services offered even in the best Lao hospital are limited and not up to western standards. Health services in the major cities are easier to access and include big hospitals and small clinics. Minor issues such as cuts or bruises are easily handled at a Lao hospital or clinic. For major issues such as broken bones, surgery, head injuries etc a trip across the border to Thailand is often recommended. Hospitals in Thailand are much better organized, cleaner, and would meet or exceed western standards.

MEDICAL PROCEDURE

The following precautions have been put into place to minimize risk to our volunteers.

- Students will go through pre-departure seminars with detailed information regarding the trip and its potential risks.
- Our guides are first aid trained.
- Comprehensive first aid equipment will be brought to the village.
- At least two project leaders will join the trip to the village.
- A pick-up truck is on standby from Luang Prabang in case of emergency.
- During the time in the village a nurse is on call from Luang Prabang.
- Helicopter transport to international hospitals in Thailand can be accessed Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm.
- Each student is responsible for providing contact information to their insurance provider before departure since different insurance companies handle evacuation procedures differently.

BANGKOK HOSPITAL IN LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

In 2012 Bangkok Hospital opened an emergency clinic in cooperation with Luang Prabang provincial hospital. Bangkok Hospital supports the clinic with one emergency room specialist and two nurses. The team speaks very good English and are trained in Thailand.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOSPITAL



EATING SUGARCANE WITH THE LOCAL HMONG CHILDREN AT THE ECO-BUNGALOW



GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to design and manage high-impact service learning travel in Laos with the ultimate ambition to strengthen the volunteers self-esteem, promote cultural exchange and create interest for international issues gained through the volunteer experience.

VALUES

For Real is at the very foundation of everything we do. For real to us at World Volunteer means:

1. Solving **real** development challenges in communities in need of support.
2. Giving our volunteers a **real** volunteer experience based on local living conditions and culture.
3. Showing **real** measurable results with high transparency during a long-term engagement with partnering volunteers and local communities.

OUR TEAM

World Volunteer consists of a dedicated group of experienced individuals from different corners of the world. World Volunteer looks forward to a long-term partnership with The International School of Macau and consequently want to offer the school a highly transparent and engaging experience. The founders of the organization, Jesper Lejfjord, Paul Crabtree and David Jonsson will serve as the coordinators for the trips as well as for future service learning projects in Laos.

THE WORLD VOLUNTEER TEAM AS ONE PERSON

- Speaks Tamil, English, Swedish, Laotian, Spanish, Thai, Hmong, Hindi and Sign language
- MA in International Development from George Washington University
- MBA graduate
- Social Entrepreneur
- Leadership coaches for 10+ years
- Licensed Tuk tuk driver
- Have worked in development on all continents
- Born and raised in a family earning less than \$1 usd/day
- CSR consultant for the worlds largest forestry company
- Loves rice
- Adobe construction expert
- Built schools and day-care centers in Burmese refugee camps



PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIONS

World Volunteer is responsible for all development projects including the cooperation with the villages. We undertake a 5-year commitment to all partnering villages in order to ensure the sustainability of the project. World Volunteer representatives will carry out, and have full responsibility for the entire trip for The International School of Macau. Local guides and transportation will be provided by our partner company in Luang Prabang.

CUSTOMER REFERENCES AND AWARDS

During the past five years World Volunteer has had the privilege of working together with international schools from all over the world. In our existing portfolio of partnerships and customers we have managed and developed a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program as well as a team building program for young entrepreneurs in Scandinavia. World Volunteer has received international recognition from the work that has been conducted in Laos. In 2012, David Jonsson has been nominated as the best young entrepreneur in Stockholm. Representatives from World Volunteer have been invited to speaking events on Social Entrepreneurship in universities in the USA and Sweden. Below are some of our current partnerships and videos made from the projects.

SCHOOL PARTNERS



International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



International School of Düsseldorf, Germany



Bonn International School, Germany



Birkerød Gymnasium, Denmark



Sigtuna Humanistiska Läroverket, Sweden

VIDEOS



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