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## **Magical Mekong River**



Experience stunning views of legendary Mekong River

Tour meets	Udon Thani	Duration	<b>11</b> days   <b>10</b> nights
Tour ends	Ubon Ratchathani	Cycling days	8
Fly into Fly out of	Udon Thani Airport UTH Ubon Ratchathani Airport UBP	Total cycling distance Stage distance	833 km   517 miles 84 to 125 km 52 to 78 miles
		Route profile	mainly flat, slightly rolling

Mekong River views Visiting an organic farm Food paradise Perfect roads

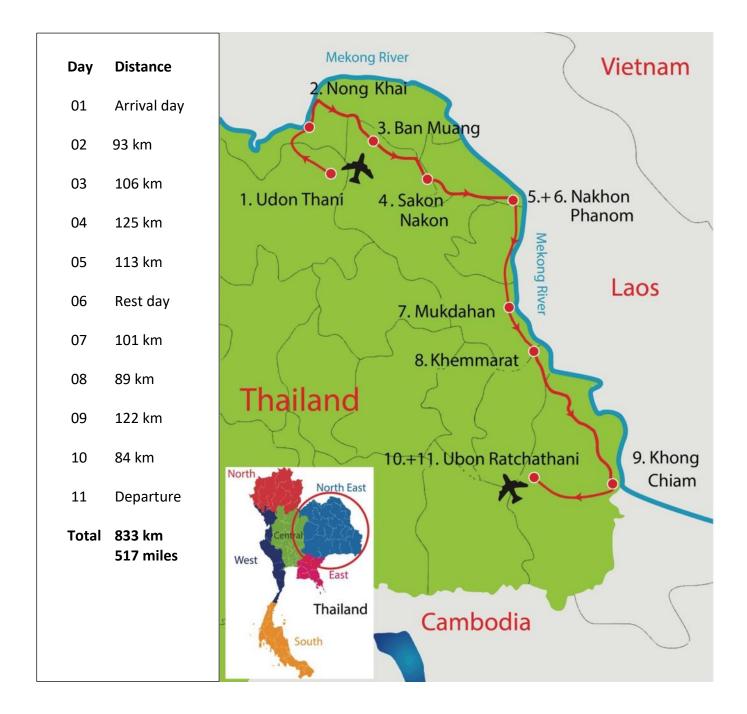
Excursion to Laos Emerald Triangle Charming locals Royal Service<sup>™</sup>

Rest day in Nakhon Phanom on the Laotian border | Overnight stay after last stage included.

All meals B | L | D\* are included. Holiday extension can be booked with us.

\*Excluding rest day.

During this cycle route, we mostly follow this legendary water stream. The Mekong River, the main artery of water in Southeast Asia, forms the natural border between Thailand and **Laos**. A stunning route starts in Udon Thani. Most of the inhabitants work in agriculture and are well known for their heart-warming hospitality. We pedal on low traffic, rural roads along the Mekong River and into the "Emerald Triangle", an area where the borders of Laos, Cambodia and Thailand meet. We cruise through gorgeous nature with rice fields, plantations and magnificent temples. Let yourself be pampered by our legendary **Royal Service**. You cycle, leave the rest to us!



#### **Udon Thani**

This important regional hub is located 560 km northeast of Bangkok. US governments built a joint-force military base in Udon Thani during the Vietnam War, bringing a large influx of GIs and Vietnamese immigrants to the city, thus creating a multicultural diverse base which more than evident til this day. Udon's dining and nightlife scene is therefore, culturally diverse and offers good choices. Various airlines fly to this provincial capital on a daily basis, making it a convenient place to begin the tour. Flying from Bangkok, it only takes 1 hour to get to Udon Thani.

#### Day 1 Arrival in Udon Thani and welcome dinner

Shopping and dining area. Late afternoon the rental bikes will be adjusted to your size before the start of the tour the next day. In the evening we welcome all guests to an informal meeting. In doing so, you will learn interesting facts about our host country. Afterwards, every participant will receive a high-quality Chilli Cycling jersey. During the dinner, we have the opportunity to get to know each other. X D



River view at Nakhon Phanom. The mountain range belongs to Laos

### Day 2 Let's get on the bikes

# Stage 1 Udon Thani — Nong Khai → 93 km | 58 miles ▲ flat

After leaving the city, we cycle on rural roads, passing scenic rice fields, plantations and magnificent temples. Tiny, peaceful villages greet us along our route. We reach Viengkuk, where we meet the Mekong River, the Nile of Southeast Asia. The road takes us along the river to the border town of Nong Khai. The imposing **Friendship Bridge** spans the river and connects Thailand with Laos. Nong Khai is a historical trading place, and is influenced by the French Indochinese culture, that found its way across the Mekong from Laos. We enjoy a romantic dinner, right on the river.  $\times$  **B | L | D** 

### Day 3 Afternoon excursion to Nong Loem lotus flower lake and folklore evening

#### Stage 2 Nong Khai — Ban Muang → 106 km | 66 miles ▲ flat

We enjoy more stunning views of the Mekong River, our constant companion for the coming days. Then we leave the Mekong and cycle inland. We pass huge rice fields and countless plantations as water buffalo stare inquisitively at our cycling jerseys. We use the afternoon hours to visit a beautiful lake nearby. Take a swim in the refreshing water or just relax on the raft. During the dinner local artists provide entertainment.  $\times$  **B** | **L** | **D** 

#### Day 4 Lunch at an organic farm

## Stage 3 Ban Muang — Sakon Nakhon → 125 km | 78 miles ▲ flat and undulating

Amazingly good roads lead us through a versatile agricultural area. We take a rest at an organic farm and test the homemade delicacies. We follow the main road to Sakon Nakhon, which is located on Nong Han Lake. The lake is the  $2^{nd}$  largest natural freshwater reservoir in Thailand. Chalermprakiat Park is worth a visit. It's famous for its lotus pond with walkways to get close to the flowers.

**%** B | L | D



Meeting local artists at Ban Muang

## Day 5

### Stage 4 Sakon Nakhon — Nakhon Phanom → 113 km | 70 miles 🛦 flat and undulating

Today's stage takes us back to the Mekong River. Our destination is Nakhon Phanom, a town idyllically situated on the river. The partly cloudy sky gradually turned orange and red after sunset. The twilight colours reflected on the Mekong River, provide a great contrast to the dark green mountain ranges in Laos. Grass, dotted with white flowers on the bank of the river makes for stunning views.

\* B | L | D

#### Day 6 Rest day in Nakhon Phanom, optional excursion to Thakhek (Laos)

Relax in the hotel directly located at the river or let yourself be pampered by a soothing Thai Massage. The impressive temple "Wat That Phanom" is a popular pilgrimage destination among Buddhists. An optional excursion over the Friendship Bridge to Laos is available. Thakhek is a former trading port opposite Nakhon Phanom. The old town has French colonial buildings from the early 20th century. 
\*\* B

wwww

#### Day 7

### Stage 5 Nakhon Phanom — Mukdahan → 101 km | 63 miles 🛦 slightly undulating

As cyclists, you will have difficulty deciding which side of the river is more attractive! Gradually the profile of the landscape begins to change. The rice fields subside and more mountain ranges and forests appear. We reach Mukdahan, which was once considered the main gateway to Indochina. A bridge connects Mukdahan with the Laotian town of Savannahket. Among Thais, Mukdahan is most famous for its riverside market, which stretches along and under the promenade.  $\times$  **B** | **L** | **D** 

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### Day 8

### Stage 6 Mukdahan — Khemmarat → 89 km | 55 miles 🛦 slightly undulating

On an idyllic back road, we cycle along the Mekong through wooded area. We arrive at Khemmarat, which is the northernmost district of Ubon Ratchathani province. We enjoy another overnight stay with a fantastic river view. The sleepy town of Khemmarat has retained the charm of earlier times.

\* B | L | D



Passing many historical places and magnificent temples along the river

### Day 9 Sam Phan Bok Viewpoint and two-coloured river

## Stage 7 Khemmarat — Khong Chiam → 122 km | 76 miles ▲ flat, 2 easy ascents

Sam Phan Bok is known as the "Grand Canyon of Thailand" and is the biggest rock reef in the Mekong River region. We marvel as the river meanders through a bizarre rock landscape. Khong Chiam sits where the dark-blue water of the Moon River meets the chocolate-milk-coloured Mekong. The scenic town puts you within easy reach of two national parks, including the excellent Pha Taem, and a border crossing into Southern Laos. Our resort is located directly on the bank of the Mun River, with a view of Laos on the far bank. X B | L | D

### Day 10 End of an exciting tour and fare-well dinner

#### Stage 8 Khong Chiam — Ubon Ratchathani → 84 km | 52 miles 🛦 flat

We have to leave the Mekong, our faithful companion and cycle through sleepy villages, along rice and sugar cane fields with open savannahs and forests. Ubon Ratchathani is one of the major cities in Northeast Thailand. It's on the Mun River in the southeast of the Isan region, and is located 615 km away from Bangkok. By the swimming pool of a good quality hotel, you will have the opportunity to reminisce over the beautiful cycling trip you have just experienced. X B | L | D

wwww

#### Day 11 Departure day

### Individual journey or extension as one chooses

After a mouth-watering breakfast buffet, you are once again at leisure. It's just 10 minutes by car to get to Ubon Ratchathani airport, which offers daily flights with different airlines, making returning to Bangkok or continuing on to other destinations within Thailand convenient.  $\times$  **B** 

#### What's included

- **Royal Service** Bottle refills, refreshing towelettes, storage of helmets and shoes and much more.
- || All meals mentioned | 10x B = Breakfast | 8x L = Lunch | 9x D = Dinner
- # All coffee breaks: Iced coffee, delicious hot blended coffee beverages or tea
- illisotonic drinks, cola, water and fresh fruit on all stages
- English speaking tour guide
- " High quality Team Jersey | Team backpack | Drinking bottle
- Accompanying VIP van with possibility to ride along | WIFI on board | Espresso machine
- Excursion to Nong Loem lotus flower lake
- Repair service (replacement material is not included)
- Additional insurance during the tour
- Photos for downloading
- **#** Farewell Dinner

#### **Services NOT included** (taxi prices in Thai Baht per car)

- Flights
- Bike rental (We offer a large selection of rental bikes)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Airport transfers
- Optional Excursions and stages (can also be booked on location)

#### **Notes**

"Due to limited space, transport of bike cases can result in additional charges

(Subject to change at any time)