



#THELAOSEXPERIENCE

TEACHING ENGLISCH IN LAOS

Bi-directional Tandem-Teaching and Learning project in Laos

GLOBAL ENGLISH(ES)

CHELSEA HOG

PH KARLSRUHE

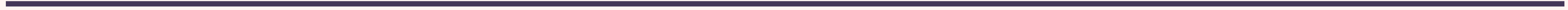


Team X: February to March (early leave due to Covid-19)
<http://www.thelaosexperience.com/team-x-introduction/>

OUTLINE

- **Laos: Country, Culture and History**
 - **TheLaosExperience - “Teaching English in Laos”**
 - **The Vocational Education Development Institute - The VEDI**
 - **My personal experience**
 - **Intercultural experiences - or “Culture Shocks”**
 - **Travel destinations**
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WHERE IS LAOS?





Mekong River



Rice fields



- landlocked country
- size of Great Britain



Phou San 2.218 m



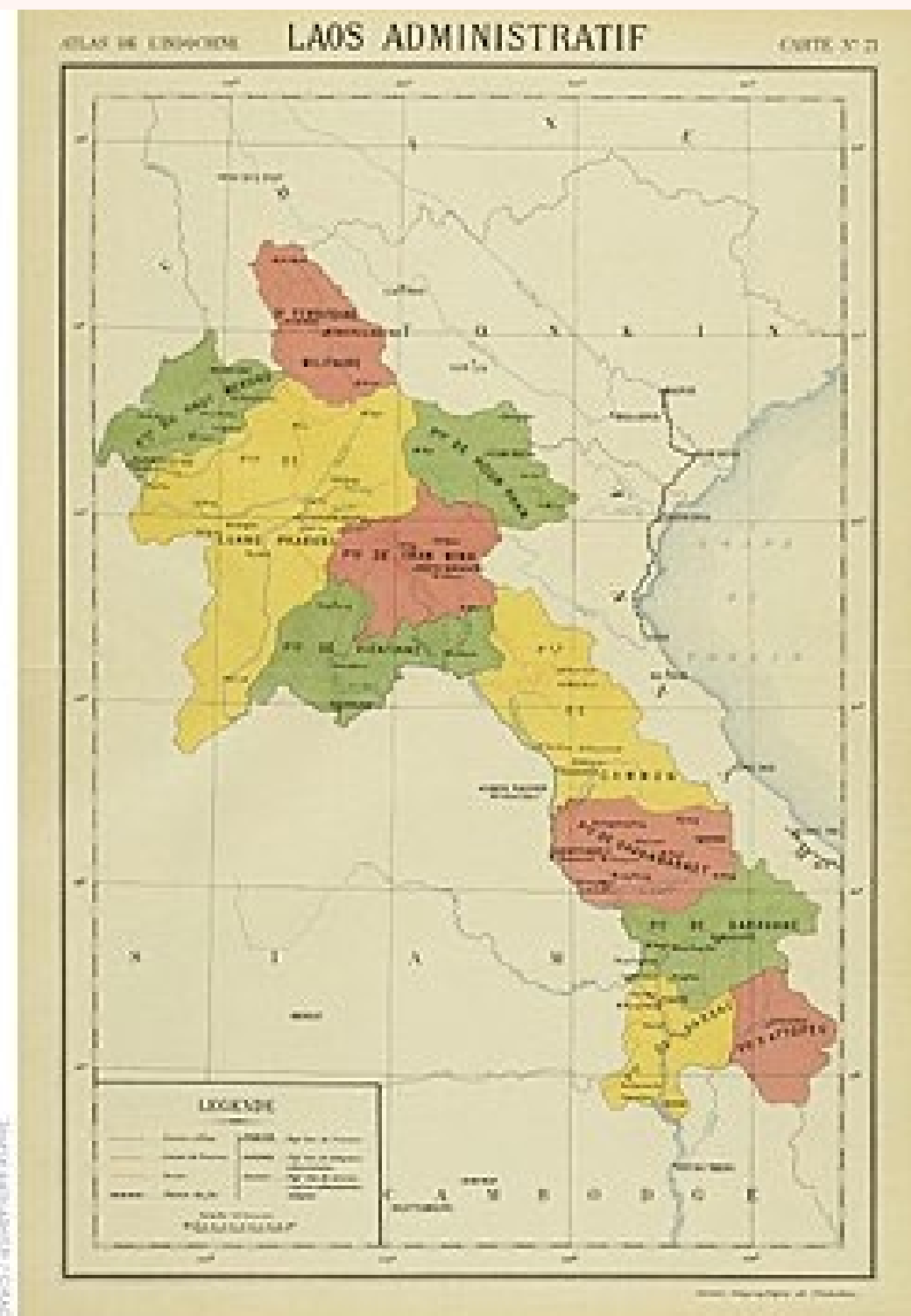
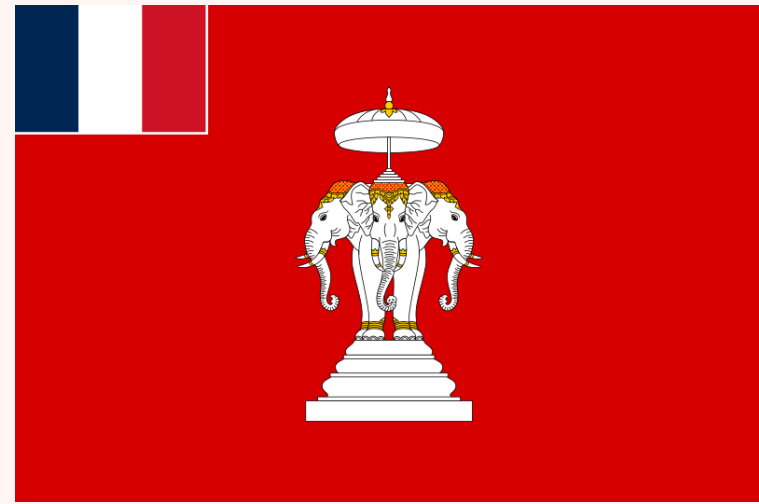
Phou Bia 2.819 m

FACTS

- **Official Name: Lao People's Democratic Republic**
 - **Socialist state: Ruled by Lao People's Revolutionary Party since 1975**
 - **Population: 7,3 Mio.**
 - **Median age: 24.4 years (45.7 years in Germany)**
 - **Most Laotians live in rural areas, with around 80% working in agriculture mostly growing rice.**
 - **Laos has ambitions to become the "battery" of Southeast Asia with its hydropower projects**
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LAOS AS FRENCH PROTECTORATE

- From 1893 to 1953 Laos was colonised by France
- "colonie d'exploitation" → "colony of economic interests"
- High taxes on opium, salt and rice alcohol and export of coffee, rice and tea
- Today: French culture and language plays a minor role



French loan-words in Lao

Coffee	ກາເຟ /gaafae/	Café
Chauffeur	ໂຊເຟີ /sooferr/	Chauffeur
Chocolate	ຊ້ອກໂກແລັດ /sawkgoolaaet/	Chocolat
Ice cream	ກະແລັມ /galaaem/	Crème Glacée



Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country in the world per capita in history. Over 270 Mio bombs were dropped on Lao PDR. Approximately 80 million unexploded bombs remained throughout the country after the war. The war is the so called "secret war", publicly known as "American war" or "Vietnam War"

From 1964 to 1973, the United States of America dropped over 2 million tons of ordnance over Lao PDR in 580,000 bombing missions --> one plane every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day, for 9 years



VIETNAM WAR

All 17 provinces of Lao PDR suffer from UXO contamination. More than 70,000 people have been killed or injured as a result of UXO incidences between 1964 and 2011.



INSTITUTIONS



VEDI - Vocational Education Development Institute



LGTC - Lao-German Technical College

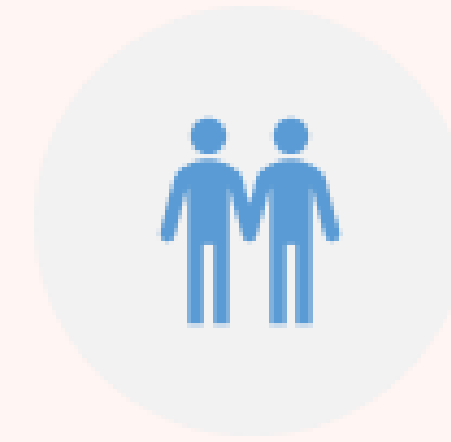
THE VEDI AS INSTITUTION

Mission

- Training of vocational teachers
- Development of curriculum and instructional materials for vocational institutions

Tasks include:

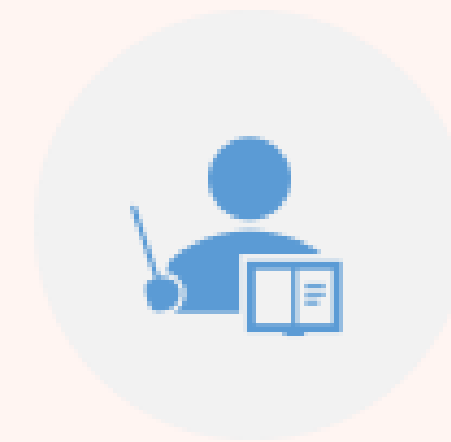
- Development of curriculum, textbooks for Vocational Schools
- Pre-service training of vocational teacher in continuing Higher Diploma (two year study) and continuing Bachelor program (2.5 year study)



TANDEM WORK



STUDENT
CLASSES / CLUBS



TEACHER
CLASSES



WORKSHOPS

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT THE VEDI



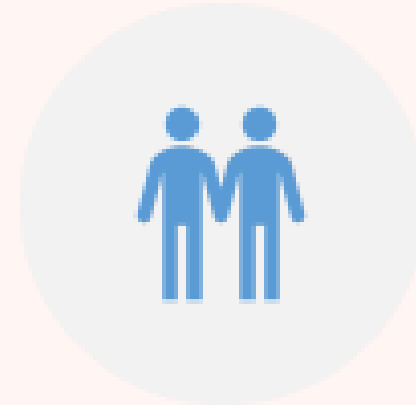
See blog-post: The career path to becoming a vocational teacher in Laos – an interview with our dorm “buddies” at the VEDI

<http://www.thelaosexperience.com/interview-vocational-teachers-vedi-laos/>

TASKS WITHIN THE PROJECT

- Tandem-teaching

Lao-German



TANDEM WORK



STUDENT
CLASSES / CLUBS

Two levels:

- Primary (Chelsea and Celine-Victoria)
- **Elementary (Lena)**

Three levels:

- Primary (Lena)
- **Elementary (Chelsea)**
- Intermediate (Celine-Victoria)

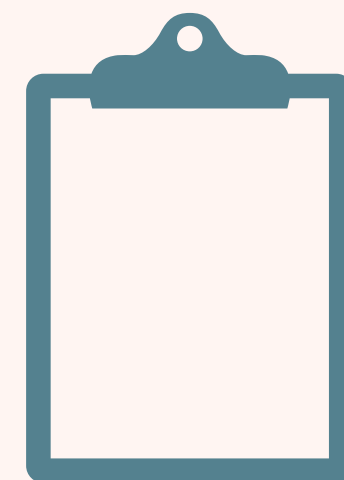


TEACHER
CLASSES



WORKSHOPS

Organization of workshops for
VEDI teachers and staff



Additional tasks:

“Meeting and minutes”, blogposts, weekly reports

LAOS BEYOND WORKING



Sport events



Farewell

LAOS BEYOND WORKING



Engagement baci

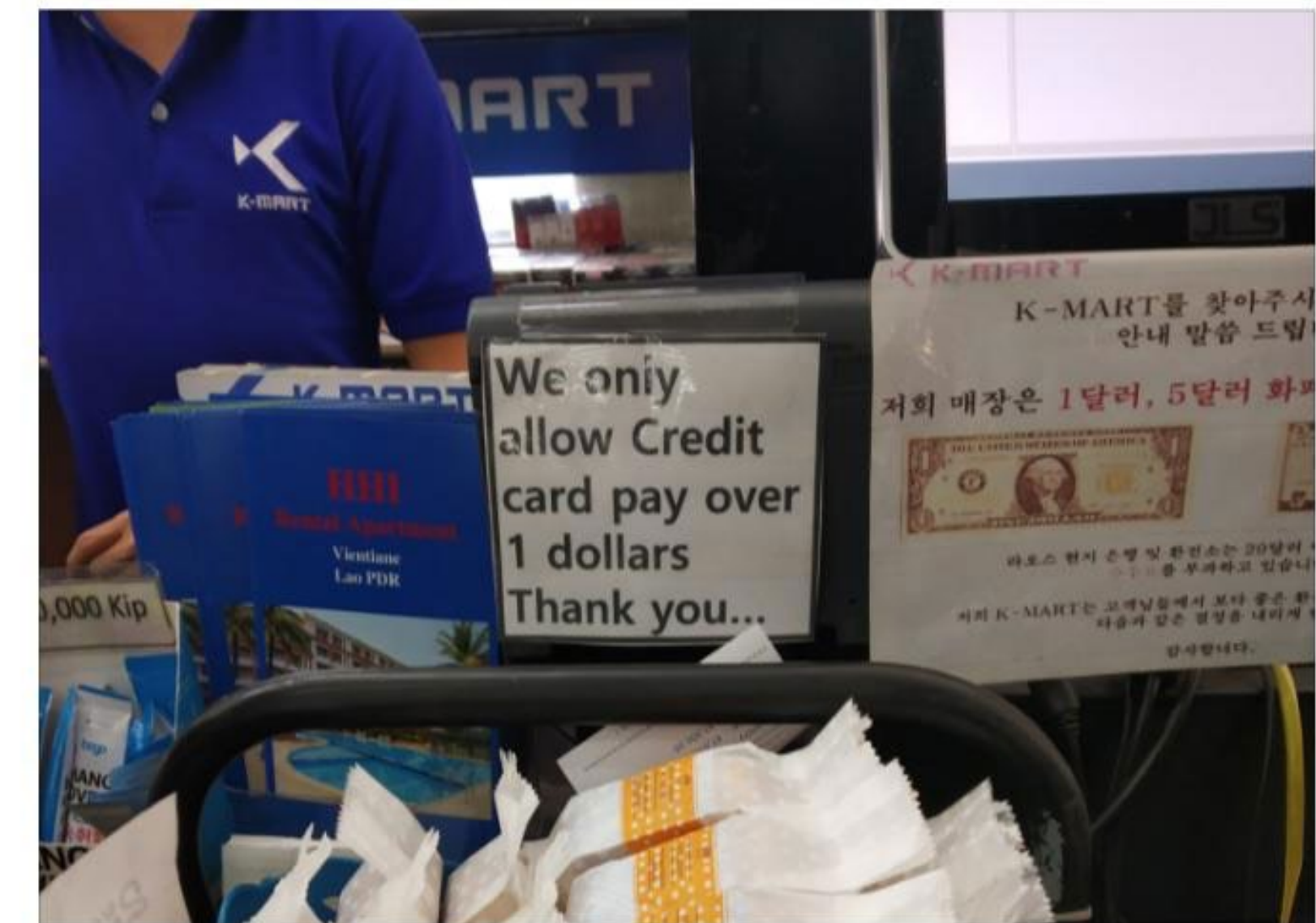


Invitation to a Lao wedding ceremony

CULTURE SHOCKS IN LAOS ?



- Living in Vientiane = relatively westernised
- Falang status (Farang) = group term for people of white colour”
 - e.g. receiving way more attention, care, service etc.
- Sustainable shopping = almost impossible
- Covid-19

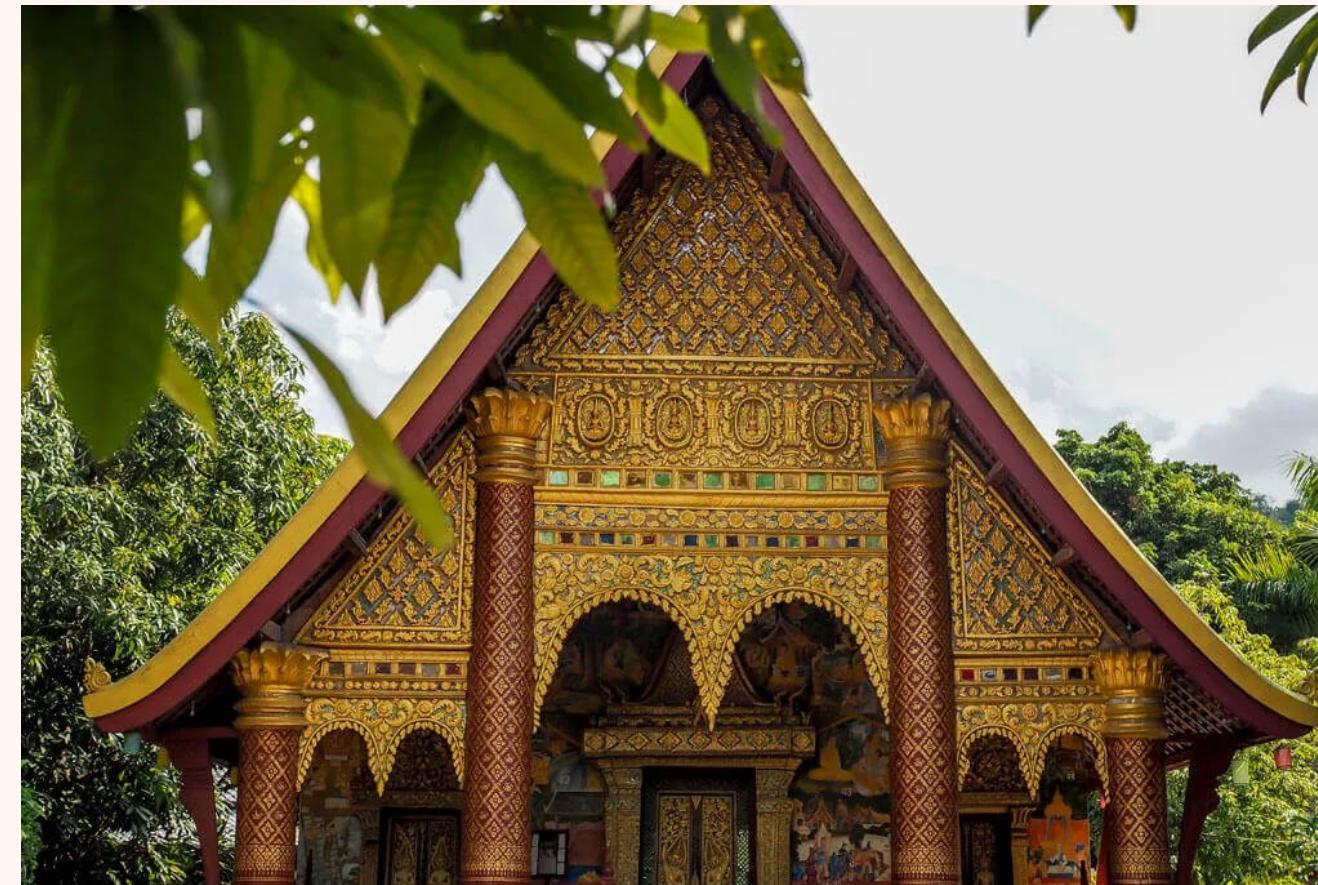


Lao prices be like ...

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS IN LAOS



Luang Prabang - Kuang Si Falls



Luang Prabang - Wat Mahathat



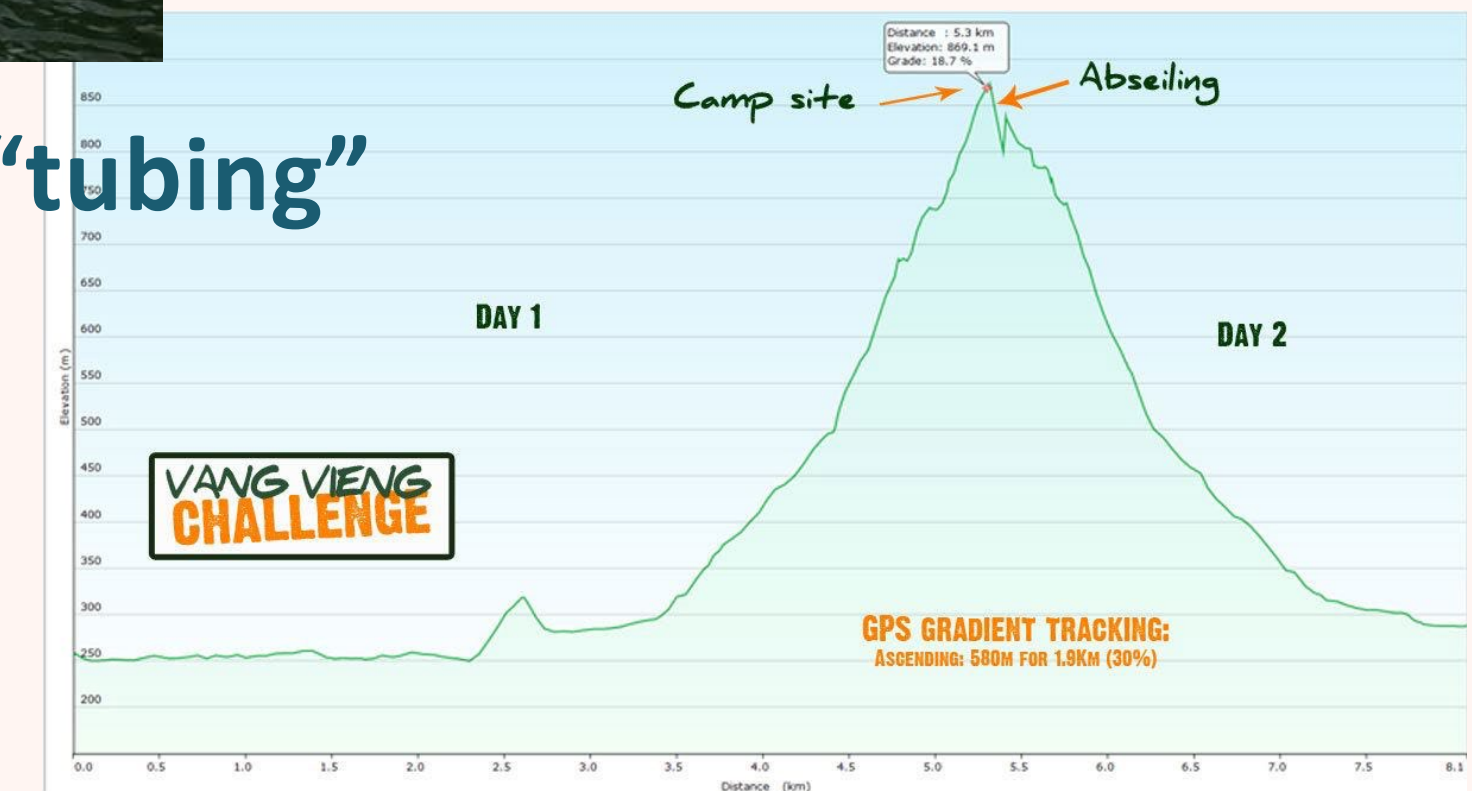
Luang Prabang - Alms giving

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS IN LAOS



Vang Vieng - famous for

“tubing”



Vang Vieng Challenge