



**Name:** Ban Pako eco-lodge  
**Location:** Just outside Vientiane, Lao P.D.R  
**Situation:** Open  
**Capacity:** 30 guests  
**Size:** 22 hectares

Ban Pako eco-lodge was the first eco-lodge in Lao P.D.R. and received guests as early as 1993. The resort has a unique location on the riverbanks of the Nam Ngum River surrounded by nothing but Lao jungle, yet only an hour away from Vientiane, the capital.

Ban Pako overlooks a national protected forest on the opposite side of the river with the Phou Khao Khouay Mountains in the background. A sense of calmness and harmony permeates the scenery disrupted only by the sounds of the jungle.

Today the hotel has a capacity of 30 guests in three different accommodation styles:

Riverside bungalows which all have private bathrooms and a spacious terrace, accommodating 12 guests.

Double rooms which are jungle oriented and have shared bathrooms, accommodating 10 guests.

Newly built dormitory in the Lao style longhouse, accommodating 8 guests.



The large restaurant consists of a bar, a Lao-style dining area and a riverfront terrace and it is well known for its excellent Lao food amongst the residents of Vientiane.

## The eco-concept

Ban Pako eco-lodge has adapted the principles of responsible and sustainable tourism. At Ban Pako all staff is local, electricity derives from solar power, all buildings are built out of wood from sustainable plantations, food is sourced locally and the village fund that Ban Pako holds enhances the living standard in a village nearby. Eco-tourism is not only a sustainable way of doing business; in 2004 eco-tourism was growing three times faster than the tourism industry as a whole .



Ban Pako eco-lodge offers a wide range of activities such as steam baths in the traditional Lao herbal sauna, massage, trekking at the premises as well as guided tours in the nearby area. There is a huge possibility for extension of these activities since the lodge is situated less than one hour drive from one of the larger national parks in Lao P.D.R.

### Lao tourism

In 2007 the arrival growth rate in Lao P.D.R was the highest in Southeast Asia at 36.5 % and the number of arrivals reached 1.32 million people and was listed by the New York Times as the number one destination to visit in 2008.

Vientiane is the entry point of over 90% of the arrivals to Lao P.D.R .

## The lodge today

In 2008 and 2009 there have been several investments at the lodge to meet the growth in Lao tourism. Physical upgrades including a beautiful new bamboo bar in the middle of the restaurant which has increased the sales. The Lao style long house has been renovated and on the ground floor is now a cosy dormitory. The lodge has also invested in a vehicle that serves as a shuttle back and fourth to Vientiane every day to pick up guests which has been very successful.

Ban Pako eco-lodge owns 22 hectares of land surrounding the hotel. One of the owners, Burapha Group, controls 80 hectares of land along the river connected with the land owned by the resort. This could create opportunities for further development of the hotel.

Ban Pako eco-lodge has during the end of 2008 increased the number of guests by 22% and increased its revenues by 61% compared to 2007.



## Contacts

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