



A GUIDE TO THE
LAO PHUAN PEOPLE

At one time the Lao Phuan had their own kingdom, centred on the famous Plain of Jars in NE Laos. 150 years ago, their kingdom was invaded and thousand were taken as slaves to dig the canals in Bangkok. Despite setbacks the Lao Phuan have maintained their language and culture and today make many contributions to life in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



Located in Northern Laos with some also in central Thailand.
Population - 300,000.



The Lao Phuan are masters of home-grown, hand-spun silk that is woven into extremely complex patterns on home-made looms.



The Lao Phuan are famous for a delicacy of small pickled birds.



The Lao Phuan are outgoing, energetic people. Most are gifted farmers while many are in business, politics, the military and the police.



The Lao Phuan are thorough animists with a thin veneer of syncretistic folk-buddhism.



There is one Lao Phuan church to date with others forming. In Laos, the Lao Phuan Christian community is about 0.1% and growing.



The Lao Phuan love neighbourhood parties and grand weddings. A wedding with less than 1,000 guests is not considered large. Guests arrive dressed in their finest with their names on large gifts of cash. A popular bride and groom often have thousands of dollars to their credit once the wedding expenses are paid.



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