

## *Earth Hour*



Initiated in 2007, Earth Hour is a call to the initiative of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF, World Wide Fund for Nature) for a global mobilization on March 25th: it comes to plunge the Earth into the black during 1 h, 20:30 to 21:30 for symbolically participate in the struggle for the defence of the environment and against global warming. Thousands of cities around the world participate in Earth Hour, thus turning off their buildings and monuments: the Harbour Bridge in Sydney, the pyramids of Egypt, the Eiffel Tower, Times Square... In 2011, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon was pleased with what the Earth Hour "[use] those 60 minutes of darkness to help the world to see the light".

For the 10th edition in 2016, 172 countries participated in Earth Hour.

## *THAILAND*

### *December 5th becomes national day*



The Thai Government has advised that it was decreed on December 5th the National day and the father's day in Thailand, in accordance with the request of the King Vajiralongkorn. On December 5th was the anniversary day of the deceased King Bhumibol Adulyadejas, who reigned for 70 years on the Kingdom. According to an official statement signed for the first Minister Prayuth Chan-O-Cha, King Vajiralongkorn, son of Bhumibol, would have asked to the

Government to make of the December 5th a Bank holiday tripling important of the Thai calendar: the anniversary of late Rama IX, the father's day and the national day of the Thailand. The much revered King Bhumibol Adulyadejas died on October 13th 2016 after 70 years of reign. In 2012, United Nation had made December 5th, world day of soils in tribute to the King and to increase awareness to the importance of the preservation of land.



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*TAT License No.11/3315*

#### **Thailand Head Office**

253 Tower . 10<sup>th</sup> Floor . 253 Sukhumvit Soi 21 (Asoke) . Klongtoey Nua, Wattana . Bangkok 10110 . Thailand  
Tel.: (66-2) 664 0661 & 2 - Fax.: (66-2) 664 0663 - VAT No.: 3031070295

#### **Europe representative Office**

10, rue de Paix . Héron Building . 5<sup>th</sup> Floor . 75002 Paris - France . Tel.: (33-1) 42 86 66 52 - Fax.: (33-1) 49 03 07 20

[www.blue-jade.com](http://www.blue-jade.com) . [info@blue-jade.com](mailto:info@blue-jade.com)

## *On Thai racetracks, the thrill of the bet*



The horses are starting the final straight and bettors aren't holding in place. Out of the race, Thais have bit the possibility to bet legally, what makes the even bigger thrill of the race.

*"I come every week. I like horses"* says Chumpon Aunaeksri, 66 years old, looking the trotting racehorse over the lawn of a racetrack of central Bangkok, drowned in the middle of the skyscrapers of the capital. Around him, thousands of others

amateur, mainly old men, are waiting for the next race in munching peanuts, sipping beer or smoking cigarettes. The atmosphere is very simple, far from the chic and glamour of some international racetracks: in Thailand, everything revolves around the race. And the rare opportunity in this Buddhist country to play money. Former jockey, Chumpon saw his chance fluctuate over the years: he happened to lose 100,000 baht or more than 2,600 Euros on a Sunday. Lately, luck is not on his side. But at least with the racetracks, *"everything remains legal here,"* says, unlike illegal casinos and some card clubs. The police or the army, at the head of the country since a coup in May 2014, intervene regularly to dismantle these places where we play money without authorization. The strict line of authorities on the bets is supported by religious beliefs: the game would be contrary to Buddhist morality, common to 90% of the Thai population. However, if bets on horse races are allowed, the game isn't necessarily very fair: some openly formulate suspicions of match-fixing on races. *"Some jockeys receive orders from the horse's owners. It's them who determine everything"*, assures Namsak Thepnarong, the best jockey in the country." According to him, many of his peers are subject to pressure from the owners. More than one-third of Thais bet regularly, according to a study by 2015 from Chulalongkorn University of Bangkok: Dice Games, illegal Cockfighting, football, boxing... On the fields of race, bets are remained allowed because of the tradition and through the royal patronage that they enjoy. They are the only possible form of gambling outside the State Lottery, real institution in the country.

Riding arrived in Thailand a century ago under the leadership of King Chulalongkorn, an anglophile monarch who was able to modernize the Thailand and hold the colonial powers away from his country, in contrast to the fate of other countries in the region. Little by little, race fields have been built outside Bangkok and stables have developed along the poor and rural northeast borders of Thailand, where frail young men were recruited as jockeys.

But with the rise of football, horseracing has increasingly difficult to pull them out of the game. The two racetracks in Bangkok still sell some 6,000 tickets per day of races, representing around 40 million baht (a bit more than one million of Euros), but before the economic crisis of 1997, the amounts were three times higher.

Some believe that the opening of the Thailand to global competition could support horse racing, while today only Thai breed horses can compete and the Kingdom doesn't do any international race. But the road promises to be long because for now, anti-doping fight is low in Thailand, coaches are free to give themselves medication to horses and screening tests are only on those who rank first or second...

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## ***Thai Lion Air opens two new destinations in Thailand***



Thai Lion Air (TLA), a subsidiary of Indonesia's Lion group, expands its offer with the creation of new air routes. On February 10th, the Indonesian airline TLA has opened two additional destinations in Thailand.

The first line will depart from Don Mueang (DMK) airport in Bangkok to Trang. This new route is a real feat for TLA because it took almost a year before the approval of the Thai authorities.

The other line will link Chiang Mai to Surat Thani. It's the second interregional connection after the line of Udon Thani-Hat Yai. Regarding the frequency of flights, TLA provides one a day for the Chiang Mai-Surat Thani route, but two by day to Bangkok-Trang. The airline estimated that the flights from Bangkok to Trang will be most in demand, both for business and tourism. The ticket prices should not exceed 425 baht (or 12 Euros) for a one-way ticket Bangkok-Trang and 925 baht (25 Euros) for Chiang Mai-Surat Thani. With the launch of these two new rotations, the low-cost airline will compete with Thai Air Asia and Nok Air. Its two main competitors offer too the flights operating in the same area.

## ***The turtles release Festival in Phuket***



The Turtle Release Festival on April 13th 2017 gives rise to a ceremony included in Songkran ceremony (Buddhist New Year), on April 13th. This day is declared national day of fishing. Turtle's babies are released into the sea on the beaches of Phuket. The festival is sponsored by the Government to raise awareness on the importance of the protection of this endangered species.

## ***Songkran (Buddhist New Year or water festival)***



The Buddhist New Year, from April 2017 13th to 15th, is one of Thailand's largest holidays because it marks the beginning of the year according to the lunar calendar.

The eve of Songkran, April 12th, is one of the hottest days of the year in Thailand. Thais spray the Buddha of water with reverence but also their friends, the belief wanting that the water takes away bad luck and purifies. There are real water fights in the streets. Also scented water is poured on the hands of seniors. Songkran is celebrated throughout the country, and particularly in Chiang Mai and Phra Praekong, in the suburbs of Bangkok.

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## MYANMAR

### *Thingyan Festival (water Festival)*



April 12th-16th 2017, during the month of *thingyan* (1st month of the Burmese calendar year), water festival, i.e. the Buddhist new year day is celebrated across the country. People throw water on each other and place flowers and leaves of Palms in front of their houses. The streets are cleaned on this occasion. Water is considered to be an instrument of purification; this element keeps away the evil spirits of the one who is sprayed, and is supposed to bring peace, prosperity and happiness for the coming year.

According to legend, the year begins when Thagyamin, King of the *nat* (spirits), visit the Earth to bless the people, mounted on a winged and gold horse carrying a jar of water, symbolizing peace and prosperity. It has also two books, one cover of gold that contains the names of the children who have been good during the past year and the other covered with skins of dog for the bad guys. Everybody waters him! In cities, youth water themselves with water lances and in train stations, alongside people launch large buckets on travellers in the train.

Long processions to the Shwedagon give the opportunity to pour lustral water on the images of Buddha and the monks. We also honor seniors: children bring flowers to the grandparents. Without wishing to spoil the party, you should know that it's one of the few popular moments during which it's allowed to gather. But organization permits are generally sold by relatives of power who then collect an entrance fee to attend the celebration, often raised to the average income of a Burmese... Everything is closed in Burma during these few days.

### *The awakening of the Golden Triangle*



The Golden Triangle... A region between Myanmar, Thailand and Laos, associated with the trafficking of opium. But who ventured into this isolated territory at the far east of Myanmar, the Golden Triangle is much better than its sulphurous reputation.

This land long inaccessible, located in Shan country, is a world apart in Myanmar. Visit the Golden Triangle, is exploring a universe in itself, moving to the meeting of 17 ethnic groups living there, to confront different cultures and different codes. Travel into an unknown Myanmar, in the heart of splendid landscapes of mountain and at the gates of Thailand. A green Myanmar like Emerald, where the triangle is gold...

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## LAOS

### *Boun Phavet (feast of monasteries)*



The Lao commemorates one of the incarnations of Buddha by ordering monks and inviting them in the village festivals. From March 1st to 31st 2017 Boun Pha Vet is an opportunity of many receptions in family, in the halls of pagodas and monasteries. To the programs: ritual readings of the Buddha's teaching, processions and chants. Many lay participate in offerings. Preferably celebrated this feast during the dry season, when farmers are freed from farm work.

### *Pii May or Songkran (Buddhist New Year)*



The Buddhist new year party the largest in the country, gives rise to many celebrations. Probably, this is the time of year the most interesting to visit Laos. (Although there are officially only 3 consecutive nonworking days (the last day of the year just ending, the 1st of the next year, and 1 day between them), festival hard almost a week, roughly from April 13th to 18th of each year (from April 13th to 16th 2017 this year), the date being fixed because based on the solar calendar), and extends throughout the country. We clean the House to keep evil spirits away. Many activities in the country are concentrated around the pagodas. The day of Song Kan, we pray and we sprinkle the statues of Buddha of lustral water consecrated by the monks, we get dressed in the traditional way and made junket around the temples. We splash of water, as in the South of China. It's also an opportunity for birds, frogs and other small creatures to be released from their cage. Finally, the first day of the new year, in addition to spray each other, we take the vows. For example, we can attend this party at Luang Prabang.

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## Vietnam

### ***Chua Huong (perfume Pagoda Festival) to Huong Son***



This Buddhist pilgrimage is celebrated in a beautiful mountainous landscape. After the Vietnamese New Year, Huong Son, 70 km south of Hanoi, attracts Vietnamese and foreign tourists. It's one of the longest Vietnamese holidays. It extends in fact to the 6th day of the 1st lunar month (February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017) the 15th day of the 3rd lunar month (April 16th 2017). The event usually peaks between the 15th and the 20th day of the 1st lunar month.

### ***Cold foods festival at Tết Han Thuc***



On March 30th 2017, young people of both sexes are walking along the rivers and lakes and fun to throw flowers over the water. The belief wants fate be favourable to the union of a couple, if the flowers thrown by them came to join. Women and young girls of high society will pick Mulberry leaves to silkworms, because according to tradition, the production of the silk depends on this feast day. On the return way, we eat the " *banh chày* and *banh trôi*", sort of sweet sticky rice cakes. But custom requires that they are eaten cold, in the memory of Gioi-Tu-Thoi mandarin who had saved his King, but he forgot later. Gioi-Tu-Thoi let himself die in a forest in flames. Since at this party, we avoid eating hot food, lest the fire awakens the pain of his bruised souls. Some also visit the graves of their ancestors.

### ***Pagoda Thay festival (Ha Tay province)***



This Buddhist event commemorating the death of mother-goddesses Lieu Hanh, from whom the temple is dedicated, is the opportunity to attend a procession of palanquins, a literary contest, a competition of songs, and artistic activities at the pagoda of Pho Linh (in the old village of Tay Ho) from March 30th to April 3rd 2017.

### ***Feast of Bach Dang (Quang Ninh province)***



It's one of the biggest celebrations of Vietnam on April 4th 2017. Many leaders of the country also come to attend this event. Representation of the exercises of the soldiers of Tran dynasty, rites of sacrifice, procession of the statue of Tran Hung Dao, traditional festival, traditional struggle or part of chess with human pawns are on the program. The party is mainly due to the Tran Hung Dao temple and the Vua Ba temple.

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## ***Truong Yen Festival (Ninh Binh province)***



These celebrations in Hoa Lu district, Ninh Binh province, are one of the most important events in the region, and are known across the country from April 5th to 7th 2017. The ceremonies are given in honour of the Dinh Tien Hoang and Lê Dai Hanh Kings, who liberated the country at the end of the tenth century. They are accompanied by traditional wrestling matches, Dragon and Unicorn dances, boat races and popular songs...

## ***Feast of the village of Van Vi (province of Ha Tay)***

A lively party where mingle songs *ca tru*, lion dances and representation of popular theatre from April 5th to 6th 2017. Royal boats and canoes races are also held.

## ***Celebration of the launch of Ba Giang kites (Ha Tay province)***

Traditional competitions such as the launch of kites or rice cooking brighten this annual event on April 11th 2017.

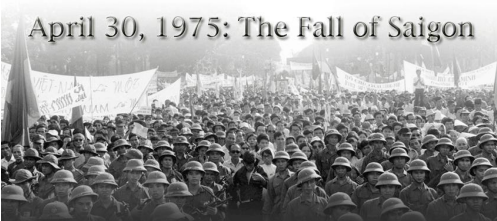


## ***Khmer New Year***



The Khmer New Year takes place every year in mid April. The party then underway around the Khmer pagodas from April 14th to 16th 2017. It's the most interesting time to visit Khmer site of Angkor Vat Icha Borei (around Vinh Long, at the centre of the Mekong delta), then in party, or Chua Dôi Khmer pagoda to Sóc Trăng, at the southern tip of Vietnam.

## ***Anniversary of the fall of Saigon***



Memory of the fall of Saigon, the capital of the South renamed Ho Chi Minh, by the North Vietnamese Army and Hanoi Communist forces, April 30th 1975. A tank the hit with the revolutionary star had destroyed the front gate of the Presidential Palace in Saigon. This event marks the end of the Vietnam war and the beginning of a transition period leading to the formal reunification of Vietnam under Communist regime

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## CAMBODIA

### ***Khmer New Year (Bon Chaul Chhnam)***



This religious festival is the most important holiday of the year in Cambodia. It begins each year on April 13th or 14th to complete the April 15th or 16th (from April 13th to 16th in 2017). It marks the end of the dry season. Cambodians bring offerings to the Vat (pagodas), whip their houses, exchange gifts and new clothes, and spray each other. In the street, they play traditional games like Boh Angkunh, Chaol Chhoung, Leak Kansaeng and the pull of the rope.

### ***Vinci will indeed lose the concession of Siem Reap airport***



Wednesday, February 15th, was held the International Business Summit Cambodia 2017 organized by IBC (International Business Chamber) which brought together Ministers, members of the Government, businessmen and investors from around the world. During the final session of the Summit, the Minister of public works and transport, Sun Chanthol, has officially confirmed that a new international airport would be built in Siem Reap by a Chinese consortium. This new airport is a project approved by the Council for development of Cambodia (CDC), who materializes after have been the subject of much speculation. As Sun Chanthol said at the *Petit Journal*: 'this project is real. The construction, a budget of around 880 million dollars, has been entrusted to the Chinese consortium YIHL (Yunnan Investment Holdings Ltd) as part of an agreement formally signed in the presence of Xi Jinping President of the people's Republic of China and Hun Sen Prime Minister. Once operational, the Siem Reap Angkor international airport will replace the existing airport operated by Cambodia Airports, a company majority-owned by the French company VINCI including the exclusivity agreement was set to expire in 2040. This decision to prematurely terminate the contract gave rise to discussions in an effort to offer compensation to the French group. During the Business Summit 2017, the Cambodian Government said support and encourage investment from abroad who bring expertise and capital to the development of the economy of the country. "Cambodia needs investment. The role of the Government, «said Chanthol Sun, «is to facilitate the work of these investors in terms of regulations, by reducing the amount of paperwork and giving them access to infrastructure. It's impossible to build the economy of a country without foreign investors, «he concluded. The VINCI group could yet find the pill hard to swallow because it has just finished a significant increase of the capacity of the airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap for a hundred million dollars of investment. Through the ouster of VINCI, the main French private investor in Cambodia, it's all French economic diplomacy which is questioned. The Cambodian Government has also announced the future capacity expansion of Phnom Penh's international airport with the construction of a new airport to serve the capital, work has to start by 2020. VINCI will also lose the Phnom Penh airport?

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***The Agenda:***

*Here is a sample of the holidays don't miss through Southeast Asia*

**CAMBODIA**

If the work week tops out at 44 h, in return, Cambodia is one of the countries with the more holidays...

Twenty-six annual public holidays sometimes given in local series of three consecutive days - new year, the King's birthday, the day of the dead and the water festival, which allows most residents to reach their village and their families for a well-deserved rest.

These days are marked by a sharp slowdown in the commercial activities of the Kingdom because they are all cities that begin to rotate at idle...

International women's day: March 8th 2017

Earth Hour: March 25th 2017

Khmer New Year (Bon Chaul Chhnam): from April 13th to 16th 2017

Labour Day: May 1st 2017

Buddha Birthday to Vietnam and Cambodia: May 3rd 2017

Genocide Day in Cambodia: May 9th 2017

Feast of the sacred furrow or royal plowing ceremony (Chat Prea Angkal) in Phnom Penh: may 2017

King Sihanouk's birthday: May 14th 2017

Visak Bochea day: may 2017

Cambodian and international children's day: June 1st 2017

Queen Mother Monique Birthday: June 18th 2017

Ancestors Festival (Pchum Ben): September 2017

Constitution Day: September 24th 2017

Celebration of Pchum Ben, day of the dead: mid-October 2017

Paris agreements Day: October 23rd 2017

Crowning of the King: October 29th 2017

King Norodom Sihanouk's birthday: October 31st 2017

Independence day: November 9th 2017

Water (Bon Om Touk) Festival: November 2017

Human rights day: December 10th 2017

Angkor Photo Festival in Siem Reap: December 2017

Angkor Wat international half marathon: December 2017

National holiday: January 2018

Meak Bochea, Buddhist celebration day: February 2018

Tet Festival (Vietnamese or Chinese New Year) in Cambodia and Laos: February 2018

KaZantip Festival in Sihanoukville: February 2018

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**THAILAND**

The full moon festivals (Full Moon Parties) on the island of Koh Phangan: every month, this party together, on the beach of Haad Rin,... young and old partygoers. Every full moon night, techno fans find themselves on the beach of Haad Rin, a famous place for having the most beautiful view on the star of the night. Tens of thousands of revellers (up to 150,000 in high season) dancing furiously until dawn, accompanied by the best DJ. In 2017, the Full Moon Parties are held February 12th, March 12th, April 11th, may 11th, June 9th, July 10th, August 7th, September 5th, October 6th, November 3rd, December 3rd, and January 1st 2018.

Thailand International Balloon Festival in Chiang Mai: March 2017

Earth Hour: March 25th 2017

Chakri dynasty day: April 6th 2017

Turtles release Festival in Phuket: April 13th 2017

Songkran (Buddhist New Year or water festival): from April 13th to 15th 2017

Cricket Week in Phuket: April 2017

Coronation day: May 5th 2017

Royal ploughing ceremony in Bangkok: may 2017

Visakha Puja: May 10th 2017

Rune Paradise, Phuket international marathon: from June 3rd to 4th 2017

Thailand Travel Mart Plus in Chiang Mai: from June 14th to 16th 2017

Phi Ta Khon Festival at Dan Sai (province of Loei): June 23rd 2017

Khao Phansa (Festival of the candles): July 9th 2017

Asalha Puja: July (full moon) 2017

Wan Mea Feast of the mothers and the Queen Sirikit's birthday: August 2017

International festival of dance and music of Bangkok: September 2017

Moon Festival, celebrating the mid-autumn in Bangkok: September 2017

Vegetarian Festival: October 2017

Sakon Nakhon, Festival of the wax castles: October 2017

Ok Phansa: October 2017

Chulalongkorn day: October 2017

Loy Krathong, lantern festival: November 4th 2017

World Film Festival in Bangkok: November 2017

Phimai Festival: November 2017

Yi Peng Festival in Chiang Mai: November 2017

Elephants Festival in Surin (Round Up Festival): November 2017

Week of the bridge on the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi: November-December 2017

Laguna Phuket Triathlon in Phuket: November 2017

Bangkok Marathon: November 2017

Lopburi monkeys feast: November 2017

Silk and Phuk Seow Festival in Khon Kaen: November-December 2017

National and fathers day : December 5th 2017

Constitution Day: December 10th 2017

King's Cup Regatta in Phuket: December 2017

Birthday of the King in Thailand: December 2017

Thailand International Balloon Festival in Chiang Mai: December 2017

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New Years eve: December 31st 2017 - January 1st 2018  
Pimex, Phuket International Boat Show in Phuket: January 2018  
The umbrellas Festival in Bo Sang (Chiang Mai): January 2018  
Chinese New Year: January 2018  
Festival of the flowers in Chiang Mai: from February 3rd to 5th 2018  
Magha Puja: February 2018  
Saint Valentine's day: February 14th 2018

## **MYANMAR**

Kakku (Kekku) Pagoda Festival around Taunggyi: from March 10th to 14th 2017  
Earth Hour: March 25th 2017  
Armed forces day: March 27th 2017  
Farmer's holiday: March 2017  
Full moon of Tabaung: March 2017  
Thingyan Festival (water Festival): April 2017  
Burmese New Year: April 2017  
Labour Day: May 1st 2017  
Kason: may 2017  
Full moon of waso: July 8th 2017  
Martyr's day: July 19th 2017  
Nat Festival in Taungbyon (Mandalay): from July 31st to August 7th 2017  
Festival of the Phaung Daw Oo to Lake Inle: from September 21st to October 8th 2017  
Festival of Kyaukdawgyi pagoda in Mandalay: October 2017  
The Dance Festival of elephants to Kyaukse (Mandalay): October 2017  
Thidingyut Festival (Festival of lights): October 2017  
Hot Air Balloon Festival in Taunggyi: November 2017  
Tazaungdaing Festival: November 2017  
Feast of the pagoda at Kyaik Hti Yo (to the Golden Rock): November 2017  
National day: November 16th 2017  
Shan New Year: November 22nd 2017  
Kayin (Karen New Year): December 2017  
Pyatha (Independence day): January 4th 2018  
Bagan Pagoda festival (Pagan): December 2017 - January 2018  
Kachin Manaw Festival in Myikyina: January 2018  
Naga New Year Festival (Kaing Bi): January 2018  
The Mahamuni pagoda Festival in Mandalay: January - February 2018  
Baw - gyo Festival in Thipaw: February - March 2018  
Union day: February 12th 2018  
Thidingyut Festival (Festival of lights): February 2018

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**Thailand Head Office**

253 Tower . 10<sup>th</sup> Floor . 253 Sukhumvit Soi 21 (Asoke) . Klongtoey Nua, Wattana . Bangkok 10110 . Thailand  
Tel.: (66-2) 664 0661 & 2 - Fax.: (66-2) 664 0663 - VAT No.: 3031070295

**Europe representative Office**

10, rue de Paix . Héron Building . 5<sup>th</sup> Floor . 75002 Paris - France . Tel.: (33-1) 42 86 66 52 - Fax.: (33-1) 49 03 07 20

[www.blue-jade.com](http://www.blue-jade.com) . [info@blue-jade.com](mailto:info@blue-jade.com)

## Calendar days of market in the region of Inle in 2017

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUGUST	MS	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
2	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A	A	BC	BC
3	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B		
4	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	CD	CD	D	D
5	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C			E	E
6	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	OF	E	E	A	A
7	C	D	B	C	C	D	OF		A	A	B	B
8	D	E	C	D	D	EA		A	B	B	C	C
9	E	A	D	E	EA		A	B	C	C	D	D
10	A	BC	E	AB		B	B	C	D	D	E	E
11	BC		AB		B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
12		D		C	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
13	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
14	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
15	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E	E
16	B	C	A	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	AB
17	C	D	B	C	C	D	D	E	A	A	BC	
18	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	BC		C
19	E	A	D	E	E	A	A	B	CD		D	D
20	A	B	E	A	A	B	B	CD		D	E	E
21	B	C	A	B	B	C	C		E	E	A	A
22	C	D	B	C	C	OF	OF	E	A	A	B	B
23	D	E	C	D	D			A	B	B	C	C
24	E	AB	D	EA	EA	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
25	A		E			B	B	C	D	D	E	E
26	BC	C	AB	B	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	A
27		D		C	C	D	D	E	A	A	B	B
28	D	E	C	D	D	E	E	A	B	B	C	C
29	E		D	E	E	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
30	A		E	A	A	B	B	C	D	D	E	E
31	B		A		B		C	D		E		A

A = Heho, Than Taung, Kyone, Taungto (Sagar road), Nar Baung (Kakku road), Loikaw

B = Taunggyi, Aungban, floating market (Inle)

C = Pwe Hla, Mine Thauth, Phaung Daw Oo, Kyauk Tine (Sagar road), Pin Long

D = Shwe Nyaung, Kalaw, Dine, Dein, Maw Bi Khaung (Sagar road), Phe Khone

E = Nyaug Shwe, Pindaya, Nampan (Sagar road), Ham See (Kakku road), Sagar

Every Sunday and Wednesday, market day at De Maw So beside Loi Kaw.

The market of the Indein Pagoda on the edges of the Lake is very authentic but more frequent. So get there early. For every day of full moon (yellow) and dead Moon (green colour), markets are advanced one day. You have therefore 2 markets on the eve of the day of full moon and dead moon.

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**VIETNAM**

- Festival of the fishermen in Hoi An: March 13th 2017  
Earth Hour: March 25th 2017  
Cold foods festival at Tết Han Thuc: April 2017  
Thay Pagoda Festival (Province of Ha Tay): April 2017  
Feast of Bach Dang (Quang Ninh province): April 2017  
Khmer New Year: April 14th – 16th 2017  
Van Vi Village Festival (province of Ha Tay): April 2017  
Truong Yen Festival (Ninh Binh province): April 2017  
Celebration of the launch of Ba Giang kites (province of Ha Tay): April 2017  
Anniversary of the Saigon fall: April 30th 2017  
Buddha Birthday to Vietnam and Cambodia: May 3rd 2017  
Ba Chua Xu Festival to Chau Doc: May-June 2017  
Quang Lan festival (Bac Ninh province): July 2017  
Thât-Tich (the dark seven or the double seven festival): August 2017  
National day: September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017  
Do Son Buffalo fighting Festival: September 2017  
The mid-autumn festival (children's day): September 2017  
Festival of the Tran temple at Nam Dinh: September 2017  
Autumn Keo pagoda Festival at Thai Binh: October 2017  
Double - Nine day to Trung Cuu: October 28th 2017  
Water Festival (Or Om Boc) to Sóc Trang: November 2017  
Tet Festival, Vietnamese New Year (Tet Nguyên Đán): January 2018  
Feast of the Quan Dam procession at Dong Ky (Bac Ninh province): January 2018  
Chua Huong (perfume Pagoda Festival) to Huong Son: February - April 2018  
Anniversary of the Vietnamese Communist Party founding: February 3rd 2018  
Lim Festival or Hội Lim festival (Bac Ninh province): February 2018  
Feast of the Trang Nguyen (first winner): February 11th 2018

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**LAOS**

- Boun Phavet (feast of monasteries): March 2017  
Earth Hour: March 25th 2017  
Pii may or Songkran (Buddhist New Year): from April 13th to 16th 2017  
Boun Bang Fai (rocket Festival): may 2017  
Boun Visakhaboucha: may 2017  
Khao Phansa: July 9th 2017  
Boun Khao Padabdin (Dead day): September 2017  
Bun Nam or Suang Heua on Khong Island: October 5th 2017  
Boun Ok Phansa boat races on the banks of the Mekong: October 5th 2017  
Boun Ok Phansa and Boun Xouang Heua: October 5th 2017  
Festival of lights (Lai Heua Fai) in Luang Prabang: October 5th 2017  
That Luang Festival in Vientiane: November 2017  
Hmong New year: December 2017  
National holiday (Vanh Saad): December 2017  
Khene national competition in Vientiane: December 2017  
That Inhang Festival around Savannakhet: December 2017  
Tet Festival (Vietnamese or Chinese New Year) in Cambodia and Laos: January 2018  
Lao Elephant Festival in Sayabouri: February 2018  
Mahakhabousa to Champasak and Wat Phou Festival: February 2018  
Makha Bucha (Magha Puja) in Luang Prabang: February 2018

*All dates are subject to change.*

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