

Activities to join



Pottery Production

You will find out where the clay comes from and how to gather and prepare it for pottery. Learn how to distinguish various clays. You can learn how to throw pottery and how to decorate it. You will also learn about the different styles of pottery and bowls. You can do this activity either as a half day or full day experience.

Tip: Buy a souvenir at the handicraft center. The clay product you produce will have to dry for two days and then fired, making it difficult to bring home.



Cotton Processing

During the harvest season from February to April you can learn the cotton harvesting technique. Produce your own hand-made piece of cotton cloth. In three workshops you can learn how to yarn, dye and weave cotton. All activities can be done in one day or as separate full day workshops.

Do's and Don'ts in LAOS

Dress Modestly

Please wear shirts that cover shoulders and pants or skirts that cover your knees. Shirts with a low neckline are not appropriate.

Public Bathing

Please do not bathe in the nude in public. Women should cover up with a sarong when bating in public.

Photographs

Please ask before taking close-ups or portraits. Respect those who choose not to be photographed.

Gifts

Please do not give anything to children as this practice encourages begging. Also, do not give medicine to anyone but a doctor or nurse.

Body Language

In Lao, your head is "high" and your feet "low" don't gesture with your feet, and don't put your feet on furniture. Also do not touch someone else's head. Kissing and hugging in public is impolite please be discreet.

Respect Local Traditions

Please do not touch anything that may be of religious significance, such as Buddha statues, altars, and burial grounds. Please take off hats and shoes when entering temples.

Environment

Do not litter on land or in water. Do not buy wildlife or wildlife products.

Purchasing Local Crafts

Please support local products by purchasing newly made quality handicrafts. Do not purchase unique items such as antiques or family heirlooms that are irreplaceable.

Drugs

Please do not do drugs in Lao. Drug tourism does damage and sets a very bad example for Lao youth.

If you are interested in participating in the workshops, wish to get more information about our handicraft products, or if you would like to order products handicraft products, please contact the

Provincial Tourism Department of Oudomxay
(In front of the new market)

Telephone: 081 212483, 020 2148679

Fax: 081 212482

Email: ptdoudomxay@yahoo.com

Website: www.oudomxay.info



Handicraft Production in Ban Yor

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History of Ban Yor Village

According to villagers, Ban Yor was founded in the 10th century CE when a group of Tai Lue moved into the wide open valley which promised good harvests and a warm climate. The Lue originally came from southern China and soon their influence in the region increased. Their religion was Buddhism and their culture corresponded to that of the Khom, who were inhabiting the area before they arrived. Khom and Lue lived together and shared the same fields.

Today the village consists of 135 families with a total of 682 inhabitants. Although electricity is available and water supply is installed the village still keeps its romantic atmosphere.

Location

Ban Yor is situated 57 km from Oudomxay Town on the road to Pakbeng in the economic corridor between China in the north, Vietnam in the east and Thailand in the west. This unique location provides many economic as well as touristic opportunities.



Pottery production

Pottery has a long history in northern Laos, and for centuries people have produced bowls and jugs. However, in the past decades very little pottery was produced and part of the former knowledge was lost.

In response, in 2009 a project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) taught interested villagers "modern" pottery techniques using better equipment. The process of pottery production still is very simple and is done without the use of electricity, petrol or any machines except a potter's wheel which is hand-driven. Due to the use of a slow-spinning wheel it is possible to decorate the pottery with intricate ornaments. Glazed and unglazed pottery is produced for all different purposes.

All pottery is handmade and therefore unique with all its little imperfections. In former times the pottery was only for household use, but with the increase of tourism the product range was expanded with several new products including flower vases, candlesticks and decorative bowls, sold directly to tourists but increasingly also to hotels, guest houses and local people. If you have special design wishes, nearly all of them can come true.

Cotton processing

The warm climate makes cotton a suitable plant to grow. Most of the cotton is processed into twine, colored, woven and sometimes even sewed in the village. All steps of the manufacturing are still done by hand and no chemicals or other ingredients that can't be found near the village are used. The dyes used for coloring cotton are produced out of bark from special trees, which is simmered for several hours. The product range extends from tablecloths to traditional shirts and is available in the handicraft center in the village.

