

Feature

British adventurers travel through Laos

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A team of adventurers calling themselves the 'Lone Wolf Expedition' are undertaking a 12-month transglobal overland expedition in a specially built expedition vehicle, and are now exploring Laos.

The group consists of Daniel Moylan, Rowan Brown, Gabrielle Oug, Nick Moylan, Oliver Moylan and Amy Stubberfield. They have spent two weeks so far driving from the south to the north of Laos, observing the different ethnic groups they encounter in an attempt to understand their way of life.

"I've travelled extensively in Thailand, and my first impression of Laos was that this country has not suffered from modernisation in the same way that Thailand has," said the leader of the British Transglobal Overland Expedition, Mr Daniel Moylan, in an e-mail interview with Vientiane Times this week.

"Laos has retained its culture in a very pure form," he says. "Fortunately I can

speak very good Thai, so I can communicate with people in Laos and gain a deeper understanding of their attitudes and mentality."

The Lone Wolf team entered Laos in the south at the Four Thousand Islands area in Champassak province. After passing through the Bolaven Plateau to Vientiane, they went to Vangvieng, and then on to Luang Prabang province.

"We spent several days visiting the World Heritage Sites of Laos to gain some insight into the cultural and traditional lifestyles of the Lao people," Mr Moylan says.

After the team left Luang Prabang, they went to the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khuang province, and then on to Luang



Daniel Moylan.

Namtha province.

"In Luang Namtha, we are spending some time in Meuang Sing district, and we hope to get to some of the more remote villages because we're intrigued by the different cultures and way of life in this part of the country," he says.

Most of his companions share his enthusiasm. They were especially interested in the Bolaven Plateau because it was such a surprise. The changes in temperature and



Daniel Moylan and his friends have lunch near Vixoun temple in Luang Prabang.

plant and animal life astonished them. "We had intended to breeze through, but I just had to stay there a while longer and see more of this part of Laos," Mr Moylan says.

He said this was actually his third visit to Laos. He first came here six years ago, and travelled all the way from Savannakhet to Luang Namtha province. He fell in love with the country and wanted to come back, so he put together a team of like-minded explorers to share the experience with him.

The Lone Wolf team started their journey from Britain in January. They crossed the English Channel to France, headed south-east

through Europe and the Middle East to Asia, passing through China. After leaving Asia, they will ship their vehicle from Malaysia to California in the USA.

From there, they plan to travel south through Central America, where the vehicle will be shipped to Africa before they head westwards to Spain, eventually arriving back home 12 months after their departure.

"We are visiting as many countries as possible during the course of our travels. We intend to take in some of the world's greatest attractions, such as Angkor Wat, trekking in Nepal, and living with

various tribes in the jungles of Asia and South America. We also want to do a camel trek in India, dive with sharks, and so much more," Mr Moylan says.

In south-east Asia the group has already driven through Malaysia and Thailand, and will next go to Vietnam and Cambodia.

The team hopes to stay in Laos until the end of June, perhaps longer if their visas permit. Two team members have just left for Thailand, and another friend will come and join the expedition.

"The people in Laos are very special; they have a lot of what I believe you would call *jai dee* (kindness). I just love

their attitude and hospitality, especially when you meet people from the villages and farms," Mr Moylan says.

He says one of the things that impress him is that Laos seems intent on protecting its heritage, which he believes is very important, and is sure other visitors would agree. "This country's culture is one of its defining glories and should be protected at all costs," he says.

The team is travelling in a specially designed Land Rover Wolf Defender, and has received assistance from Land Rover and other companies providing specialist vehicle parts and services.



The Lone Wolf team drives through Europe.



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- Good human relationship.
- Experienced in Microsoft Word and Excel, internet
- Good organization, autonomy, able to work with team.

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- Good human relationship.
- Experienced in Microsoft Word and Excel, internet
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Interested candidates are requested to send the CV and one recent photo to :

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