

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - BH3 NONG KHAI OPEN OUTSTATION
SATURDAY RUN 2nd JULY 2022
JOINT HARES: TINKER & MANBOOBS

DIY: As with last year's Chiang Dao OS, it's a Do-It-Yourself, necessary because the RTG can change/impose travel restrictions without warning. Everyone will make their own arrangements for transport and accoms; try for no or minimal cancellation penalties. Sorry, no run T-shirt, but if you bring laundry markers and buy a T-shirt at the promenade market arcade, you can make a stunning DIY run T-shirt.

Having said that, it will be a great weekend, revisiting Nong Khai. (Never mind the weather, as long as we're together! That includes the eubellient Siam Sunday crowd, as it's not an S2H3 run date.)

Expressions of Interest:

For questions, please email Tinker at <John.Lukens@Gmail.com> or call 064-834-1892; or email Manboobs at <marc.lavoie@probus.asia> or call 081-819-0856. To sign up, fill in the online expression of interest form.

Schedule:

Friday 1st: informal pay-as-you-go evening get-together at Mick's Irish Bar & Restaurant (the Hash Bar) on the west end of the river promenade. Food available to match the beer. Recommend a pleasant late afternoon stroll through the riverside shopping arcade and back to the bar.

Saturday 2nd: morning free time for shopping, visit Sala Kaew Kuu (ศาลาแก้วกู่, THB 20 admission), or whatever. Afternoon A to B run in extremely flat country. Or maybe a few hills. Gather at Hash Bar at 2:30 pm. Sawng taews leave at 3.00 pm. Run start 4.30 pm. There is a long run (1.5 hours) with a water/beer stop, and a short run (30 minutes). Circle and BYO beers/ softies on the beach. Transport back to the city lights.

Sunday 3rd: hangover run about 10 am from Hash Bar. Back to the bar for the circle, lunch, and then watch the annual Nong Khai Candle Festival float parade in the afternoon.

Tentative Run Fees:

Saturday (all-inclusive, except for possible 30 Baht OPC at Point A of A to B run):

For BH3 quarterly subs-payers: TBA, but probably about THB 300

For non-subs-payers: TBA, but probably men THB 600/ women THB 400

Sunday: There may be a small run fee.

Accoms:

Hash HQ: Julian's Mut Mee Garden Guest House on the river (042-460-717; www.mutmee.com/). It's a full service establishment, with restaurants, massage, wifi and all that new age stuff. A mix of older (back-packer fan-cooled bungalows) and newer accoms (twin/ double bed A/C rooms with ensuite baths, plus TV). The staff is attentive and service is excellent. The Mut Mee serves breakfast - NOT included in the room rate. It's pleasantly secluded and tree-shaded, about 200m from Mick's. (Visit nearby Khun Aae's Hornbill bookshop when you're at the Mut Mee.)

Room rates range from THB 300 to 1,650 (riverview suites). (Sorry, no discounts for the Hash.) You can use a bucket shop like Agoda, Trivago, or Booking.com. However Julian, prefers that you book directly using Prompt Pay, QR, or transfer to their bank account. Email him at mutmee@mutmee.com for details.

Other Nearby Accomms: Scads of accoms are near Mick's Irish Pub for between 350 – 1,900+ THB/night/double. They have twin/ double bed A/C or fan-cooled rooms with TV and ensuite baths (or some with shared baths).

Check facilities and room rates on Agoda, Trivago, or Booking.com. Check reviews on Trip Advisor <<https://www.tripadvisor.com/>>.

Information on these (and others) will be updated in early June in the second OS announcement. Examples are:

- 1) Pantawee Hotel at 1049 Haisoke Road (042-411-568; www.pantawee.com/), about the same distance from the Hash Bar, but closer to the center of Nong Khai. Facilities and services similar to the Mut Mee;
- 2) Rim Khong (Khun Boi @ 083-459-5544) almost at the west end of the riverside bar district, with 10 rooms;
- 3) Thai Nong Khai Guest House (Khun Som @ 042-413-155) at 1169 Soi Banterngjit, with six nice old-style bungalows, quietly hidden away from the street, a ten-minute walk from the Hash Bar;
- 4) Khiang Khong Guest House, Rim Khong Road (042-422-870, 081-832-3925), fan rooms only; and
- 5) Ruan Thai Guest House, Rim Khong Road (042-412-519, 089-1867227), fan rooms only.

Public Transport to/ from Nong Khai (Don't recommend long-distance buses.)

By Rail:

Outbound BKK-NK: Train 25, sleeper, depart Hua Lampong, Bangkok 20:00 hours, arrive Nong Khai 06:25 hours. Four pax can arrange adjoining compartments. If you take Train 25 up on Friday evening, there may be a surprise event.

Return NK-BKK: Train 26 overnight sleeper, depart Nong Khai, 1940 hours, arrive Hua Lampong, Bangkok 0600 hours. Four pax can arrange adjoining compartments.

Second Class Sleeper (THB 898 upper berth, THB 998 lower berth); or First Class Sleeper (THB 1357 upper berth, THB 1557 lower berth); first class is the preferred option as it permits clandestine beer consumption, although recent experience shows the SRT really doesn't shiv a git.

Book at the station or on-line on <<https://www.dticket.railway.co.th/DTicketPublicWeb/home/Home>>. Or <<https://railway.co.th/Home/Index>>. Book early (90-day advance booking), this train is popular.

There is also a day train up (Train #75) and back (#76) and an el cheapo red-eye (Trains #133 & #134).

By Air:

Bargain flights to Udon Thani are not much more expensive than rail if you book ASAP. Get the current schedules and airfares using a bucket shop like Agoda, Trivago, or Booking.com. It's usually better and cheaper to book directly through the airline. The following direct flights are scheduled:

- 1) Air Asia's two daily flights are usually the lowest one-way price from Don Meuang (no frills, 7 kg carry-on, no refunds and there is a change fee);
- 2) Nok Air has six daily flights from Don Meuang - Nok Lite is about as inexpensive as Air Asia (no frills, 7 kg carry-on);
- 3) Thai Lion Air, with five daily flights from Dn Meuang, is more expensive, but you get a 7 kg carry-on plus 10 kg check-in;
- 4) Thai Airways/ Thai Smile flies thrice daily from Suwannapum, is also more expensive; and
- 5) Thai Vietjet flies four times daily from Suwannapum, at about twice the price of its competitors.

Udon Thani to Nong Khai & vv (2020 info). The van to Nong Khai from the airport is THB 200. (It goes to the Friendship Bridge first, and then over to town. The return trip, leaving from the Udon Gaew Tour office at 102/1-2 Panangchonpratan Road is THB 150 pp. Vans leave Nong Khai for the airport at 06.30 am, 9.15, 10.30, 12 noon, 1, 2, 4, and 5.30 pm. Trip takes about one hour.

Or catch a cheap day train from the Nong Khai RR station to and from the Udon Thani airport. Tickets range from THB 11 to 161; 30-45 minutes one-way. Then a 15-minute taxi ride to/ from the airport to the RR station.