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May/June 2011



BIKING SPECIAL

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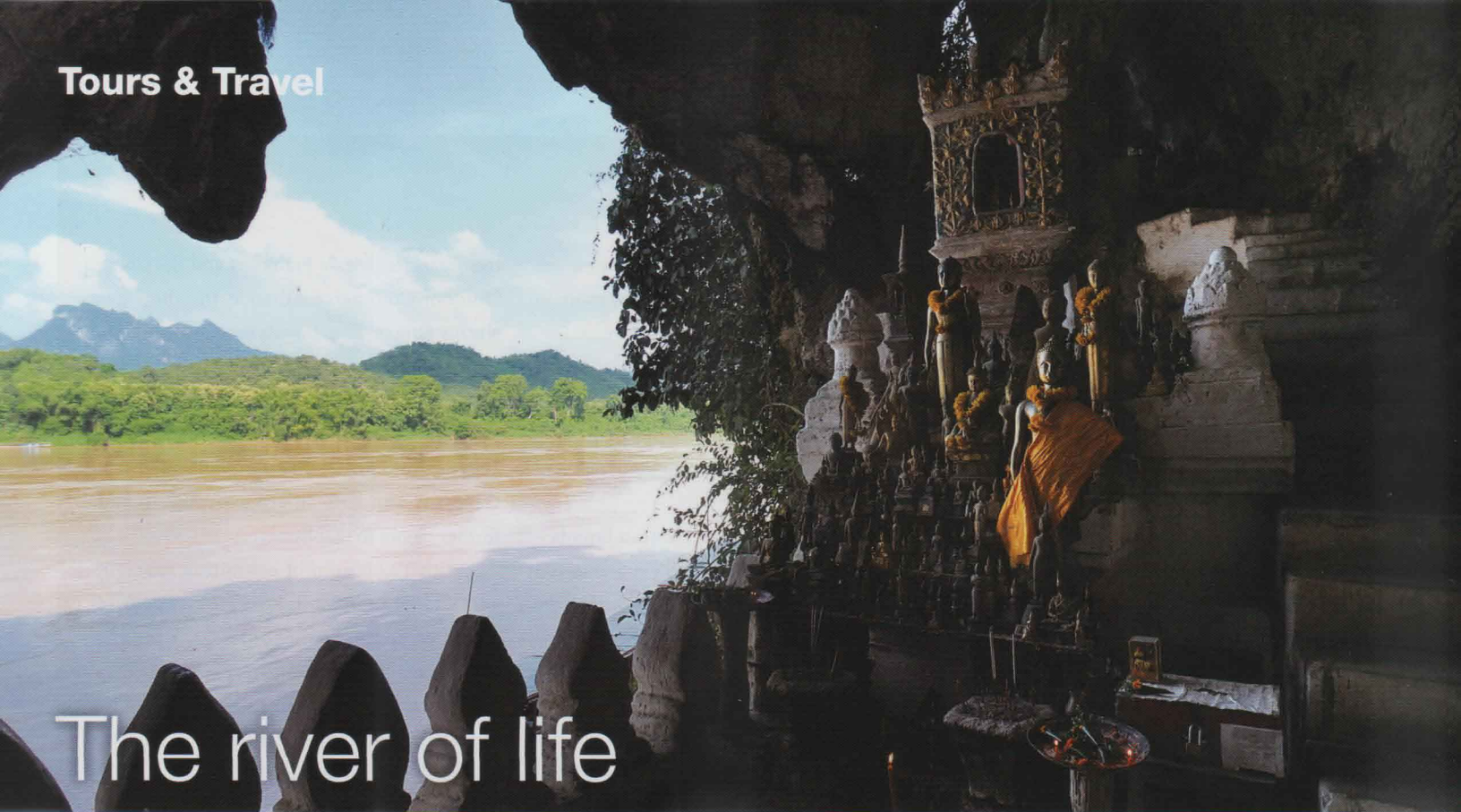
Win a trip to Jiuzhaigou Valley and Horqin Desert in Inner Mongolia!

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www.actionasia.com

Hong Kong, China HK\$48 • Singapore S\$6 (inc GST) • Malaysia M\$12 • Thailand B160 • China Rmb60 • Philippines P180 • USA US\$8
Australia AU\$8 • Guam US\$6 • Indonesia Rp50,000 • Japan ¥600 • New Zealand NZ\$8 • S. Korea W5,000 • Rest of Asia US\$7 • Rest of world €7





The river of life

Take a two-day voyage on Kamu Lodge's traditional Lao longboat for a glimpse of village life unchanged in centuries.

The boat sets off at 9am from Luang Prabang and journeys upstream to Dan Village, a secluded place where locals are working to rebuild a Buddhist pagoda. Then you journey to Doun Khoun, the private shrine of King Sisavangwatana, the last king of Laos, followed by a visit to the famous Pak Ou Caves, where devotees have left thousands of Buddhist icons over the years.

"Seeing these shrines and holy places up close is as near as you can get to the soul of this country, to what makes the people tick," says Kurt Walter, group general manager of Apple Tree Group Hospitality. "It's not just a religion, it's a whole way of life."

After seeing the caves, guests visit two more villages, one Christian Hmong village and one inhabited by the animist Kamu people who pray

to the souls of the forests.

The final stop is at Kamu Lodge itself, two hours north of Luang Prabang. Here you spend the night in tented accommodation that comes with ensuite bathrooms and balconies before the boat returns to Luang Prabang the next morning.

"Kamu Lodge is fully committed to a low-impact experience, but that doesn't mean we skimp on comfort, whether with our excellent mattresses, fully stocked bar, or the fixtures we've added to the long boat to make sure you travel the Mekong in style," says Walter.

Those curious about the local way of life can also try planting rice, fishing and archery in a field shared with the neighbouring village.

The package starts at US\$237/person, based on twin occupancy and includes accommodation, full board, river and shore excursions and guide fees. Learn more, and book at www.kamulodge.com

Outrigger upgrade



Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas is offering guaranteed upgrades for guests who book directly with the property and stay a minimum of two nights between May 1 and July 15, 2011. Book a two-bedroom Pool Villa at 6,500 THB (US\$217) and they will upgrade you to a three-bedroom Pool Villa; book a three-bedroom Pool Villa at 10,500 THB (US\$350), and you'll get a

four-bedroom Pool Villa.

Outrigger guests have signing privileges at 30 food and beverage outlets and spa facilities across Laguna Phuket Destination Resort, and at the nearby Laguna Phuket Golf Course. Outrigger guests also receive a free transfer to nearby Layan beach.

For further information and to book, visit www.outriggerthailand.com