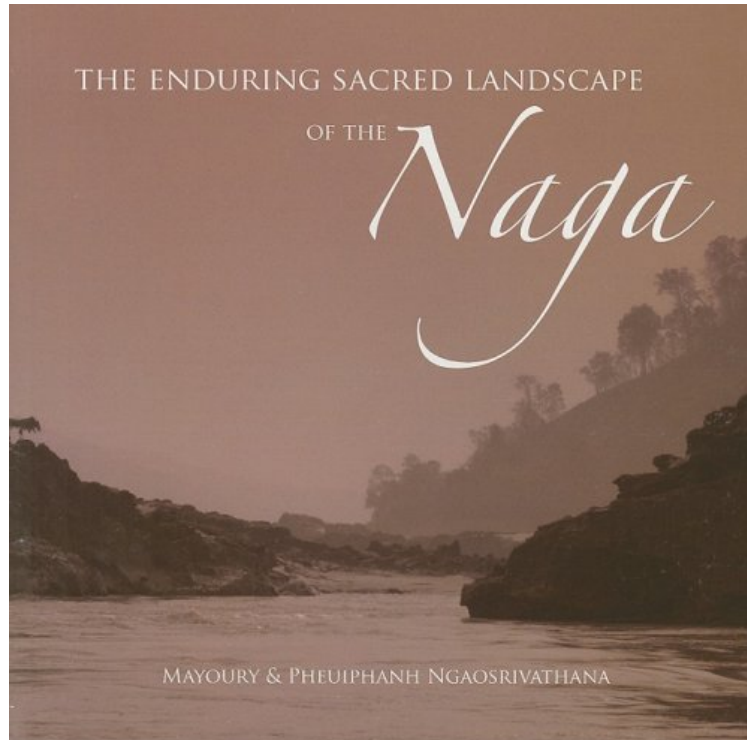


[Mobile ebook] The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga (Mekong Press)

## The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga (Mekong Press)

*Mayoury Ngaosrivathana, Pheuiphanh Ngaosrivathana*  
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**Mayoury Ngaosrivathana, Pheuiphanh Ngaosrivathana : The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga (Mekong Press)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga (Mekong Press):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An essential text on the naga traditionsBy Bryan Thao WorraWhen you travel through Laos and Southeast Asia you will invariable come upon sculptures and art depicting the naga, particularly in temples. The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga makes a scholarly but readable study of the history of these mythic creatures and how they are intertwined with the traditions of Laos. They focus primarily on the traditions in Luang Prabang and Vientiane, noting that until approximately 1975, the naga were not historically recorded as having played a role in the creation of realms in the south. While the book contains many photographs and illustrations, some might be disappointed that there are surprisingly few pictures of the naga themselves. The book does provide a fascinating map of 52 sacred locations within the borders of what we consider modern Laos, including special focus on the cities of Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The authors note that there are over 1,024 species of naga according to mythic traditions, however there are also 15 who specifically dwell in Luang Prabang and 9 in Vientiane. An additional 6 deities are also attributed to Vientiane that the authors feel are particularly noteworthy for their connection to the naga tradition. It's clearly organized, highly readable with extensive citations. It's not for beginners or casual tourists, but if you find yourselves needing a resource on the naga of Laos, then this is an essential text for those studies.

Capturing the vanishing memory of ancient rituals, recited texts, and places imbued with echoes of the past, *The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga* recounts the lived texture of human experience in the Mekong River valley. The book reconstructs the history of those areas fused with legends and lore of the tutelary spirits of the region known as the ngu (serpent), ngeuak (salt-water crocodile), and naga (supernatural beings with both snake and human attributes). While naga iconography adorns Buddhist temples throughout Southeast Asia, particularly in Laos and northeastern Thailand, the nagas pervasive presence is slowly fading from collective memory. By recording extant oral traditions and relying on the fourteenth-century palm-leaf chronicle *Urangkhathat*, which many Western scholars have found to be undecipherable, the authors take the reader on a journey of the sacred sites and culture of the region, its reality and nether world, and the flesh, bone, and soul of the naga. Richly illustrated with nearly a hundred photographs, this book will serve as an evocative testament to the unique cultural traditions of the Mekong Basin.

About the Author Mayoury and Pheuiphanh Ngaosrivathana are two of Laos foremost scholars of historical and contemporary developments within the Central Mekong region.