

5 Days Laos- Classic Tour

'PRIVATELY GUIDED' TOUR

Featuring Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has so far remained unmoved and unimpressed by the lure of large scale industrial development and as a result is the least developed of the former French Colonies in Indochina. Laos is also one of Asia's least traveled countries, despite its rich array of cultures and traditions. This small, landlocked nation offers the traveler an unmatched glimpse of the South East Asia of old. From the fertile lowlands of the Mekong River valley to the rugged Annamite highlands, travelers who have made it to Laos tend to agree that this country is the highlight of South-East Asia. Rivers and mountains dominate Laos' topography. The largest river, the Mekong (Nam Khong), runs the entire length of Laos forming the country's border with Thailand and also its main transportation artery. Over 70 per cent of Laos consists of mountains and plateaus two-thirds are forested and only 10 per cent is considered suitable for agriculture. Laos has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. Vegetation consists primarily of monsoon forests such as teak, Asian rosewood and bamboo.

Day 1

ARRIVE VIENTIANE

Today we arrive into Vientiane, Laos. Vientiane's major attractions are the serene Buddhist monasteries that dominate the center of town. The city has kept its timeless charm with tree-lined avenues, brightly painted temples and quaint French architecture. In the afternoon visit Vat Sisaket, the oldest original temple in Vientiane. Built in 1818, Vat Sisaket is the sole survivor of an invasion in 1828. Nearby is Ho Phra Keo, once the royal temple of Lao monarchy. Built in 1565, Ho Phra Keo has been used as a museum since 1970 and contains some of the finest Buddhist sculptures and artifacts in the country. One of the most photographed images of Vientiane is Patousay, the victory gate also known as Anousavari. Constructed in 1958, its architecture is inspired by the Arc of Triumph in Paris. Another famous Vientiane landmark is the That Luang Stupa.

NOVOTEL HOTEL.



Day 2

VIENTIANE- LUANG PRABANG

Today we fly to Luang Prabang. The crown jewel of Laos and former Lanexang, Luang Prabang, is perhaps the best-preserved traditional city in South East Asia. Magical and charming, it has preserved its long-standing reputation as a stronghold of Lao culture with its splendid natural scenery and sense of timelessness. In 1995 UNESCO voted Luang Prabang as a World Heritage City. Visit Vat Visoun, the site of an impressive stupa, That Makmo, stylistically more Srilankalese than Lao. Then walk to the nearby Vat Aham, which is one of the city's major tutelary shrines, dedicated to Deveta Luang (spirit) Pu Gneu Ya Gneu (ancestors). Climb Vat Phousi hill for an outstanding view over the city. Continue to visit Vat Mai, built in 1796, famous for the five tiered roof of its wooden sim built in the standard of Luang Prabang style. Sunset at Vat Pabaht Tai located along the Mekong River.

MUANG LUANG HOTEL.

Day 3

LUANG PRABANG

Visit Vat Xieng Thong, considered as the most beautiful temple. The sim of the Vat represents the classic Luang Prabang temple architecture with roofs that sweep low to the ground. In the compound stand several



small chapels housing bronze Buddha images, which were displayed in Paris in 1911. Near the East gate stands the Royal Funeral Chapel. Inside are an impressive 12-meter high funeral chariot and various funeral urns of each Royal Family's member. The gilt panel on the exterior of the chapel depicts a semi-erotic episode from Ramayana.

Then board a traditional boat for a trip upstream the Mekong River to visit the famous caves of Pak Ou housing thousands of statues representing Lord Buddha. Picnic lunch at a bamboo cottage overlooking the confluence between the Mekong and Nam Ou rivers. Return to Luang Prabang by boat and continue by car to visit Ban Phanom, a weaving village populated by Thai Lu that originally came from Sipsongpanna in Southern China.

Day 4

LUANG PRABANG

Depart by road to the Khuang Xi Waterfalls. The waterfalls tumble over multi tiered limestone formations into cool, clear pools ideal for swimming and relaxing. On the way to the waterfalls, visit the Khmu minority village of Ban Thapaene. Return to Luang Prabang. En route, visit Ban Xom village, known for its cotton production, and Ban Xang Khong village to see how traditional Sa paper is made.



Khuang Xi Waterfall, Luang Prabang

Day 5

DEPART LUANG PRABANG

Visit the National Museum (former King's Palace) displaying a collection of personal artifacts of the royal family. Then stroll through the lively Central Market where the ethnic minorities of the surroundings come daily. Later transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

LAND Tour price per person

Double Occupancy \$595.00

Single Supplement \$150.00

Internal air (Vientiane/Luang Prabang) \$70.00

LAND TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 4 nights hotel accommodations as mentioned
- 4 American or buffet breakfasts, 4 dinners and 5 lunches table d'hote
- Sight-seeing tours including entrance fees
- Round trip transfers
- Expert local guides
- Baggage handling
- Service charges and hotel taxes
- Passport cases and baggage tags

Tour prices are valid for the mentioned tour dates but are subject to change anytime.

'PRIVATELY GUIDED' TRAVEL ANY DAY
Laos can be visited throughout the year but the best time to visit is from November to March. To customize this tour to travel any day or to modify this program with locally hosted ground arrangements please call

800 373 0388 or info@worldviewtours.com

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