

# LAOS

## DAY 1 - VIENTIANE

Meet upon arrival at Vientiane Wattay airport, transfer and check-in at the hotel. 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.

Dinner at the hotel.

## DAY 2 - VIENTIANE - FULL DAY CITY TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit **Vat Sisaket**, the oldest original temple in Vientiane. Built in 1818, Vat Sisaket is the sole survivor of an invasion in 1828. All other temples in the city have undergone extensive restoration. Vat Sisaket features remarkable frescoes and 6,840 Buddha images. 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. Special displays include antique brass drums and palm leaf manuscripts. The main structure originally housed the famous Emerald Buddha that now resides in Bangkok's Wat Phra Keo.



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's landmark is the **That Luang Stupa**. King Seththathirat built this great sacred stupa, considered as the national symbol, in 1566. Its central structure is 45 meters tall and echoes the curving lines of an elongated lotus. The original stupa was said to contain relics of Lord Buddha.

Lunch at Tamnacklao restaurant.

P.M. Visit the surroundings of Vientiane, including the **Buddha Park and Friendship Bridge**. The Buddha Park is a religious sculpture park located by the Mekong River, 24 KM south of Vientiane. The Buddha Park captivates visitors with an unusual blend of Buddhist and Hindu imagery. Short stop to admire the impressive Friendship Bridge, which links Laos and Thailand. Return to hotel.



Dinner at the hotel

### DAY 3 - VIENTIANE - LUANG PRABANG

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visiting either weaving village **Ban Nong Bouathong** and **Nikone** handicraft. Then visit the **Morning Market** (Talaat Sao), known for its superior silk weaving, metal work, and woodcarving.

Lunch at the Khaolao restaurant

In the afternoon, visit **Vat SiMuang, Vat Ong Tue.**

Transfer to the airport for Lao Airlines flight to Luang Prabang



Meet upon arrival at Luang Prabang airport, transfer and check-in at the hotel. 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  
Dinner at the hotel

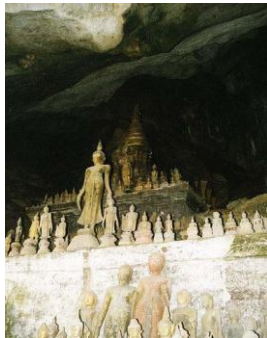


### DAY 4 - LUANG PRABANG - PAK OU - LUANG PRABANG

Breakfast at the hotel.

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 various funeral urns of each Royal Family's member and an impressive 12-meter high funeral chariot. 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. Dinner at the Indochina restaurant

### DAY 5 - LUANG PRABANG - KHUANGXI

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure by road to the **Khuang Xi Waterfalls** (30 kms, approx. 1 hour drive). 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** for a glimpse into their lifestyle.

Picnic lunch nearby the waterfalls.

Return to Luang Prabang. On the way, visit **Ban Xom**, a lowland Lao village known for its cotton production. Stop at **Ban Xang Khong** village to see how traditional Sa paper is made.

Dinner at the Elephant restaurant.

## **DAY 6 - LUANG PRABANG - SIGHTSEEING**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit **Vat Visoun**, the site of an impressive stupa, **That Makmo**, stylistically more Srilankalese than Lao. Visit **Vat Mai**, built in 1796, famous for the five - tiered roof of its wooden sim.

Lunch at PakHoueimixay restaurant.

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 **Phousi Hill** for an outstanding overview of the city. Sunset at **Vat Prabaht Tai** located along the Mekong River

Dinner at the Pizza restaurant.



## **DAY 7 - LUANG PRABANG - BANGKOK**

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.

Lunch at Tamnaklao restaurant

Transfer to the airport for flight departure