

12 Days Classic Overland Laos

Tour Code: LXZ12

Landlocked **Laos** is one of the Asia's most enchanting destinations. Stunning natural beauty, mist shrouded mountain peaks, jungle-clad valleys teeming with wildlife, combined with a fascinating Buddhist culture; make Laos a superb destination for luxury explorers, backpackers and independent travellers. Tourists are now well catered for giving visitors more opportune to explore more and more of the beaten track destinations. You are invited to experience the unique charm and culture of Laos.

Day1. Arrival – Luang Prabang - Half Day City Tour

On arrival at Luang Prabang International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After you have had time to rest and freshen up we will head off on bicycles to see some of the highlights of Luang Prabang including a visit to the **Royal Palace Museum**, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts from the Royal period in Luang Prabang. Cycling on, we are seeing the city's oldest temples, the magnificent **Wat Xiengthong** with its roof sweeping low to the ground, representing classical Lao architecture, the impressive stupa of **Wat Visoun** and the shrine of **Wat Aham**.

Your evening is free to explore the town and **Night Market** or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

Day2. Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves - Xiengmene

Today we embark on a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, stopping at **Ban Xiengmene**, **Wat Long Khun** and the limestone cave of **Tham Sakkarin**.

Following a picnic lunch we continue our boat journey to the mysterious **Pak Ou Caves**. These caves are an ancient pilgrimage site and contain thousands of gold lacquered Buddha images left there over hundreds of years.

Returning to Luang Prabang you have the option of visiting **Ban Xiengkek** and **Ban Xangkhong** where villagers are making jute paper and continue to visit the textile village of **Phanom**, a small village known for its hand weaving or returning to your hotel to relax. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B, L)

Day3. Luang Prabang - Khouangsi Waterfall

After breakfast back at the hotel we begin our journey to **Khouangsi Waterfall** stopping along the way to visit the morning **Phousi Market**, this is where all the locals of Luang Prabang come to do their daily shopping. You will see a variety of local foodstuffs and products including dried buffalo skin, local tea and saltpeter among the chickens, fish, vegetables and fruit, everything needed for daily life in Laos.

On arrival at the **Khouangsi Waterfall** you will have the opportunity to cool off with a refreshing swim in the topaz pools below the falls, walk along the forest trails and visit the Bear Sanctuary. Returning to Luang Prabang your afternoon is free to explore or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

Day4. Luang Prabang – Xieng Khouang

Today we depart early for a drive through spectacular scenery to Xiengkhouang Province, the home of the Plain of Jars. There are many stunning photo opportunities along the way and a couple of stops to explore **hill tribe villages**. After check in at your hotel in Phonsavan there will be time to go for a wander through town, visit the **MAG Centre** or chill out over a drink at the hotel. Overnight in Xiengkhouang (B)

Day5. Xieng Khuang - Plain of Jars & Muang Khoun

This morning we head out to explore the Plain of Jars. We will be visiting Sites 1, 2 & 3 as well as taking a short trek to a **Tai Dam** and **Lao Leum** village along the way.

Following lunch we drive on to explore the old capital of **Muang Khoun** and the nearby villages, home to the **Hmong hill tribe** and **Tai Dam** people. Overnight in Xiengkhouang (B)

Day6. Xieng Khuang – Vang Vieng

On our way out of town this morning we have time to visit the interesting **Phonsavan Central Market** and then drive on to Vang Vieng arriving there mid-afternoon.

After check in at your hotel you can explore the town or relax at the hotel and enjoy the stunning views as the sun sets behind the limestone kryst mountains across the river. Overnight in Vang Vieng (B)

Day7. Vang Vieng – Half Day tour - Vientiane

Beginning our morning tour of Vang Vieng, we explore the famous caves of **Tham Jang**, which was once used by the local people as a hideout from Chinese invaders. We then cross the river to **Ban Huai Ngai**, where we can wonder through the village and observe the locals going about daily life.

At the **Organic Farm** you will have the opportunity to visit the goats, pigs and other wildlife, observe mud brick making and sample roasted goat cheese and mulberry wine. Follow lunch here we head south to Vientiane, where we will arrive before sunset. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

Day8. Vientiane – Half Day city tour

This morning's city tour enables you to see the major temples of Vientiane including the oldest, **Wat Sisaket**, with its thousands of miniature Buddha statues, and the former royal temple of **Wat Prakeo**, which housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image. We also visit the national icon of Laos, **That Luang Stupa**, stopping along the way to take some pictures of the imposing **Patuxay Monument**, which is Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph, from there you visit **COPE Center**. The COPE was created in response to the need to provide **UXO** survivors with the care and support they required, namely by way of orthotic and prosthetic devices. This museum was set after in 1997 to help covering the victim during Indochina war.

The afternoon is free for you to explore the city, go shopping, take a stroll along the waterfront or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

Day9. Vientiane – Pakse – Khong Islands

We depart early this morning to head to the airport for our flight to Pakse. On arrival in Pakse, we drive south to Champassak and to visit the fascinating pre-Angkorian ruins of **Wat Phu**, one of Southeast Asia's most dramatically situated temples. We have time to explore these intriguing Khmer ruins, which are perched at the base of Mount Phu Kao.

Following lunch, we continue our journey by road and long tail boat to **Khone Island in the 4000 Islands area**, where you have the rest of the day to relax. Overnight in Khone Island (B)

Day10. Khong Islands - Surrounding

After an early morning breakfast, we explore **Khone Island**. Here we begin by re-tracing the French colonial-past at Ban Khone, where some old colonial houses still stand and you glimpse the first Lao railway with its own locomotive.

We continue our exploration of the area of the 4000 islands by boat and visit the beautiful **Liphi waterfall**, also known as the Samphamith, which forms a natural border between Lao and Cambodia.

We return to Ban Nakasang and drive to the famous waterfall of **Khonephapheng Waterfall**- the largest waterfall in South East Asia, also known as the 'Niagara of the East'. Overnight in Khone Island (B)

Day11. Khong Islands –Tad Lo – Pakse

This morning we leave Khone Island and head for the refreshing mountain climate on the **Bolevan Plateau**. The area is famous for its many waterfalls and we will visit two of the best, **Tad Fan**, with its impressive twin falls cascading over 100 meters to the valley floor below and **Tad Ngeuan**, with its pristine pools for taking a refreshing dip and coffee shop and plantation where you can sample some real Lao coffee.

Along the way you will see the rich soils of the region being cultivated for coffee, tea, cardamom, bananas, and other crops before our return to Pakse late afternoon. Overnight in Pakse (B)

Day12. Pakse – Departure

After breakfast you will be transferred to Pakse Airport for your flight to Siem Reap. (B)

Prices below are quoted in USD per person, valid till September 2020

Group of:	2-2	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-29	Single suppl.
3-Star Hotel	2257	1841	1582	1446	1311	2538	1246	1208	626
4-Star Hotel	2441	2025	1766	1630	1496	1488	1431	1394	811
5-Star Hotel	2898	2481	2223	2086	1952	1943	1887	1849	1267

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Luang Prabang	Sada Hotel Deluxe	Vangthong Hotel Deluxe	Luang Prabang View Superior
Xiengkhouang	Vansana Superior	Anoulack Khen Lao Big Standard	Anoulack Khen Lao Suite
Vang Vieng	Vieng Tara Bungalow Riverview	Silver Nagas Deluxe	Riverside Boutique Deluxe
Vientiane	Season Riverside Standard	Lao Plaza Regular	Settha Palace Deluxe
Done Khone Islands	Sala Ban Khone French Studio	Sala Ban Khone Floating Studio	Sala Ban Khone French Residence
Pakse	Athena Standard	Champasak Grand Deluxe	Champasak Grand Premier

Included in above prices:

- Accommodation in twin shared basis
- Private, Air-conditioned Transport
- Boat trips as stated in the itinerary
- English speaking guide
- Admission fees to sites stated in the itinerary
- Meals: As indicated in above itinerary = B, L, D
- Gov't taxes and service charges
- Luggage handling
- Drinking water

Exclusive of above prices:

- Visas and Immigration fees on arrival
- Domestic air ticket
- Int'l air tickets to/from Laos
- Travel and/or Medical Insurance
- Lunch or dinner unless stated in the itinerary
- Single suppl. room accommodation (quoted separately)
- Child or adult in triple share accommodation
- Foreign language guides other than English
- Peak Season or Special Events Surcharges
- Tip, drinks and other personal expenses

Additional Remarks:

- Itinerary is subject to change depending on flight availability, road and/or weather conditions and room availability.
- Group of 10 persons and above will use separate vehicle in Luang Prabang due to UNESCO restrictions on large coaches entering downtown Luang Prabang.
- Hotels listed above may not meet international star rating standards, especially in the remote areas where accommodation options are limited.
- Room rates quoted above do not include compulsory fees for special events, peak season such as Christmas and New Year or Gala Dinners etc.
- Prices are subject to change at any time as a result of VAT, Fuel Excise or other tax increases and USD currency fluctuations.

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(LHV - 11/12/2019)