

## 5 Days Mysteries of Laos

### Tour Code: VXL05

Compared to its South East Asian neighbours, Thailand and Vietnam, Laos often feels overlooked. Despite such gems as the Unesco-listed northern city of Luang Prabang, many visitors end up surrounded by the raucous revelry of Vang Vieng, but more and more tourists are looking for a 2,500-year-old mystery that has never been solved from the Plain of jars. The Unknown to most travellers, thousands of stone urns dating back to the Iron Age are peppered over hundreds of square kilometres in the mountains surrounding Phonsavan – a lengthy detour from the typical transportation routes.

Scattered in seemingly random locations, some reach enormous dimensions – up to 3m tall and 1m wide – and weigh well more than a few metric tonnes. Human bones, stone lids and discs have also been found in the area.

#### Day1. Arrival – Vientiane

Upon arrival at Wattay International Airport, you will be met by your Local Guide and transferred to your hotel.

Time permitting (depending on your arrival time). You are seeing 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. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

#### Day2. Vientiane – Xieng Khouang – Plain of Jars

This we transfer to the airport for a short flight to **Xieng Kuang**. Upon arrival we will visit **Site 1 of the Plain of Jars**, an impressive archaeological site where hundreds of large stone jars that litter the plateau. You will then be transferred to your hotel for the night. Overnight in Xieng Kuang (B)

#### Day3. Xieng Khouang – Luang Prabang

Today we will pay an early morning visit to the **Phonsavan Central Market**, an interesting market where different hilltribe people come to barter and exchange merchandise.

Leaving Phonsavan we head towards Luang Prabang, stopping along the way to see the 200 year old Buddha images at **Thampra**. We drive on through the spectacular scenery of the **Xieng Khouang Province** with it's many stunning photo opportunities and stopping a couple of times to explore **hill tribe villages**.

The journey will take us through the mountainous northern regions of Laos until we reach the World Heritage town of Luang Prabang in the early evening. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

#### Day4. Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves

This morning we board our private boat for a pleasant and scenic cruise up on the Mekong River 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 we disembark our boat and have the option of taking a short drive to **Ban Phanom**, a village famous for its hand weaving or returning to the hotel for free time to relax.

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

#### Day5. Luang Prabang – Departure

This morning is free until you are transferred to the airport for your flight.

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	807	627	570	477	472	450	448	433	259
4-Star Hotel	947	768	710	617	717	591	588	573	399
5-Star Hotel	1035	855	798	705	700	678	676	661	487

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Pakbeng	<a href="#">Phetsokxai</a> Standard	<a href="#">Sanctuary Pakbeng</a> Superior	<a href="#">Sanctuary Pakbeng</a> Deluxe
Xiengkhouang	<a href="#">Vansana</a> Superior	<a href="#">Anoulack Khen Lao</a> Big Standard	<a href="#">Anoulack Khen Lao</a> Suite
Luang Prabang	<a href="#">Sada Hotel</a> Deluxe	<a href="#">Vangthong Hotel</a> Deluxe	<a href="#">Luang Prabang View</a> Superior

**Included in above prices:**

- Accommodation in twin shared basis
- Private, Airconditioned Transport
- Boat trips as stated in the itinerary
- English speaking guide
- Admission fees to sites stated in the itinerary
- Meals: daily breakfast at hotel
- 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 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)