

## 5 Days State of the Arts Tour Code: VLP05

Laos' isolation from foreign influence offers travellers an unparalleled glimpse of traditional Southeast Asian life. From the fertile lowlands of the Mekong River valley to the rugged Annamite highlands, Laos is the gem of Southeast Asia. The architectural contrasts between the North and the South allow visitors to learn about the history and foreign influences on the country. Luang Prabang is an excellent place to find locally produced handicrafts and hand-woven textiles.

### Day1. Arrival – Vientiane

Upon arrival at Wattay International Airport you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel.

After a short rest we will venture out on an orientation walking tour of the Lao capital finishing with a relaxing drink overlooking the Mekong River sunset. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

### Day2. Vientiane – Luang Prabang

This morning we head out to see the major highlight. 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.

A short distance from That Luang Stupa we will visit the **National Museum** (closed Tuesdays), which boasts a collection of memorable and history of Laos's fighters and leaders from ancient times through to the revolutionary Phathet Lao era.

We then head for the airport and board our short flight to Luang Prabang. On arrival we transfer you to your hotel.

After a short rest we climb to the top of **Mount Phousi** to explore the sacred gilded stupa and to enjoy the panoramic view of the city and the sun setting over the Mekong River.

Decending the mountain your will find yourself in the midst of the famous Luang Prabang **Night Market**, where you can find a unique selection of handmade textiles and handicrafts locally made by both ethnic Lao and hilltribe people surrounding Luang Prabang.

Your evening is free to explore the **Night Market** and sample some local cuisine at one of the many restaurants the town has to offer. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

### Day3. Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves

After breakfast we will head out to see 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**.

Upon return to Luang Prabang 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 evening is free to treat yourself a spa treatment or massage, do some shopping or relax at your hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

### Day4. Luang Prabang – Khouangsi Waterfall

This morning you have the option and opportunity to rise early and participate in the daily morning

ritual of **Alms Giving**, you will experience saffron-clad monks collecting offerings or 'Alms' from faithful local residents. This tradition is unique to Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the daily procession.

After breakfast back at the hotel we begin our journey to **Khouangsi Waterfall** stopping along the way to visit the morning **Phousi Market**, this where all 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 mid afternoon you have the **option** to go to a local petangue game and enjoy a few Beer Lao, or are free explore the town on foot or by bicycle, do some shopping or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

### Day5. Luang Prabang - Departure

After breakfast we take a stroll through the **Dalat Sao** or morning market full of local foodstuffs from the farms and jungles surrounding Luang Prabang. From here it is a short walk to the **Royal Palace Museum**, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts from the Royal period in Luang Prabang.

Returning to the hotel your time is free until you are transferred to the airport for your departing 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	733	619	556	495	493	479	477	464	286
4-Star Hotel	788	676	611	550	548	534	532	519	342
5-Star Hotel	964	852	787	726	724	710	708	695	518
<b>Alms Giving</b>	Additional charge US\$30.00/person								

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Vientiane	<a href="#">Season Riverside</a> Standard	<a href="#">Lao Plaza</a> Regular	<a href="#">Settha Palace</a> Deluxe
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)