

6 Days Mekong Magic

Tour Code: VLH06/VATL160601426

This tour is a delightful fusion of three activities, river cruise, a tour of the oldest city and a taste of adventure exploring some lush green forests. You will really get a sense of the timeless, magical aura of the river as you spend time relaxing taking in the natural surroundings. A trip to a few villages gives us a glimpse of Laos's multicultural hill tribe society. You will learn about their colourful traditional culture, which has remained unchanged for generations.

Day1. Arrival –Vientiane On arrival you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. 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.

Heading for the waterfront your evening is free to enjoy a few drinks watching the sunset over the Mekong River, explore the **Night Market** and take in some of the city's nightlife. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

Day2. Vientiane - Luang Prabang (Flight)

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**.

From there 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.

Decenting 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. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

Day3. Luang Prabang - Khouangsi Waterfalls

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 your hotel we visit the **Royal Palace Museum**, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts from the Royal period in Luang Prabang.

From here we drive 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.

Arriving back in Luang Prabang mid afternoon you are free to treat yourself to a spa treatment or massage, relax at the hotel or head to the **Night Market** to do some shopping. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

Day4. Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave – Pakbeng

This morning we board our own traditional slow boat for a peaceful, scenic cruise up on the Mekong River to Pakbeng. Along the way we stop at 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.

Cruising on through spectacular mountain scenery you will see traditional life playing out along the

river that hasn't changed for generations. Net fishing, gold panning, slash and burn agriculture and daily village life all provide great photographic opportunities as we make our way upstream.

Arriving at **Pakbeng** wharf late afternoon we will check in to our hotel and enjoy the sunset over the mountains in this remote river town. Overnight in Pakbeng (B)

Day5. Pakbeng – Houeixai

After breakfast and a visit the local market, where many hill tribe people converge from the surrounding countryside and jungles to sell their goods and buy provisions, we will board our slow boat and continue our journey upriver.

As we go further north the river and mountains widen out to reveal rich farming land as the river becomes the border between Laos and Thailand.

Arriving in Houeixai late afternoon we spend the evening in this charming border town before crossing to Thailand in the morning. Overnight in Houeixai (B)

Day6. Houeixai - Thailand

Houeixai is the capital of the Borkeo Province, home to 34 ethnic minority groups. After an enjoyable visit to the Lue hill tribe village of **Ban Namkeung**, we take a short drive to the border gate for Chiang Khong, Thailand. The tour ends at the Lao-Thai border. (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	1371	1081	889	751	680	649	642	621	293
4-Star Hotel	1502	1190	994	852	780	749	742	721	424
5-Star Hotel	1670	1380	1188	1055	979	948	941	920	592
Alms Giving	Additional charge US\$30.00/person								

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Luang Prabang	Sada Hotel Deluxe	Vangthong Hotel Deluxe	Luang Prabang View Superior
Pakbeng	Phetsokxai Standard	Sanctuary Pakbeng Superior	Sanctuary Pakbeng Deluxe
Houeixai	Wang View City View	Wang View City View	Wang View River View

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)