

## 7 Days The Lost Cities Tour Code: ZVL07/VATL160601423

Providing you with a real flavour of the country, the Lost Cities Tour takes you to the beautiful south, the laid back capital Vientiane and the magical city of Luang Prabang. A great opportunity to explore unspoiled beauty, heritage, culture, history, adventure and amazing colonial architecture, Laos has it all! A perfect itinerary taking in all the best highlights Laos has to offer.

### Day1. Arrival – Pakse – Khong Islands

On arrival at Pakse airport you will be met and transferred directly to the Mekong River to board a traditional boat for a 2 hour cruise to Champassak. Disembarking at this town wharf we will continue by road to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Wat Phou**, one of Southeast Asia's most dramatically situated mountain top temples. We have time to explore these intriguing Khmer ruins, which are perched at the base of Mount Phu Kao.

This afternoon we continue by road south into the 4000 islands area of southern Laos where the Mekong flows into Cambodia. This area is also home to the rare Irrawaddy Dolphin. Along the way we will explore the ancient ruins of **Oup Mong**, a Khmer temple at Ban Houay Tomo.

Reaching the pier at Ban Nakasang late afternoon we board a long tail motorboat for the short journey to the peaceful Don Khone Island. Overnight on Khong Island (B)

### Day2. Khong Island - Phou Asa – Pakse [Elephant Ride]

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. If we have luck we may catch a glimpse of the rare freshwater **Irrawaddy Dolphin** at Ban Hang Khone. We continue our exploration of the area 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'.

This afternoon as we drive north towards Pakse and stopping at **Phou Asa** to visit the vestiges of a temple dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Depending on time and availability, we may get a chance to experience **elephant riding** along the dense forest paths. Reach Pakse before sunset you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Pakse (B)

### Day3. Pakse – Boloven Plateau – Tad Lo waterfall

After breakfast we 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 it's impressive twin falls cascading over 100 metres to the valley floor below and **Tad Ngeuan**, with it's 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 we arrive at **Tad Lo**, home to another scenic waterfall and numerous ethnic minority groups. We visit the **villages of Alak, Nge, and Katu** before overnighting in Tad Lo. Overnight in Tad Lo (B)

### Day4. Tadlo waterfall – Pakse – Vientiane (Flight)

After an early morning departure we drive to Pakse to board our flight to Vientiane. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel.

Your afternoon city tour enables you 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.

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)

### Day5. Vientiane – Luang Prabang

This morning we transfer to the airport for a short flight to Luang Prabang. After checking into your hotel we 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.

Descending the mountain you 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 market and sample some traditional Lao cuisine at one of the many restaurants the town has to offer. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

### Day6. Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves

This morning we visit the **Arts and Ethnology Centre** to learn about Laos' many ethnic cultures. You can enjoy a coffee at the centre's café if you chose before we head for the Mekong River and 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 is free to treat yourself a spa treatment or massage, go exploring or do some shopping or relax at your hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

### Day7. 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.

We then transfer to the airport for your departure flight. (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	1340	1085	922	853	781	770	734	709	350
4-Star Hotel	1430	1175	1010	941	870	858	823	799	439
5-Star Hotel	1694	1439	1275	1206	1136	1123	1087	1063	704
<b>Elephant Ride</b>	Surcharge elephant ride US\$35.00/person								

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Khong Islands	<a href="#">Pon Arena</a> Standard	<a href="#">Pon Arena</a> Deluxe	<a href="#">Pon Arena</a> Mekong Riverview
Pakse	<a href="#">Athena</a> Standard	<a href="#">Champasak Grand</a> Deluxe	<a href="#">Champasak Grand</a> Premier
Tadlo	<a href="#">Sinouk Coffee Resort</a> Standard Riverside	<a href="#">Sinouk Coffee Resort</a> Superior Riverside	<a href="#">Sinouk Coffee Resort</a> Deluxe Garden
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 airticket
- 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)