

## 7 Days Unique Experience

Tour Code: VVL07/VATL160601443

Unique and colorful are the first of Laos's virtues to greet travellers. Pearly frangipanis with their heady perfume, banks of overgrown trees peppered with scarlet flowers, temple art works, the burnt sienna robes of hundreds of monks and their novices, and resplendent gold and claret Wats. The scent of fresh coffee, river activity, produce markets and spicy food soon follows. And then the broader aesthetics begin to unfold. Experience the unique charm of our arrangements for you.

### Day1. Arrival – Vientiane

Upon arrival, (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

### Day2. Vientiane – Vang Vieng (B)

After an early breakfast we depart the capital for our journey northbound. Our drive will take approximately 4 hours passing through spectacular countryside before climbing into the mountains. There will be photo opportunities along the way and a stop at a colorful local market where various hill tribes come to trade goods and buy provisions.

We will arrive in the midst of the stunningly beautiful scenery of Vang Vieng in time for lunch at the **Organic Farm** where you can eat traditional Lao food and sample some roasted goat cheese and mulberry wine.

After lunch we will visit the famous Than **Jang Cave**, once used by local people as a hideout from Chinese invaders. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore Vang Vieng by foot or bicycle, take a boat ride up river or just relax by the pool at your hotel. Overnight in Vang Vieng (B)

### Day3. Vang Vieng – Luang Prabang (Baci Ceremony)

This morning we drive further into the mountains passing spectacular scenery and numerous hill tribe villages. We will lunch at an altitude of approximately 1,300 meters above sea level surrounded by the endless mountain peaks of this remote region.

After lunch we continue on along Route 13 stopping for photo opportunities and arriving in Luang Prabang early evening. After check in at your hotel you can freshen up for our evening at the Traditional **Baci** & Cultural Show (optional quotation). **Baci** is a Phi Ritual used to celebrate important events and occasions, like births and marriages and also entering the monkhood, departing, returning, beginning a new year, and welcoming or bidding. The ritual of the **Baci** involves tying strings around a person's wrist to preserve good luck to you. While dinner, you are enjoying a traditional dance performance. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B, L, D)

### Day4. Luang Prabang – Full day city tour

This morning after breakfast we head off on bicycles to begin our city tour with 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**.

After relaxing at your hotel to let you lunch settle we will pay a late afternoon 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 our 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 hill tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang. Overnight in Luang Prabang. (B)

### Day5. Luang Prabang – Khouangsi Waterfall - Pak Ou Caves

*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. You will also enjoy a picnic lunch below the falls.

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. Overnight in Luang Prabang. (B, L)

### Day6. Luang Prabang – Living Land Farm

This morning we head out to **Living Land Farm**, a working community farm approximately 5kms outside the town. There you will learn all about the rice growing process and have an opportunity to participate in seasonal farm activities such as identifying viable rice seeds, ploughing with a buffalo, hand planting, weeding and harvesting rice and threshing rice seed.

You may be picking vegetables from the organic garden or catching fish to cook for your all natural, organic lunch where there will be a variety of local rice products for you to sample. We will return to Luang Prabang late afternoon. Overnight in Luang Prabang. (B)

### Day7. Luang Prabang – Departure

Breakfast, you are free until transfer to airport. (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	1475	1226	1073	1019	930	894	886	860	428
4-Star Hotel	1577	1329	1130	1122	1032	999	988	962	529
5-Star Hotel	1798	1550	1351	1343	1254	1221	1209	1183	751
<b>Baci &amp; Dance</b>	Additional charge US\$350/group								
<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
Vang Vieng	<a href="#">Vieng Tara</a> Bungalow Riverview	<a href="#">Silver Nagas</a> Deluxe	<a href="#">Riverside Boutique</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, 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)