

8 Days Discovery The Real Laos

Validity till Sept 2018

Tour Code: HVL08/VATL160601444

This tour takes you off the beaten track into the remote areas of northern and southern Laos. Commencing in the north-eastern region of Thailand you will venture by traditional boat along the Mekong River passing some of the most amazing mountain scenery. We also visit the tranquil town of Vang Vieng, the laid-back capital Vientiane and experience a part of the famous and scenic Ho Chi Minh Trail to Lak Xao, which was a network of roads built from North Vietnam to South Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia to provide logistical support during the Vietnam War.

Day1. Houeixai – Pakbeng (River)

This morning you have an early morning departure for to the small town of Chiang Khong, the exit point from Thailand to Laos on the banks of the Mekong River.

After passing through Thai immigration you will cross the Mekong River to Houeixai where your Lao guide will be waiting for you at the immigration point. Completing Laos border formalities you board your traditional slow boat for the trip down the Mekong River. The scenery along this part of the Mekong is argueably at its most beautiful. As your journey downriver you will stop at the **Hmong** of Ban Houay Lampen where you have the opportunity to explore the village and observe their traditional lifestyle.

Arriving at Pakbeng late afternoon you will check in to your hotel and enjoy a few drinks watching the sun set over the mountains and the Mekong. Overnight in Pakbeng. (B)

Day2. Pakbeng – Oudomxay - Nong Khiaw (Road)

This morning we pay an early visit to the morning market in Pakbeng before driving towards Oudomxay, the most mountainous area in Laos. The road conditions are are can be rough depending on the season, so it may be a bumpy journey. However many villages dot the hillsides and the undulating terrain makes this an interesting journey.

Oudomxay Province is home to a mixture of 23 ethnic minority groups. We make a few rest stops along the way, giving you the opportunity to see the ethnic minority groups such as Hmong, Khmu, Black Thai and Lue. The hill tribe people are unfailingly friendly, welcoming you with waving hands and smiling faces.

Passing through Oudomxay city we continue to Nong Khiaw perched on the narrow banks of the Nam Ou River, the surrounding mountain scenery is awe-inspiring.

Arriving late afternoon we check in to our hotel and your evening is free to explore or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Nong Khiaw (B)

Day3. Nong Khiow – Luang Prabang (River)

This morning we board our traditional boat for the journey downstream on the tranquil Ou River. Along the way we will stop off to visit villages and 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.

We then join the Mekong River and continue downstream to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang. This former royal capital with its gleaming temple roofs, fading colonial architecture and stunning mountain backdrop retains a unique charm rarely found in all of Asia.

Arriving late afternoon we check into our hotel and freshen up before climbing 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)

Day4. Luang Prabang – City Tours

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

Your afternoon and evening is free to treat yourself to a spa treatment or massage, explore the town by foot or bicycle or relax at the hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

Day5. Luang Prabang – Vang Vieng (Road)

This morning we have an early departure following Route 13 to Vang Vieng. Climbing into the mountains we pass through 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 arriving in Vang Vieng mid afternoon.

After check in and time to freshen up we will head out to explore the stunning scenery and countryside around the town. We visit **Tham Hoy Cave**, a large cave that runs 7 kilometres under the surrounding limestone karst-mountains and drop into some ethnic villages along the way.

On the way back to town we will visit the **Organic Farm**, where you can sample some roasted goat cheese and mulberry wine.

Arriving back at the hotel late afternoon your evening is free to explore the town and enjoy a few drinks along the riverfront as the sun sets over the mountains and the Nam Song River. Overnight in Vang Vieng (B)

Day6. Vang Vieng – Vientiane (Road)

After breakfast we have an easy 4 hour drive to the national capital of Vientiane. This charming city has an interesting mix of Lao, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, French, Soviet and American influences.

Following check in at your centrally located hotel and time to freshen up we head out on our afternoon city tour. 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 Phra Keo**, 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 up after in 1997 to help cover the victims during the 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)

Day7. Vientiane – Lak Xao (Road)

After an early departure this morning we drive south along Route 13 before turning east towards the Vietnam border. Along the way we pass through lush farming land on the plains that follows the

Mekong River and then as we climb into the mountains and through the Hinboun Valley the landscape changes dramatically making this an interesting journey. We stop along the way for photo opportunities particularly as we cross the Annamite range with its craggy mountain peaks.

Lak Xao is the access town for the Laos-Vietnam border and has a bit of a 'wild west' feel about it. We arrive late afternoon and after check in at our hotel will have time to stroll around town and browse the local market. Overnight in Lak Xao (B)

Day8. Lak Xao – Departure

This morning you will be transferred to the Laos-Vietnam border where your trip ends. (B)

Prices below are quoted in USD per person, valid till September 2018									
Group of:	2-2	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-29	Single suppl.
3-Star Hotel	2051	1570	1246	1114	958	921	861	822	400
4-Star Hotel	2211	1729	1406	1274	1119	1082	1020	981	559
5-Star Hotel	2448	1965	1642	1510	1353	1315	1167	1216	796
Alms Giving	Additional charge US\$40.00/person								

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Pakbeng	Phetsokxai Standard	Sanctuary Pakbeng Superior	Sanctuary Pakbeng Deluxe
Nong Khiaw	Pha Xang Resort Standard	Nong Khiaw Riverside Standard	Nong Khiaw Riverside Standard
Luang Prabang	Sada Hotel Deluxe	Vangthong Hotel Deluxe	Luang Prabang View Superior
Vang Vieng	Vieng Tara Bungalow Riverview	Silver Nagas Deluxe	Riverside Boutique Deluxe
Vientiane	Season Riverside Standard	Lao Plaza Regular	Settha Palace Deluxe
Laksao	Local guesthouse Standard	Local guesthouse Standard	Local Guesthouse Standard

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.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

Updated: LAC-280318