

8 Days Northern Loop

Validity till Sept 2018

Tour Code: LNP08/VATL160601403

Laos is well-known for ecotourism and it is the best culture and tradition preservation in South East Asia. The ecotourism is now defined as responsible travel to natural area that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of local community people and involves interpretation and education. Your route will begin from the well-known UNESCO Heritage city and it leads you to the entrance of deep tropical rain forest where unspoiled flora and fauna remain protected. You are the track to Nam Kat waterfall where Ban Faen, a Kamu village then take you down the Mekong River heading up north Golden Triangle bordering Thailand, China and Myanmar

Day 01: Arrival - Luang Prabang

Upon arrival, you will be met by our local guide upon arrival and drive a short distance to the hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang

Day 02: City Tour - Khuang Si Waterfall

After breakfast at hotel, we visit the city's oldest temples, the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roof sweeping low to the ground, representing classical Lao architecture. We visit the Royal Palace Museum, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts and Arts and Ethnology Centre to learn about Laos' many ethnic cultures.

After lunch, we drive to the beautiful Khouangsi Waterfall where you can splash around in the turquoise pools or walk along the forest paths (on the way, we visit villages of different minorities Laotian ethnic identification (Ban Quay, Ban Ou). There's also an opportunity to visit the bear sanctuary nearby, run by Free The Bears Fund Inc. From there we will 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.

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)

Day 03: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave - Nong Khai

Today we begin our drive to Nong Khai, enjoying the lush green forests and landscape. We will be able to stop off at a few villages and admire the breathtaking limestone karst scenery. Along the way we stop and cross by boat to visit the mysterious caves of Pak Ou, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by devoted pilgrims. Late afternoon we reach our destination for the night, Nong Khai. Overnight in Nong Khai. (B)

Day 04: Nong Khai – Morning Boat Trip to Muang Ngoi

This morning we take a boat up to Muang Ngoi, a picturesque little fishing village 1 hour upstream from Nong Khai. We then trek to the Tham Kang, where according to local legend, a Naga resides to the rear. We then continue through rice paddy fields onto the Lao Loum village of Ban Na, which is only accessible by foot, so retains much of its original character. After lunch, our last stop is the Thai Daeng village of Huay Sen, before we trek back to Muang Ngoi, through a mixture of forest and paddy field scenery. Before boarding the boat back to Nong Khai, you may wish to do as the locals do and bathe in the Nam Ou. We return to Nong Khai by early evening. Overnight in Nong Khai. (B, L)

Day 05: Nong Khai – Oudomxay – Nam Kat Yo La Pa

This morning we have time for a short walk to **Tham Pha Thok**, a limestone cave where villagers hid during the Indochina War. The caves offer a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. We then get back on the road, this time heading north to Nam Kat Yolapa via Oudomxay. Overnight in Nam Kat Resort. (B, D)

Day 06: Nam Kat Yo La Pa – Cycling - Zip-Lining

We start a day tour by Green bus to information center and introduce by camp manager before Cycling

from information Centre 5 km - Trekking 900 m through the forest and through Kua Ou Bridge to Namkat waterfall. Zip-Lining (18 lines) through Namkat waterfall and the rainforest along the namkat river. Overnight at Overnight in Nam Kat Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 07. Nam Kat Yo La Pa – Pakbeng

We leave the resort after breakfast and drive towards Oudomxay, the most mountainous area in Laos. The road conditions are good. Oudomxay province is residence to a mixture of 23 ethnic minority groups. We make a few rest stops along the way, which gives you the opportunity to see the ethnic minority groups of Hmong, Khmu, Black Thai and Lu; Hmong hill tribe people at Ban Songja and Ban Jarong. The hill tribe people are unfailingly friendly; welcoming you with waving hands and smiling faces. On arrival at Oudomxay city, we head out the town to Pakbeng, along the way; we visit some more Khmu, Tai Dam (Black Thai), and Hmong villages. Once we arrive at Pakbeng, we browse the daily evening hill tribe market before checking in to your hotel. Overnight in Pakbeng. (B, L, D)

Day 08. Pakbeng – Houexai – Chiang Khong (Thailand)

Today, we embark on a traditional boat upstream on the magical Mekong River. This portion of the Mekong River is narrow but both banks of the river are bordered with beautiful mountain ranges and lush forests. Along the way, we observe the peaceful river life and visit at Ban Houeilampen to visit the Hmong hill tribe people, who are very poor but have a unique culture. On arrival at HoueiSay, we cross the bridge to Chiang khong in Thailand, where the tour finishes (next destination – Thailand) (B, L)

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	1974	1632	1360	1189	1099	1085	989	949	464
4-Star Hotel	2145	1801	1530	1360	1269	1257	1241	1203	635
5-Star Hotel	2292	1949	1678	1507	1418	1375	1336	1306	782

Cities	3-Star Hotel	4-Star Hotel	5-Star Hotel
Luang Prabang	Sada Hotel Deluxe	Vangthong Hotel Deluxe	Luang Prabang View Superior
Nong Khiaw	Pha Xang Resort Standard	Nong Khiaw Riverside Standard	Nong Khiaw Riverside Standard
Nam Kat	Nam Kat Resort Superior	Nam Kat Resort Deluxe	Nam Kat Resort Executive Deluxe
Pakbeng	Phetsokxai Standard	Sanctuary Pakbeng Superior	Sanctuary Pakbeng Deluxe

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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