
LAOS / 6 DAYS

HOUESSAY / PAKBENG / LUANG PRABANG / VIENTIANE

Day 1 Meals: (L,D)

Houessay - Pakbeng

You meet your guide at the border post in Houessay at the start of the day. After completing the necessary paperwork, you begin your descent of one of the most famous rivers in the world: The Mekong. During your descent, you have the opportunity to make several stops to meet the different people who live on the banks of the "Mother of Waters".

You take your lunch, prepared by the crew, on-board the boat.

Arrival in Pakbeng at the end of the day. This village in northern Laos is in fact a commercial crossroads; it's here that goods come and go between Thailand, Burma and also China. You may have the opportunity to see a boat flying the Chinese flag.

Dinner & overnight stay at your hotel

Day 2 Meals: (B,L,D)

Pakbeng – Luang Prabang

Early in the morning, you cross the Mekong to visit an elephant camp and learn more about these animals which are the symbol of Laos. You cross the river and continue your descent of the Mekong with the opportunity to stop in the villages on the banks of the river.

You take your lunch on-board.

In the afternoon you arrive at the point where the River Nam Ou flows into the Mekong. It's also where you discover the famous caves of Pakhou: Tham Ting and Tham Phoum. Carved into the side of a hill, the caves contain thousands of statues of Buddha, in all shapes & sizes, that have been left in this sacred place by pilgrims over the course of many centuries. You continue your cruise and reach Luang Prabang at the end of the afternoon.

You are taken from the pier to your hotel.

In the evening, you can visit the Night Market of Luang Prabang where the local people come to sell their handicrafts.

Dinner & overnight stay at your hotel

Day 3 Meals: (B)

Luang Prabang

At first light (before breakfast), you witness the daily Alms Ceremony as monks pass through the old part of the city, receiving donations from the local people. It's an unforgettable sight. After breakfast, you visit the National Museum housed in the former royal palace of Luang Prabang. Your tour continues to Wat May and Wat Manorom, which is believed to have been built in 1375 by King Sam Sen Thai. You continue on to Wat That Louang, which was once the crematorium of the high dignitaries of the royal family.

You take your lunch (not included).

After lunch, you visit Wat Xieng Thong, certainly one of the most beautiful temples in the city, which is situated at the northern end of the peninsula. As you pass from temple to temple, you have the chance to see the local people going about their daily lives. Your tour continues with Wat Aphay, which was once known as Wat Hay Padek (this translates to the Monastery of a jar of Padek ; a kind of thick fish sauce). You proceed to Wat Phraphouthabat, the Monastery of Buddha's Footprint and Wat That, the Monastery Stupa. Your tour concludes with Wat Sieng Mouane and Wat Choum Khong, the last examples of Xieng Khouang architecture.

Dinner (not included) & overnight stay at your hotel.

Day 4 Meals : (B)**Luang Prabang**

A free day in Luang Prabang.

Day 5 Meals: (B)**Luang Prabang – Vientiane**

You have free time to browse around the peninsula before your flight to Vientiane.

Lunch (not included).

You arrive in Vientiane at around 14H00 and in the afternoon you visit the markets of Thong Khan Kham which sells fresh produce and Thalat Sao. You continue on to Wat Si Muang, the most revered temple as it protects the spirit of the city.

Dinner (not included) & overnight stay at your hotel.

Day 6 Meals: (B)**Vientiane & Buddha Park**

In the morning you set off on a tour of the capital. Your tour includes : Wat Sisaket – the oldest temple in the capital, Ho Phra Kéo – a former royal temple which has been transformed into a museum (it once housed the Emerald Buddha, now found in Bangkok) & That Luang, the national monument with its 45m high golden stupa.

Lunch (not included).

In the afternoon, you leave the capital following the road to Tha Deua which brings you to Wat Xieng Khuan Park or “Buddha Park”. Situated 25 km from Vientiane, the park is dedicated to the spirit of the capital. In the 1960’s, massive statues and sculptures were carved by a visionary monk who wanted to integrate Hinduism & Buddhism. You have time to explore the park before your transfer to the airport for your flight to ...

*****End of program*****

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- all the transfers mentioned, in private car or air-conditioned minibus.
- all excursions specified in the programme.
- all entry fees.
- all meals specified (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- the services of a guide throughout your holiday.

EXCLUDE:

- bank charges or exchange rate changes at the time of payment.
- travel insurance including cancellation, medical, repatriation and lost luggage.
- drinks with meals and other items of personal expenditure.
- tips.
- services not specified above.
- meals not specified above.
- domestic flights.
- international flights.