

## Golden Triangle & Laos Chiang Rai-LuangSay Cruise-Luang Prabang 5 Days / 4 Nights

### Departure dates:

#### **DAY 01: ARRIVE CHIANG RAI (L)**

Arrive Chiang Rai Airport by morning flight, welcome and transfer to Doi Tung provides the perfect opportunity to visit both Lahu and Akha Hilltribes villages. Enroute, enjoy spectacular sceneries of farming terraces and admire the Palace of the Princess Mother. Located at the top is Wat Phra That Doi Tung offering a magnificent view of the rice field. Journey continues on to Mae Sai, the Northernmost point of Thailand, chance to do shopping at the flea markets. Lunch at local restaurant. Continue travel to the Golden Triangle where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge. Boat ride along Mekong river to Chiang Saen. Going on to Chiang Saen, an ancient town located on the bank of the Mekong River. And then transfer to hotel.

### **Overnight at Hotel**

#### **DAY 02: CHIANG RAI – LUANGSAY CRUISE (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

In the morning, transfer from hotel to Chiang Kong (Thailand border) and take a local taxi boat to Houeisai Immigration (Laos Border). LuangSay boat leaves HoueiSay pier at 09:00 hrs for a cruise down the Mekong to Pakbeng. En route one stop is made to observe rural life along the Mekong and discover minorities, a buffet lunch on board. Arrive Pakbeng before sunset and check-in at LuangSay Lodge. Dinner on the terrace, overlooking the Mekong River.

### **Overnight at Hotel**

#### **DAY 03: LUANGSAY CRUISE – LUANG PRABANG (B, L)**

Full breakfast at lodge. (Optional: walk to Pakbeng market, where people from the surrounding village of minorities exchange their goods). At 08:30 board the boat for the second leg of the cruise. A short stop to discover a Hmong village before having buffet lunch on board. Continue to Pak-Ou village at the mouth of the Nam Ou River visit Tam Ting “Caves of a thousand Buddha’s”. On the way to Luang Prabang a brief stop is made to observe the traditional process of obtaining local rice alcohol.

On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After a short rest, we visit the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun and the shrine of Wat Aham and Wat Mai. We then climb up to the top of Mount Phousi for an enjoyable exploration of the sacred, gilded stupa as well as a beautiful sunset view of the city and the Mekong River. From there, we explore the Night Market, where you can find a lovely selection of handmade textiles made by the hilltribe and local people surrounding Luang Prabang.

### **Overnight at Hotel**

#### **DAY 04: LUANG PRABANG - PAK OU CAVE (B)**

Today, we enjoy a short-guided tour seeing the city's oldest temples of Wat Sene and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture. We then embark on a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which also gives us a breathtaking view of the tranquil countryside as well as exploring the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by devoted pilgrims. Along the way, we will stop at the village of Ban Xanghai, where the local rice wine is produced. On return, we take a short drive to another small village Ban Phanom, which famous for its hand weaving.

#### **Overnight at Hotel**

#### **DAY 05: DEPART LUANG PRABANG (B)**

Today we visit the National Museum (closed Tuesdays) at the former Royal Palace. It displays a collection of arte facts reflecting the richness of Lao culture dating from the days of the early kings right through to the last sovereign. There will also be time for us to look around the Central Market. After visiting these sights in the morning, there may be free time (depending on your flight) to venture into town and stroll around the shopping area. The tour ends after your transfer to the Luang Prabang airport for flight to Bangkok or other destinations departure

\*\*\*\*\* End of service\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Included Services:**

- Transfers & Tours as mentioned in the program.
- Excursions & Entrance fees as mentioned in the program.
- Accommodation & meals as mentioned in the program.
- English speaking guide except during Laung Say cruise.
- Assistance of English speaking guide cruise escort during the LuangSay cruise
- Service charges and taxes.

#### **Excluded Services:**

- International Airport Tax in Luang Prabang
- One way airfare Bangkok-Chiang Rai
- One way airfare Luang Prabang-Bangkok
- Christmas and New Year's Eve Dinner
- Visa on Arrival for Laos
- Optional tours or excursions not mentioned in the program.
- Other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Personal expenses.

#### **Remarks:**

- Deviations in the tour program or change of hotels are sometimes necessary depending on Mekong River situation and availability of rooms. Itinerary is subject to change.
- Bring 2 passport photographs along for the visa on arrival. The immigration into Lao in Houeisai may take a while. Thank you for your patience.