

EXPLORE MYSTERIOUS LAOS

(8 Days/ 7 Nights)

DAY 01 : VIENTIANE LUANG PRABANG

Welcome to LuangPrabang is located in northern Laos at the heart of a mountainous region. The town is built on a peninsula formed by the Mekong and the Nam Khan River. Mountain ranges (in particular the PhouThao and PhouNang Mountains) encircle the city in lush greenery. Many legends are associated with the creation of the city, including one that recounts that Buddha would have smiled when he rested there during his travels, prophesying that it would one day be the site of a rich and powerful city. Known as MuangSua, then Xieng Thong, from the 14th to the 16th century the town became the capital of the powerful kingdom of Lane Xang (Kingdom of a Million Elephants), whose wealth and influence were related to its strategic location on the Silk Route. The ancient town of LuangPrabang situated in northern Laos, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

Upon arrival, meet and greet by your guide and transferred to local restaurant for your dinner. After dinner check-in hotel and have a good night rest.

DAY 02: LUANG PRABANG – CITY TOUR – PAK OU CAVES AND VILLAGE TOUR

Embark on a short guided tour seeing the city's oldest temple WatSene and the magnificent WatXieng Thong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, representing classical Laotian architecture. Cruising upstream on the Mekong River, gives you a breath-taking view of the tranquil countryside before reaching the mysterious Pak Ou Caves. This is a two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. Enroute, stop at the village of Ban Xanghai, for its local rice wine produce. A short drive to Ban Phanom, a village known for its hand weaving is also arranged. Have some time visiting Ban Xangkong, Ban Xienglek, small villages known for silk weavings and Saa Papermaking.

After dinner, you may want to visit the LuangPrabang night market is something not to be missed when visiting this charming city.

It's an amazing sight and offers the most extensive collection of handicrafts in the country. Overnight at LuangPrabang city.

DAY 03 : LUANG PRABANG – CITY TOUR – KUANG SI WATERFALL

At dawn, monks from the various monasteries walk through the streets collecting alms of rice. This tradition is unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the rituals. You may wish to start the day early to join the locals in the offerings. Continue to the local morning Phousi Market where you will find items such as dried buffalo skin, local tea among the chickens, vegetables and hill-tribe weavings. Next, visit the impressive stupa of WatVisoun and Royal Palace Museum, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts.

You will have the opportunity to visit local village of the ethnic minority groups at Ban Ouay and Ban Thapene for its traditional handicrafts.

Cool off the day at the beautiful Khuang Si Waterfall is the biggest in the LuangPrabang area with three tiers leading to a 50-metre drop into spectacular azure pools before flowing downstream. The pools also make great swimming holes and are very popular with both tourists and locals. The pools also have cascades of up to five metres high with deliciously cold water due to the shade given by the surrounding lush tropical jungle, if you don't fancy a swim then you can relax in the shade and watch others having fun jumping in and out of the water.

Overnight at LuangPrabang city.

DAY 04: LUANG PRABANG – XIENGHOUANG – PLAIN OF JARS

After breakfast, bid goodbye to LuangPrabang and journey through the wonderful natural scenery to Xiengkhouang with opportunities for photos taking and stop by the local hill tribe villages along the way. Xiengkhouang - The Plain Of Jars is probably South East Asia's most enigmatic tourist attraction. Situated in the remote north east of Laos, the mountainous communist country which has only been open to tourists for just over a decade, are hundreds

of huge stone jars scattered across several square miles. While most ancient Asian sites, such as the Angkor temples in Cambodia, have revealed many of their secrets, historians are still completely baffled as to where the jars came from, how old they are and what they signify. They are, in short, jars of a deeply spooky nature. Upon arrival, check in to hotel and have a good night rest. Overnight stay at Xiengkhouang.

DAY 05: XIENKHOANG – MORNING MARKET – VANG VIENG

Following breakfast, you will have time to visit the interesting central phonsavan local market in Phonsavan. Next we visit Site 1 of the Plain of Jars, an impressive archaeological site where hundreds of large stone jars are scattered all over.

A large area extending around the town of Phonsavan, where huge jars of unknown origin are scattered around the landscape. The stone jars appear in clusters, ranging from a single or a few to several hundred jars. The jars vary in height and diameter between 1 and 3 meters and are all hewn out of rock. These jars are undecorated with the exception of a single jar that has a human bas-relief carved on the exterior. Research of the Plain of Jars suggests that the stone jars are associated with prehistoric burial practices.

Set off for VangVieng, Take in the splendid scenery of the surrounding countryside and the mountain ranges while driving to VangVieng. VangVieng is a riverside town, located in central Laos. The area's main attraction is the dramatic surrounding karst hill landscape. The limestone cliffs and valleys surrounding the resort complex of VangVieng are home to numerous caves and caverns.

The most famous of these caves is ThamJangi which was used by the local people as a refuge from Chinese invaders 200 years ago. Catch the sunset on Namsong River. Overnight at VangVieng town.

DAY 06: VANG VIENG – CITY TOUR – THAM PHOUKHAM CAVE

After breakfast, we start our tour through paddy field areas heading to ThamPhoukham caves, where your breath will be taken away seeing the most beautiful and famous limestone cavern, surrounded by natural forests.

Along the way, you have chance to explore the local cultures by greeting the local villagers and learning about their daily lifestyle. After spending the day at the caves and its surrounding areas, we make our return to the VangVieng town, using local transportation or tractor.

En route, we visit the ethnic minority villages of Hmong, Souay and Taidam villages meeting the warm and friendly hill tribe people and observing their traditional tribal costumes. Overnight at VangVieng town.

DAY 07 : VANG VIENG – NAM NGUM LAKE – VIENTIANE CITY TOUR

Return to Vientiane. Along the way, stop by Nam Ngum, a huge reservoir created by damming the Nam Ngum Lake. Before reaching Vientiane, make a stop at Ban Keun, known for its salt extraction plant and a village that distills the local Lao whisky.

A city tour acquaints you with the capital. Start visiting the major sights, including the oldest WatSisaket, the temple with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former temple of WatPrakeo, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image.

Enroute visit Lao's national precious heritage, the famous and sacred structure at That Luang Stupa. You will have the opportunity to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triump.

Overnight at Vientiane city.

DAY 08 : DEPARTURE

Breakfast at hotel. Check out of hotel and transfer to the airport to check-in for scheduled Laos Airlines flight back to Singapore.

End of services..