



Heritage Trail (8days/7nights)
Tour code: LXV8
Luang Prabang-Xiengkhuang-Viengxai

Our Heritage Trail programme gets you off the beaten track to Xiengkhuang and Hua Phan provinces. Xiengkhuang is most famous for the Plain of Jars, a mysterious collection of stone jars said to be about 2500 years old scattered across the vast plains surrounding Phonsavan. Nobody is too sure of their origin, but it makes for a fascinating tour. The area is also home to the Hmong people, and Xiengkhuang is the best province to visit the villages of this interesting tribe. Further east lies the remote province of Hua Phan, close to the Vietnam border. Anyone venturing this far is in for a treat; breathtaking mountainous scenery, colourful ethnic minority tribes and last but not least, the mysterious underground city at Vieng Xai.

Day1. Arrival - Luang Prabang

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Luang Prabang has been claimed by UNESCO to be 'the best preserved city in South East Asia'. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Day2. Luang Prabang – City Tour - Pak Ou Caves

After breakfast, we enjoy a short-guided tour. We visit the **Royal Palace Museum** which hosts a range of interesting artifacts. seeing the magnificent **Wat Xiengthong** with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, representing classical Laotian architecture. We then board a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which gives us a panoramic view of the tranquil countryside. Our first stop is the village of **Ban Muangkeo** where we start a **short trek** to reach the mysterious **Pak Ou Caves**, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. En route, we stop at the village of **Ban Xanghai**, where the local specialty of rice wine is produced. On the way, we also visit **Ban Xangkhong**, **Ban Xienglek** and **Ban Nong Xai**, small villages well known for silk weavings and for Saa (jute) Papermaking. Once back in Luang Prabang city we visit a traditional silversmith workshop. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Note: during rainy season the itinerary is subject to change due to the weather conditions, an alternative programme is available.

Day3. Luang Prabang – Hmong Experience and Kuang Si Waterfall (B,L)

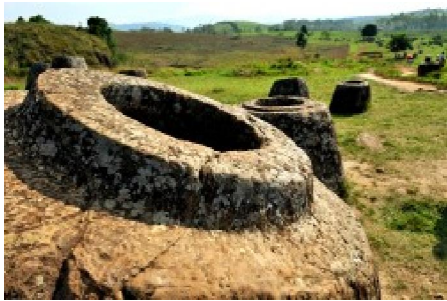
After breakfast, we visit the local **Phosi Market**, this is the place where all the locals shop and your guide will show you the diverse offerings on display. We also stop at **Ock Pop Tock**, a silk weaving centre. Here you will be given a guided tour and the silk weaving process will be explained. Next we drive to **Ban Thinko**, a Hmong village and start trekking with the villagers. Your guide will explain to you the common use of the plants for the Hmong people. You will go to the garden and cut some vegetables and herbs with the local people. When you arrive at the village, learn to cook some local dishes in a traditional house. Lunch will be your collective

efforts! Then, the villagers will show you a demonstration of Hmong Khene and local games. In the afternoon, drive to **Kuang Si** and relax at this magnificent multi-tiered waterfall. We then return by road to Luang Prabang at the end of the day. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Note: during rainy season the itinerary is subject to change due to the weather conditions, an alternative programme is available.

Day4. Luang Prabang – Xiengkhuang (B)

Today, we make the day's drive through wonderful natural scenery to Xiengkhuang. The journey will give you plenty of opportunities for photos and visiting **hill tribe villages**. Upon arrival, we transfer out to visit **Site 1 of the Plain of Jars**, an impressive archaeological site where hundreds of large stone jars are scattered all over the plateau. Overnight in Xiengkhuang.



The area is famous for the Plain of Jars and ethnic minorities including the Hmong

Day5. Xieng Khuang - Plain of Jars and Muang Khoun (B)

This morning we have time to visit the interesting **Central Market** in Phonsavan, visit the **MAG exhibition** and **Site 2 of the Plain of Jars** before taking a **short scenic trek** to **Site 3** via a **Tai Dam and Lao Leum village**. Following lunch we have a half-day morning tour seeing the old capital of **Muang Khoun** and the nearby villages, home to the **Hmong hilltribe** and **Tai Dam** people. Overnight in Xiengkhuang.

Day6. Xiengkhuang – Sam Neua (B)

A long drive today starting early this morning along some fairly rough roads, but the journey is broken up by stops at nearby Hmong villages, and to admire the breathtaking scenery. We also have time to visit **Hintang**. Here we visit the **mysterious menhirs** (standing stones). No one is quite sure who built them or why, perhaps burial sites or markers of some sort. We arrive in Sam Neua early evening. Overnight in Sam Neua.

Day7. Sam Neua – Viengxai (B)

REDO. Today, after an early breakfast, we visit a number of **local weaving villages**, we continue onto the famous **Vieng Xai Caves**. This is where the Pathet Lao leaders lived during the "Secret War". After enjoying numerous caves we head back to our Sam Nua accommodation for the night. Overnight in Sam Neua.

Day8. Sam Nua – Na Meo border gate to Vietnam (B)

This morning we drive to the Vietnam border of Na Meo where your tour ends.

END OF SERVICES

Tour price per person in US\$:
Price valid from 01-Oct-09 to 30-Sep-2010

Hotel	1	2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20 +	Single Supplement
3 Star	1,616	868	674	592	592	410	397	167

Inclusive of above prices:	Exclusive of above prices:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation in private vehicle • Accommodation in twin shared room • Domestic air ticket as stated only • Private Boat trip as stated in above sights • English speaking guide • Admission fee to indicated sights • Meals: daily breakfast at hotel, lunch/dinner where stated only • Gov't tax and service charge • Luggage handling and drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa stamping fee on arrival • Int'l air tickets to/from Laos • Travel Insurance in all kinds • Single room (quoted separately) • Other foreign language guide • Peak tourist season or special event rates • Child or adult in triple sharing room • Tip, drinks and other personal expenses

Hotels quoted in above package

Location	3 Star
Luang Prabang	Mekong Riverside Hotel (Superior Room)
Xiengkhuang	Auberge Plain des Jarres (Standard Room)
Luang Prabang	Sam Neua Hotel (Deluxe Room)