



**Kong Lor Adventure (8days/7nights)**  
**Tour code: KLV8**  
**Vientiane-Kong Lor-Thakek-Luang Prabang**

*This week long tour enables you to explore the must see sights of Vientiane and Luang Prabang, as well as an off the beaten track adventure to the little visited and remote Khammoune Province. Khammoune is most famous for the spectacular Kong Lor Cave, over 7km long, as well as some of the most beautiful limestone karst scenery in Southeast Asia.*

**Day1. Arrival – Vientiane – half day city tour**

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Time permitting, we explore Vientiane capital by visiting the major sights of the capital; including the oldest **Wat Sisaket** with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former royal temple of **Wat Prakeo**, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image. Enroute to Lao's national precious heritage, the famous and sacred structure of **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 Triumph. The final visit of the day will be the excellent **COPE** exhibition centre, highlighting a much overlooked aspect of Laos and a major problem many of the local people face on a day to day basis in the form of unexploded ordnance as a result of heavy bombing campaigns during the Vietnam War era. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight in Vientiane.

**Day2. Vientiane – Hin Boun (B)**

You will be picked up this morning from your hotel and transferred south along route 13 to the central Lao province of Khammoune. En route we stop at **Prabaht Ponsan**, a stupa dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is also home to the Buddha's footprint, discovered in 1933, and now an important religious site in Laos. Following lunch we continue onwards into Khammoune province and into the mountainous area, where a stop at a **view point near Khoum Kham** offers a breathtaking view over the surrounding area. We eventually reach Ban Naphouak, where we board a **local boat on the Hin Boun River**. The journey upstream takes us past some stunning limestone karst scenery, as well as a number of villages with smiling waving children. We reach your accommodation for the night, Sala Hin Boun by late afternoon. You have the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at Sala Hin Boun.

**Day3. Hin Boun – Kong Lor – Thakek (B,L)**

After breakfast at Sala Hin Boun we continue by boat upriver to Kong Lor village, where you have the chance to explore, before boarding a smaller boat into the famous **Kong Lor Cave**. We navigate through the cave, which is over 7km long and

includes a spectacular cavern over 100m high, following lunch in a remote village on the other side of the cave. We return through the cave and transfer by car onto the Mekong Riverside town of Thakek by early evening. Overnight in Thakek.

#### **Day4. Thakek – Buddha Cave and trekking (B,L)**

We depart Thakek by **Tuk-tuk**, and follow the old French railway track that was destined for Vietnam but was never finished. Continuing through impressive scenery, you arrive in the village of Ban Nakhang Xang and meet the village guides who will escort you on your trek. Passing through secondary forest your guide will point out forest products that form an important part of local people's food resources. Going through a cave, you enter a striking valley with towering cliffs and forest. The trail follows the shoreline of **Nong Thao Lake** where you can see local fishermen at work. On arrival at Tham Nong Paseum cave more adventurous swimmers can explore the cave. The cave is 400 metres long and contains dramatic stalactites and stalagmites. Back in daylight, the trip continues onto Khammouane's famous Buddha cave for a traditional Lao lunch of Mekong fish, sticky rice and spicy papaya salad. After lunch we visit **Tham Pa Fa or Buddha cave**, which was rediscovered in April 2004. The cave contains 229 bronze Buddhas that are said to be over 300 years old! Time permitting you will also be able to travel by local canoe into the water cave below. Your guide will now escort you back to the village following a different route through the forest, and you will return to Thakek in the late afternoon. Overnight in Thakek.

*Note: Moderate trekking, a good standard of fitness is required. During rainy season (May-September) the programme may be changed without prior warning to accommodate the local conditions.*



*Local style lunch and karst scenery*

#### **Day5. Thakek – Vientiane – Luang Prabang (B)**

This morning we depart Thakek, heading north for the five hour drive to Vientiane in time for your afternoon flight to Luang Prabang. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang

#### **Day6. Luang Prabang – city tour (B)**

After breakfast we visit the **Royal Palace Museum** which hosts a range of interesting artefacts. We begin our walking tour taking in some of the cities most beautiful temples. Depending on the rest of your programme this may include the magnificent **Wat Xiengthong**, with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, representing the classical Luang Prabang style, as well as **Wat Mai** and **Wat Sene**, the oldest temple in Luang Prabang. We also stop by at Kinnaly Gallery, where your

guide will show you the different ethnic minorities that live in Laos. In the afternoon we stop at **Yensabai**, where you will see some Lao traditional stensils made with Saa paper.

Optional: Lao traditional Stensil class  
 Discover and learn how to produce a Lao Stensil. Mr Anousith will teach you how to do it and how you can use it when you come back to your own country.  
 - Make your own stensil  
 - Demonstration with gold painting and Saa paper  
 Duration: around 1h20 minutes  
 Number of pax: 2 pax maximum  
 Cost: 15 USD/pax

Our next stop is the excellent **Arts and Ethnology Centre** which gives us a further insight into the ethnic mix and culture of Laos. We then climb up **Mt Phousi**, which offers a spectacular sunset and a panoramic view over Luang Prabang and the Mekong River. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

**Day7. 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.*

**Day8. Luang Prabang – Departure (B)**

Depending on your departing flight you may have time at leisure before your transfer to the airport for departure.

**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	Single Supplement
<b>3 Star</b>	1,609.50	910	736	668	176
<b>4 Star</b>	1,753	987	813	744	243
<b>5 Star</b>	2,010	1,114	942	874	370

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

#### Hotels quoted in above package

Location	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
<b>Vientiane</b>	<a href="#">City Inn (DLX)</a>	<a href="#">Green Park (DLX)</a>	<a href="#">Settha Palace (DLX)</a>
<b>Hin Boun</b>	<a href="#">Sala Hin Boun (Riverfront Room)</a>	<a href="#">Sala Hin Boun (Riverfront Room)</a>	<a href="#">Sala Hin Boun (Riverfront Room)</a>
<b>Thakek</b>	<a href="#">Inthila Hotel (DLX)</a>	<a href="#">Inthila Hotel (DLX)</a>	<a href="#">Inthila Hotel (DLX)</a>
<b>Luang Prabang</b>	<a href="#">Mekong Riverside Hotel (SUP)</a>	<a href="#">Villa Santi Hotel (DLX)</a>	<a href="#">Villa Maly (SUP)</a>