



Incredible Laos (10days/9nights)
Tour Code: VLP7
Luang Prabang-Xiengkhuang-Vientiane-4000 Islands-Pakse

A perfectly balanced tour taking in Laos' most impressive sights, including Luang Prabang, the Plain of Jars and the 4000 Islands. Great variety, nicely paced and superb value for money makes this tour a Viengchampa favourite.

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 (B)

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 Thinkeo**, 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 **Khuang 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 long but scenic days drive through wonderful natural surrounds 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.

Day5. Xiengkhouang – Vientiane (Flight) (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**. We then transfer to the airport for the short flight to Vientiane. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Vientiane.

Day6. Vientiane – Half day city tour (B)

This morning 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.

Day7. Vientiane – Pakse –Khong Island (Flight) (B)

You will be transferred to the airport early this morning for the flight to Pakse. On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred directly onto a **private traditional boat for a 2-hour cruise** to Champassak. Disembark at this ancient town, of the Champa Kingdom; continue by car to **Wat Phou**, another World Heritage Site in Laos, which became recognized by UNESCO in 2002. Wat Phou is the site of ruins which were once part of a temple built some time before Angkor Wat in Siem Reap. It contains some of the most Ancient Khmer architectures which date back to between the 7-11th centuries. In the afternoon you will drive to **Don Khong**, an area of 4000 islands which is the widest point of the Mekong River during the rainy season, although during the dry months the river recedes, leaving behind thousands of islands and islets. This area of the river is also famous for being the home to the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins. En route, we stop to visit the ruins of the Khmer temple of Oup Mong at Ban Houei Tomo. Arrive at Khong Island via ferry early evening. Overnight on Khong Island.

Day8. Khong Island – Surrounding (B)

This morning we take the boat to Ban Nakasang and drive to the famous waterfall of **Khone Phapeng** - the largest waterfall in South East Asia, also known as the 'Niagara of the east'. Then you will be transferred to the Cambodian border of Dom Kralor.

Day9. Khong Island – Tad Lo - Pakse (B)

Upon leaving Khong Island, we journey towards **Tadlo**, through the **Bolaven Plateau**. The Bolaven Plateau is known for its cooler temperature being located high above the Mekong Valley- Rivarc riin nff thic hinh nlataaii in all dirartinnc nnri than nliinna niit to lush forests along in a series of spectacular surging waterfalls. A trip to the plateau provides a refreshing break from the heat and allows you to observe the cultivation of rich coffee, tea, cardamom, bananas, and other crops that can be seen en route. This trip gives visitors the chance to venture off the beaten track and to discover some of the lesser-known areas of Laos, exploring the wild beauty of this southern region. Upon arrival at **Tad Lo Waterfall**, we visit the villages of **Alak, Nge, and Katu**, populated by ethnic minority groups. We travel to Pakse by late evening. Overnight in Pakse (B)

Day 10 : Pakse – Departure (B)

After breakfast; there will be free time for your own exploration of Pakse Town before catching a flight to Siem Reap-Cambodia or exiting Laos overland from the Chongmek International checkpoint to Ubon Ratchathani Thailand.

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 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| 3 Star | 2,098 | 1,236 | 1,035 | 928 | 253 |
| 4 Star | 2,305 | 1,351 | 1,150 | 1,043 | 345 |
| 5 Star | 2,610 | 1,503 | 1,302 | 1,195 | 498 |

Hotels quoted in above package

| Location | 3 Star | 4 Star | 5 Star |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Luang Prabang | Mekong Riverside hotel (SUP) | Villa Santi Hotel (DLX) | Villa Maly (SUP) |
| Xiengkhuang | Auberge Plain des Jarres (DLX) | Auberge Plain des Jarres (DLX) | Auberge Plain des Jarres (DLX) |
| Vientiane | City Inn (DLX) | Green Park (DLX) | Settha Palace (DLX) |
| Khong Island | Senesothxuene (Superior Mekong View) | Senesothxuene (Superior Mekong View) | Senesothxuene (Superior Mekong View) |
| Pakse | Pakse Hotel (Panorama) | Pakse Hotel (Panorama) | Pakse Hotel (Panorama) |