



Spirit of Laos (8days/7nights)
Tour Code: LVPO01
Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Pakse and the south

This countrywide tour enables you to experience the three main centres of Laos, Luang Prabang, Vientiane and the beautiful southern region of Laos. Some interesting excursions are thrown in, making this an unforgettable journey.

Day1. Arrival – Luang Prabang

On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Day2. Luang Prabang – full day city tour

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 stencils made with Saa paper**.

Optional: Lao traditional Stencil class

Discover and learn how to produce a Lao Stencil. 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 stencil
- 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.

Day3. Luang Prabang - Big Brother Mouse – Ban Khia Luang – Pak Ou Cave (B,L)

The day starts with a visit to the **Big Brother Mouse** shop to select some books for the village visit. We then head north by car along route 13, before taking a unpaved road to **Ban Khia Luang village**. We then have ample time to visit the school, play with the kids and watch them enjoy their new books. We also take

some time to explore the rest of the village, where you can see weaving and visit the local temple. We stop for lunch at the village, which can either be a western picnic lunch, or traditional Lao food such as sticky rice, laap and fresh vegetables cooked by the villagers.

After lunch we say good bye to the village and drive to **Ban Khoklin**, which takes us through some beautiful scenery of mountains and paddy fields. At Ban Khoklin we then board a private boat down the **Nam Ou** river for 30 minutes to **Pak Ou Caves**, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. and continue down the **Mekong River** to the picturesque village of Ban Chan, a pottery village. We then arrive back in Luang Prabang, arriving back there by late afternoon. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Day4. Luang Prabang – Vientiane – half day city tour

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Vientiane, upon arrival in the capital you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Your half day city tour enables us to see the major temples of Vientiane including the oldest, **Wat Sisaket**, a temple of thousands of miniature Buddha statues, and the former royal temple of **Wat Prakeo**, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image. We also visit Lao national icon, **That Luang Stupa**, and we stop to take some pictures of the imposing **Patuxay Monument**, which is Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph. Overnight in Vientiane

Day5. Vientiane – Pakse –Khong Island (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.

Day6. Khong Island – Surrounding (B)

After an early morning breakfast, we take a private local boat to begin re-tracing the French colonial-past on **Khone Island**, where some old colonial houses still stand and glimpse the first Lao railway with its own locomotive. We continue our exploration of Khone Island on foot and visit the most beautiful **Liphi Waterfall**, also known as the Samphamith, which forms a natural border between Lao and Cambodia. If we have luck, we may catch a glimpse of the rare freshwater **Irrawaddy Mekong Dolphin** at Ban Hang Khone. In the afternoon 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'. We then return to Khong Island by late afternoon. Overnight on Khong Island.

Day7. Khong Island - Tadlo – 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. Rivers run off this high plateau in all directions and then plunge out 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)

Day8. 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.

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
3 Star	1,775	1,067	900	823	202
4 Star	1,918	1,145	977	900	268
5 Star	2,175	1,273	1,105	1,028	396

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	4 Star	5 Star
Luang Prabang	Mekong Riverside Hotel (SUP)	Villa Santi Hotel (DLX)	Villa Maly (SUP)
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)