



Spirit of Laos (8days/7nights) 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

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.

Meals: _/_/_

Day2. Luang Prabang – full day city tour

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning ritual of saffron-clad monks **collecting offerings of Alms** from the faithful residents. This procession is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the tradition. Afterwards, we have the option of visiting the local morning market, before returning to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast we visit the **Royal Palace Museum** which hosts a range of interesting artifacts and a guided audio tour (*closed on Tuesday*). We then begin our temple tour taking in some of the city's most beautiful, including the nearby Wat Mai, the magnificent **Wat Xiengthong**, with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, representing the classical Luang Prabang style, as well as **Wat Visoun**, known as 'The Water Melon Stupa' due to its shape.

In the afternoon we visit the excellent **Arts and Ethnology Centre** which gives us a further insight into the ethnic mix and culture of Laos (*closed on Monday*). We then visit the weaving textile and Paper making villages of **Ban Xangkhong** and **Ban Xienglek**. Late this afternoon stretching your legs climb **Mount Phousi**, which offers a spectacular sunset and a panoramic view over Luang Prabang and the Mekong River. Afterwards, strolling through the night market (open between 5pm-10pm) setting in downtown selling a large variety of local textiles and ethnic handicrafts.

Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

Day3. Luang Prabang - Big Brother Mouse – Ban Khia Luang – Pak Ou Cave

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 (*village school closed during June-August/holiday season*). 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. We then arriving back Luangprabang by late afternoon.

Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/_

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

Day4. Luang Prabang – Vientiane – half day city tour

This morning 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, begin with 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. **Wat Si Muang**, site of the lak meuang (pillar-stone) of Vientiane, Si Muang temple is home to the guardian spirit of the statues. You have the option to visit 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. A spectacular view of the Mekong River at sunset is a perfect way to finish the day.

Overnight in Vientiane.

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

Day5. Vientiane – Pakse –Khong Island

You will be transferred to the airport early this morning for the flight to Pakse.

Flight from Vientiane to Pakse with Lao airlines on QV301 departs at 08:35, arrives at 09:50. *(Note: the flight schedules are subject to change without prior notice from the airlines)*

Upon arrival 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 visit the atmospheric ruins of the Khmer temple of **Oup Mong** at Ban Houei Tomo, located in the forest. Arrive at Khong Island via ferry early evening.

Overnight on Khong Island.

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

Day6. Khong Island – Surrounding

Following breakfast, we enjoy a visit to the surrounding countryside, and embark on a long tail boat tour to Don Khone, where we disembark and have the option of exploring the island by bicycle, which takes you to visit the remains of the French period and Lphi Waterfall or "the Corridor of the Devil". We return to the mainland at the fishing village of Ban Nakasang and drive further south to visit Khone Phapheng. Khone Phapheng is considered the largest waterfall by volume in South East Asia; this is a really impressive site near the Lao-Cambodian border, set within an area which is teeming with wildlife, making this area one of the most breathtaking destinations in Laos. Then we drive back to Khong Island.

Overnight on Khong Island.

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

Day7. Khong Island - Tadlo – Pakse

This morning we leave early and drive north to the **Bolaven Plateau**. The Bolaven Plateau is known for its cooler temperature being located high above the Mekong Valley. Our first stop is to visit Ban Lak Sipkao (Kilometre19), a **Laven village** specializing in knife-making. We then stop at a tea plantation, followed by a stop at **Tad Fan** Waterfall, a picturesque twin chute waterfall. We then make a stop at a coffee plantation, en route to **Tha Teng Market**, a colourful ethnic minority food market. Next we explore another interesting minority village, **Ban Bong Neua**, an Alak

village, that boasts a sacrificial alter. We arrive at the beautiful **Tadlo Waterfall** by late afternoon and head back to Pakse, stopping at **Ban Houi Hun**, Katu foot weaving village, where they keep coffins under their houses, before arriving back in Pakse by early evening.

Overnight in Pakse

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

Day8. Pakse – Departure

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.

Meals: Breakfast/_/_

END OF SERVICES

Hotels quoted in above package

Location	3Star	4Star	5Star
Luang Prabang	Mekong River Side Hotel (Superior Room)	Villa Maly (Superior Room)	Satri House (Deluxe Room)
Vientiane	City Inn Vientiane (Deluxe Room)	Green Park Boutique (Deluxe Room)	Settha Palace (Deluxe Room)
4000 Islands	Senesothxuene Hotel (Superior Room)	Senesothxuene Hotel (Superior Room)	Senesothxuene Hotel (Suite Room)
Pakse	Pakse Hotel (Deluxe Room)	Champasak Grand Hotel (Premier Suite)	Champasak Grand Hotel (Premier Suite)

**** Prices please contact directly sales@viengchampatour.com ****