

Classic Laos Tour - 8 days

(Vientiane – Xieng Khoang – Luang Prabang)

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	VIENTIANE ARRIVAL	--
Day 2	VIENTIANE CITY & BUDDHA PARK	B/L
Day 3	VIENTIANE – XIENG KHOUANG	B
Day 4	XIENG KHOUANG – PLAIN OF JARS	B
Day 5	XIENG KHOUANG – LUANG PRABANG	B
Day 6	LUANG PRABANG CITY & PAK OU CAVE	B/L
Day 7	LUANG PRABANG – KUANG SI WATERFALL & COUNTRYSIDE	B/L
Day 8	LUANG PRAPANG DEPARTURE	B

Note*: B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

VIENTIANE ARRIVAL

Pickup at the airport. Transfer to the hotel for checkin. Enjoy free time to relax after long flight.

Meal: n/a

Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane

Day 2

VIENTIANE CITY & BUDDHA PARK

In the morning time, we take a sightseeing tour of Vientiane, to visit religious museums of Wat Sisaket, the oldest temple to have been survived from the Siamese war of 1828 and its cloister contains more than 8000 Buddha statues; Ho Prakeo, the former home-temple of the Emerald Buddha statue or Pra

Keo from the early time of Lane Xang Kingdom until 18th century, but today it contains a collection of Buddha statues, antiques and all artifacts found in around Vientiane; That Luang Stupa, the single most important monument in Laos, which was built to cover the original small stupa containing a piece of the chest bone of Buddha, That Luang serves as the main and symbolic stupa in Laos. It's also our national symbol and recognizable throughout the world, gathering place for national Buddhism ceremony. It's also the biggest stupa in Laos; Patouxay (Arch de Triumph), built quite recently in commemoration of those who died during the wars in the past and it is today as the landmark of Vientiane.

We have a lunch stop at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we continue the sightseeing tour to Carol Cassidy, a Gallery weaving Lao textiles and natural dye making process from A-Z; Buddha Park on the Mekong of which Buddha statues in modern style shapes. One of them is the largest Reclining Buddha in Laos. They were built by a Lao man in order to teach following generations about religions worldwide after his study in India. A larger park was built in Nong Khai, Thailand and his body has been kept there.

We return to Vientiane in the late afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane

Day 3

VIENTIANE – XIENG KHOUANG

Free in the morning to explore Vientiane.

At noon, pickup for early afternoon flight to Xieng Khouang. Transfer to the hotel upon arrival. Free to relax.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Xieng Khouang

Day 4

XIENG KHOUANG – PLAIN OF JARS

After breakfast at hotel we drive over the plains to visit the Plain of Jars site 1 before continuing to drive to the Plain of Jars 2. Here we have time to find out more about the still unclear history of the stone Jars here which dated back to about 2000 years ago.

In the afternoon, we drive about 1 hour to visit Muang Khoun, the old capital of Xieng Khouang where we will see some ruins left over from the war.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang

Day 5

XIENG KHOUANG – LUANG PRABANG

After breakfast, private transfer to Luang Prabang (no guide).

The long journey takes about 8 hours and we can make some stops at villages to observe the rural life of local people, including ethnic minorities such as the Hmong people.

Arrival in Luang Prabang, and check into your hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang

Day 6

LUANG PRABANG CITY & PAK OU CAVE

This morning we visit the former Royal Palace and the National Museum (closed on Tuesday and Sunday afternoon) and the famous Wat Xieng Thong Temple, the city's most magnificent temple on the bank of the Mekong.

Then, we catch a traditional long boat trip up the Mekong River to visit the famous Pak Ou cave. The upper section of the cave is part of a limestone cave staffed with Buddha images of all styles and sizes. En route, we will also visit Ban Muangkeo, a village known for making Lao traditional rice whisky and Ban Xang Khong, known for its wood paper making and also Lao silk weavings and natural dyes. In the evening we suggest you trying some of the excellent Laos food prepared by local restaurants, ask your guide for a nice place to go.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang

Day 7

XIENG KHOUANG – LUANG PRABANG

We depart from Luang Prabang by minivan and drive to an ethnic Khmu village where we will start our adventure. We start by trekking to a nearby Hmong village. You will be able to learn about the lifestyles of Khmu and Hmong people, these two culturally very different minorities and see how, despite their differences, they work together on a daily basis and even share the same school.

As we continue onwards the trail leads through rice paddies and vegetable fields before reaching the mountainous forest. Along the way we explore a cave which was used as a bomb shelter by the local villagers during the second Indochina War.

After visiting the cave we continue trekking to one of the many springs which feeds Kuang Si waterfalls, where we can see a beautiful pool full of sacred fish. After descending from the top of the waterfall we enjoy a Lao style lunch amongst some beautiful settings!

After lunch we will relax by the waterfall with plenty of time for swimming and taking pictures of the magnificent falls and the turquoise pools.

Before leaving Kuang Si Waterfalls we will pass through a rescue and refuge centre for bears saved from the illegal wildlife trade. On our way back to Luang Prabang we will also have the opportunity to visit Lao's only buffalo dairy and try some of their buffalo cheese. We will then drive back to Luang Prabang. Arrive the hotel in late afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang

Day 8

LUANG PRAPANG DEPARTURE

Free and easy to explore Luang Prabang till airport transfer for departure flight. Trip ends.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: n/a

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Vientiane – Xieng Khouang flight
- Overnights in selected hotels or similar
- Bunagalow at ECC

- All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Private transfers as mentioned by private air-conditioned vehicles (including pick up & see off)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Exclusions

- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visa stamping fee
- International flights pre/post tour
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services

Booking Terms & Conditions

Payment

- To guarantee your land tour booking, a deposit 30% must be paid in advance. The balance must be settled **either** in USD Cash on arrival **or** 1 week before arrival date via any other methods.
- We accept payments in cash, by credit card or by bank transfer and Western Union. Any charges to settle the payment must be paid by the Clients. We will recognize the amount receive only.

Cancellations

Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

- 65 days or more before departure: 20% of total tour cost
- Between 64 and 35 days before departure: 30% of total tour cost
- Between 34 and 15 days before departure: 50% of total tour cost
- Between 14 and 7 days before departure: 80% of total tour cost
- 6 days or less before departure / No Show: 100% of total tour cost

Note: We strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase a trip cancellation insurance.

Important Information

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to info@indochinatreks.com, we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

Emergency contact numbers

Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655

Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

Combo Trip

If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes.

You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

Internal Flights

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnamairlines, Vietjesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

Accommodation

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

Packing List

Conservative Dress

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Note*: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

Documents

- All tickets (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

Airport transfers

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant who you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

Trip Specific Safety

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

Warning

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

Visas and Entry Requirements

LAOS - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx \$35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

Tipping

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

Electricity

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.