

Laos

SOUTHEAST ASIA'S ENCHANTED KINGDOM



SAMPLE ITINERARY :: AUTHENTIC ASIA



Laos, one of the smallest and least visited countries in Southeast Asia is a place where the pace of life is just a little slower than everywhere else. The town of Luang Prabang, the famous UNESCO World Heritage site is bustling as well as laid-back, charming, and peaceful. The hikes and treks into the countryside and to the hill tribe villages are gentle. The Mekong River is vast in the South, dotted with 4,000 islands, yet the fishing boats glide quietly down the mighty river past water buffaloes, submerged, escaping from the daily heat.

Day 1 | Pakbeng

This trip begins in Northern Thailand at the Thai/Lao border and the town of Houey Sai. You will need to spend the night in Chiang Rai prior to this trip. Your guide and driver will meet you at the hotel in Chiang Rai and assist you with the border crossing this morning. Once you have reached the Lao side, a private longtail boat will be waiting to take you on a wonderful full day journey down the Mekong River. You will have a chance to witness life along the river and stop at some of the villages along the way.

In the late afternoon the boat will reach the Pakbeng Lodge situated on the shores of the river where you will overnight.

Accommodations: Pakbeng Lodge

Day 2 | Muang La

A morning drive takes you to Muang La and to the remote Muang La Resort, situated on the edge of a small traditional village with only 100 inhabitants. Surrounded by rainforest on the banks of a river and completely off the tourist path, this makes an ideal base from which to explore the many ethnic groups living between the rice fields and the mountains.

Accommodations: Muang La Resort

Day 3 | Muang La

Spend the day discovering Hmong and Ikhos villages; two typical Laotian ethnic communities. Your route climbs to 1,000 m above sea level and offers magnificent views of the surrounding area. Your first visit is a beautiful, isolated Ikhos village – the Ikhos people originate from Yunnan Province in China and also from Tibet. After a picnic lunch, continue on to the Hmong village of Ban Tauser by foot (a 45 minute

walk). This ethnic group, native to the high steppes of Tibet, will provide an insight into rural village life. The isolated road to the village offers impressive 360 degree views of the countryside. Return to the resort in the late afternoon.

Accommodations: Muang La Resort



Day 4 | Luang Prabang

A full day of traveling immerses you into this far away area of Laos. Being with a two hour drive to Muang Khoua where you will embark on a boat trip down the Ou river to Nong Khiew. You can stop along the way and enjoy your picnic lunch in one of the villages. A car will be waiting for you in Nong Khiew and take you on the final leg of today's the trip to Luang Prabang.

The former capital of Laos, and an ancient city of Buddhist temples and pagodas, stands in a northern valley carved from the mountains by the Mekong River. The town of approximately 30,000 people has been home to 63 kings. It is truly one of Asia's last unspoiled spots and certainly a contender for the "Shangri-La" title that travel brochures are so ready to describe. Rice paddies and mountains covered with thick vegetation spread in all directions. Its physical isolation has served as an effective barrier to any economic changes. Luang Prabang is the religious center of Laos and the

59 Buddhist temples, most centuries old, are quite magnificent. In 1995 the entire town of Luang Prabang was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Accommodations: 3 Nagas Hotel



Day 5 | Luang Prabang

If you rise early, when the town's monastery bells toll, you will see a golden procession of monks emerge and quietly walk down the streets with their alms bowls in hand collecting food for the day from the townspeople.

Afterwards it is a good time to visit the morning market where the locals come to shop for meats, vegetables, and spices.

After an optional visit to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center, a museum dedicated to the ethnic minorities of Laos, begin a day excursion into the countryside for a chance to visit the Khmu and the Lowland Lao. All of them have different traditions, religions, and speak different dialects.

The Lowland Lao of Ban Sa-aat live on the banks of the Mekong and its tributaries. Ban Pano is home to the Khmu people who were the original inhabitants of Northern Laos.

They are animists and speak a language belonging to the Austro-Asiatic group of languages.

Finally arrive at Kuang Si Waterfall, where, if you feel like it, you can actually go for a swim in one of the turquoise pools.

Return to town in the afternoon in time to drive to the small village of Ban Khomkhuang to attend a private Baci ceremony where offerings are made to assure good luck and safe travels. The ceremony will be held at a private family home.

Return to Luang Prabang, where a hike up Phousi Hill at sunset ends a perfect day!

Accommodations: 3 Nagas Hotel

Day 6 | Luang Prabang.

Enjoy a morning tour of this charming town followed by a free afternoon.

Accommodations: 3 Nagas Hotel

Day 7 | Don Daeng Island

You will be transferred to the airport for a short morning flight to the provincial capital of Pakse located in Southern Laos. Your driver and guide will be waiting to take you back to the Mekong River where a boat trip downstream takes you to Don Daeng Island and the lovely La Folie Lodge.

Time has stood still in Southern Laos! Here the Mekong is 14 km wide and dotted with 4,000 islands! La Folie Lodge, sits on the shores of a small river island. It is the perfect place to unwind, take a stroll, go for a or bicycle ride, or sit in a hammock with a good book!

Accommodations: La Folie Lodge



Day 8 | Don Daeng Island

Free day for independent activities.

Accommodations: La Folie Lodge

Day 9 | Departure

You may choose to return to Pakse for a flight to Bangkok or make your way overland across the Boloven Plateau to the Thai Border and on to Ubon Rachathani in time for an evening flight to Bangkok.

End of Services.

*“One’s destination is never a place, but a
new way of seeing things.”*

- Henry Miller

The above is a sample itinerary which covers the highlights and also takes you off the beaten path. We would be happy to discuss your individual travel preferences and amend the itinerary accordingly.

Pricing is dependent on your choice of accommodations, time of the year that you will be traveling, the final itinerary, and the number of people in your group.

Should you wish to discuss your individual travel plans to Laos please do feel free to reach to us via e-mail at info@authenticasia.net or by phone at 1. 888.586.9958.



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