

DAY TRIPS IN LAOS

TOURS ESCAPE FROM LUANG PRABANG

OVERVIEW

Situated in northern Laos at the confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong Rivers, the ancient town of Luang Prabang was declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. The small city is an outstanding example of the fusion between traditional architecture and Lao urban structures with those built by the European colonial authorities.

Luang Prabang was the ancient royal capital of the Lan Xang Kingdom until 1545 when Vientiane was chosen the capital. The myriad temples, saffron-robed monks, sacred caves and colonial buildings, hill tribes, the well-recognized hand-woven silk and cotton textiles with local patterns which deeply reflect century-old tradition, cozy atmosphere and laid-back pace of life, all become the undeniable trademarks of this ancient town. Cascading waterfalls and the mighty Mekong River with plenty of opportunities to unwind and sail your way through the town are some of other highlights the town has on offer. Luang Prabang is simply a must for any first-time visitors to the country.

LUANG PRABANG – CITY TOUR – KUANG SI WATERFALLS

<u>Tour code:</u>	LPQ-L12
<u>Tour type:</u>	Historical, Cultural & Nature
<u>City:</u>	Luang Prabang
<u>Time:</u>	8:30-17:30

Overview:

This is a popular route for most visitors to Luang Prabang. In a day, you can easily tour the sights and sounds of this small town, from the elegant Royal Palace Museum in the former Royal Palace to the town's most impressive temple of Wat Xieng Thong. Then head out the city to visit several ethnic villages and cool off in the turquoise water of Kuang Si Falls. The tour comes to a relaxing end by ascending the top of Phousi Hill for panoramic views of the city at sunset.

Itinerary:

Today, your private car and guide pick you up at your hotel to start a full day city tour to visit the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang and the Kuang Si Waterfalls.

You will first visit Royal Palace Museum, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts. You then visit the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture and the most beautiful temple in Luang Prabang with its mosaic decoration and the former royal carriage. You will also take a look at the Traditional Art & Ethnology Center to learn about the many Lao ethnic groups. A visit will be made at Wat Visoun, dating back to 1513 during the reign of King Wisunarat (Visoun), this is Luang Prabang's oldest temple and was once home to the Prabang Buddhas. Laos is also known for its traditional crafts hence you then can visit local villages of Lao ethnic minority groups at Ban Ouay, a Hmong village, Ban Ou a Laoloum village and Ban Thapene, a Khmu village. Afterward, you will be taken to the beautiful Kuang Si Waterfall where you can cool off with a refreshing swim in the pools or walk along the forest trails.

On the way back to Luang Prabang, stop at the Kuang Si Falls Butterfly Park, one of the must-visit spots, newly opened on January 2014. End of day, climb the 329 steps up to the top of Phousi Hill for a beautiful sunrise view of the city and its glowing reflection on the Mekong River. Tour ends at your hotel then

Group	1	2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-12	13-15
Price	209	112	88	75	66	52	48

Included: Private transportation with English or French speaking guide/Entrance fee & mineral water/
Lunch