

12 DAYS – REMOTE LAOS

Laos (Luang Prabang - Kamu Lodge- Pakbeng- Luang Nam Tha- Muang Sing- Oudomxay- Phongsaly- Muang Khua- Tay Trang)

1. OVERVIEW:

If you love nature, the untouched, the least visited, and the most rural areas of Laos, this is the chance for you. Even in Luang Prabang, the most famous spot of Laos, we will also bring to you the visit to the last romance of this ancient city. The highlights of this tour is the visit to the northern Laos, where Oudomxay, Luang Nam Tha, and Phongsaly will offer you the amazing sceneries of the mountainous area with colorful hill tribe groups, the mixed culture of the Lao highland people and the ones immigrating hundreds year ago from China, they are now all living together in harmony.

2. ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	ITINERARY
1	LUANG PRABANG – ARRIVAL
2	LUANG PRABANG – BAN XIENGMENE – HUAYKUA FALLS (Biking)
3	LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU CAVES – KAMU LODGE
4	KAMU LODGE – PAKBENG (Shompoo Cruise)
5	PAKBENG – LUANG NAM THA
6	LUANG NAM THA – BAN SIN OUDOM – FOREST CAMP
7	FOREST CAMP – KHMU OR LANTEN VILLAGE
8	LUANG NAM THA
9	LUANG NAM THA – PHONGSALY
10	PHONGSALY – 3 GREENS TREK
11	PHONGSALY – 400 YEAR OLD TEA PLANTATION – MUANG KHUA
12	MUANG KHUA – TAY TRANG

3. THE TOUR

DAY 1: LUANG PRABANG – ARRIVAL

On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to check in the hotel.

After a soft rest, your city tour begins with a visit to the Traditional Art and Ethnology Center to learn about Laos' many ethnic cultures. We then head to the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture. We still have time to visit the Royal Palace Museum, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts. If time permits, we will take a stroll around the city to visit Big Brother Mouse, which is the most famous bookshop in Laos. The next stop is Ock Pop Tock, meaning East Meets West, where you can learn about the traditional weaving in Laos. A visit to Luang Prabang would be incomplete without ascending the 329 steps to the top of Phousi Hill for a beautiful sunset view of the city and its glowing reflection on the Mekong River. The

tour ends after a visit to the famous Night Market, where you can find a lovely collection of handmade textiles made by local and hill tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang. Overnight in Luang Prabang

Accommodation: Overnight at My Dream Resort in Luang Prabang (3*)

My Dream Resort

My Dream Boutique Resort and Hotel has a beautifully spacious garden which leads to the banks of the Nam Khan River. This truly unique hotel will offer you chic with modern accommodation while embracing traditional Lao style. Just minutes from Luang Prabang's bustling town centre, you can explore wherever you wish as experiencing on your free bicycles at the resort. Or let us do the driving for you, with our free shuttle service. At the end of the day, you can relax on your own private balcony, wander down to the river side, and take a refreshing dip in our pool. An "Al fresco" breakfast will be served in the next morning after your peaceful sleep in well-furnished room of natural woods and woven Lao fabrics blend seamlessly into lush surroundings.

DAY 2: LUANG PRABANG – BAN XIENGMENE – HUAYKUA FALLS (Biking)

After departing at 8:30 am from your hotel, we cycle to the river bank and take a ferry to cross the mighty Mekong River to Ban Xeng Mene. We cycle off-road, exploring the area with several stops to take pictures before reaching the village of Ban Nakham. The village is popular for sugar cane and Kaolam (sticky rice and beans in bamboo), which are tasty local treats. We continue to cycle along green rice fields stopping in different villages and tribes to see to see how the locals live their daily lives. A local style lunch will be served in Ban Som. After lunch we continue cycling and pass the villages of Khmu and Lao Loum until we get to the beautiful waterfall, Tad Hoykoua (Hundred families waterfall). After enjoying a refreshing swim we will take the boat upstream back to the city center. Overnight in Luang Prabang

Approx. 5-6 hours cycling

Transport(s): Bicycle

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Overnight at My Dream Resort in Luang Prabang (3*)

DAY 3: LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU CAVES – KAMU LODGE

Board on a traditional Long River boat at Kamu Lodge pier at 08:30am and take a leisurely cruise upstream while enjoying the refreshments served on the boat.

Marvel at the thousands of gold Buddha statues placed in sacred Pak Ou caves by devotees. Most people failed to marvel at Pak Ou towering limestone cliff.

Continue upriver and you would reach Kamu Lodge around noon. A Refreshing welcome drink is served. You can check into your super-size tents with attached modern bathroom amenities and facilities. You will enjoy lunch in an airy SALA settled in the middle of ice paddy fields.

After lunch, you can choose to either relax or to enjoy the traditional Kamu lifestyles and activities such as rice planting and harvesting in surrounding rice fields, gold panning in the Mekong (anything you find is Yours!), traditional fishing techniques (you can sample your catch for dinner!), visit of the Kamu village, archery contest.

Dinner is a feast by Kamu tribe standards. We want you to see the world from the Kamu's eyes.

After dinner, retire to your tent.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at KAMU LODGE in Kamu (3*)

KAMU LODGE

Opened in 2004, the Kamu Lodge is a wonderful eco lodge with a closed-to-nature design in a remote location on the banks of the majestic Mekong River in northern Laos. The expedition tents at Kamu Lodge come with private veranda and offer subtle luxury in the Lao jungle, while giving each visitor the rare opportunity to observe life in a small secluded community. Our guests will have a memorable experience in these beautifully and spacious tents. The Kamu Lodge offers traditional massages and sauna facilities that complimentary experience. Access to the lodge is by a private boat - a two and a half hour ride upstream through glorious scenery from Luang Prabang.

DAY 4: KAMU LODGE – PAKBENG (Shompoo Cruise)

You are free in the morning to stroll around the lodge and the surrounding village. The boat Shompoo Cruise will arrive at around 9:30Am to pick you up for the cruise upstream to Pakbeng, a small village located on the Mekong River. Along the way, we will stop at Ban Baw, which is famous for its traditional hand weaving. Arriving in Pakbeng at around mid-afternoon, you will check in your hotel before take an orientation walk around the town. Overnight in Pakbeng

Note: departure schedule of Shompoo Cruise: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at Pakbenglodge in Pakbeng (3*)

Pakbenglodge

The Pakbeng Lodge is located by Mekong River which is also midway between the World Heritage Town of Luang Prabang, and Huay Xai, the main border crossing between Thailand and Laos. Guests can use boat to reach to each town within day from this lodge. The Lodge also faces the Mekong Elephant Camp, which is dedicated to the protection of elephants and offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the life of an animal important in Lao culture. From here, you can follow the main tourist trail to explore the local life in the forest and the vicinity villages. The lodge boasting 30 beautifully styled rooms with river view, each including fan, desk, complimentary bottled water, balcony/terrace, shower. Pakbeng Lodge is committed to ensuring that your stay is as comfortable as possible.

DAY 5: PAKBENG – LUANG NAM THA

The local market also attracts numerous ethnic minorities who converge from the surrounding mountainsides or valley to barter and trade their goods. We visit this congregation before setting off on our journey north to Luang Nam Tha via Oudomxay. Along the way; we visit some more Khmu, Tai Dam (Black Thai), and Hmong villages.

Oudomxay province is residence to a mixture of 23 ethnic minority groups. We make a few rest stops along the way, which gives you the opportunity to see the ethnic minority groups of Hmong, Khmu, Black Thai and Lu; Hmong hill tribe people.

We arrive in Luang Nam Tha late afternoon, transfer to your hotel. Free for the rest of the day to explore the town on your own way. Overnight in Luang Nam Tha

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at BOAT LANDING GUEST HOUSE in Luang Nam Tha (3*)

BOAT LANDING GUEST HOUSE

The Boat Landing has a picturesque setting on the Nam Tha river, transportation from the area is also readily available if you need to reach any other part of the city. It is 6 kms from the provincial town and just 1 km from the airport . It was one of the first ecolodges in Laos and an early pioneer and advocate for eco-tourism in Luang Nam Tha.. The lodge has a collection of spacious local style bungalows with spacious outdoor terraces, and an great-served restaurant with authentic Lao cuisine. .

Luang Namtha has so many things to offer that you will surely find many things that suit your taste perfectly.

DAY 6: LUANG NAM THA – BAN SIN OUDOM – FOREST CAMP

Departing Luang Namtha by songthaew, we drive north into the Nam Ha Protected Area. We meet our local village guide at Sin Oudom village after crossing the Nam Tha River by boat. A hike on sometimes steep slopes leads us high into the mountains, while taking time to learn about plants and animals of the area.

The local guides will show you how to collect wild herbs and vegetables for our dinner which will later be prepared by all of us over an open fire. You may want to learn how to traditionally cook with bamboo tubes, which is a special experience.

Fall asleep in the darkness and to the sounds of the forest and the giggling stream nearby. If you like to go for wildlife spotting at night, this is the right place to do it. Our local guide will accompany you. Make sure to bring along a strong flashlight or head lamp.

Approximately: 60 minutes transfer/ 6 hours trekking

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at BOAT LANDING GUEST HOUSE in Luang Nam Tha (3*)

DAY 7: FOREST CAMP – KHMU OR LANTEN VILLAGE

We wake up early today to see the many jungle birds around us. We re-ignite the camp fire to prepare a traditional breakfast, taking energy for the following trek over steep paths further up into the Nam Ha forest.

Deep in the woods we'll have a break for lunch. Here we wish farewell to our local guide who returns to his village. Close to the river, this place boasts a wide variety of tree species in contrast to the more uniform bamboo groves, giving us a chance to hear or even see monkeys. If not, the guide will point out signs of wildlife including bears, civets and wild boars which are present in the area, though highly elusive.

Following a steep descent, we arrive either at Ban Namkoy of the Lanten tribe or Ban Nalantai, a Khmu village. The visits to these villages are alternating in order to spread income evenly to both. Once in the village, our hosts are ready to prepare a dinner in "local style" whilst you take time to swim and bathe in the river. After dinner we have time to explore the village and meet some of the locals. We may have some interaction with them in the evening or relax in the comfort of the wooden hut.

Approximately: 6-7 hours trekking

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at BOAT LANDING GUEST HOUSE in Luang Nam Tha (3*)

DAY 8: LUANG NAM THA

Again we get up early and have breakfast in the village before enjoying a relatively gentle walk along the river and through rice paddies before, once more, getting into the forest.

We have a break for lunch, provided for us by Khmu villagers at a fantastic viewpoint with incredible vistas across the valley. Our guide will point out how far we have walked!

After lunch, we make our last descent down from the mountains and up to Ban Chaluensouk, where the songthaew is waiting to take you back to Luang Namtha.

The rest of the day is free. Overnight in Luang Nam Tha

Approximately: 6 hours trekking/ 25 minutes transfer

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Overnight at PHOUFA HOTEL in Phongsaly (3*)

PHOUFA HOTEL

The Phoufa Phongsaly hotel Phongsaly is located in one of the city's most vibrant areas, featuring an abundance of shopping options, dining or entertainment options. Its good reputation for facilitating very well trained employees will make our guests much satisfied during their stay. The guest rooms of the Phoufa hotel Phongsaly can match the best International standards and are spaciouly laid out with a thoughtful decoration, which will give guests a restful feeling during their business or vacation in Phongsaly. The facilities of the Phoufa hotel Phongsaly are in place to convince the hotel guests even more of this accommodation. The caring and friendly service makes your stay such an enjoyable experience.

DAY 9: LUANG NAM THA – PHONGSALY

We wake up early today and to drive east and take through some of the most stunning mountain scenery you will find in South East Asia, with plenty of opportunities to stop off at the various Khmu and H'mong villages along the way. We may also visit the intriguing Pra Xack Kham Temple with its sacred Buddha image. The 400 years old legendary statue is said to have many supernatural powers, and is widely worshipped among the faithful local Buddhists.

From there, we continue our drive to Phongsaly. The road is in good condition and at mountains' slope. You will see beautiful landscapes, banana plantations, and local rural life in the villages that borders the road and panoramic views over the surrounding mountains. You can ask your guide to stop whenever you want to take pictures on the way.

We will arrive in the town of Phongsaly late afternoon. The charm of the town is made by the narrow paved streets bordered by traditional Chinese houses in wood. Your guide will explain you more about the history and culture of this multicultural city and the harmony that reigns between Lao people and Chinese immigrants. Overnight in Phongsaly

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at PHOUFA HOTEL in Phongsaly (3*)

DAY 10: PHONGSALY – 3 GREENS TREK

Today, you will discover Phongsaly's evergreen forest, green tea and green Lao whiskey.

After breakfast, you will leave walking from Phongsaly on a track with stunning views over endless mountains.

After 3-4 hours, you will have lunch in a whiskey-producing Phunoy village and enjoy your first green! Then enter the jungle forest on an adventurous path climbing up into the mountains. After walking through tea plantations reach the mountain ridge offering you a stunning 360-degree view (as far as China to the west and Vietnam to the east!). Continue on a small jungle path and reach the top of the Phu Fa Mountain (1625m – 400 steps) overlooking Phongsaly Town. Enjoy the relaxed descent to the town through the forest. The rest of the day is free at leisure. Overnight in Phongsaly

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Phongsaly (3*)

DAY 11: PHONGSALY – 400 YEAR OLD TEA PLANTATION – MUANG KHUA

After breakfast in town, you will to the famous 400-year-old tea plantation, located in the village of Ban Komaen, about 30 minutes south from Phongsaly.

According to some tea experts, this village has some of the oldest tea trees in the world. The large root system of the old trees extends deep into the mineral-rich soil and gives 'Phongsaly Tea' its specific aroma and taste. The oldest trees stand 6 m high with a stem up to 30 cm in diameter. There are regularly cut and kept to a reasonable size by Phunoy people, climbing to pick the precious leaves. They then process and sell this rare tea in cigar-shaped tubes.

The road to Ban Komaen is passing through more recent tea plantations and offers a stunning view on Phongsaly and surrounding mountains. In the village a newly built tea-tasting shop serves some food and sells the 400-year-old tea. You can also have a look to the temple and its characteristic Buddha statue with big ears.

After the visit, you will drive to Muang Khua for about 4 hours.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Sernnaly hotel in Muang Khua (3*)

Sernnaly hotel

Sernnaly hotel is located in Muang Khua centre. This is the largest, new and modern hotel in Muang Khua, which is mostly suggested and advised by many people who has stayed in this hotel. It is so clean that you can eat off the floor at Sernnaly. Large hallways lead to mid-sized rooms with pristine monogrammed sheets and air-con, a rarity in these parts. The bathrooms all have Western toilets and hot water showers as well as monogrammed towels. The food available is varied and of a good standard,

DAY 12: MUANG KHUA – TAY TRANG

After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer to the border at Tay Trang. Say goodbye to Lao guide after you finish the border formality to check out of Laos

Meal: Breakfast

4. EXTENSION TOURS:

Add-on beach relaxation or tours to neighbor countries: Cambodia and Thailand or Myanmar

5. PRICE: All rates are per person sharing DBL or TWN/FB Basis, in US dollar, net and non-commissionable.

Date: 01 Oct 2015 – 30 Apr 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	2.173	1.696	1.368	1.180	348

Date: 01 May 2016 – 30 Sept 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	2.086	1.618	1.296	1.109	293

Date: 01 Oct 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	2.264	1.766	1.425	1.229	363

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Transportation with air-condition in private
- Accommodation in twin/double shared room
- Boat trip as stated in above sights
- English speaking guide
- Admission fee to indicated sights
- Meals as per program
- Gov't tax and service charge
- Luggage handling and drinking water

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Visa stamping fee on arrival
- All air tickets quoted separately
- Travel Insurance in all kinds
- Single room (quoted separately)
- Other foreign language guide
- Peak tourist season or special event rates
- Tip, drinks and other personal expenses

LIST OF HOTELS USED:

Destination	First Class – 3 star
Luang Prabang	MY DREAM RESORT www.mydreamresort.com (Classic)
Kamu Village	KAMU LODGE www.kamulodge.com (Safari Tent)
Pakbeng	PAKPENG LODGE www.pakbenglodge.com (Superior)
Luang Nam Tha	BOAT LANDING GUEST HOUSE www.theboatlanding.laopdr.com (Standard)
Phongsaly	PHOUFA HOTEL (Standard) – N/A
Muang Khua	SERNALY HOTEL (Standard) – N/A

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- All prices are quoted in USD/ per person, based on Double/Twin occupancy
- Supplement for standard Laos menu meals: US\$ 14 for lunch & US\$ 18 for dinner
- Private services & daily departure
- Quotation is quoted based on English speaking guide: Surcharge for other guide
 - Supplement for German Speaking guide: USD 15/day per group
 - Supplement for Spanish Speaking guide: USD 20/day per group
 - Supplement for Italian Speaking guide: USD 35/day per group
- Surcharge for Compulsory dinner for Xmas and New Year Eve
- Surcharge for Peak Season at above mentioned hotels (if have)

FREE OFFER

- Mineral water is available during transfers