

14 DAYS _ LAOS SIGNATURE

Laos (Luang Prabang – Nong Khiaw – Muang Ngoi – Muang Khua – Muang La – Oudomxay – Vientiane – Pakse – Champasak – Wat Phou Cruise – Done Daeng – Bolaven Plateau)

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE OF VATPHOU CRUISE

+ 01 OCT – 30 APR: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

+ 01 MAY – 30 SEP: Tuesday, Saturday

1. OVERVIEW

This cross-country tour provides a fully interactive picture from the North to South, covers all must-sees that Laos has on offer. Whether you join in the traditional rituals of Baci ceremony or picture the saffron-robed monks quietly collecting morning alms. Enjoy a sunset cocktail from a terrace overlooking the Mekong River to visit the glistering pagodas. A long boat on the gentle Nam Ou River will give you a chance to immerse with the tranquil scenery while a visit to the ethnic villages of Ikho minority will be one of the most beautiful moments in this trip. Highlights also include the capital Vientiane, venture off the beaten track in the Southern plateau with amazing waterfalls and cultural experiences. Come with us to experience of Laos' signature and colors.

2. ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	ITINERARY
1	LUANG PRABANG ARRIVAL
2	LUANG PRABANG – KUANG SI WATERFALLS – SUNSET COCKTAIL
3	LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU CAVES – NONG KHIAW
4	NONG KHIAW – MUANG NGOI – MUANG KHUA – MUANG LA
5	MUANG LA – TIMELESS MOMENT WITH IKHO PEOPLE
6	MUANG LA – FREE
7	MUANG LA – OUDOMXAY – VIENTIANE
8	VIENTIANE – PAKSE – DONE DAENG
9	DONE DAENG – FREE
10	DONE DAENG – VAT PHOU CRUISE
11	VAT PHOU CRUISE
12	VAT PHOU CRUISE – CHAMPASAK
13	CHAMPASAK – BOLAVEN PLATEAU – CHAMPASAK
14	CHAMPASAK – PAKSE – DEPARTURE

3. THE TOUR

DAY 1: LUANG PRABANG ARRIVAL

Arrival airport, please go to custom desk as your first point of entry to get visa-on-arrival into the country and pay stamping fees directly by cash to custom office there then guide will pick you up outside and transfer to the city for check in

Afternoon, your guide bring you to a local family to enjoy a private Baci ceremony after sunset. The Baci ceremony as a traditional ritual of the Lao people expresses the spirituality of the country and is a highly memorable experience and a deep insight into Lao culture for the participants. We then transfer back to the city center to have the first taste of Lao foods at one of the best restaurant in Luang Prabang

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang

LUANGSAY RESIDENCE

The Luang Say Residence is located in the UNESCO heritage city of Luang Prabang, the only small Luxury Hotels of the World property in Laos. It takes only ten minutes from Luang Prabang airport. This 5 star luxury boutique hotel is set on 14,000 sqm of land in lush and tropical gardens with great mountain views where you can enjoy the cool breeze. The hotel is designed in the traditional French style. The colonial style is really quite stunning and when staying here, you will feel like you're staying in real luxury like the name of the hotel. The pool area is also lovely and a great place to relax. The suites are fully air-conditioned and include the latest facilities including free Wifi to make your stay at the resort an unforgettable experience.

DAY 2: LUANG PRABANG – KUANG SI WATERFALLS – SUNSET COCKTAIL

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting offerings of Alms (ubiquitous sticky rice) from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the procession. From here, we visit local market near the Royal Palace where you can find anything from fresh vegetables, rice, steamed fish, frogs and many other things. This is an opportunity to get a real flavor of the local culture.

We then drive to Kuang Si Falls, located 30 kilometers south of Luang Prabang. The many tiered waterfalls have scooped out small basins of turquoise color. You can cool off with a refreshing swim in the pools and hike around the falls if wanted. You'll also visit the Kuang Si Falls Butterfly Park, one of the must-visit spots, newly opened on January 2014.

From there, we will transfer to the Living Craft Center, where we will be welcomed by the Manager, who will offer us the tour around the center and give us the detailed explanation of what the center are doing to promote the traditional Lao silk. This is the good chance for you to have a soft knowledge of the Lao traditional weaving techniques.

After the tour, we will enjoy the wonderful sunset cocktail at the Living Craft Center terrace overlooking the Mekong River. This is the really unforgettable experience for you when visiting Laos; the best way to catch the last beauties of the day. We then transfer back to your hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang

DAY 3: LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU CAVES – NONG KHIAW

Our excursion to Northern Laos, we today embark on the a leisure cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which also gives us a breathtaking view of the tranquil countryside, before reaching the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. Along the way, we stop at the village of Ban Muang Keo, where they make the local rice wine.

If wanted you have lunch at local restaurant overlooking the Mekong River and the caves. Relax and indeed feel the fresh air from the river. Afterward, we will continue the trip up to Nong Khiaw, the small lovely town along the lazy Nam Ou River. We will try to arrive there just in time to catch the sunset.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Nong Khiaw

NONG KIAU RIVERSIDE

The hotel is situated in a great location in Nong Khiaw. It's is surrounded by beautiful nature. Nong Kiau Riverside with some quality bungalows providing discreet comfort would give visitors a good base for exploring the area and enjoying the nature without disrespect of the natural environment and local village life. 15 bungalows feature a spacious 40 square meters private room with big private balcony and large bathroom. All balconies face the river with stunning view of the river and mountains. Due to limited electricity supply, the hotel have not provided air conditioning until now, but as it's almost never hot in the night time you are more likely to value hotel's very hot showers and bed heaters in the cold season. We highly recommend this hotel because of not being a luxury hotel but merely a lodge for nature lovers.

DAY 4: NONG KHIAW – MUANG NGOI – MUANG KHUA – MUANG LA

After breakfast, we will embark on a leisurely long-tail boat upstream the Nam Ou River to Muang Khua, the small town along the way to Tay Trang Border with Vietnam. The scenery along the way is considered as the most beautiful part of the gently Nam Ou River. You may pay a short visit at one of the bars for drink in Muang Ngoi overlooking the Nam Ou River.

The picnic lunch will be served on one of the best sand beach along the way. We arrive in Muang Khua mid-afternoon; from there, we will be picked up and transfer directly to Muang La Resort, one of the best resort in Laos. This is the place for our excursion the next day where we will spend the next three nights.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Muang La Resort in Muang La

MUANG LA RESORT: The Muang La Resort, an intimate boutique lodge situated along the Nam – Ou river amidst lush greenery. With just exquisite 5 wooden villas and 10 rooms, Muang La Resort is nestled against a stunning mountain backdrop – well off the beaten track and far from the tourist crowd. The remote location offers a wealth of outdoor activities for adventurers to tackle like mountain biking, treks, or photographing the stunning surrounds. For those after a more low-key stay, the resort's idyllic garden and shady salas provide the perfect reprieve to curl up with a book or watch daily life along the riverbank. All rooms feature tasteful local art, textiles and crafts, and have been constructed by local craftspeople using locally-sourced materials. Muang La is working to ensure their environment remains a pristine paradise by supporting sustainable tourism that benefits nearby communities, and employing local staff. Although the remarkable backdrop seems like enough of a draw-card, guests will be equally impressed by the fine Lao-French fusion cuisine at the in-house

restaurant – there's also a cooking class revealing the secrets of Lao fare. We believe when you stay, experience and then will love it.

DAY 5: MUANG LA – TIMELESS MOMENT WITH IKHO PEOPLE

Morning we leave The Resort following a beautiful route along the banks of the River Nam Pak, to visit two villages of the Ikhos people. First you'll visit The Ikhos, one of the most isolated communities in Laos and be original from Tibet and Yunnan Province in China. Their houses are built from bamboo and wood, you'll learn about their way of life, their spiritual belief which affects everything they do and their unique method of dyeing their clothes using extracts from the plants of the forest. This is a real interesting experience to interact with local people.

We transfer back to the resort at around lunch time. You're free in the afternoon

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Muang La Resort in Muang La

DAY 6: MUANG LA – FREE

Free at leisure for your own activities or you also can take our optional tour today.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Muang La Resort in Muang La

DAY 7: MUANG LA – OUDOMXAY – VIENTIANE

After the breakfast at the hotel, we will bid the farewell to our lovely resort to transfer to Oudomxay, where we will take the flight to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. QV502 ODY VTE
12:40 13:30

Vientiane is a charming and fascinating capital, with an interesting mix of Lao, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, French, and American influences.

On arrival in Vientiane, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After a soft rest, we will stroll around to visit Lao national icon, That Luang Stupa, and we stop to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is Vientiane's own Arc de Triumphi.

The rest of the day is spent to explore some famous shop in the center of Vientiane including Carol Cassidy, where you will find the best silk in Laos.

A spectacular view over the Mekong River at sunset is a perfect way to finish the day.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Settha Palace in Vientiane

SETTHA PALACE: the hotel is built in the early part of the last century, circa 1932, and painstakingly restored to its former imperial glory, the Settha Palace Hotel serves as a testament to the long lost era of classical elegance, gracious service and French colonial charm. It is located right in the city centre, within walking distance of the commercial district, shops, restaurants and tourist attractions. It is 15 minute drive from Laos Wattay International Airport and 25 minute drive to Thanaleng on Laos side of the Mekong River and the border bridge to Thailand. From here, you can take the fastest way to get the colonial living in Vientiane, Laos, the Land of a Million Elephants. With direct flights from major cities such as Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming, Phnom Penh, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, and Seoul. Just 15 minutes after touching down at Wattay International Airport, you'll be in the heart of Vientiane and taking a step back in time at the Settha Palace Hotel. It's one of the few best Boutique Hotels in Vientiane.

DAY 8: VIENTIANE – PAKSE – DONE DAENG

In the morning, we will first visit Wat Si Muang, which is very famous for its supernatural power before transferring out to the airport to take the short flight to Pakse, the biggest city of the Southern Laos. **QV303 VTE PKZ 10:20 11:35**

Upon arrival, we will transfer to the province of Champasak before taking the small leisurely boat crossing the Mekong River to the island of Daeng, the home to the amazing La Folie Lodge, where we will spend our next 2 nights.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at La Folie Lodge in Done Daeng

LA FOLIE LODGE: Located on Done Daeng Island, on the banks of the Mekong River in southern Laos, where exceptional natural beauty and un-spoilt charm combining with areas of significant cultural interest, La Folie Lodge sits on a secluded beach facing the ruined Khmer temples of Wat Phou. When stay here, you will have a chance to see an amazing view over the Mekong River and the mountains behind it. La Folie lodge has been designed to offer you magnificent views of the Mekong every moment and from everywhere in the resort (rooms, restaurant, bar or swimming pool). The 24 large, comfortable bedrooms, luxuriously decorated and exquisitely furnished with local materials, are housed in 12 bungalows set in a magnificently landscaped tropical garden. Each room has its own balcony with stunning views over the Mekong and the sacred hills of Wat Phou. Daily vistas of superb sunsets and traditional scenes of fishermen in pirogues greet the eye. The lodge is also surrounded by lush landscape and exotic gardens ideal for peace and relaxation. Enjoy your free time here to recharge after hard working days.

DAY 9: DONE DAENG – FREE

Today, you're free to explore the Island by yourself or just only relax at your resort.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at La Folie Lodge in Done Daeng

DAY 10: DONE DAENG – VAT PHOU CRUISE

Free time in the morning then we take the boat back to Champasak to embark on the Vat Phou Cruise.

Your lunch will served on deck right after you check in and receive your cabins. All meals are inclusive on the Vat Phou Mekong Cruise. Menu are various from Laotian, Vietnamese and Thai dishes. After lunch, you will visit the Vat Phou ruins - the majestic pre - Angkorian 10th century temple complex and our boat's namesake. Next, you'll visit the museum at the ruins site, walk to the highest temple and take as many photos of nice view there.

We then transfer back to Vat Phou boat in time to enjoy the tropical sunset on the deck. Dinner is served on board, while the boat docks for the night alongside a remote Laotian village.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight on Vat Phou Cruise

Vat Phou Cruise: The Vat Phou Cruises offer a fantastic opportunity to discover the splendor of the Mekong River and the UNESCO World Heritage Vat Phou Temple on a delightful three-day voyage aboard a luxurious floating hotel. The custom built river cruiser has traveled on the Mekong in Laos between Pakse, Champasak and Don Khong Island. The boat is appointed with everything for your comfort, safety and enjoyment. There are two decks on

the Vat Phou boat. The lower deck has 10 cabins, the kitchen/galley and our evening air-conditioned dining room. The upper deck has 2 cabins, the bar and a two large open air shaded decks – one at each end of the boat. The ship is fully equipped with safety equipment meeting international standards.

DAY 11: VAT PHOU CRUISE

Morning, the boat sails to the village of Huei Thamo. This is a small village beside the mysterious hidden forest temple of Oum Muong. We will continue our cruise southwards. Lunch is on the deck, while we leisurely sail closer to the wild paradise known as the 4,000 Islands. All meals are included on the Vat Phou Mekong cruise and the galley produces the finest of Laotian, Vietnamese and Thai dishes, lovingly prepared and beautifully presented. Late afternoon we disembark from the boat to walk through Ban Deua Tia, a small Laotian Village where the traditional way of life has not changed in centuries, you will also visit the local school and share some time with the students.

Our day's cruise finishes at the most northern tip of Don Khong, the largest inhabited island in the river archipelago. After dinner, the evening is yours to relax and enjoy.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight on Vat Phou Cruise

DAY 12: VAT PHOU CRUISE – CHAMPASAK

Breakfast on the deck

The Vat Phou boat cruises down the Mekong to the small village of Ban Veuthong, where you board a small boat to meander among the 4,000 Islands to Khone Island. You will visit the old French railway, the French colonial house and walk across the bridge that links Khone and Det Islands. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant on Don Khone Island along the banks of the river.

Afternoon, you will visit the Khone PhaPheng waterfalls, the "Niagara of the East". End of day, you will be transferred back to Champasak, where we will spend our next two nights

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at The River Resort in Champasak

THE RIVER RESORT

The River Resort would be integral to its natural environment. The native flora and fauna on our 30,000 sq. meters (7.4 acres) of private, verdant Parkland were preserved. Sited on 3 hectares (30,000 sq.m.) of naturally landscaped land (a former Royal orchard), with the deep waters of the mighty Mekong gliding by, The River Resort rests majestically on an escarpment at the very edge of the River. The Resort draws its strength from the cultural traditions, heritage, friendly people and natural beauty of this destination in southern Laos. All room type are modern and spacious, with stylish, environmentally sound bamboo furnishings and silk tapestries, and each has a large, private front terrace with awe-inspiring views and comfortable chairs for enjoying a morning coffee or a cool afternoon beverage. The Resort's open air Main Sala overlooks the Mekong and includes a restaurant offering Western, Lao and Thai cuisine, a lounge and a bar. All fresco meals and beverages are served on the shady Riverside lawns adjacent to the Main Sala. You will definitely have a peaceful time in here during your vocation.

DAY 13: CHAMPASAK – BOLAVEN PLATEAU – CHAMPASAK

Morning, transfer to Bolaven Plateau. We will pass many lush plantations, forests, hills and villages on the way. You'll have an opportunity to observe the beautiful countryside and meet local people. We also stop at some of the villages, home of the Kato hilltribe group. These ethnic minorities still retain their age and old cultural traditions and are distinct from each other by their dress. We continue to go through the Paksong and Boloven Plateau which is known for its cooler temperature being located high above the Mekong Valley. Rivers run off this high plateau in all directions and then plunge out to lush forests along in a series of spectacular surging waterfalls. The scenery around Tad Fan waterfall is spectacular with twin waterfalls plummeting into a deep gorge surrounded by flourishing vegetation. A trip to the plateau provides a refreshing break from the heat and allows you to see the cultivation of rich coffee, tea, cardamom, bananas, and other crops that are grown in the area. This trip gives visitors the chance to venture off the beaten track and to discover some of the lesser-known areas of Laos, exploring the wild beauty of this southern region. We transfer back to Champasak in the late afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at The River Resort in Champasak

DAY 13: CHAMPASAK – PAKSE – DEPARTURE

You are free before transferring back to Pakse to take the departure flight

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 valid: 01 Oct 2015- 30 Dec 2015

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	Single Supp
Deluxe	4.124	3.673	3.394	1.706

Date valid: 01 May 2016 - 30 Sep 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	Single Supp
Deluxe	3.631	3.186	2.911	1.224

Date valid: 01 Oct 2016- 30 Dec 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	Single Supp
Deluxe	4.296	3.826	3.535	1.778

SURCHARGE FOR FLIGHT TICKET

Lao Airlines | Oudomxay (ODY) – Vientiane (VTE) | \$128/pax
 Lao Airlines | Vientiane (VTE) – Pakse (PKZ) | \$141/pax

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a twin or double room with daily breakfast
- Lunch or dinner as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers
- Private board for sightseeing as mentioned in the program, Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Mineral water is available as complementary

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- International & Domestic flight tickets
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Visa stamping fee at the airport (US\$ 30 in Laos, paid by cash at the airport)
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc. All other services not specified in the itinerary
- All other services not specified in the itinerary

LIST OF HOTELS USED:

Destination	Deluxe
Luang Prabang	LUANGSAY RESIDENCE Luangsay Residence Pioneer Suite
Nong Khiaw	NONG KIAU RIVERSIDE Nong Kiau Riverside Standard
Muang La	MUANG LA RESORT Muang La Resort Riverside
Vientiane	SETTHA PALACE Settha Palace Deluxe
Done Daeng	LA FOLIE LODGE La Folie Lodge Superior
Vat Phou Cruise	TWIN-BED CABIN Twin-bed Cabin Standard
Champasak	THE RIVER RESORT The River Resort River Front Villa

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- All prices are quoted in USD/ per person, based on Double/Twin occupancy
- Supplement for standard menu meals: US\$ 16 for lunch & US\$ 25 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