

## 5DAYS – CULTURE & NATURE AUTHENTIC

**Laos (Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves – Elephant Village – Kuang Si Waterfalls, Vientiane)**

### **1. OVERVIEW:**

*5 day Culture & Nature Authentic features 2 major tourist destinations in Laos to discover the untouched side of the country with the modern world. Start in the charming Luang Prabang on this short but delightful tour. See gilded Buddhist temples, faded French architectures, marvel at treasures in the Royal Palace Museum, and join pilgrims at the sacred Pak Ou Caves. Highlight of this trip, you'll spend time on experiencing the traditional rural lifestyle and try your hand at some farming activities in an organic farm. Top the tour off by chilling out in the cool menthol blue waters of Kuang Si cascades. Your journey will finish in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos still remains its colonial yesteryears with numerous historical landmarks. On this trip, you not only explore some popular temples but also visit an orchid farm and enjoy lunch on a boat along a river.*

### **2. ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

DAY	ITINERARY
1	LUANG PRABANG ARRIVAL
2	LUANG PRABANG CITY TOUR – PAK OU CAVES - BAN CHAN
3	LUANG PRABANG – ELEPHANT VILLAGE – KUANG SI WATERFALLS
4	LUANG PRABANG – VIENTIANE – CITY TOUR
5	VIENTIANE – BUDDHA PARK – 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

On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to check in the hotel. After a soft rest, we visit to the magnificent Wat Xiengthong - the most beautiful temple in Luang Prabang with its mosaic decoration and the former royal carriage. 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. Our tour would be incomplete without climbing up Mt Phousi overlooking the city of Luang Prabang for a beautiful sunset before passing by the night market, where you can find a lovely collection of handmade textiles made by local and hill-tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang. Back to your hotel

**Optional:** Enjoy a private Baci ceremony after sunset at a local family. 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.

**Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang (3\*, 4\* or 5\*)**

## **DAY 2: LUANG PRABANG CITY TOUR – PAK OU CAVES - BAN CHAN**

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 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 Xanghai, where they make the local rice wine. We also visit the local villages at Ban Chan. These villages have specialized in manufacturing and selling products made from silk and Saa paper for many years ago. You'll see different kinds of Laos' traditional crafts. Return to your hotel

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang (3\*, 4\* or 5\*)**

## **DAY 3: LUANG PRABANG – ELEPHANT VILLAGE – KUANG SI WATERFALLS**

In the morning, your guide and driver will take you to Elephant Village. On arrival, the Camp Manager will welcome and greet you and brief shortly about the village. After, enjoy the impressive experience of approx. 30 minute elephant ride on the Howdah – the name of Elephant seat, you will then take boat trip to the nearby jungle.

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. Return to Luang Prabang and on the way back a stop will be made at one of the local villages before getting to Wat Siphouthabath to admire the sunset.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang (3\*, 4\* or 5\*)**

## **DAY 4: LUANG PRABANG – VIENTIANE – CITY TOUR**

You will take the morning flight from Luang Prabang to Vientiane **QV112 LPQ VTE 07:45 08:35**

Upon arrival enjoy a guided tour to discover the hidden charms of Vientiane. Vientiane is one of the quietest capital cities in the world, far away from the bustle and hustle of other Asian capitals.

We today explore Vientiane including some main temples such as Vat Ho Prakeo used to be the house of the Emerald Buddha and Wat Sisaket crossing the street and where more than ten thousand of Buddha images are being placed. We continue to Pratuxai, it was Arc the Triumph of France. Afterwards, visit COPE, an association working to help landmine victims. A visit to the center provides in-depth information about the history of the American/Vietnam war and the lasting impact of unexploded ordinances (UXO) in the area and the efforts underway to clear them.

Afternoon, we continue to visit Lao Revolutionary Museum where you'll learn and get to know what happened during the French colonial time, and during the reign of the King Anou and Chao Fa Ngum. Visit Ban Nong Bouathong the weaving village, to get to know how people feed worms for the silk and lots of the Lao textiles. Next, we'll take you to That Luang, the holiest site in Laos. Constructed by King Setthethirat in the 16th century, the temple is resplendent as the sun is shines upon its towering golden spire.

End your tour of the capital along the banks of the Mekong River as the sun begins to set. Stroll along the river, stop to enjoy a cold drink, or sample a snack from one of the many local food stalls if wanted.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Vientiane (3\*, 4\* or 5\*)**

## **DAY 5: VIENTIANE – BUDDHA PARK – DEPARTURE**

Morning, we continue to visit Wat Si Muang, which is very famous for its supernatural power. Next, we transfer about 45 minutes away to visit Buddha Park known which is known as Xieng Khuan, this unusual park is filled with over 200 Buddhist and Hindu statues. Stroll around the Park, you feel the quiet and tranquil setting along the Mekong River a contrast to the slightly eccentric sculptures which were built in 1958 by a Laos's shaman. The concrete sculptures are bizarre but intriguing, sitting majestically in the peaceful park.

Afterward, we drive back to Vientiane. En route, a short stop is made at Mai Savanh to explore the traditional textiles of the Lao people. This shop specializes in high quality silk products and involves several families in their process, from the northern province of Luang Nam Tha Province and the southern provinces of Attapeu and Sekong. (Note: Mai Savanh is closed on Saturday & Sunday)

We will then transfer out to the airport to take the departure flight

**Meal: Breakfast**

### **4. EXTENSION TOURS:**

Add-on beach relaxation or tours to neighbor countries; Laos, 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	665	539	472	451	168
Superior packages	762	636	569	548	257
Deluxe packages	918	792	725	704	409
Luxury packages	665	539	472	451	168

**Date: 01 May 2016 – 30 Sept 2016**

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	622	498	432	412	135
Superior packages	710	586	520	500	214
Deluxe packages	845	721	655	635	362

**Date: 01 Oct 2016 – 31 Dec 2016**

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	693	561	491	470	175
Superior packages	794	663	593	571	268
Deluxe packages	956	825	755	734	426

**AIRFARES SURCHARGE** | *Subject to change without prior notice*

**Lao Airlines | Luang Prabang (LPQ) – Vientiane (VTE) | \$100/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
- Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival as complementary
- 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	First Class – 3 star	Superior packages – 4 star	Deluxe packages – 5 star
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<b>Luang Prabang</b>	<b>MY DREAM RESORT</b> <a href="http://www.mydreamresort.com">www.mydreamresort.com</a> (Classic)	<b>MAISON DALABUA</b> <a href="http://www.maison-dalabua.com">www.maison-dalabua.com</a> (Pond View)	<b>LUANG PRABANG VIEW RESORT</b> <a href="http://www.luangprabangview.com">www.luangprabangview.com</a> (Superior)
<b>Vientiane</b>	<b>BEAU RIVAGE MEKONG</b> <a href="http://www.hbrm-laos.com">www.hbrm-laos.com</a> (Superior)	<b>ANSARA HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Ansara Hotel</a> (Savvy)	<b>GREEN PARK VIENTIANE</b> <a href="#">Green Park Vientiane</a> (Deluxe)

**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