



Travel Proposal

Magical Days in Laos

From Vientiane to Luang Prabang

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Duration | 8 Days / 7 Nights |
| Travel Date | Anytime |
| Destination | Laos |
| Tour Type | Private Luxury Tour |

Itinerary

DAY 01

Vientiane: Arrival

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Welcome to Laos! On arrival dedicated will meet you near the air bridge. They will assist you through any passport or visa control, and escort you to the baggage and customs area.

As soon as the formal procedures are finished, you will be accompanied further to the meeting point where your private tour escort will meet and greet you with a traditional fresh welcome flower garland.

Afterwards enjoy a relaxing drive in a **colonial vintage taxi** to the hotel, while your professional local tour escort will give you some first information about the city.

At the Hotel lobby your check-In will be pre-arranged, and you can enjoy a refreshing drink.

A Welcome package including a Lao SIM card, a traditional small gift and a bottle of wine (**please let us know your preference white or red**) will be placed in your room. It's time for you to relax after the flight and a pre-booked massage slot will be available for you at the hotel spa.



Later in the afternoon, take a walk along the banks of the Mekong River en-route to the Night Market for your first immersion into Laos culture. If you are open to try some local snacks and dishes, your experienced tour guide will be happy to pick a nice culinary selection for you.

Then enjoy the stunning backdrop of the sun slowly sinking into the horizon while sipping a drink in one of the many terrace bars overlooking the Mekong.



Welcome Dinner at Kualao Restaurant

Inside a beautiful two-storey French style building, Kualao Restaurant is a popular spot for tourists to dine in, and transports diners back in time to the Laos of a bygone era, with servers adorned in traditional costume, authentic Lao dishes of chicken and beef, and typical instrumental music played every night.

Hotel: Settha Palace – Junior Suite

Overnight in Vientiane.

DAY 02

Vientiane: Explore the Capital

(B, L, D)

Today explore the capital and the largest city of Laos and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere unlike the typical hustling and bustling cities of Southeast Asia.

We will visit the major sights of the capital starting with **Wat Sisaket**, famous for its cloister wall housing thousands of Buddha images followed by a visit to the Royal Temple of **Wat Prakeo**, the Temple of Emerald Buddha.

The tour continues with a visit to **Patuxai Victory Gate**, an imposing arch (reminiscent of the Arc de Triumph in Paris) built as a monument to Laos' resilience and independence. We then head on to see the iconic **Golden That Luang Stupa**, deemed as the most important national monument in Laos and a sacred symbol of the Buddhist religion.



After lunch in a typical local restaurant we continue with a visit to the **Buddha Park** (Xieng Khuan), a sculpture garden set next to the tranquil Mekong river. The park houses a collection of over 200 religious' images of Buddha and Hindu Gods and mythological creatures of varying sizes.

We then return to the city for our last stop, the **Vat One Teu**, a temple which functions as an educational institute for the teaching of Theravada Buddhism. **Here you will get the chance to talk to one of the chief monks and engage in a lively conversation about Buddhism and the life in the temple.**



Dinner at The Belle Epoque

The Belle Epoque's private dining room is the perfect choice for a more intimate dining experience, a in a very cosy atmosphere, tucked away in the Settha Palace Hotel. Classic European designed chairs, warm decor and cosy seating create an ideal ambience to enjoy an exquisite French dinner complimented by a fabulous array of wines or discover a new experience with a seasonally-inspired Lao menu showcasing the distinct flavors of the local harvests.

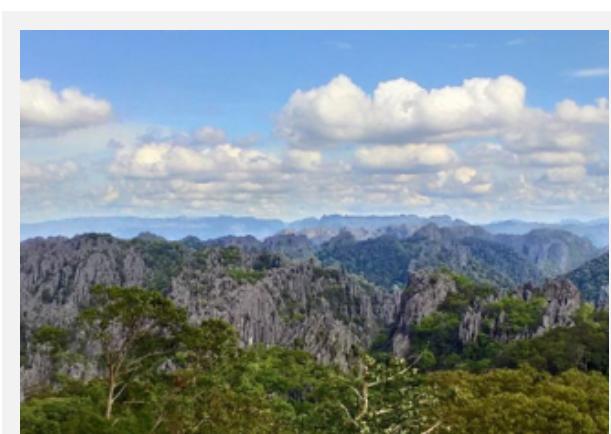
Hotel: Settha Palace – Junior Suite
 Overnight in Vientiane.

DAY 03

Helicopter ride from Vientiane to Luang Prabang

(B, L)

Leaving from Vientiane Airport, your first flight will take you above the remote region of Kamouan soaring over dynamic karst forest mountains all the way to Kong Lor Cave.



Upon landing, board a small local boat which will take you deep within the mysterious cave spanning over 7km long. Hidden inside is a spectacular spacious cavern towering over 100m high and covered with otherworldly stalagmites. Back on our helicopter ride, we take off once more to reach Xieng Khouang, a world heritage site where you can find the fascinating "Plain of Jars" - the largest ancient cultural site in Laos.



Finally, our last flight will take you above Central Laos with aerial views of lush green mountains untouched by modern civilisation. Finally reaching our final destination, Luang Prabang renowned for its ornate monasteries, riverside and hilltop views, and long-abiding connection to Buddhist traditions.

FLIGHT DURATION:

Vientiane – Khong Lor: 2 hours

Flight Khong Lor – Plains or Jars: 1 hour 20 minutes

Flight Plains of Jars – Luang Prabang: 40 minutes

VIP Picnic lunch served at the Plain of Jars included 1 bottle of Champagne

Upon arrival in Luang Prabang , transfer to your hotel for refreshment.



In the evening, experience an age-old traditional Lao ceremony called a “**Baci**” or a spiritual blessing. The term commonly used is “sou khuan” which means “spirit enhancing or spirit calling”. The ceremony will be hosted in a traditional Lao home, performed by villages with special arrangements made for this occasion. It involves the tying of white cotton strings around the person’s wrists as well as some prayer saying and well wishing.

Afterwards enjoy a lovely dinner together with your hosts.

Hotel: Amantaka – Mekong Pool Suite

Overnight in Luang Prabang

DAY 04

Luang Prabang: Spectacular City Tour

(B, L, D)

Many of the streets of Luang Prabang are filled with masterful examples of both the French Colonial and Laotian Architecture. Get an expert insight of this fascinating heritage with your tour guide **Francis Engelmann**, a writer and an independent consultant, who has worked closely with UNESCO for the past 10 years. Embark on a unique cultural walking experience through one of Asia's most visually exquisite places. The walk is oriented towards the lesser known parts of town with charming lanes showcasing the authentic traditional atmosphere of Luang Prabang.



After lunch, we will travel by car to the beautiful **Kuang Si waterfall**, the multi-tiered waterfall which takes on a striking turquoise colour in the dry season. Here you will **enjoy a nice champagne VIP catering lunch** and have the opportunity to take a refreshing swim in the natural waterfall pools.

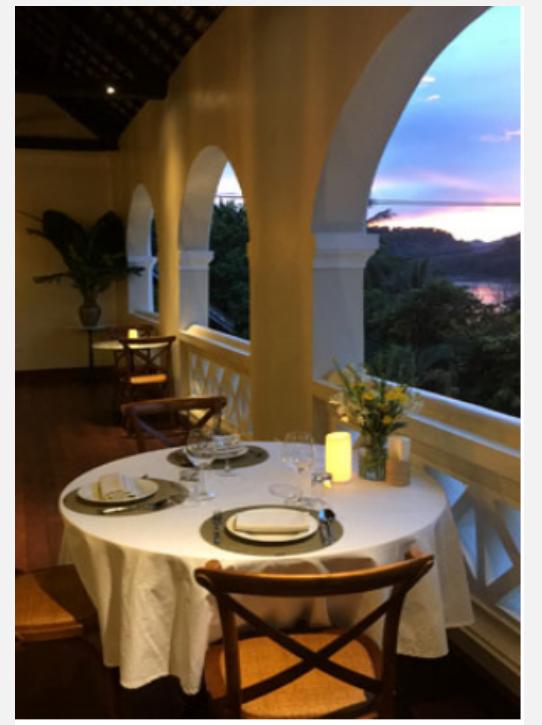
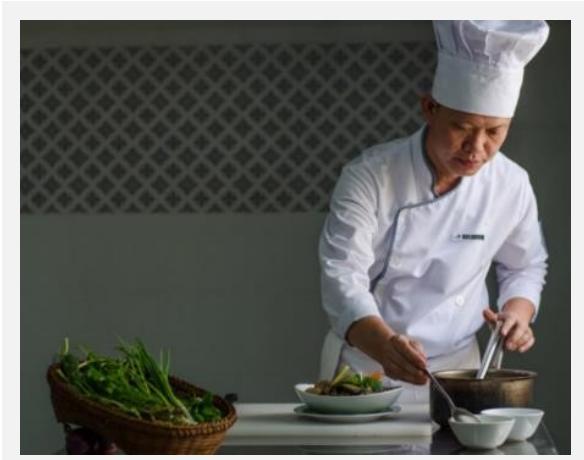
On our way back to the town centre, get to see the fascinating world of Lao Textiles with a stop at **Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre** set along the banks of the Mekong surrounded with beautifully landscaped gardens. Relax as you enjoy a sunset cocktail overlooking the Mekong River in the centre's 'Silk Road Cafe'.

Lao Dinning Experience with private chef at Calao

Discovery dinner in a UNESCO protected house, originally construct in 1904.

Welcome to Calao restaurant a place that wishes to keep a track on all the emblematic dishes of the country, a rich and delightful cuisine. Your PRIVATE Chef will share the flavors of his childhood through a special menu and some cooking technique demonstration.

**) Private setting with private chef*



Hotel: Amantaka – Mekong Pool Suite

Overnight in Luang Prabang

DAY 05

Luang Prabang: Rice Farming & Mekong Cruise

(B, L, D)



The day starts with a drive to the Living Lands Farm, a community of enterprise which maintains educational programs relating to organic farming.

Experience what it's like to be a traditional rice farmer during this half day Hands-on Experience tour. From pulling a plough behind a water buffalo, planting seeds, harvesting to serving it cooked on your plate! You will end with the new appreciation for rice and admiration for the people of Laos who to this

day continue to harvest rice without modern machinery.

After lunch in the rice field you will embark on a unique journey cruising along the waters of Mekong. Hop on board “**The Gypsy**”, an exclusive luxury charter boat which sails from Luang Prabang with journeys to nearby villages and stops that can be tailored exactly to your needs and wishes.



A private dinner will be served on board.

Cabin Boat: Gypsy

Overnight in Luang Prabang

DAY 06

Luang Prabang: Private Coffee Tasting & Sightseeing

(B, - . D)

After breakfast on board, disembark approximately 10:00 am.

Visit Luang Prabang’s famous coffee shop, **Saffron Coffee**. Here, meet Mr. Derek who will provide an introduction on the company’s sustainable coffee farming approach. After that, observe the coffee roasting process and wake up the senses as the amazing aroma of coffee fills the air. End the tour with a private coffee tasting session.



In the afternoon, enjoy a city sightseeing tour covering Luang Prabang's main tourist attractions including the **National Museum former Royal Palace** and the **Wat Xieng Thong** – the most famous temple in Laos.

End our day with a soft uphill climb to the **Phu Si Mountain**. Once you reach the top you are rewarded with the most spectacular and breathtaking view of the city and the Nam Khan River joining the Mekong.

In the evening you can visit Luang Prabang's famous night market together with a professional shopping guide that will show you the best places to buy arts and crafts as well as other desired products. Afterwards another delicious dinner awaits you.



Dinner at L'Elephant Restaurant

L'Elephant serves arguably the most sophisticated cuisine in the city in a renovated villa with wooden floors, stucco pillars, stencilled ochre walls and bags of atmosphere.

It offers traditional, as well as more creative, French and Lao cuisine made of local natural produce grown in its own gardens.

Hotel: Amantaka – Mekong Pool Suite

Overnight in Luang Prabang

DAY 07

Luang Prabang: Private Elephant Experience

(B,-,D)

Optional: Early morning around 6:00AM the guest have 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.



In a single file, from oldest to youngest, monks carry their alms bowls in front of them while silently meditating. With equal respect and solemnity, almsgivers patiently kneel or sit offering food. The interaction is done in silence with mutual gratitude; the monks thankful for the charity and the almsgivers for the spiritual redemption they seek.

In the afternoon transfer to the Mandalao Elephant Conservation Centre - a non-riding elephant experience focused on education and animal welfare.

Treat yourself by treating elephants. After arriving, we will begin with an introduction into elephant behavior, their connections with humans, and how we communicate with one another. We will then have the chance to create our own unique treats for them using various healthy and delicious ingredients. These treats help the elephants get the most nutrition from the food they have been eating all day.

Put all of your healthy elephant cupcake creations in a basket and cross the river in a boat to introduce yourself and your treats to the elephants who no doubt will be waiting patiently. Watch as they savor every delicious bite and flap their ears as a thank you. It's the perfect time to give hugs before taking a short walk with them back towards their nighttime feeding grounds in the jungle.



In the evening the guests will attend a performance of the Royal Ballet Theatre, followed by a nice Farewell Dinner.



Dinner at Manda de Laos

Located just outside of the heritage zone and owned by the same family since 4 generations Manda de Laos has without a doubt one of the most scenic settings of any restaurant in Luang Prabang. The entrance is found down an anonymous suburban street, but as soon as you step over the threshold you discover a hidden lotus pond surrounded by lush vegetation – an especially scenic vista once night falls. Choose between the more formal tables up front, or the lounge seating off to the side, and select some refined Laos fare to share.

Hotel: Amantaka – Mekong Pool Suite
 Overnight in Luang Prabang

DAY 08

Luang Prabang: Departure

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel and time for leisure.

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

End of services

Suggested Accommodation

| City Name | Hotel Suggestion |
|---------------|------------------|
| Vientiane | Setha Palace |
| Luang Prabang | Amantaka |

Accommodation in hotels is subject to availability. If the listed hotel is fully booked, alternate accommodation will be booked within the same hotel category without surcharge/reduction. If no hotel in same category available, we preserve the right to apply a surcharge for any higher category or a reduction for any lower category.