

# LAOS

## TRAVEL GUIDE





## LAOS

**L**aos, with its old-world charm and breathtaking natural landscapes, is a captivating location that crafts a story of custom, culture, arts, and nature. The country offers a rich and thrilling blend of experiences that encourage wellness immersion as well as a feeling of adventure, from the mosaic-covered temples of Luang Prabang to the cosmopolitan city of Vientiane. Participate in centuries-old almsgiving and blessing customs, explore vibrant markets, see imperial architecture, and participate in the arts and lifestyle of distant ethnic communities.





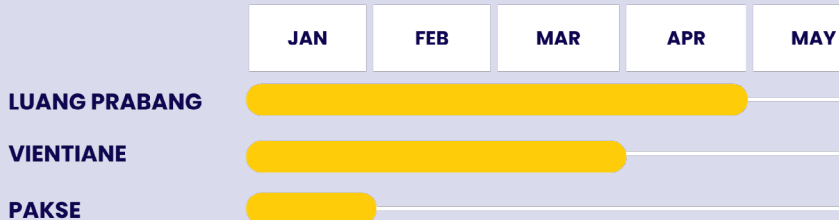
# CLIMATE AND WEATHER AVERAGES

## BEST TIME TO VISIT LAOS

The climate of Laos is tropical in most of the plains, while it's subtropical in the far north and in the mountains. In addition, it is governed by the monsoons: the winter monsoon, which brings good weather from November to February, though a bit cool at night, and the summer monsoon, which brings rainfall and high humidity from May to the beginning or the middle of October. However, the monsoons are quite irregular: they do not always arrive in the same period, and they don't always have the same intensity.

The period from March to May, before the rains, is the hottest of the year, and it is still dry, but with some thunderstorms in the afternoon; the summer months are less hot, with highs around 30/32 °C (86/90 °F), but with higher humidity. April is the hottest month, with average highs about 35 °C (95 °F), but with peaks of 40/42 °C (104/108 °F) all over the country, at least at low altitude.

In Laos, the rainiest months are usually August and September, which correspond to the final period of the monsoon, also because of typhoons, which bring an additional amount of rain.





JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC





# FESTIVALS

LIVE THE INTERWINED CULTURE

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## **LAO NEW YEAR (BOUN PI MAI)**

The festival takes place in mid-April and lasts for three days. During this time, the whole country shuts down to worship and celebrate. At the temples, locals participate in washing the Buddha statue, which, in turn, evolves into a water fight, or "water throwing," as the water coming from the Buddha washing is considered good luck. The constant drenching is a great relief from the heat this time of year, as April tends to be the hottest month in Laos. For the locals, the water festivities are their way of calling for rain during the dry season. Head to Bun Pi Mai in Luang Prabang to witness this festival in its prime.

## **THAT LUANG FESTIVAL (BOUN THAT LUANG)**

That Luang is the national symbol and most important religious monument of Laos. Vientiane's most important Theravada Buddhist festival, "Boun That Luang", is held here for three days during the full moon of November. Monks will gather at the stupa in Vientiane to accept gifts and alms from worshipful townsfolk. For a whole week during the full moon of the twelfth lunar month, the Pha That Luang temple comes alive with a fair, contests, fireworks, and music, topped off with a wien thien, or candlelight procession. While all of Laos celebrates this festival at their local temples, the truly vibrant festivities exist in the city of Vientiane, complete with visitors, tradespeople, and tourists.





# BOOKING FLIGHT TICKETS

ESSENTIAL ADVICES FOR TRAVELLERS

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## How to find **cheap flights?**

- **The airfare may change depending on the availability.**

- The earlier you book, the better rate you may get. Booking 5–6 months in advance for the best deal, especially during off-travel seasons.

- **Avoid booking flights during weekend.**

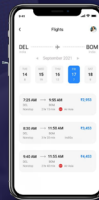
While Sunday may be the best day to book a trip, choosing Wednesday as your departure date can cut your travel costs

considerably.

- **Morning flights are usually more expensive than at noon.**

- **Check between several departure airports.**

It may be cheaper from one airport than others.





Flights are often the most expensive part of a trip – and no one wants to pay more than they should for plane tickets. To help fellow travelers get the best deals on airline tickets, we are sharing our top tips on booking flights.

## Notes on booking **budget airlines**

- **Check the location of the airport.**

Many low-cost carriers use alternate hubs. These alternate airports may also be smaller and have fewer personnel and amenities. Perhaps more frustrating, there are only limited check-in, security and customs systems in place.

- **Pay attention to restrictions on weight, height and number of bags allowed.**

- Ensure the airfare you pay is inclusive of checked luggage.

- **Know about the airline you are choosing.**

There are typically a dizzying number of options. Thus, it can be helpful to look up some information in advance to avoid headaches.





# ENTRY VISA

THE KEY TO LIVE FULLY IN LAOS

## 1. VISA EXEMPTIONS (Single entry only)

Visitors from these countries may enter visa-free, and stay for the indicated number of days.



## 2. VISA APPLICATION

Electronic Visa (E-visa)

- Validity: 60 days
- Length of stay: 30 days
- Processing time: 3 business days
- Single-entry visit

### HOW TO APPLY:

Step 1: Go to [laoevisa.gov.la](http://laoevisa.gov.la)

Step 2: Fill out the required fields on the form completely. Submit your form.

Step 3: Review your application and pay the fee online.

Visa fee is based on the traveler's nationality. It may vary **from \$35 to \$50, service fee excluded**. Applicants should note that the eVisa Fee is **non-refundable**.

Step 4: Check application status and resubmit payment if payment failed. Download the eVisa certificate from your email or eVisa.

Step 5: Present your passport and eVisa Approval Letter to the Immigration officer at the Laos' Ports of Entry. Get the final Immigration approval and enter Laos.

**"TIP: Travellers with an e-Visa can enter Laos through three (3) international airports and four (4) border crossings. Find out more information on the official website of Lao e-Visa."**



14 DAYS

BRUNEI, MYANMAR

15 DAYS

JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG, REP. OF KOREA, RUSSIA,  
SWITZERLAND

30 DAYS

CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, MONGOLIA,  
THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIETNAM

### Visa on Arrival (for Tourist)

- Length of stay: 30 days
- Enabling 3rd party support
- Longer queue on arrival
- Single entry visit

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Tourists and business travelers may purchase a Laos visa at the airports and at the border checkpoints. Requirement

- Fill in the **application form** that is distributed on the plane or at the immigration gate.
- **Passport valid for at least six (6) months** from the expiry date.
- **02 latest passport-sized photo.**
- Visa stamping fee: **USD 1/pax.**
- Visa fee: **USD 40.**

You can also get a valid Letter of Approval from a trusted service online. Then, bring the letter together with an application form and your documents to the Visa on Arrival counter.

**"NOTE: Laotian visas on arrival are required for these nationalities: Estonia, Macedonia, Malta, The Netherlands, Palestine, South Sudan and Vatican City."**



# BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE



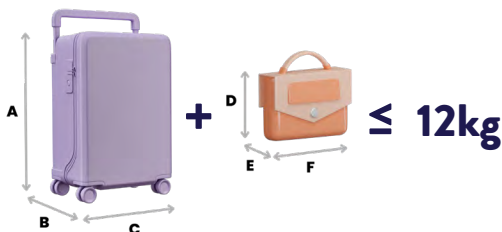
## 1. BAGGAGE SIZE

You are offered baggage allowance free of charge for Economy Class as follows:

- Hand baggage includes one hand baggage item and one accessory:

$$56(A) + 23(B) + 36(C)\text{cm} < 115\text{cm}$$

$$30(D) + 15(E) + 40(F)\text{cm} < 85\text{cm}$$



- Checked baggage includes one baggage item:  $(A) + (B) + (C) < 158\text{ cm}$



## 2. PERSONAL ITEMS TAKEN ON BOARD

- A pocketbook or a lady's purse.
- An umbrella or a walking stick (except ones with a sharp metallic pointed end).
- A reasonable number of reading

materials for in-flight usage.

- A laptop computer, a small camera and/or binoculars.
- An overcoat, a wrap or blanket.
- A pair of crutches and/or braces or other prosthetic devices.
- A baby carrier basket or a bassinet.



### **3. PROHIBITED ITEMS ON CHECKED & HAND BAGGAGE**

<b>Explosives</b>	Grenades, Dynamite, Gunpowder, Flares, Fireworks And Lookalike Items etc.
<b>Radioactive, Infectious, Toxic Substances, Corrosives</b>	Chlorine, Bleacher, Oxidizers, Mercury, Contagious Hazards, Radioactive Materials etc.
<b>Gases, Flammable Items</b>	Matches, Lighters, Flammable Liquid, Beverages Containing 70% Or More Alcohol By Volume etc.
<b>Other Dangerous Items</b>	Fire Extinguishers, Dry Ice (over 2.5 kg), Lithium Battery For Electronic Equipments (>160 Wh or >8g lithium) etc.

### **4. PROHIBITED ITEMS ON HAND BAGGAGE**

<b>Sharp Objects, Weapons</b>	Knife, Sword, Box Cutter, Dart, Scissors etc.
<b>Firearms and Lookalike Items</b>	All types of firearms, parts of firearms, ammunition, stun guns, imitation firearms, toy guns or toys/items that look alike real weapons etc.
<b>Dangerous Items</b>	Crowbar, Shovels, Drills/Screwdrivers, Blow Torch, Blades or Shafts Longer Than 6 cm, Wrenches, Spanners, And



# BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

ການບິນລາວ  
Lao Airlines

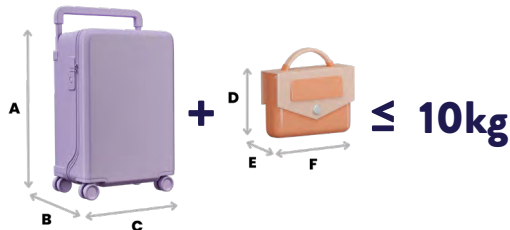
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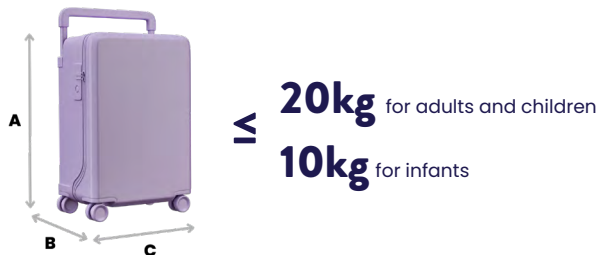
- Hand baggage includes one 7kg hand baggage item and one 3kg accessory:

$$60(A) + 18(B) + 30(C)\text{cm} < 115\text{cm}$$

$$30(D) + 10(E) + 40(F)\text{cm} < 85\text{cm}$$



- Checked baggage includes one baggage item:  $(A) + (B) + (C) < 158\text{ cm}$



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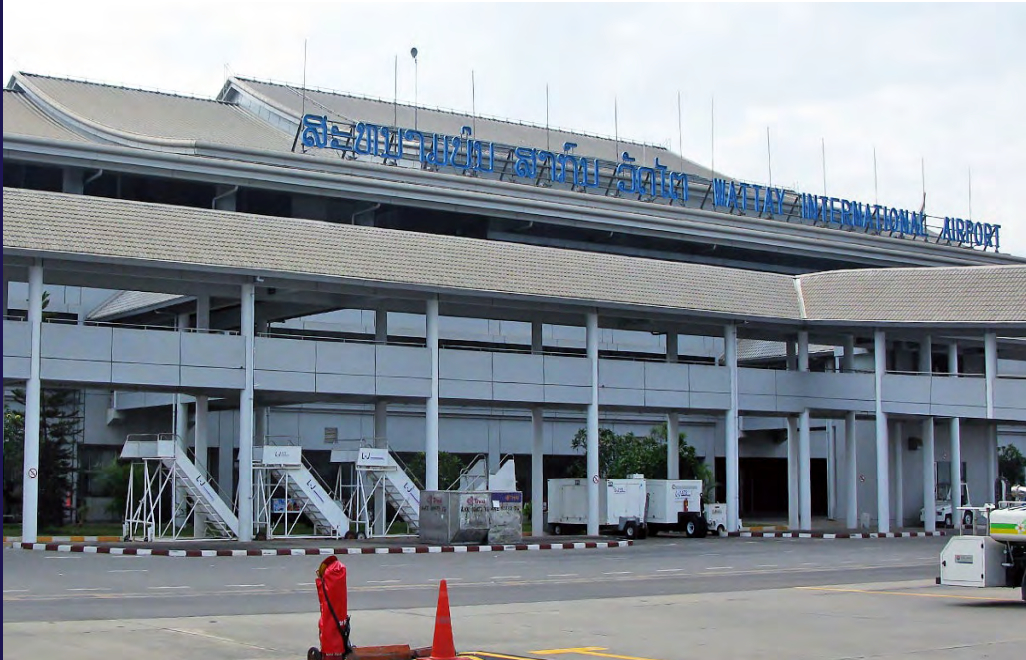
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<b>Dangerous Items</b>	Crowbar, Shovels, Drills/Screwdrivers, Blow Torch, Blades or Shafts, Wrenches, Spanners, Pliers, Bats, Hockey Sticks, Golf Clubs, Batons, Self-Defense Sprays), etc



# AIRPORTS INFORMATION

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ARRIVAL



## 1. WATTAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Location: Vientiane

Code: VTE

Distance to city center: 3 km

Lost and Found Service:

• Vietnam Airlines:

Phone: +856-21 512 240

E-mail: [vte.station@vietnamairlines.com](mailto:vte.station@vietnamairlines.com)

• Lao Airlines:

Tel: +856-21 513 032, 513 146



Have you ever had airport anxiety when you arrive in a new destination? Maybe the airport is unfamiliar to you or you're traveling alone.

Whatever the case may be, **confidence is key**. This useful information will bring you confidence when you land at any airports in Laos.



## **2. LUANG PRABANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Location: Luang Prabang

Code: LPQ

Distance to city center: 4 km

Lost and Found Service:

• Vietnam Airlines:

Phone: +856-71 213 048

E-mail: [pq.station@vietnamairlines.com](mailto:pq.station@vietnamairlines.com)

• Lao Airlines:

Tel: +856-71 212 173

Email: [lpa@laoairlines.com](mailto:lpa@laoairlines.com)



# FLEET PARTNERSHIP

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1

Hyundai Starex 7 seats



Group size: 1-4 passengers

2

Toyota HiAce 16 seats



Group size: 5-6 passengers

In Laos, Travel Sense Asia cooperates with numbers of reputable transportation providers across the country. The variety of vehicles will meet the needs of the number of passengers and the type of travel.

**3**

Hyundai County 25 seats



Group size: 7-15 passengers

**6**

Hyundai Universe 45 seats



Group size: 16 passengers and more



# TRANSPORTATION

## VARIETY OF WAYS TO GET AROUND

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When you have a need to visit freely, the following means of transport are highly recommended to facilitate travel.



### TUK-TUK

This is a popular vehicle in Laos. Tuk-Tuk hire gathers in popular tourist areas and at tourist hotels.

For one short trip: around **20,000 Kip (~USD 1.19)**

For the whole day, depending on your route:

- from **100,000 Kip (~USD 5.93)** for trips around the city
- from **200,000 Kip (~USD 11.86)** for visiting attractions in the surrounding areas





## TAXI

Vientiane Taxi is the most prestigious taxi group that provides 24/7 metered taxis in the capital of Laos. In other provinces, taxis can be hired at the counter near the airport entrance or at the hotel where you stay.



### Vientiane Taxi

Number: +856 21 454 168

- From the airport to the city: **~50,000 Kip (~USD 3)**
- All-day hire within a region: **~600,000 Kip (~USD 40)** or above
- 1-hour ride in town: **~300,000 Kip (~USD 20)**



## RIDE-SOURCING

LOCA TAXI is the only Licensed Laos-based ride-sharing service that gives passengers the most convenient way to get a taxi or private car. LOCA is now available 24/7 in big cities of Laos, including Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng, Pakse and Savannakhet.



LOCA provides a variety of ride services as well as pickup truck service and door-to-door package delivery solution.





## BULLET TRAIN

Laos-China Railway offers ticket booking for 6 stations in Laos, including Vientiane, Vang Vieng, Luang Prabang, Muang Xay, Luang Namtha and Boten. In the present, trains transiting the Laos railway network are pulled by electric locomotives circulating at a speed of 120-160 km/h.

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## TICKET PRICES

From **VIENTIANE** to **LUANG PRABANG**

7:30AM - 9:23AM or 09:20 AM -11:13AM

from **242,000** Kip/ticket

From **VIENTIANE** to **POTEN**

07:30AM-11:02AM

from **407,000** Kip/ticket



**Reservation procedure:**

- Reservation is available from 5 days up to 30 days in advance.
- A copy of your passport (fully shown without borders cropped or finger-holding the passport and high resolution).
- The passport photo is sent to +856 20 5618 2999 (WhatsApp) upon reservation or at least 5 days before departure date.

**Ticket receipt:**

- Receive your e-ticket via Email.
- Present your e-ticket and collect your physical train tickets at our office 1 day prior to your departure or 2 hours prior to the departure time.
- Access the platform and present your physical ticket and passport to the conductor before boarding the train.





# MONEY MATTERS

## THE LOCAL CURRENCY & PAYMENT SYSTEMS

### 1. CURRENCY

The **Kip** (Code: LAK) is the official currency of the Lao PDR. **US dollars** are as commonly used as the Laotian Kip and even **Thai Baht** is acceptable in many places.

The following banknotes are currently in circulation: **500; 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 20,000, 50,000 and 100,000 Kip.**



Most hotels and many restaurants and shops set their prices in dollars.

Small transactions are usually done in Kip. Always carry some small Kip for motorcycle taxis, snacks, and other small purchases.



**"TIP: To quickly convert from LAK to USD, just remove 3 zeros and divide by 17."**

For example: 1 USD ≈ 17,000 VND



## **2. MONEY EXCHANGE**

The amount of Laotian money needed ultimately depends on the quality of food, accommodation and transportation, according to your plan. Upon arriving in Lào, you'll want to have some cash in the local currency. Money can be exchanged in airports, banks and ATM.



**Airport**



**Bank**



**ATM**

## **3. TRAVEL MONEY OPTION**

	<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
<b>CASH</b>	Greater payment flexibility. Convenience. Accepted by big shops, hotels and restaurants.	More difficult to manage expenses. Higher risk of theft.
<b>DEBIT CARD</b>	Used to shop over the counter, online and to withdraw money from ATM. Protected by PIN & chip. Avoid interest charges.	International ATM withdrawal fees and additional currency conversion fees may apply. Not a credit product. No emergency funds available.
<b>CREDIT CARD</b>	Used for big purchases. Accepted worldwide. Protected by PIN & chip. Emergency card replacement.	Interest fees. Can be not accepted in small cities or far-flung destination.



# TRAVEL REMINDERS

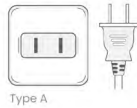
## THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR CONVENIENCE

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### I. ELECTRICITY

Laos operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. There are five associated plug types: types A, B, C, E and F.

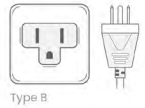
- Plug type A has two flat parallel pins.



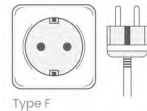
- Plug type E is like type C but with a pinhole.



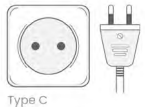
- Plug type B is like type A but with an extra prong for grounding.



- Plug type F has two round pins with two earth clips on the side



- Plug type C has two round pins.



Due to different standard voltages and plug types among countries, adapters and converters are recommended to ensure the safety and sustainability of your electronic devices.







## **2. TIPPINGS**

Tippling isn't expected in Laos, but it is always appreciated. Tippling encourages excellent service in the future. Many service workers in Laos earn a low wage, so if you are

happy with the services provided by waiters, drivers, guides or others, leaving a small tip depending on the service is a good way to show your appreciation.



Laotian locals are a very humble people, so if you do wish to leave a tip, please do so in a discreet manner. Carrying small notes of local currency will make tipping

easier. It is best to avoid tipping with coins, very small denomination notes, or dirty and ripped notes, as this can be regarded as an insult.

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## RECOMMENDATION

### RESTAURANTS & TAXI FARES

Service Charges

up to **10%** per bill

### GROUP TOURS (for GUIDE & DRIVER)

Service Charges

up to **\$10**/pax/day





### 3. OTHER ADVICES

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#### SAFETY ISSUES



- **Taking a hotel/ hostel business card** from the reception desk. Handing it to the taxi driver will help you return to your hotel easier.



- **Be careful in crowded areas** such as local festivals and tourist sites to **avoid gambles and pickpocketing.**



- **Leaving crucial documents** such as your passport and visa **in the safety box** at your hotel.

#### OUTFITS



- **Wearing formal clothes** that cover your knees and shoulders **when visiting spiritual/ cultural sites.**



- **Bringing plastic boots and light rain coats** along in case of bad weather. **Bringing sport shoes and clothes** along for the trekking activities in mountainous areas.

#### TOILETRIES & MEDICATIONS



- **Many medicines** are accessible in Indochina without prescriptions, but they **may be out-of-date or of poor quality.**



- While imported beauty products are available in major cities, **it is best to pack toiletries** such as sunscreen, contact lens solution, tampons and mosquito repellent.

#### SHOPPING & SHIPPING



- **Bargaining is necessary** when shopping in Laos. It is recommended that you check the prices of the same items in the neighborhood before reaching a deal.



- **You should get a shipping insurance** and check the policy's details if you choose to have the items shipped to your house. Store owners are not responsible for any damages incurred en route.



# WHAT TO EAT?

TASTE THE AUTHENTIC CUISINE

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## KHAO PIAK SEN

Khao Piak Sen is a unique dish with thick, hand-rolled noodles. The noodles coated in starch are blanched in the soup stock, giving the soup an almost gravy-like thickness.



## KHAO SOI

The minced pork is slow-cooked for hours, the chef turning the meat while mixing in roasted chilis and chili oil as well as herbs that have been crushed using a mortar and pestle.



## SAI OUA

Eaters will rejoice in the fatty goodness and smoky aroma of Sai Oua. It is the perfect sausage balance of firm, springy, and juicy – the taste available in a single bite is astounding.



## TAM MAK HOONG

This green-papaya salad is made with unripe yellow mango, combined with tomato, garlic, cashew, and typically dressed with a mixture of soy, fish sauce, and palm sugar.





## LAAB (LARB)

Laab is often made with chicken, duck, beef, pork, fish or even mushrooms, flavored with fish sauce, lime juice, roasted ground rice and fresh herbs. The meat can be either raw or cooked; it is minced and mixed with chilli, mint and assorted vegetables.

The dish is served at room temperature and usually with a serving of sticky rice and fresh vegetables.



# LUANG PRABANG

**S**itting at the sacred confluence of the Mekong River and the Khan Rive, Luang Prabang slows your pulse and awakens your imagination with its combination of world-class comfort and spiritual nourishment. Beyond the evident history and heritage of the old French town are aquamarine waterfalls, top trekking opportunities, meandering mountain-bike trails, kayaking trips, river cruises and outstanding natural beauty, the whole ensemble encircled by hazy green mountains.





# WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES

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## WAT XIENG THONG

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Built during the 16th century by King Saya Setthathirath, it is one of the most interesting examples of traditional Lao art and Buddhist architecture. The intricate golden facades, colorful murals, glass mosaics and unique three tiered roof make this one of the most beautiful temples in Asia.



## MOUNT PHOU SI

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From the summit, you can enjoy a spectacular 360-degree outlook across the city and out over the surrounding landscape in the distance. Count on spending a couple of hours for the climb and descent, with several stops to see the temples, rest under the shady trees and admire the magical views.



## UXO INFORMATION CENTRE

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This Centre in Luang Prabang offers you the chance to learn more about the Secret War. There are displays of real-life bombs, compelling survivor stories, as well as a viewing room where you can watch a documentary about the dangerous work being done to clean up the bombs.



## **KUANG SI WATERFALL**

Tat Kuang Si is a many-tiered waterfall tumbling over limestone formations into a series of cool, swimmable turquoise pools. There's also a bear conservation center, the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, where wild Asiatic moon bears, confiscated from poachers, are given a new lease of life.



## **PAK OU CAVE**

Where the Nam Ou (Ou River) and Mekong River meet at Ban Pak Ou, two famous caves in the limestone cliff are crammed with myriad Buddha images. In the lower cave a photogenic group of Buddhas is silhouetted against the stunning riverine backdrop.



## **THAM PHA THOK**

Originally used as a haven for villagers and a regional base for the Pathet Lao during the Laotian civil war, the cave is divided into the hospital, military and police segments, and the entrance is littered with bomb craters. It is now a ticketed attraction and is accessible only during the dry season.



# VIENTIANE

**V**ientiane, the beautiful infusion of oriental culture and French influences, is remembered by many visitors as a bicycle-friendly city. Have a romantic tour pedalling along the riverfront, suburbs, temples and chic cafes. The majestic French architecture adorning Vientiane, complemented by Buddhist temples is a view to behold.





# WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES

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## **PHA THAT LUANG (GREAT STUPA)**

The site was first conceived in 307BC by Phaya Chanthabouri Pasitthisack. Also known as “World Previous Sacred Stupa”, a breast bone of Buddha is famously known to be enshrined within itself, erected by Monks from India whom spread Buddhism to Vientiane during the era.



## **PATOUXAY**

The memorial monument is perhaps the most prominent landmark in the city. Though inspired by the arc de Triomphe in Paris, the design further incorporates quintessential Lao motifs including “Kinnaly”, a mythical bird woman. Energetic visitors can climb to the top for a panoramic view of the city.



## **WAT SISAKET**

Sisaket is the only ancient temple remaining intact after the destruction of the Siamese in 1828 and this old monastery still stands intact in its original form. Inside the main hall, the courtyard walls house hundreds of little niches and shelves containing a total of 6,840 Buddha images.





## **XIENG KHOUAN BUDDHA PARK**

The Xieng Khouan Buddha Park is a famous sculpture park with more than 200 religious statues, including a huge 40-metre high reclining Buddha image. The entrance is crafted to look like a demon's mouth with a stone ladder inside leading to a bird's eye view of the entire Xieng Kuan Park.



## **VIENTIANE NIGHT MARKET**

With its clean, orderly stalls and all manner of merchandise that make great souvenirs or mementos, this market is aimed primarily towards tourists. It all begins around sunset when a small army of sellers begin setting up their red-roofed stalls directly on the riverside promenade.



## **THAM JANG CAVE**

The most famous of the caves around Vang Vieng, Tham Jang was used as a bunker to defend against marauding j̄en h́or (Yunnanese Chinese) in the early 19th century. Stairs lead up to the main cavern entrance.



# PHONSAVAN

**K**nown as 'Hills of paradise', Phonsavan is the capital of the province of Xieng Khuang in Laos. Built during the 1970s, Phonsavan has a picturesque countryside full of green hillsides and forests of pine trees. The colourful houses in the villages here are made from wood. The raising of cattle provides livelihoods for many locals in this region. One can often see Hmong cowboys dressed in violet-and-brown attire complete with hats.





# WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES

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## **PLAIN OF JARS**

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Mysterious giant stone jars of unknown ancient origin are scattered over hundreds of hilly square kilometers around Phonsavan. Archaeologists estimate they date from the Southeast Asian iron age (500 BC to AD 200) and were likely used for elaborate burial rituals.



## **BOMB VILLAGE**

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The Hmong double-village of Ban Tha Jok/Na Kam Peng has recycled old war junk into practical objects with cluster-bomb casings used to make the legs of rice barns, planting pots for herbs, barbecue braziers and, in one case, a whole over-engineered fence.



## **THAM PIEW**

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During the Second Indochina War in 1969, people took refuge in Tham Piew. However, a single rocket fired from a Royalist aircraft killed hundreds of them. Given its tragic history, it is bittersweet that Tham Piew has such beautiful scenery and unblemished rustic surrounding.



## **XIENG KHOUANG MUSEUM**

Opened in October 2018, the museum aims to promote appreciation and understanding about the history and cultures of Xieng Khouang. The Museum hosts an informative and engaging permanent exhibition, focusing on the archaeology, history, and living cultures.



## **THAT FOUN**

Located in downtown of Khoun District, That Foun was built in 1576. The stupa was erected to cover the ashes of Lord Buddha that were brought from India, at a time when Buddhism was proliferating in Laos.



## **MULBERRIES SILK FARM**

This is a fair-trade silk farm that offers interesting free visits including a complete introduction to the silk-weaving process from cocoon to colorful scarves. If you're feeling inspired you can sign up for a half-day dyeing or weaving course.



# PAKSE

**P**akse, the capital of Champasak Province and the gateway to southern Laos, sits at the confluence of the Mekong and the Se Don (Don River). It's a relatively lively town with lots of accommodation and eating options, as well as transport connections. Many travelers base themselves here for forays to surrounding attractions, from Southeast Asia's biggest waterfall to Ancient Khmer temples.





# WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES

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## **WAT PHOU COMPLEX**

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It is one of Southeast Asia's best examples of both early and classic Khmer architecture dating from the 7th to 12th centuries. In 2001, UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site, which includes the ancient city of Sheshrapura and many little known archeological sites along the banks of the Mekong River.



## **FANE WATERFALL**

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The Champee and Pak Koot rivers flow off the plateau and come together here to create the Tat Fane Waterfall, which falls an impressive 120 meters. The real beauty of this waterfall stems from its two branches of water, which divide as they spill over the steep cliffs.



## **SHADOW PUPPET THEATER**

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Shadow play is an ancient form of storytelling that uses flat articulated cut-out figures which are held between a source of light and a translucent screen. The theater has revived this long-forgotten cultural tradition with a group of 14 people including artists, musicians, vocalists, comedians, and puppeteers.





## **TAT SOMPHAMIT**

Now billing itself as the Don Khone Somphamit Waterfalls Park, vast Tat Somphamit is a gorgeous set of raging rapids. Recent developments include clear walking paths and the Mekong Fly zipline.



## **KHON PHAPHENG FALLS**

The largest and by far the most awesome waterfall anywhere along the Mekong, Khon Phapheng is pure and unrestrained aggression. Millions of liters of water descend over a set of cascades making it one of the most spectacular sites in Southern Laos.



## **SI PHON DON**

Consisting of 4000 islands, this area of extraordinary beauty is known for its fine food, distinct temple architecture, and warm hospitality. At Hang Khone village, local boats can be hired to observe the endangered freshwater dolphins that inhabit this section of the Mekong.



## CONTACT

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