

Laos is a Southeast Asian country traversed by the Mekong River and known for mountainous terrain, French colonial architecture, hill tribe settlements and Buddhist monasteries. Vientiane, the capital, is the site of the That Luang monument, where a reliquary reportedly houses the Buddha's breastbone, plus the Patuxai war memorial and Talat Sao (Morning Market), a complex jammed with food, clothes and craft stalls.

Please join Select Incentive Group Travel for 9day/8night adventure to experience the best of what Laos have to offer the first time visitor.

### **Day One: Chiang Khong – Luang Prabang**

#### **Breakfast at the hotel**

#### Luang Say Cruise 2days/1night

The Chiang Khong Hotel is close to the Thai border (1km). Hotel will drive you to the Thai border of Chiang Khong at 8:00 am. You will meet the cruise team (staff + guide) who will assist you to cross the Thai-Lao border. Once you reach the Lao side with the other passengers of the cruise, a minivan will pick you up (for free) at the Lao border to bring you to the pier.

The price includes the following:

- 2 days cruise from Houei Say to Luang Prabang
- 1 night accommodation at our Luang Say Lodge in Pakbeng
- 2 lunches on the boat, 1 dinner and 1 breakfast at the Lodge
- Free tea, coffee and drinking water
- Guide on board and representative available at the border to assist with the Immigration process

Overnight at the Luang Say Lodge in Pakbeng

### **Day Two: '16 - Luang Prabang**

Arrive in Luang Prabang at around 4:30/5:00 pm at the Calao Pier. The Hotel will send staff to meet us and transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Dinner by own account

Overnight in Luang Prabang

### **Day Three: (LUANG Prabang - KUANG SI WATERFALL – LUANG Prabang**

Early morning, when the sunrise, participate to **Tagbat ceremony**, the monks' alms offering. This ritual is an important part of Lao people's life and offers a memorable experience and great snapshots. Your guide will explain how to follow the strict customs and rules involved. After the ceremony you will visit fresh local market. Return to your hotel for breakfast.

Take a short transfer through the Luang Prabang countryside to **Kuang Si Waterfalls** (32 km southwest of the city). Along the way, you will drive through beautiful landscapes of rice fields, hills, and small villages. There are also viewpoints overlooking the Mekong River. Stop en-route to **visit a small village** which is home to one of the area's many ethnic minorities. You will have an opportunity to learn about their traditions and culture, much of which has remained unchanged for centuries.

Picnic Lunch by own account

Upon reaching Kuang Si Waterfall, relax and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. The water tumbles down a large drop and cascades gently in to several cool, clear pools where you can enjoy a refreshing swim (please dress modestly). After leisurely time at the waterfalls, transfer back to your hotel in Luang Prabang.

Dinner by own account

Overnight in Luang Prabang

#### **Day Four: (LUANG PRABANG – FULL DAY CITY TOUR)**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, visit of the **Royal Palace Museum** housing the most important treasures of Laos' recent past. Continue to **Vat Xieng Thong** at the tip of the peninsula. The oldest and most beautiful temple of the UNESCO World heritage town dates back from the 16th century. The roof sweep low to the ground and glass colored panels adorn the walls of the chapels; see the residential neighbourhoods of the peninsular.

Lunch by own account

Afternoon visit **Wat Visoun**, the holiest temple of the city, which was entirely rebuilt in 1887 after being destroyed by the invading Black Flags from Southern China. In the courtyard of Wat Visoun stands the Watermelon Stupa shaped like the fruit from which it takes its name.

As today comes to a close, climb the 328 stairs of **Mount Phousi** and watch the sun set over the city and surrounding hills. Visit the **hill tribe evening market** for some shopping. This colorful market takes place every evening from around 17:00 p.m. along the main streets of town and is a great place to look for souvenirs.

Dinner by own account

Overnight in Luang Prabang

**Day Five: LUANG PRABANG – VANG VIENG**

Breakfast at hotel

09h30: Depart Luang Prabang for our transfer to Vang Vieng. Transfer to Vang Vieng by 4x4 vehicle +-5 hours

Lunch by own arrangement

Afternoon - **explore Vang Vieng by bicycle**

Dinner by own arrangement

Overnight in Vang Vieng

**Day Six: VANG VIENG**

Breakfast at hotel

**Full Day Vang Vieng Experience Tour:-**

Vang Vieng – Viengsamay – Organic Farm (with Lunch)

You will transfer to 'Viengsamay' village around 10 km north of Vang Vieng. After an introduction to the basics of kayaking you shall set off down the beautiful Nam Song river which offers various small but fun rapids along the way to our first stop at Tham Sim cave. Here you will walk up to the massive theatre like cave which is full of impressive stalagmites, stalactites and bats! After emerging from the cave a short trek over a pass leads us to a picnic spot on the riverside where you shall enjoy lunch.

After lunch you shall continue down the river until the next stop at the Organic Farm where mulberry tea and a variety of different fruit wines are produced.

Continuing on downstream we arrive at Tham None Cave which is one of the largest caves in Vang Vieng! It served as a bomb shelter for local villagers during the Second Indochina War. However, today it is home to a bat family and the 'Magic Stone of Vang Vieng'. The final leg of the journey is a gentle paddle downstream to Vang Vieng where we shall arrive just in time to catch the sunset from the swimming pool your hotel.

Dinner by own account

Overnight in Vang Vieng

### **Day Seven: VANG VIENG – VIENTIANE**

Breakfast at hotel

10h00: Depart your Hotel for your transfer to Vientiane by car about 3–4 hours. The transfer will be in a 4x4 vehicle.

Lunch by own account

Arrive in Vientiane between 1pm&2pm

Check into hotel in Vientiane

#### **Hotel has bicycles to visit the following sites:-**

**PATUXAI** or Victory Monument is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Vientiane. Fashioned after the Arc de Triomphe in Paris but very Lao in the ornate details, the Patuxai was built in 1969 with cement purchased from the US that was supposed to be used for the construction of a new airport.

**THAT LUANG** is a 45 meters tall gold-covered large Buddhist stupa that is also a national symbol of Laos. That Luang has had a long history of being destroyed and rebuilt, and is thought to contain a relic of the Buddha.

**VAT SISAKET** is the oldest Buddhist temple still standing in Vientiane. Built in 1818 in the Siamese style of Buddhist architecture rather than in the Lao style. Many people believe this is why the temple was spared when the armies of Siam (presently Thailand) invaded Vientiane in 1827; instead, they used the compound as their headquarters and lodging place. The French restored Wat Si Saket in 1924 and again in 1930.

**HOR PHRA KEO** built in 1565 by the great King Xaisetthathirath as his worship place and to house the Emerald Buddha. The Emerald Buddha, also known to the locals as

Phra Keo was lost to the Siamese in 1828 and is presently displayed at the Emerald Buddha Temple in Bangkok.

**WALK AROUND TOWN** a stroll around Nam Phou fountain, the central point of Vientiane with its myriad of cafes, tailors, souvenir shops and restaurants is a must. Keep walking toward the Mekong River and enjoy the vistas of the sunset while sipping a drink on the riverside. Nothing fancy here but certainly a relaxing time ahead, very "Lao style".

All of the above can be done in a half day and if you really want to take it easy and have a deeper immersion into the experience, you can stretch it to a full day for an even better feel about the town.

Dinner by own account

Overnight in Vientiane

**Day Eight: VIENTIANE**

Breakfast at Hotel

Take bicycles and spend the day at leisure exploring Vientiane

**Day Nine: VIENTIANE – DEPARTURE**

Transfer from the hotel = Drop off at Wattay International or domestic airport terminal: **10\$ / trip (can book directly with the hotel)**

Transfer to airport for international flight by QV 441 at 07:15 a.m.

\*\*\*\*End of Services \*\*\*\*