

## Laos Luang Prabang – Plain of Jars – Vientiane – 4000 Island 12 days 11 night

Code: LAO\_03\_B

### Itinerary:

#### Day 1: Luang Prabang.

Once you arrive you will be met and accompanied to your hotel, meals, overnight stay.

#### Day 2: Luang Prabang Half-day city tour, Mekong excursion, Breakfast included

Immediately after breakfast we start the tour of the city with a visit to the **Royal Palace Museum** where we will immerse ourselves in the daily lives of the last royal families who ruled Laos before the Phatet Lao took power. Next we will visit the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its particular roof, an example of the classic Laotian architecture. In the morning we will also visit the beautiful **Wat Mai** and the stupa of **Wat Visoun**. After lunch we will board a boat for an excursion on the Mekong River towards the **Pak Ou Caves**: the two caves, communicating with each other, hold thousands of golden statuettes of various shapes and sizes, representing the Buddha, left here by the faithful in pilgrimage. Along the way back we will stop at the village of **Ban Muangkeo**, famous for its textile work and the production of rice whiskey. Overnight in Luang Prabang. Meals:



#### Day 3: Luang Prabang - Experience in a paddy field - Kuang Si Falls. Breakfast Included.

In the morning transfer by car to the **organic farm of Living Lands**, where you will meet the local agricultural guide. We will be invited to interact and experiment with every phase of rice harvesting, and we will learn in the field how this cereal is traditionally grown. The tour ends with a tasting of traditional rice-based foods. Your admiration for the people of Laos, which still today continues to harvest rice without modern machinery, will surely grow. After lunch we will go to the beautiful **waterfalls of Khuang Si** where we can refresh ourselves with a pleasant swim in one of the natural pools or walk along the paths in the forest. Near the waterfall it is also possible to visit the **Bear Rescue Center**, an organization that protects a particular **Asian bear**.



Overnight in Luang Prabang. Meals:

#### Day 4: Luang Prabang – Phonsavan. Breakfast included.

This morning around 08.00 we begin the day that will take us to the town of **Xiengkhuang**, famous for its **Plain of Jars**. The road we traveled today is considered one of the most scenic in the country: it offers unique natural landscapes and along the way we will be able to visit different ethnic minority villages that populate this region. The first stop will be at **Houi Hei** where we will be able to admire and photograph the extraordinary view enjoyed from this panoramic position. We will continue our journey until we reach **Ban Kiu Kam Pone**, a **village** of the **Khmu** ethnic minority. Immediately after lunch we will continue in the direction of **Xiengkhuang**; the road will take us to one of the highest points accessible in Laos, 1,500 meters above sea level. The next stop will be at Ban **Son Boom**, a very special **village** of the **Hmong** ethnic minority. The last stop of the day will be the visit of the **Buddha Cave** which during the Vietnam War served as a refuge for the local population against the bombing. We will arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon.



Overnight in Phonsavan. Meals:

### Day 5: Phonsavan– Muang Khoun – Plain of Jars.

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start the day by visiting the very interesting MAG exhibition set up by the humanitarian organization that deals with “cleaning up” from unexploded ordnance the vast area hit by the bombings dating back to the Vietnam War. Following (weather permitting) we will reach the old capital of Muang Khoun. Immediately afterwards we will begin the exploration of the Plain of Jars (Piana delle Giare) starting from site number 2 and then walk about 1 hour in the direction of the site number 3. In the afternoon we will visit the site number 1 which is the largest in the area: it contains indeed about 300 jars. We will return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Overnight in Phonsavan.



### Day 6: Phonsavan – Vang Vieng – Vientiane. Breakfast included.



We will start the day with a visit to the colorful Central Market of Phonsavan. After the visit we will travel to Vang Vieng destination. Along the way, immediately after lunch, we will stop at **Ban Hin Ngon**, a very interesting Hmong village, and then we will stop at **Koe Kuang**, a local market where several reptiles are for sale. The last chance to stretch your legs before arriving at your destination will be the **Phatang Mountain** view point from which you can enjoy a spectacular view of the valley. We will arrive in Vang Vieng in the late afternoon. Overnight in Vang Vieng. Meals

### Day 7: Vang Vieng – Vientiane. Breakfast included.

During the half-day tour in Vang Vieng we will explore the famous **Tham Jang cave**, used by locals as a hideout during the Chinese invasion, and then we will resume the journey south to reach **the capital Vientiane**. Along the way we will stop at the small village of **Tha Heua** specialized in the sale of dried fish that we will see exposed outside every single house in the village. The next stop will be at **Nam Ngum**, a large artificial lake created by an imposing dam. Just outside Vientiane we will make a final stop at the **Don Makai market** where insects of all kinds are sold and where the more adventurous can taste one of these highly original snacks! We will arrive in Vientiane in the late afternoon. Overnight in Vientiane. Meals:



### Day 8: Vientiane – Tour della Città – Breakfast included.

This morning, immediately after breakfast, we will begin the tour of the city starting from its oldest temple, **Wat Sisaket**, with its thousands of miniature statuettes depicting the Buddha; we will continue with what was once the royal temple of **Wat Prakeo**, which once held the famous image of the Emerald Buddha (Emerald Buddha). We will also visit one of the most precious cultural heritages of Laos: the famous and sacred **That Luang Stupa**, then continuing towards the imposing **Patuxay Monument**, also known as the Arc de Triomphe. The next stop will take us to **COPE**, a rehabilitation center for people who are victims of unexploded bombs that were launched in much of Laos during the Vietnam War. Today this is one of the major problems that Laos has to face. The last visit will be to the **Buddha Park** which is located about 30 minutes from the city, on the banks of the Mekong river, where we can admire a very interesting collection of Buddhist and Hindu sculptures. The day ends with a splendid sunset on the banks of the Mekong.



### Optional: Vientiane night safari with dinner at local restaurant \$. 35 per person

At 18.00 we go out to explore the city in the evening. We will travel on a tuk tuk to the **night market** near **That Luang**. In the evening it comes alive and is one of the favorite places for locals, with very few tourists. We will wander among the stalls and thanks to our guide we will learn about the local ingredients and the

Laotian food culture. We will taste some tasty snacks on the spot, and bring others up to the next stop, a traditional Laotian barbecue, called **Sindat**. Much loved by locals, this style of barbecue dinner is little known to tourists. The guide will tell us about his favorite dishes, and after dinner we will return to the hotel with the tuk tuk. Overnight in Vientiane. Meals

## Day 9: Vientiane – Pakse – Tadlo – Breakfast included.

This morning after breakfast, transfer to Vientiane airport for the direct flight to **Pakse**. Once at destination we will immediately start our adventure in southern Laos starting in the direction of **Boulevan Plateau**, a cool plateau overlooking the Mekong valley. As a first visit we will stop at a **tea plantation** and, later, at the **Tad Fan waterfall**. We will then stop at a **coffee plantation** and then we will see the colorful **Tha Teng market**. In subsequent stops we will visit two villages inhabited by different ethnic minorities: the first will be **Ban Bong Neua**, an **Alak village**, and the second will be **Ban Kokphung**, a **Katu village**, both famous for their tradition of leaving the coffins of the dead under their own homes. In the afternoon we will reach **Tad Lo**, where another wonderful waterfall awaits us: here we can spend the rest of the day in total relaxation or take a bath in one of its natural pools.



## Opzionale: Discovering the Bolaven Plateau in vintage jeeps



*In the heart of the Bolaven plateau, near the Tad Lo waterfalls, we will meet our local guide, an expert in coffee cultivation and ethnic minorities. We will board classic vintage jeeps that are the ideal way to explore the **Bolaven** hinterland. During the excursion we will stop to visit some of the local ethnic minority villages, including the Souys. Towards mezzoday we will arrive at the coffee plantation where we will taste a typical Laotian dish; to digest we will take a walk on the plantation, where the guide will explain all the steps in the process to make the coffee. Always with our off-road we will cross the roads less traveled and we will reach Pakson, where we will go back on board the minivan that will take us to the hotel.*

Overnight in Tadlo. Meals

## Day 10: Tadlo – Wat Phou – Khong Island. Breakfast included.

This morning after breakfast we will visit the majestic **Paxuam waterfall**, followed by traveling by car via Pakse to the beautiful pre-Angkorian temple of **Wat Phu**, considered one of the most beautiful in South East Asia. After lunch we will continue our road trip to the 4000 islands. We will arrive in **Khong Island** in the afternoon. Overnight in Khong Island. Meals:

## Day 11 Khong Island – Khone Island – Champasak. Breakfast included.

This morning after breakfast we will board a traditional boat that will take us to the discovery of the 4,000 islands. The first stop will be at Khone Island, where once we arrive we will explore the island, we will have the opportunity to admire different colonial houses, the first Laotian railway station with its locomotives and to follow we will reach the beautiful Lphi waterfall, also known as Samphamith, which forms a natural border line between Laos and Cambodia. From here we will take a small boat to observe closely (if lucky!) The only specimens in the world of freshwater dolphins. From Khone Island we will take the boat that will take us to the mainland, then reach the famous Khone Phapeng waterfalls, the largest in South East Asia, also known as "Niagara of the East". After the visit we will return by land to Ban Muang where, on a ferry, we will reach Champasak. Overnight in



**Day 12: Champsak – Pakse. Breakfast included.**

Depending on the time of your departure flight, you will be escorted to Pakse airport. Meals

--- End Service ---

**The tour includes:**

- *Transportation in a private vehicle*
- *English or Italian speaking guides in supplement.*
- *Vientiane flight – Pakse.*
- *Entrance tickets to the attractions indicated in the program*
- *Government taxes and supplements* □ *Meals as scheduled*
- *Baggage and water service*

**The tour does not include:**

- *Entry visa cost*
- *Travel insurance*
- *Guides speaking other languages*
- *Tips, drinks and other personal expenses*
- *Anything not indicated in the program under the heading "Prices include".*