

## Laos – Jewels of Indo-China (+ Cambodia extension option)

### Tour Code LS (C)

A fabulous journey through the extraordinarily friendly country of Laos; the least visited of South-East Asia and the option to witness the great legacy of Cambodia's Khmer civilisation; the splendour and awesome collection of temples at Angkor. Culturally rich and steeped in centuries-old charm, the appeal of Laos lies in its unique artistic, religious and architectural heritage set against a backdrop of diverse natural beauty. The World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a cultural gem and probably the most charming destination in the region. The wealth of historic monuments, beautiful Buddhist temples, stunning UNESCO listed archaeological sites, colourful markets and enchanting tribal villages set amidst the splendour of the mighty Mekong River cannot fail to inspire the traveller throughout these captivating land.



#### ITINERARY

##### Day 1 Fly to Bangkok

Depart UK for Bangkok. Various airline options available.

##### Day 2 Fly to Luang Prabang. Afternoon orientation tour

Midday flight from Bangkok with Thai Airlines to Luang Prabang. We arrive into Luang Prabang airport in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel. Later we have a visit Wat Mai, a beautiful Buddhist temple with a five-tiered roof typical of the graceful Luang Prabang architectural style. A welcome dinner has been arranged at a smart local restaurant. Three nights at the Villa Deux Rivieres hotel (B,D)

##### Day 3 In Luang Prabang. Mekong riverboat trip to Pak Au

After a leisurely breakfast we head into the town to visit Wat Xieng Thong, seen as the most historic and enchanting Buddhist monastery in the entire country. We head to the Mekong River and enjoy a riverboat trip to visit the famous and sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves. The caves overlook the confluence of the Mekong and Ou Rivers and are home to many thousands of Buddha images. After lunch we visit a weaving village populated by the Lu people originally from Southern China who still use traditional weaving methods. We return to the town and visit the National Museum, set in the former Royal Palace. Dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,L,D)

##### Day 4 In Luang Prabang. Morning Alms and Kuang Si Waterfalls

We start the day early with one of the most memorable sights of Luang Prabang. At dawn hundreds of saffron robed monks move silently through the streets to collect alms (offerings of food). After breakfast we drive along the scenic Laotian countryside lined with rice paddies and many ethnic minority villages to visit Kuang Sy Waterfall. The afternoon is left free to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Luang Prabang. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

##### Day 5 Drive to Phongsavanh

A long but exhilarating drive through some of the country's most beautiful scenery as we climb along the mountain roads with the opportunity to pause at some of the many Mong tribal villages along the way and to visit a local market. We arrive in the late afternoon for two nights at the Vansana Hotel with dinner (B,L,D)

##### Day 6 Visit Plain of Jars

We spend the morning visiting the Plain of Jars, where some 300 giant funerary urns lie scattered over a scenic plain of rolling red hills and pine trees. Their origin is a mystery though they are believed to date 2000 years old. We will also visit the old capital Muang Khun, today's Xieng Khouang rebuilt since the Vietnam war, and stop to see the Tai Dam people who still keep their distinctive cultural customs such as the weaved headdress (B,L,D)

##### Day 7 Fly to Vientiane

This morning we take the short flight from Xieng Khouang airport to Vientiane. We spend the afternoon in the capital visiting its historic and architectural highlights including the city's oldest temple; Vat Sisaket and Haw Phra Keo; the former royal temple. Two nights at the Lao Orchid hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant with folkloric show (B,D)

*Novice monks, Luang Prabang*  
© www.syderimages.com

**Patrick Syder Travel**

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: [info@sydertravel.com](mailto:info@sydertravel.com) [www.sydertravel.com](http://www.sydertravel.com)

### **Day 8 In Vientiane. Morning City Tour**

We continue to visit the National Museum and the photogenic That Luang Stupa, the most revered shrine in Laos. We have an included lunch at a local traditional restaurant and the afternoon is left free to further enjoy the city at your own leisure (B,L)

### **Day 9 Fly to Pakse. Visit Wat Phou**

We take the morning flight to Pakse, this afternoon we visit the impressive Khmer temple complex of Wat Phou occupying a setting of unparalleled beauty. With UNESCO status the site consists of ruined temples and shrines dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two nights at the Pakse hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 10 Excursion to the Bolaven Plateau**

The Bolaven Plateau is located in an ancient volcano that erupted millions of years ago, the area spans 50 km of Southern Laos most vegetated area. From an altitude of 800 to 1350 meters at Paksong, it is green all year round and cooler than the rest of Laos. Surrounding the plateau there are a number of protected national parks, dramatic waterfalls, remote hill tribes, dense jungle and a taste of some of the world's best coffee beans. A farewell dinner has been arranged at a quality restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 11 Fly to Siem Reap, CAMBODIA or fly via Bangkok to UK**

We transfer to Pakse airport this morning with option to fly to Bangkok with Laos Airlines or continue to Cambodia. **Siem Reap** is your base for the next three nights and located close to the remarkable ancient temple complex of Angkor. Three nights at the Tara Angkor hotel with dinner (B,D)

### **Day 12 and 13 Visit Angkor Temples**

You have two full days to explore the spectacular temples and jungle ruins around Angkor. The highlight of the tour, these ancient Khmer ruins are one of the world's most magical and breathtaking archaeological sites. Your visits will include the majesty of the Bayon and Ta Prohm temples, to the captivating setting of Angkor Wat itself. You will also be able to venture to some of the more remote ruins (B,D)

### **Day 14 Fly to Phnom Penh. City tour**

Morning flight to the Phnom Penh. The capital retains a colonial charm, majestically located at the confluence of the mighty rivers of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap. Wide tree-lined boulevards and many colonial-era buildings reflect the glorious days and add to the allure of the city. Afternoon tour includes the National Museum with its impressive collection of Angkor sculptures and the Royal Palace with its stunning Silver Pagoda. Two nights at the Sunway hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 15 In Phnom Penh**

This morning there is the option to visit the infamous Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, a memorial to the horrors of Pol Pot's despotic regime. The afternoon is left free for you to visit some of the bustling markets and enjoy a stroll along the Mekong River to savour the local life and colour. Farewell dinner at a quality local restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 16 Fly to Bangkok**

Morning transfer to the airport for your Thai Airlines flight to Bangkok to connect with your onward journey (B)

**Laos - Cost £1495.00** per person in a twin room (excl. international flights) Single supplement £225.00

**Cambodia - Cost £795.00** per person in a twin room (excl. international flights) Single supplement £125.00



#### **Prices include -**

- ▶ Laos tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Cambodian extension accompanied locally
- ▶ Specialist Laotian and Cambodian guides throughout
- ▶ Two Lao Airline domestic flights
- ▶ International flight from Pakse (Laos) to Siem Reap (Cambodia)
- ▶ One Cambodian domestic flight
- ▶ All transportation in private a/c coach
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality local four star hotels on a half board basis
- ▶ Included dinners and lunches as indicated at quality restaurants
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international flights to/from Laos and from Cambodia are not included in the land tour cost

*(Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)*