

LAOS LUSCIOUS LANDSCAPES

Luang Prabang

3 Days / 2 Nights

Day 01: Welcome to Laos!

(-)



Welcome to Luang Prabang.

Upon arrival in Luang Prabang, transfer from Luang Prabang International Airport to the hotel. The rest of the day will be free to relax after your flights.

For sunset, climb the steps up to Mount Phousi and marvel at the atmosphere and great view of Luang Prabang.

MOUNT PHOUSI

Rising 150 m above the center of town, Mount Phousi cuts a distinctive figure on the Luang Prabang skyline. The hill is popular as a place to watch the sun rise or set over the Mekong River. From the summit, enjoy a spectacular 360-degree outlook across the city and its many temples and out over the surrounding landscape to the mountains in the distance. For a complete experience, go up Mount Phousi on one side and use the other set of steps to make your way down again.

Returning from Mount Phousi, take a stroll over the colorful night bazaar, where a wide range of handicrafts can be found.

Notice: Revealing clothes such as shorts and skirts above the knees and bare shoulders are prohibited in sacred places and temples.

Accommodation: As Selected.

Day 02: Luang Prabang – City Tour & Pak Ou Caves

(B/L)



Breakfast at your hotel.

Departing from the hotel at 8:30, explore the open-air morning market in the old town. There are only a few large grocery stores here; instead, food is still produced by small farming families and villages and brought to Luang Prabang from the surrounding rural areas. The guide will explain the common vegetables and fruits that are in season and pick up some snacks for later.

After the market, visit Wat Mai Suwannaphumaham ("New Monastery"), the National Museum (Royal Palace), and Hor Phra Bang.

MORNING MARKET

This small market is the Laotian "supermarket," where they come to buy their fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat, which are offered in showcases, which are not always the way we used to see them in most of our countries. Some products are coming from the jungle and will be highly exotic for travelers from western countries.

WAT MAI SUWANNAPHUMAHAM

The impressive Wat Mai Suwannaphumaham is one of Luang Prabang's largest and most richly decorated temples. Both its interior and exterior are extensively adorned with black and red lacquer decoration and gold leaf. The temple, also known as Wat Mai, meaning "new temple", was founded around 1780 by King Anurat of the Luang Prabang Kingdom.

NATIONAL MUSEUM (ROYAL PALACE) AND HOR PHRA BANG

Set in a spacious, well-tended garden just off one of Luang Prabang's main boulevards (Sisavangvong Road), you will find the fascinating Royal Palace Museum, which is also known as Hor Kham. The museum is well worth a couple of hours of your time if you want to learn more about Lao history and culture. Originally the residence of the king, the museum was designed in the French Beaux-Arts style, with many tasteful accents of traditional Lao culture. When the communists came to power in 1975, they took over the palace and sent the royal family to re-education camps. The palace was converted into a museum that was opened to the public in 1995 after careful renovation and remains in good condition. The grounds contain a number of other buildings, including a new exhibition hall, a chapel (Hor Phra Bang), and a statue of King Sisavangvong.

WAT XIENG THONG

Founded at the tip of the Luang Prabang peninsula, it is one of Laos most beautiful and richly decorated temples. This temple is a royal temple built by King Setthathirath in 1559 on the banks of the Mekong River. It is one of the few temples that was not destroyed during the Black Flag Army invasion of 1887.

Travel by boat to Tham Pak Ou Caves.

THAM PAK OU CAVES

Pak Ou Caves, one of the most respected holy sites in Lao, have a history dating back thousands of years. Packed with over 4,000 Buddha icons, the caves, a shrine to the river spirit and Lord Buddha, are set in a dramatic limestone cliff at the point where the Mekong joins the Nam Ou River. There are two caves to visit: the lower cave called Tham Ting and the upper cave called Tham Theung, both boasting miniature Buddhist figures that are mostly made from wood.

Dinner on your own account.

Accommodation: As Selected.

Day 03: Luang Prabang - Departure

(B)

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel. Take a walk or get some last-minute souvenirs before you check out at midday. Your guide and driver will meet you to assist with luggage and take you to the airport for your departure flight.

End of Service.