



# LAOS SHORT STAY

Short Stay | 5 Days | Physical Level 1

Luang Prabang (3N)- Vientiane (1N)

Experience the two most stunning cities of Laos in one trip. The World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang is a truly unique place that will not be forgotten in a hurry. Eat world class cuisine while watching the sunset over the Mekong River and explore the numerous temples. Vientiane is equally as memorable, sitting on the banks of the giant Mekong.

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Economy-class flight from Luang Prabang to Vientiane
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Transportation and transfers as stated
- English speaking guide



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive Luang Prabang

Meals: D

Arrive in Luang Prabang the cultural heart of Laos. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred by private car to your hotel.

Afterwards, board a tuk tuk for a first look at the city. Start with a visit to Wat Xieng Thong, one of the largest and most decorative temples, and Wat Mai, with its beautiful gilded façade. Then visit the National Museum, the former Royal Palace, where relics from Laos' royalist past remain.



### Destination Information

**Luang Prabang** - The capital of Luang Prabang Province in northern Laos, lies in a valley at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. It's known for its many Buddhist temples, including the gilded Wat Xieng Thong, dating to the 16th century, and Wat Mai, once the residence of the head of Laotian Buddhism.

### Day 2: Kuang Si Waterfalls

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, travel south to the scenic Kuang Si Waterfalls.

Stop along the way to visit the Living Crafts Centre, a place where you can meet weavers and learn about textiles, while helping keep these traditions alive.

Also take time to visit the nearby Sunbear Refuge to learn more about the poaching of these endangered creatures.



At the Kuang Si falls, crystal water cascades into idyllic turquoise pools.

*It is possible to take a swim in the river near the falls. If you wish to do this, please remember to bring along your swimsuit and a towel. Changing rooms are available on site.*

Once you return back to Luang Prabang, head to Mount Phousi. Climb 328 steps to the top and be rewarded with panoramic sunset views of the city.

## Destination Information

**Kuang Si Waterfalls** - A three-tier waterfall approximately 29 kilometres south of Luang Prabang. The falls begin in shallow pools atop a steep hillside. These lead to the main fall with a 60 metre cascade. Water collects in numerous turquoise blue pools as it flows downstream. The many cascades that result are typical of travertine waterfalls. There are walkways and bridges for your enjoyment.

**Sun Bear Refuge** - The Sun Bear Refuge in Cambodia protects the world's smallest bear species, offering visitors a chance to see these endangered animals up close while supporting vital conservation efforts.

## Day 3: Pak Ou Caves

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will cruise the grand Mekong River and gain a glimpse into local river life.

Stop at the fascinating Pak Ou Caves before visiting a local village to witness weaving on ancient wooden looms. Afterwards, take a short walk from the caves to a nearby village where you will have lunch, before cruising downstream back to Luang Prabang in the early afternoon.



## Destination Information

**Pak Ou Caves** - Known locally as Tham Thin, Pak Ou Caves sits at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Ou Rivers. It consists of two limestone caves that have become shrines to devotees of Buddhism. For hundreds of years, followers have come to the caves to pray and make offerings, by leaving behind a statue of Buddha. Nowadays, the caves are jammed packed with statues big and small with more being added each year.

## Day 4: Travel to Vientiane

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will be transferred to the airport by private car for your early flight to Vientiane, Laos' laid-back capital.

On arrival, begin a whirlwind tour starting at Wat Sisaket Vientiane's oldest-surviving monastery and its thousands of Buddha statues. Then visit Pha That Luang a national symbol of Laos, and admire the large stupa covered in tons of gold leaf and surrounded by 30 smaller stupas. Afterwards, climb to the viewing platform of Patouxai, Vientiane's arc de triomphe, a window into its French-colonial history.





### Destination Information

**Vientiane** – Vientiane, Laos' laid-back capital, mixes French colonial architecture with Buddhist temples such as the golden, 16th-century Pha That Luang, a national symbol. Along broad boulevards and tree-lined streets are notable shrines including Wat Si Saket, which features thousands of Buddha images, and Wat Si Muang, built on a Hindu shrine. Many bakeries, cafés and villas seem straight out of 19th-century Paris.

**Wat Si Saket** – Wat Si Saket is a Buddhist wat built in 1818 on the order of King Anouvong (Sethathirath V.) Wat Si Saket was built in the 'Siamese style' of architecture, with a surrounding terrace and an ornate five-tiered roof, rather than in the Lao style. This may have kept it safe, since the armies of Siam that sacked Vientiane following Anouvong's rebellion in 1827 used the compound as their headquarters and lodging. Wat Si Saket features a cloister wall with more than 2,000 ceramic and silver Buddha images.

**Patuxai Victory Monument** – Patuxai means Victory Gate or Gate of Triumph, and is a war monument in the centre of Vientiane. It was built between 1957 and 1968. The Patuxai is dedicated to those who fought in the struggle for independence from France.

### Day 5: Depart Vientiane

Meals: B

Today, visit the weird and wonderful Buddha Park, located just 25kms outside of Vientiane.

Home to more than 200 intriguing statues, it's a fascinating place and a must see while in Laos.

Afterwards, you will be transferred by private car to the airport for your onward flight.



### Destination Information

**Buddha Park** – Buddha Park, also known as Xieng Khuan is a sculpture park located 25km southeast of Vientiane. The park is the folly of Luang Pu Bunleua Sulilat, a monk, shaman and mystic of Hinduism and Buddhism. Untrained in sculpture, Sulilat and his students created more than 200 cement statues filled with cryptic symbols of horror and fantasy. Keep your eye out for the skeleton thin Buddhas, a giant pumpkin with a demon head, a gigantic 40m long reclining Buddha, or Shiva waving his menacing eight arms of swords.

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