

# EXPLORE THE REAL LAOS



06 days / 05 nights

**OVERVIEW**

Tour code **LAT02**  
 Duration 11 days / 10 nights  
 Features An adventurous discovery of hidden Laos to sacred area of colorful ethnic group of minority Laos who come from Indonesia and China more than 10,000 years ago. A combination of 4WD expedition, river boat trip and trekking and enjoy the ordinary life of hilltribe people.

**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

- Day 01. Chiang Khong – Pakbeng
- Day 02. Pakbeng – Oudomxay (B/-/-)
- Day 03. Oudomxay – Muong La - Muong Ngoy (B/-/-)
- Day 04. Muong Ngoy – Ban Kioukhan (B/-/-)
- Day 05. Ban Kioukhan - Muong Ngoy (B/-/-)
- Day 06. Muong Ngoy – Luang Prabang (B/-/-)
- Day 07. Luang Prabang – City Tour (B/-/-)
- Day 08. Luang Prabang – Vang Vieng (B/-/-)
- Day 09. Vang Vieng – Day Trekking (B/-/-)
- Day 10. Vang Vieng – Vientiane (B/-/-)
- Day 11. Vientiane – Departure (B/-/-)

**ITINERARY IN DETAIL**

**DAY 01. CHIANG KHONG – PAKBENG**

Welcome to Laos – Houisay border gate from Chiang Khong (Thailand), we will embark on our traditional boat for the trip down the Mekong river. This part of the Mekong river is quite narrow and both banks of the rivers are bordered by amazing scenery of beautiful green forests and towering hills. We drift along the river to observe rural life close up and stop over at Ban Houeilampen to visit the Hmong hilltribe people. Overnight in Pakbeng

Vientiane – Vang Vieng - Luang Prabang - Pak Ou –Luang Prabang

**DAY 02. PAKBENG – OUDOMXAY (B/-/-)**

We leave Pakbeng and drive into the remote mountainous area in Northern Laos. The verdant rugged mountain scenery combined with the colorful hill tribes makes this an unforgettable experience. Oudomxay province is residence of a mixture of 23 ethnic minority groups. We make stops along the way, to see the villages of friendly minority groups of Hmong, Khmu, Akha and Taidam. Overnight in Oudomxay

**DAY 03. OUDOMXAY – MUONG LA - MUONG NGOY (B/-/-)**

Our journey to Muong La will get through some scenic landscape and visit Pra Xack Kham Temple with its sacred Buddha image. The 400 years old legendary statue is said to have many supernatural powers and is the holy land of local Buddhists. After our stop in Muong La for lunch, we continue our voyage towards Muong Khoua and board a traditional boat for a leisurely cruise on the Nam Ou River down to Muong Ngoy, a little village set along the east riverbank with breathtaking sceneries surrounded by mountains. Overnight in Muong Ngoy, our base for the next three trekking days.

**DAY 04. MUONG NGOY – BAN KIOUKHAN (B/-/-)**

Today, we discover the remote and extremely beautiful mountainous region of the north. We leave the town and begin our trek uphill to the rural village of Ban Kioukhan. We continue to walk through many different villages where there are few footprints of tourists. The friendly Khmu hill tribe people living here still remain primitive and basic lifestyle. We arrive at Ban Kioukhan by late afternoon and walk around this charming village to meet the people. We enjoy a local dinner and will homestay at Ban Kioukhan to experience authentic life of villagers.

**DAY 05. BAN KIOUKHAN - MUONG NGOY (B/-/-)**

We continue our expedition today by following the local tracks. We are challenged with some steep uphill and downhill but the experience is unique and rewarding. After a half day of trekking, we arrive at Ban Hadsaphaei village, which is situated by the Nam Ou river, where we take a stunning boat trip downriver to Muong Ngoy,

We relax and enjoy the great landscape of limestone mountain outcrops surrounding the area. Overnight in Muong Ngoy



#### **DAY 06. MUONG NGOY – LUANG PRABANG (B/-/-)**

A half day of trekking through several hill villages will take you to Pak Ou Cave. We visit the mysterious Pak Ou caves, which are two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by devoted pilgrims. We continue our trip to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang, the ancient royal capital with its gleaming temple roofs, and fading colonial architecture. The roads are quiet with little traffic and you will see monks dressed in orange robes scurry in all directions carrying umbrellas shading themselves from the Sun. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

#### **DAY 7. LUANG PRABANG – CITY TOUR (B/-/-)**

We have relax day trip start with the National museum at the former Royal palace, which displays a lovely collection of artifacts reflecting the richness of Lao culture dating from the days of the early kings through the last sovereign. We will explore some of the major sights in this fabulous city, including the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun, the shrine of Wat Aham, the city's oldest temple of Wat Sene, Wat Mai and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its interesting exterior architecture. We will go up with 329 steps to the top of mountain Phousi for an exploration of the sacred, gilded stupa and to enjoy a beautiful sunset view of the city and its glowing reflection on the Mekong river. We explore the night market, where you can find a lovely selection of handmade textile made by locals and hill tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang. Overnight in Luang Prabang

#### **DAY 08. LUANG PRABANG – VANG VIENG (B/-/-)**

We leave this charming city in the early morning for Vang Vieng. The journey will be uneasy as we drive along the winding mountainous road. In the afternoon we arrive in Vang Vieng, a small and tranquil town, which is nestled on the bank of the Nam Song River. Its stunning scenery with a mixture of quiet atmosphere and limestone outcrops remains unspoiled. We cross the Nam Song river to Tham Jang cave which was used in the

early 19<sup>th</sup> century in defense against the Chinese invaders. Overnight in Vang Vieng.

#### **DAY 09. VANG VIENG – DAY TREKKING (B/-/-)**

Today we leave the town for a full day trek from Ban Phatang village through undulating hillsides and paddy fields. We visit Tham Hoy cave and Ban Phathao village, which is home to the Hmong ethnic minorities. After a picnic lunch, we continue discovering the fantastic limestone karsts formation. The trekking ends in the late afternoon at Ban Tham Xang, a small village where we explore the interesting local lifestyle and enjoy a traditional dance performed by villagers. Overnight in Vang Vieng

#### **DAY 10. VANG VIENG – VIENTIANE (B/-/-)**

We take half day driving to the capital city Vientiane, which is located on the banks of the Mekong river. Vientiane is a charming and fascinating capital, with an interesting mixture of Lao, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, French, Soviet and American influences. We visit some major sights including the oldest temple Wat Sisaket with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former royal temple of Wat Prakeo, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha image. En route to Lao's national precious heritage, the famous and sacred structure of That Luang Stupa, you will have the opportunity to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph. Overnight in Vientiane

#### **DAY 11. VIENTIANE – DEPARTURE (B/-/-)**

We will visit the morning market and if time permits we will also visit the weaving village of Ban Nong Bouathong. You will be transferred to airport for your onward flight. End of services

#### **SERVICES INCLUDED**

- Private transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- Private boat trip as stated in above sights
- English speaking guide
- Admission fees to indicated sights
- Meals: daily breakfast at hotel
- Tax and service charge
- Luggage handling, bottles of drinking water every day

#### **SERVICES not INCLUDED**

- Visa stamping fee
- International air tickets to / from Laos
- Travel Insurance in all kinds
- Meals: lunch or dinner where not stated
- Single supplement
- Tip, drinks, personal expenses and others