

3 Days / 2 Nights

## Luang Prabang Highlights



Sense the tranquil atmosphere in Luang Prabang



Capture colorful night market in Luang Prabang



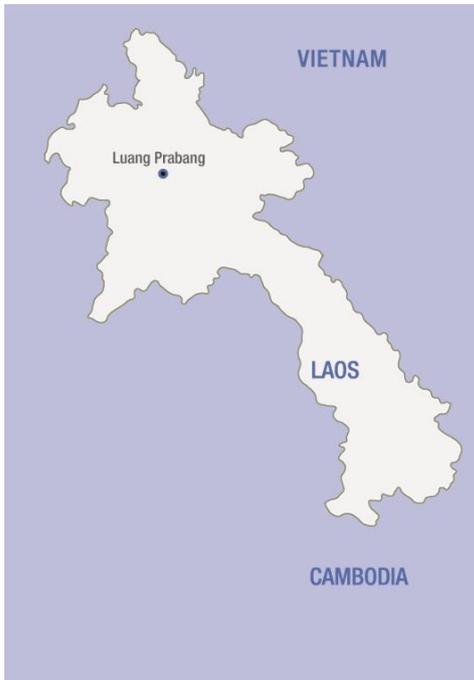
Step up to the panoramic view point of Phousi Mountain



Discover Pak Ou cave by Mekong River



Admire the beauty of Khuang Si waterfall



**Day 1:** Luang Prabang

**Day 2:** Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave

**Day 3:** Luang Prabang – Khuang Si Waterfall

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Luang Prabang – Ancient Towns & Arts (-/L/-)

- Sabaidee, welcome to **Luang Prabang**, a rich history and heritages sites. Your day will start with the National Museum. Housed in the former **Royal Palace**, uninhabited since the royal family was deposed in 1975, the museum showcases many treasures of Laos' royal past and allows visitors to glimpse the private and public quarters of Lao royalty. Also displayed here is the Prabang, the sacred Buddha image for which Luang Prabang was named.
- Following is **Wat Xieng Thong**, the largest and most splendid temple of Luang Prabang royal city. Built on the Mekong River bank in 1560 under the reign of King Setthathirat (1548 – 1571), the temple is best known for its impressive Tree of Life mural depicting the Buddhist story.
- In the afternoon, visit the impressive stupa of **Wat Visoun**, a peaceful temple featuring the much-photographed Watermelon Stupa, and **Wat Aham** the site of Luang Prabang's most important spirit shrine.
- Close your day at **Phou Sy Mountain**. Rising 150m in the centre of town, Mount Phousi cuts a distinctive figure on the Luang Prabang skyline. The hill is a popular as a place to watch the sun rise or set. From the summit you enjoy spectacular 360 degree views across the city and its many temples, and over the surrounding landscape to the mountains in the distance.
- Overnight in Luang Prabang.

### Day 2: Pak Ou Caves (B/L/-)

**Option:** Consider an early wake-up call to join the locals giving food to hundreds of Buddhist monks returning from morning prayers. Take a stroll through the morning market and participate in this solemn, everyday ritual.

- Breakfast at the hotel or join the locals for a bowl of delicious noodle soup after the alms giving ritual.
- Located 25 km upriver from Luang Prabang right on the river bank at the confluence of the Mekong and **Nam Ou Rivers**, Pak Ou Caves are a well known Buddhist pilgrimage site with many statues and statuettes of the Buddha in the traditional Luang Prabang style. You will go by boat to **Pak Ou Caves**, enjoy splendid natural scenery along the way and observing local fishermen and daily activities along the river. Pak Ou Caves, locally called Tam Ting, are filled with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues. The caves are noted for their miniature Buddha sculptures. Hundreds of wooden Buddhist figures take many different positions, including meditation, teaching, peace, rain and reclining (nirvana).
- On return, stop at the local villagers at **Ban Xiengmene** to see the royal temple at Wat Longkhoun, which once belongs to royal family patronage and nearby Sackarine Caves.
- Return to Luang Prabang and explore the **Luang Prabang Night Market**, offering a lovely variety of handmade textiles crafted by local and hill-tribe people, along with street food, knick-knacks and friendly banter.
- Overnight in Luang Prabang

## Day 3: Kuang Si Waterfall (B/L/-)

- After breakfast at hotel, you drive south of town to **Kuang Si Waterfall**. At the famous Kuang Si Waterfall, a short walk brings you down to the abrupt waterfall where you will have time for a swim or simply relaxing by the water's edge.
- In the afternoon, return to Luang Prabang, and pay a visit to villages of **Ban Thapene**,
- End of service.