

8-DAY UP RIVER MEKONG CRUISE: LUANG PRABANG – GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Savour the fantastic scenery of the Mekong River on your spectacular and unique cruise from Luang Prabang (Laos) to the Golden Triangle (Thailand).



YOUR ROUTE: LUANG PRABANG – THA DEUA - KUANG SI – PAK OU – PAKBENG – HUAY XAY – GOLDEN TRIANGLE

LUANG PRABANG – EMBARKATION (THURSDAYS ONLY!)

(-/-/D)

DAY 1: Transfer from the airport to our pier in citycenter and embarkation on the Cruisevessel – one of the most comfortable and new Laotian cruise ships. Check in time is at 2:00 PM. These unique vessels are a German-Laotian owned river ship company with passenger cabins on the upper Mekong. Your program begins with a walk and visit at the famous Wat Xieng Thong temple, Wat Khili and Wat Sene as well. Enjoy the spacious decks, lounge on board and attend our welcome reception, bazi ceremony, Lao Dances performance and dinner this evening. A selection of Asian and European food will be provided throughout the evening. Overnight aboard Cruisevessel.

LUANG PRABANG CITYTOUR

(B/L/-)

DAY 2: During a full day visit you will get to know some of the highlights of this beautiful city, the National Museum in the morning include. After Lunch trip by minivan for a visit Wat Visoun, Wat Manorom and Sa-Paper-Village at the Nam Khan River outside town. In the late afternoon walk up Phou Si-hill, which offers a spectacular sunset view over the Mekong as well as the Khan river and the surrounding mountains. Enjoy the unique atmosphere provided by the abundance of well-preserved French colonial architecture mingling with traditional Buddhist temples. In the evening enjoy strolling along the Mekong promenade or visiting the colorful night market of the local Hmong minority. For Dinner on your own our Cruisedirector and/ or Lao Staff will recommend you some of the best local and international restaurants in town. Overnight aboard Cruisevessel.

CRUISING IN THE SOUTH

(B/L/D)

DAY 3: In the early morning you will able to join the traditional giving of alms in the streets of Luang Prabang. Breakfast is on board. Breakfast on board. Your spectacular cruise begins with the departure from Luang Prabang, from where you will cruise southwards. After a couple hour cruising you will stop on a secluded river bank or sandbank in the middle of the countryside. Overnight aboard Cruisevessel.

WILD NATURE ALONG THE MIGHTY MEKONG**(B/L/D)**

DAY 4: Today the ship will head south to the Mekong ferry crossing at Tha Deua, connecting Luang Prabang Province with the Sayaboury Province. Further downstream you will discover some of the most remarkable, most impressive landscapes of this still-untamed river. The landscape becomes more and more spectacular: hills covered with tropical vegetation, awe-inspiring rock formations along the river banks, and a fascinating array of fast currents and slower river parts. The power of the mighty Mekong will give your cruise the feeling of a real expedition. (Due to sudden drops in water level on some days, it may be necessary to make the afternoon excursion down south and upstream again – the wildest and possibly most exciting part of the Mekong – in a local Lao slowboat before returning back to the cruisevessel). You will visit a local village school, which is supported by guests of the Mekong Company. Enjoy the beautiful views and watch nature's wonders along the shores before you head north again and stop at a sandbank for the night. Overnight aboard the Cruisevessel.

KUANG SI WATERFALLS**(B/L/D)**

DAY 5: This morning is a day to take it all in – relax on deck, in your comfortable cabin or in the lounge and soak up the untouched scenery. After a few hours cruising upstream again you will stop and continue by bus to visit the famous Kuang Si-waterfalls, some of the most remarkable waterfalls in Laos. On the way stroll through the village of Tha Pan, where you can observe how the local communities live in northern Laos. The river traffic thins out as you proceed upstream again. Later you will reach Nam Ou village, where you can see Elephants. Overnight aboard the Cruisevessel.

PAK OU CAVE - PAKBENG BY LUANG SAY CRUISE**(B/L/D)**

DAY 6: After early breakfast you will explore the famous Pak Ou-caves, with thousands of small Buddha statues inside the caverns. Luang Say Cruise Boat is waiting for you already. This boat is 34 m long with a 420 HP engine and a steel hull for strength and safety. Comfortable seats and benches with an open air view. Coffee tables with magazines and booklets to read are available during the cruise (toilet and bathroom at the boat as well). Enjoy a buffet lunch on board. Then stop at a hilltribe village where you can watch the traditional process of Lao whiskey production. Arrive at Pakbeng around sunset and check in at Luang Say Lodge. Located on the left bank of the river, the Luang Say Lodge is backed by mountainous jungle. The large pavilions of solid teak and rosewood all have beautiful vistas looking out over the Mekong River and the mountains beyond. The traditional Laotian architecture provides accommodation of comfort and character, each bedroom equipped with high ceiling mosquito nets, electric fans and a large private bathroom with hot shower and western style toilet. Dinner at the terrace - overlooking the Mekong River. Overnight at Luang Say Lodge.

FROM PAKBENG TO THAILAND**(B/L/D)**

DAY 7: Breakfast at the Lodge. At 7.00 am boarding again for the second part of the cruise. En route one stop is made to observe rural life along the Mekong and observe minorities. Buffet lunch on board and then continue to Huay Xay, where you will arrive before 5.00 pm. Crossing Mekong River by ferry boat to Thai Border and Immigration. Your minivan and local guide is already waiting for you. Transfer to Golden Triangle Hotel. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel.

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE**(B/L/-)**

DAY 8: This morning is spent on an excursion to the Golden Triangle area at Chiang Saen, where you will visit the Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and the new Hall of Opium. This fascinating museum, sponsored by the royal family of Thailand, gives a deep background on the history and politics of the opium trade and the health effects of opium abuse. After lunch transfer to the Airport. End of Service.

NOTE: Every river cruise on the upper Mekong is a pioneer experience and is subject to constantly changing river conditions, including from floodwaters and shallows. Therefore please understand that we must reserve the right to alter the itinerary of this tour due to the logistical complexities involved. Small deviations in the tour program are sometimes necessary, depending on weather, local authorities and river and/or road conditions. For safety reasons and according to navigating conditions, these programs may be amended without previous notice.

LUANG SAY LODGE



LUANG SAY BOAT

