

8-DAY MEKONG ROUND TRIP CRUISE: LUANG PRABANG - LUANG PRABANG

Savour the fantastic scenery of the Mekong River on your spectacular cruise starting and ending in the former royal city of Luang Prabang (Laos), now UNESCO World Heritage.



YOUR ROUTE: LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU – OU RIVER – THA DEUA – HOUHEY HIP – KUANG SI – LUANG PRABANG

DAY 1: LUANG PRABANG – EMBARKATION (-/-/D)

In the afternoon, you will embark at one of the German-Laotian owned river ships Mekong Sun and/ or Explorer. These are comfortable new cabin cruiser on the upper Mekong. (*Check in is at 2:00 PM.*) Settle into your accommodating cabin and unpack for a four-day cruise. Begin with a walk up Phou Si-hill, which offers a spectacular sunset view over the Mekong as well as the Khan river and the surrounding mountains. In the evening, enjoy strolling along the Mekong promenade or visiting the colorful night market of the local Hmong minority. Enjoy the spacious decks, lounge on board and attend our welcome reception and dinner this evening. A selection of Asian and European food will be provided throughout the cruise. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 2: LUANG PRABANG (B/L/-)

Breakfast on board. Today the ship stays in Luang Prabang, while you have the full day to get to know the beauties of this UNESCO World Heritage town. You will visit National Museum, Wat Xiengthong, Wat Sene and many more. Apart from numerous temples, the atmosphere is enriched by neighboring French colonial architecture. As Luang Prabang offers many opportunities for fine dining, tonight you are free to choose from the numerous offerings in town or along the Mekong River. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 3: LUANG PRABANG – NAM OU (B/L/D)

In the early morning you will be able to observe the traditional giving of alms in the streets of Luang Prabang. Breakfast is on board. In the afternoon your spectacular cruise begins with the departure from Luang Prabang from where you will cruise northwards. The night is spent on a secluded river bank or sandbank. Enjoy the spacious decks, lounge on board and attend our welcome reception and dinner this evening. A selection of Asian and European food will be provided throughout the cruise. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 4: PAK OU AND THE LAND OF THOUSAND ELEPHANTS (B/L/D)

After breakfast on board you will go on an excursion by local slowboat up the Ou-River to visit rice paddies cultivated by the local Khmu minority. You also will see working elephants during a walk in Nam Ou village. After a short walk through the jungle you will explore the famous Pak Ou-caves, with thousands of small Buddha statues inside the caverns. Go for visit a Laotian village where you can observe how the local liqueur Lao-Lao is being distilled traditionally. After re-embarkation you will enjoy a few hours of cruising down the Mekong River amidst beautiful landscapes. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 5: WILD NATURE ALONG THE MIGHTY MEKONG (B/L/D)

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 cruisevessel. 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.

DAY 6: THA DEUA – LUANG PRABANG (B/L/D)

After breakfast on board, enjoy the beautiful view and spot local fishermen onshore as you cruise upstream again. After a few hours of cruising up the river, 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 small village of Tha Pan, where you can observe how the local communities live in northern Laos. In the afternoon you will return to Luang Prabang. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 7: LUANG PRABANG (B/-/D)

Breakfast on board. Today the ship stays in Luang Prabang, while you can enjoy once again the wonderful town and the atmosphere in Luang Prabang. You have the day free to explore on your own. (For charter groups we can arrange an exciting program upon request) This last evening on board will be celebrated with a farewell dinner. Overnight aboard the cruisevessel.

DAY 8: DISEMBARK LUANG PRABANG (B/-/-)

After breakfast you will say goodbye to your Laotian crew. Check-out and disembark. 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.