

8-DAY DOWNRIVER MEKONG CRUISE: LUANG PRABANG – VIENTIANE

Savour the fantastic scenery of the Mekong River on a unique cruise from Luang Prabang to Vientiane (Laos).

YOUR ROUTE: LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU – KUANG SI – THA DEUA – PAKLAY – VIENTIANE

LUANG PRABANG – EMBARKATION

(-/-/D)

DAY 1: In the afternoon, you will embark on the Mekong Sun, a comfortable new Laotian cruise ship. (Check in is at 2:00 PM) This unique vessel is the first German-Laotian owned river ship with cabins on the upper Mekong. Settle into your accommodating cabin and unpack for an eight-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 Mekong Sun.

LUANG PRABANG

(B/L/D)

DAY 2: Breakfast is on board. Today you will experience the town during a full day visit. You will get to know some of the many highlights of this beautiful city, incl. the famous Wat Xieng Thong temple and enjoy the unique atmosphere provided by the abundance of well-preserved French colonial architecture mingling with traditional Buddhist temples. In the 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. In the evening, enjoy strolling along the Mekong promenade or visiting the colorful night market of the local Hmong minority. Overnight aboard the Mekong Sun.

LUANG PRABANG – PAK OU

(B/L/D)

DAY 3: 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. Today your spectacular cruise begins with the departure from Luang Prabang from where you will cruise north and visit a Laotian village. In the village you can observe how the local liqueur Lao-Lao is being distilled traditionally. After a short walk through the jungle you will explore the famous Pak Ou-caves, with thousands of small Buddha statues inside the caverns. The night is spent on a secluded river bank or sandbank. Overnight aboard the Mekong Sun.

KUANG SI

(B/L/D)

DAY 4: After a few hours of cruising down the river, you will stop and continue by bus to visit the famous Kuang Si-waterfalls, followed by a visit to an elephant camp, where you will be able to see the big creatures in action. Upon returning to your vessel, the ship heads on southwards. Overnight aboard the Mekong Sun.

THA DEUA – PAKLAY

(B/L/D)

DAY 5: Today you will see the Mekong ferry crossing at Thadeua, connecting Luang Prabang Province with the Sayaboury province. In the afternoon you will have a short visit at the small riverside community of Pak Lay, known for its abundance of colonial architecture. At night you will enjoy again the comfort of your cruise ship. You will spend the night close to the border between Thailand and Laos. Overnight aboard the Mekong Sun.

WILD NATURE ALONG THE MIGHTY MEKONG

(B/L/D)

DAY 6: Further south you will discover some of the most remarkable, most impressive landscapes of this partly 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 and slow currents on the river. The power of the mighty Mekong will give your cruise the feeling of a real expedition. 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 Mekong Sun.

VIENTIANE

(B/L/D)

DAY 7: Your cruise takes you further downstream along the "mother of all waters", as the Laotians call the Mekong. Today's destination is Vientiane, the capital of Laos. In Vientiane you will visit the That Luang temple, which is the national symbol, and the picturesque *Arc de Triomphe*. This last evening on board will be celebrated with a farewell dinner. Overnight aboard the Mekong Sun.

DISEMBARK VIENTIANE

(B/-/-)

DAY 8: After breakfast you will say goodbye to your Laotian crew, followed by checkout and disembarkation. End of services.

NOTE: *Every river cruise on the upper Mekong is a pioneer experience and is subject to constantly changing river conditions including from flood waters 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.*