



Smiling Albino's Classic Laos

Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Pakse
2014-2015



Background



Laos is a deeply spiritual Southeast Asian country with a reputation for being a tranquil and sleepy backwater, but the truth is that it is an incredibly vibrant young country emerging gracefully from a Cold War era mentality. Underexplored, endearing and enchanting, Laos is a country that will surprise and delight you in the most charming ways.

Tiny and landlocked, Laos is an echo of the Thailand of years gone by. Visit Laos today as it is rapidly developing, and a “must see now” before it is too late.

Day 1:
Welcome to Vientiane!

Flight: TBA
Meals: B, L
Settha Palace Hotel



Upon arrival, your host will bring you to your boutique room at Settha Place. Enjoy lunch at 'Spirit House' on the banks of the Mekong River, before enjoying some sightseeing to the city's prime sites: Wat Sisaket - the oldest temple to have survived the Siamese War of 1828, Ho Prakeo - the former home of the Emerald Buddha statue which now resides in Bangkok, That Luang Stupa - the holiest site in Laos, and Patuxay or Victory Monument.



About Settha Palace Hotel

This stunning property dates to 1932 and has been painstakingly restored to its former glory by the original founding-family. Designed in colonial French style, every nook and cranny has been thoughtfully designed and decorated. With 26 rooms it is a dignified and intimate hotel with a charm that harkens back to simpler times.

Day 2: Charming Luang Prabang!

Flights: TBA
Meals: B, L,
La Residence Phou Vous Hotel



In the morning you'll be driven to the airport for your short flight to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Luang Prabang, hot for a variety of reasons: fabulous colonial French-Lao architecture, French-Lao food, spectacular temples and a glimpse of the spiritual seat of Laotian culture. The town features quaint, charming lanes ideal for afternoon strolls.

With clean, palm-lined boulevards and the romantic views of the Mekong and Khan Rivers, Luang Prabang has much to offer the discerning travel enthusiast.

Upon arrival you'll be met by your host and a private vehicle and escorted to your home away from home. We'll treat you to a delicious Laos lunch then visit the Traditional Art and Ethnology Museum. From here enjoy the National Museum, the former Royal Palace and the monasteries at Vat Xieng Thong, dating to 16th century. Finish the day with a short walk up Phousi Mount for a panoramic view of Luang Prabang.



About La Residence Phou Vous Hotel

La Residence Phou Vao is guaranteed to dazzle the senses. Located on a hilltop with sweeping views of the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, every moment spent here is sure to soothe the soul. Charming sitting areas, a tasty restaurant, welcoming bar and other amenities make this one of Luang Prabang's top places to reside.

**Day 3:
Laos Cooking, Mekong
River Cruise & Pak Ou
Caves**



Meals: B, L,
La Residence Phou Vous Hotel

Lao food is quickly gaining a reputation as the darling of Asian cuisines. Today you'll prepare your own Laotian culinary delights under the watchful eye of the area's best cooking teacher, then indulge in your creation for lunch!

In the afternoon you'll drive towards Pak Ou Caves, an important spiritual site, then cruise down the Mekong River, stopping along the way at to see mulberry tree paper production, a silk weaving village and a Laos whiskey making village. Enjoy your final night in Luang Prabang marvelling at the amazing day you've just had.

Day 4:
To Pakse



Flight: TBA
Meals: B, L
King Fisher Lodge

Enjoy the morning as you wish before being transferred to the airport for your flight to Pakse, in southern Laos.

Here you'll be met by a fantastic host and taken for a relaxing journey down the Mekong River to Champasak where you'll have a riverside lunch. Next it's to stunning Wat Phou, a World Heritage Site offering a dramatic view of the Mekong Valley.

Finally it's onward to quiet Don Deang Island where you enjoy the night at a very cool lodge. Enjoy the evening as you like.



About King Fisher Lodge

Back to nature is what King Fisher is all about. Set in wetlands and lush tropical forest, comfortable bungalows offer solar-powered hot showers, spacious balconies and a true back-to-nature feel. The elephant 'mahout' training program is a 'must-experience' too.

**Day 5:
Mahout Experience**



Flight: TBA
Meals: B, L
King Fisher Lodge,

Mount your very own elephant and learn how to drive and care for these mighty beasts. You'll learn how to drive them using verbal and non-verbal commands, drive them through the forest, up some hills and get very up close and personal with these amazing animals.

The night is yours to enjoy.

Day 6:
Onwards...



Flight: TBA
Meals: B

Enjoy a leisurely morning before we transfer you to Pakse airport for your onward flight. What a journey it's been!

Until Next time...

PRICE: Approx. \$325 USD per person per day
(Minimum 4 persons)

INCLUDING: 5 nights quality accommodations,
Full Service Private touring throughout
meals as outlined,
all transport, including domestic flights
the finest adventure leaders

EXCLUDING: Alcohol
souvenirs
laundry service
mini-bar expenses
Laos Visa
Flights to Vientiane and from Pakse, Laos
*We can arrange flights from Bangkok for
approximately \$500US/return. *



The Smiling Albino Service Difference

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience. We will also provide you with a complimentary mobile phone for your use throughout your stay. You'll be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure.

We look forward to hosting you!

The Team at Smiling Albino

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"See a different part of the world, differently."