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ITINERARY LAOS



LAID BACK LAOS

8 DAY SOLO TOUR: APRIL 2020

From the French facades of Luang Prabang to the temples of Vientiane, join us on a brilliant small group solos tour and unlock the heart of this unforgettable Country. During this short but enlightening tour, you will get to experience the dreamy essence of Laos, along with the colonial mansions, tree-lined boulevards and gilded Buddhist temples.

A peaceful oasis among the chaos that defines much of Southeast Asia, Laos is a comparatively relaxed country that is nonetheless bursting with pride, history and colour. In this 8 day trip, you will soak up the best of what Laos has to offer. Travel from the lush forests and limestone cliffs of Luang Prabang to the gilded capital Vientiane, where evidence of French colonial rule still exists among the myriad wats and stupas.



Highlights of the laid-back Laos tour include:

- Rise with the sun and watch saffron-robed monks shuffle between houses, where the faithful wait with offerings as part of an alms giving ritual.
- See the crowning-jewel of Laos' spiritual monuments – Pha That Luang, a shining Buddhist stupa that sits on ground that has been considered holy for thousands of years.
- Splash in the blue waters of Kuang Si Waterfall, where multi-tiered cascades ensconced by thick jungle give the appearance of a Laotian Eden.
- Visit the rescued Asian bears at an ethical and sustainable sanctuary which rehabilitates and provides a safe-haven for them to frolick.
- Taste the sweet and sour delights of local cuisine while traveling throughout the country.
- Cruise down the mighty Mekong River to the limestone caves of Pak Ou, which practically overflow with icons of the Buddha.

Will you join us?



Day 1 - Wednesday 15th April 2020**ARRIVE LUANG PRABANG**

Welcome to Laos! Upon arrival, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. The day is then yours at leisure, until the group meet for a tour briefing this evening.

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Villa Chitdara 1', Luang Prabang (3.5 stars)**

Day 2 - Thursday 16th April 2020**LUANG PRABANG- ALMS GIVING CEREMONY, KUANG SI WATERFALLS, BEAR SANCTUARY AND CITY TOUR (B,L)**

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning alms giving ritual to saffron clad monks. This tradition is unique to Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving this procession. Next we briefly visit a local market where we can explore the foods and smells, before returning to our hotel to enjoy breakfast. We then head off to Luang Prabang on a sightseeing tour. We visit some of the famous temples - Wat Xiengthong, Wat Sene Xoukharam and Wat Visoun. We also visit the former Royal Palace, a commanding structure in the center of town that until 1946 was the heart of the Lang Xang Kingdom. Today it is the National Museum, and its halls contain rare religious and cultural artefacts. In the afternoon we travel further afield to visit the stunning Kuang Si Waterfalls. The falls cascade over many calcified tiers and down several hundred feet into a series of cool, turquoise pools. We will get the opportunity to visit the Asian Bear Rescue Centre. Swinging in hammocks playing with tyres and generally frolicking in a wonderland made just for them, the bears at the Tat Kuang Si Bear Resue Centre have plenty to be happy about- since they were all rescued from poachers looking to harvest their parts. Next we get to enjoy our picnic lunch at the falls. Today we will also observe the local village Ban Na Ouan, the Hmong tribe and experience their day-to-day lives. Upon return to Luang Prabang in the late afternoon, we climb 328 steps to the top of Mount Phousi and enjoy panoramic views of the city and sunset from the hillside. We then explore the night market which is open from dusk until about 10pm. Browse for colourful textiles, quilts, carvings, basketry, ceramics, clothing and handmade paper before returning to the hotel

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Villa Chitdara 1', Luang Prabang (3.5 stars)**



Day 3 - Friday 17th April 2020**LUANG PRABANG - VILLAGES & PAK OU CAVES (B, L)**

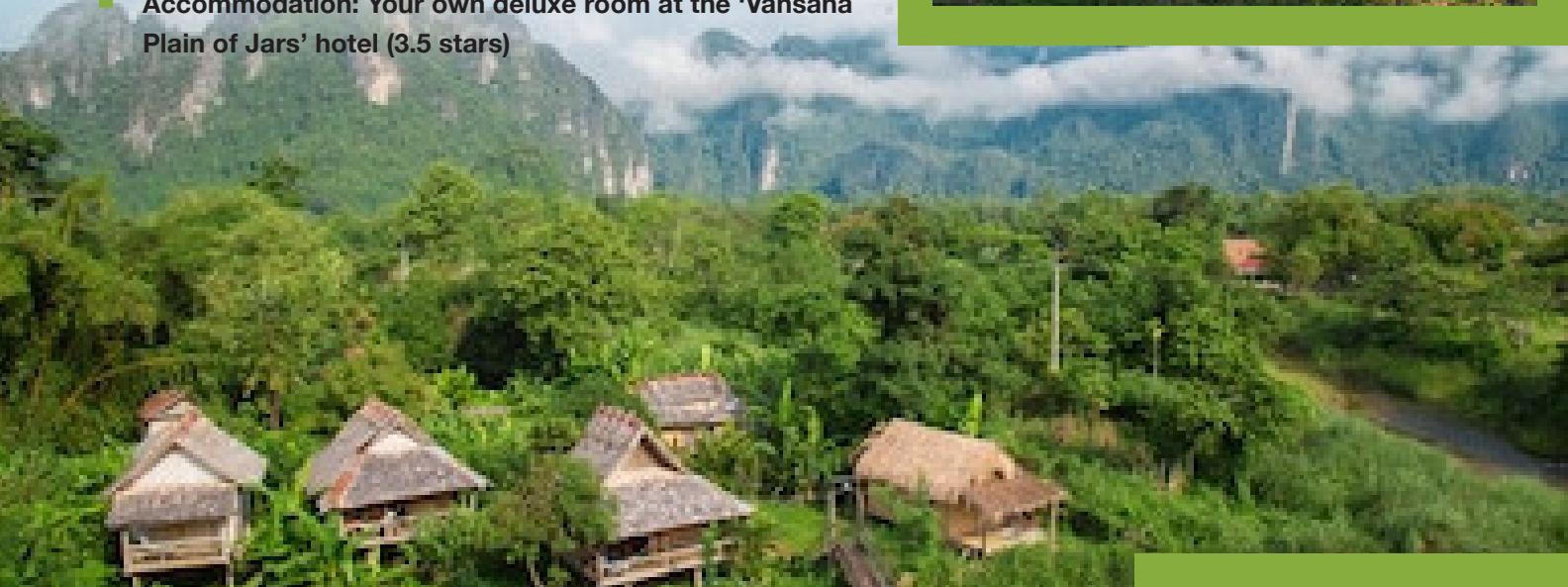
After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre located in a historical building preserved by UNESCO. The exhibition here consists of traditional clothing, religious artifacts and daily working tools of Lao minorities that will help you understand more about their lifestyle and traditions. Afterwards, we transfer to the pier and take a long-tailed boat for an upstream cruise. During the cruise, you will be treated a stunning display of nature along the river. From the distance you can see limestone cliffs where the hidden Pak Ou Caves are located. The cave is home to thousands of Buddha statues which make the region a revered one. Take your time to explore numerous images hidden in the cave. Then, make your way back to the city. En-route, stop to visit Ban Xang Hai village to learn more about the making process of the traditional Lao rice whisky. It is a great chance to taste its unique flavor. Next we move onto Ban Xang Khong village- famous for its wood, paper and Lao silk weaving. On the way back to hotel, we will stop to visit the H'mong Night Market where you can find a lot of traditional Laos style souvenirs. This market is also a paradise for the street food lover, and you can have dinner at any number of fabulous stalls. Our guide will suggest many reputable places to enjoy traditional street food, or a hot pot at a nice restaurant at the river bank. Afterwards, we transfer back to hotel.

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Villa Chitdara 1', Luang Prabang (3.5 stars)**

**Day 4 - Saturday 18th April 2020****LUANG PRABANG - DRIVE TO XIENG KHOUANG (B, L)**

Today we travel to Xiengkouang Province through the high mountains with spectacular views. The journey takes about 7 hours and along the way we'll stop at some view points and local Hmong villages. We drive out to visit the Plain of Jars, an impressive archaeological site where hundreds of large stone jars are littered all over the plateau. We stay overnight at the hotel and eat by the banks of the river.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at the 'Vansana Plain of Jars' hotel (3.5 stars)**



Day 5 - Sunday 19th April 2020**XIENG KHOANG - OVERLAND VANG VIENG (B,L)**

After breakfast we take a six-hour drive along picturesque winding roads to Vang Vieng. There are stunning vistas of towering limestone karst hills around every turn and great photo opportunities of the Hmong tribal villages along the way. You will have lunch on the way to Vang Vieng at a local restaurant. Arrive into Vang Vieng later in the afternoon in time for sunset views over the river and spectacular mountain scenery.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at the 'Inthira Hotel, Vang Vieng' (4 stars)**

Day 6 - Monday 20th April 2020**VANG VIENG FREE DAY (B)**

After breakfast this morning, we visit the Tham Jang caves. We have time to enjoy a leisurely walk around the caves before returning to Vang Vieng. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Vang vieng on your own. There are markets, cafes, swimming in the river, walks or interesting people watching to enjoy. There are also numerous activities available at an extra charge such as kayaking, ziplining, biking, caving tours and a Hot Air Balloon flight!

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at the 'Inthira Hotel, Vang Vieng' (4 stars)**

Day 7 - Tuesday 21st April 2020**VANG VIENG - VIENTIANE (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we continue our journey to Vientiane. On

the way we will visit Vang Sang- where dozens of Buddha images dating from the 16th century remain. After arriving at Vientiane we explore some of the hidden charms of the City. We'll visit various historic sites including Vat Phra Keo (one of the most impressive and interesting temples in Vientiane), Vat Sisaket (features beautiful architecture) Pha That Louang (one of the most representative places of Buddhism and the splendor of Laos, as well as being a monument of national pride) and Patuxay (the most prominent landmark in the city which offers an excellent panoramic view of the city). We will make our way to the famous Buddha Park - home to hundreds of Buddha statues and an enormous Buddha image which is 40m in length. Take your time to explore the unique statues with different size and shapes of human, Godheads and animals. We'll also visit the COPE Center (a non-profit organisation) which assists thousands of people with mobility- related disabilities, including UXO survivors. Tonight the group will enjoy local delicacies at their farewell dinner.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at the 'City Inn Hotel, Vientiane' (3.5 stars)**

Day 8 - Wednesday 22nd April 2020**DEPART VIENTIANE (B)**

Your 'Laid Back Laos' tour will come to an end today. This morning is yours to enjoy breakfast at leisure and your room is also available to be used until 12noon.

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight home, or onwards to further adventures. Alternately, if you wish to extend your stay please request your Two's a Crowd travel consultant to book your post-tour accommodation and any further arrangements you need.



TOUR PRICE A\$1,999 PLUS INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES AND TAXES**TOUR DATES: 15TH - 22ND APRIL 2020****Tour Inclusions:**

- Two's a Crowd Tour Host accompanies group throughout.
- Accommodation at listed hotels (or similar) in your own room with daily breakfasts.
- All transport as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicle.
- Meals as per itinerary (B=breakfasts, L= lunches and D=dinners).
- All entrance fees as detailed in itinerary.
- English speaking local guide throughout.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Cold drinking water and refreshing towels for touring.
- Standard NIB Travel Insurance Policy. Additional

premium may be payable if over 69 years, have an existing medical condition or wish to extend your travelling dates (underwritten by XL).

Tour Exclusions:

- International flights and taxes.
- Personal expenses.
- Visas: Obtain your entry Visa upon arrival at Luang Prabang Airport.
- Services and meals if not mentioned in itinerary as 'included'.
- All drinks, including water, soft drink and alcohol on all included or optional excursion.
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs, laundry, telephone calls and other expenditure of an individual nature.

**NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE TEAM:**

Phone: 1300 55 45 01 (AUS) or 0800 895 145 (NZ) **Email: team@twosacrowd.com.au**

ABOUT TWO'S A CROWD: We are an award winning tour company exclusively dedicated to the needs of solo travellers. At Two's a Crowd, single and solo travellers have access to fantastic itineraries at great prices without ever feeling like a third wheel to someone else's private getaway. Our travellers enjoy the best of both worlds: private time, personalised attention, low single supplements, as well as the camaraderie of like-minded travellers. For your peace of mind we are ATAS accredited (No A13850).

Our commitment is to make solo travel more enjoyable and affordable.

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