

## 9D8N LAOS with Mekong River Cruise

Starting from **Chiang Mai**, go to the edge of **Chiang Rai** to **cross into Laos** and take the **Mekong River Cruise** to **UNESCO World Heritage Luang Prabang** town. Then continue on to surreal **Plain of Jars**, scenic **Vang Vieng** and end your tour in the capital, **Vientiane**.

**Departures: FRIDAY or MONDAY or WEDNESDAY**

### DAY 1: KL - Chiang Mai – Chiang Rai - Chiang Khong (L/D)



Air Asia flight arriving 8.40am **Chiang Mai** airport. Met by your Thai tour guide and transfer to **Chiang Rai** with en-route stopover at **Mae Krajan Hot Spring**. In **Chiang Rai**, visit **Wat Rongkhun** (the “White Temple”, an artistic temple masterpiece) and **Black Museum** (showcasing the output of national artist, Thawan Duchanee). After lunch, transfer to **Chiang Khong**, the border town located beside the Mekong River and opposite Laos. Dinner and overnight in Chiang Khong.

### DAY 2: Chiang Khong - Mekong boat cruise – Pak Beng (B/L/D)

Morning, after breakfast, transfer to nearby **Friendship Bridge** connecting Thailand with Laos. Cross the Mekong River using the compulsory shuttle bus service (*see Excluded section below for bus ticket fare*) and enter into the **Laos**.

Greeted by your Laotian tour guide and transfer to the pier in Huay Xai town where you board your **private boat for Mekong River cruise** to Luang Prabang. Halfway on the cruise, have a short stopover at a **riverside ethnic Hmong village**. Arrival late afternoon at **Pak Beng**, the overnight stopover point of the cruise. Check in your hotel. At leisure in Pak Beng. Overnight in Pak Beng.

### DAY 3: Pak Beng – Mekong boat cruise - Luang Prabang (B/L/D)



Morning, board boat for **onward cruise to Luang Prabang**. Stopover at **Pak Ou caves**, where you find 2 holy caves housing over a thousand Buddha images. Visit **Ban Sang Hai rice wine village** where you find rice wine fortified with scorpions and snakes! Late afternoon, arrive in **Luang Prabang**, the **UNESCO World Heritage** city. It is well known as an open museum city with loads of charm, friendly folks and more than 60 temples plus many French colonial buildings well preserved. Evening at leisure for you to visit the **night market** where the main attractions are colourful products from ethnic minorities. Overnight in Luang Prabang.



#### DAY 4: Luang Prabang & Kuang Si Waterfall (B/L)

Early morning, option of participating in **alms giving to Buddhist monks** along the main street of Luang Prabang. Hundreds of monks in long lines captured on camera is among the best photo souvenir of your stay in Luang Prabang.



Morning, visit **National Museum** housed in the former Royal Palace (containing the precious belongings of the former royal family), **Wat Mai** temple, **Wat Xieng Thong** temple (the signature temple of Luang Prabang), **Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre** and **Wat Visoun** with its **That Makmo** 'watermelon' stupa.



Afternoon, visit **Kuang Si waterfall**, considered among the most beautiful waterfalls of South East Asia, with many spots for you to take a dip or soak your legs. En-route to Kuang Si, visit **Ban Thapene** (an ethnic Khmu village). Return to Luang Prabang for **sunset viewing atop Phu Si Hill**. Overnight in Luang Prabang. Dinner on your own, opportunity to sample the many restaurants & cafes in Luang Prabang.

#### DAY 5: Luang Prabang – Phonsavan (B/L/D)

After breakfast in hotel, depart for **Phonsavan** town, capital of Xieng Khuang province. On arrival in Phonsavan, visit **Mine Advisory Group MAG** (the NGO that search and destroy unexploded mines and bombs left over from the Indochina war) office to view their exhibits. Overnight in Phonsavan.

#### DAY 6: Phonsavan & Plain of Jars tour – Vang Vieng (B/L)



Morning, visit **Plain of Jars (Site 1, 2 & 3)** – mysterious ancient stone jars left over by an unknown people. Some say they were for storing wine while others say they were stone coffins – their purpose remains a mystery.

After lunch, transfer to **Vang Vieng**, the small town located beside the pristine Nam Song river. Vang Vieng is famous for scenic views of the river framed by karst mountains; nicknamed “**Guilin of Laos**”. Overnight in Vang Vieng. Dinner on your own, opportunity to sample the many restaurants & cafes in Vang Vieng.



### DAY 7: Vang Vieng - Vientiane

(B/L/D)

Morning, visit **Tham Jang cave** and from a high viewpoint, enjoy the view of the Nam Song river and Vang Vieng town. Free at leisure to relax at resort or explore Vang Vieng town until lunch time.



**OPTIONAL:** Visit **The Blue Lagoon**, a picnic and swimming spot around a natural pool of water.

**The approximate costs:**

- a) Return transfers by local pick-up truck taxi (Song Teaw) for minimum 4 pax group: 8 USD/pax
- b) Entrance ticket (inclusive swimming fee): 3 USD/pax
- c) Life Jacket rental: 2 USD /piece

After lunch, transfer to **Vientiane**, the capital of Laos, with en-route stopover at **KM52 Hmong Market**. In Vientiane, **dinner with Cultural Show**. Overnight in Vientiane.



### DAY 8: Vientiane

(B/L)

Visit **Buddha Park** (a park with a bizarre collection of Buddhist and Hindu sculptures), **Talat Sao Market**, **Patuxai Monument** facing Lanexang Avenue (similar to Arc De Triomphe in Paris on Avenue Champ Elise), **That Luang stupa** (the National and Buddhist monument of Laos), **Ho Pra Keo Museum** (which in the past used to hold the Emerald Buddha, now in Bangkok) and **Wat Sisaket** (the oldest temple in Vientiane). Overnight in Vientiane. Dinner on your own, opportunity to sample the many restaurants & cafes in Vientiane.

### DAY 9: Vientiane departure

(B)

After breakfast, transfer to airport for Air Asia 9.45am flight home.



**RATES:** per person, twin sharing, Malaysian passport holders, for group sizes as below, valid from OCT 2018 to MAR 2019.

**NOTE:** Surcharge applies for X'Mas – New Year (Dec 23-31 2018) & Chinese New Year (Feb 5-10 2019) periods, to be advised on booking.

**OPTION A: 3 star hotels**

4-5 paxs: RM 5190      6-7 paxs: RM 4390      8 or more: RM 3950

Single Supplement: RM 1090

Chiang Khong: Ibis Riverfront Hotel (Garden View) or similar  
Pakbeng: Phetsokxai (Superior Room) or similar  
Luang Prabang: Villa Chitdara (Superior Room) or similar  
Phonsavan: Phou Phadeng Hotel (Superior Room) or similar  
Vang Vieng: Villa Vang Vieng Riverside (Garden View) or similar  
Vientiane: Lao Orchid Hotel (Superior Room) or similar

**OPTION B: combo of 3, 3+ & 4 star hotels**

4-5 paxs: RM 6290      6-7 paxs: RM 5490      8 or more: RM 5050

Single Supplement: RM 2000

Chiang Khong: Ibis Riverfront Hotel (3 star, Garden View) or similar  
Pakbeng: Pakbeng Lodge (3+ star, Superior) or similar  
Luang Prabang: Villa Santi (4 star, Deluxe) or similar  
Phonsavan: Vansana Hotel (3+ star, Superior) or similar  
Vang Vieng: Riverside Boutique Resort (4 star, Superior) or similar  
Vientiane: Lao Plaza Hotel (4 star, Superior) or similar

Rates and itinerary subject to changes to FOREX rates, unforeseen surcharges, weather, local conditions, etc.

**INCLUSIVE:**

- a) Return airport transfers, tour van/coach transfer to Chiang Khong, 2D1N boat cruise from Huay Xai to Luang Prabang, tour van/coach from Luang Prabang to Vientiane; all on Private Basis.
- b) Hotel accommodation with daily breakfast according to hotel option chosen
- c) Meals as per itinerary above
- d) English speaking licensed guide (Thai guide and Laotian guide)
- e) Entrance fees for sights & activities as per itinerary
- f) 2 bottles of drinking water /person on Day 1 to Day 8. Not provided on Day 9.
- g) Tipping for Thailand Guide & Driver team

**EXCLUDING:**

- a) Air Asia air tickets KL to Chiang Mai and Vientiane to KL.
- b) 3 dinners (Day 4, 6 & 8)
- c) Chiang Khong – Huay Xai Border: currently no border crossing fee charged; however this is subject to change. If charged, kindly pay direct to relevant immigration authorities.
- d) Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge border shuttle bus ticket 20 baht /person + 20 baht for 1 large luggage. Pay direct at ticket counter.
- e) Malaysians don't require visa to visit Thailand and Laos.
- f) Travel insurance
- g) Tipping (compulsory minimum):
  - Laos Guide USD 16/traveler
  - Laos Driver USD 10/traveler
  - Cruise boat crew USD 3/traveler
- h) Expenses of personal nature like other optional tours not in itinerary (such as Vang Vieng Blue Lagoon option), laundry & mini bar charges, beverages during meals, miscellaneous tipping (such as hotel & restaurant staff), etc.