

## ***INDO-CHINA REGION – LAO STYLE***

### ***05 Nights / 06 Days***

#### **Luang Prabang \* Vientiane**

##### ***Highlights:***

- **Luang Prabang** – Orientation tour of La Residence Phou Vao town, National Museum, Wat Visoun, Wat Aham, The Ock Pop Tok Gallery – Silk weaving, Wat Xian Thong, Cruise on Mekong River, Pak Ou Caves, Weaving village
- **Vientiane** – Vientiane's own Arc De Triomphe, Lao traditional dance, the That Luang Monument, Vat Sisaket - with its thousands of miniature Buddha statues, Vat Ho Phra Keo, the Patuxai Monument

##### **Day 01 Luang Prabang**

Arrive Luang Prabang airport and transfer to the airport. Afternoon we will proceed for half day orientation tour of Luang Prabang which gives you a brief and informative look in to the history and culture of this town. Visit **Wat temple** where you might have opportunity to speak with monks who live at the temple. Then proceed to visit **Phou Si Mountain**. Climb the 328 steps that lead to the top of the hill from where you will get marvelous views of the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, mountain ranges and city. Descend the steps on the opposite side of the hill and stroll to the nearby colorful night market. Enjoy dinner at restaurant. Overnight at hotel in Luang Prabang.

##### **Day 02 Luang Prabang**

After an early breakfast at the Hotel, proceed for a city tour of **Luang Prabang**. Enroute experience life as a local by watching monks in saffron robes going on their alms collection before visiting the local fresh market. Then visit **the Royal Palace, the National Museum, Wat Visoun with its iconic Watermelon Stupa and Wat Aham** where you will see the altar of the 2 guardian spirits of Luang Prabang. Enjoy lunch at restaurant. Then we proceed to **the Ock Pop Tok gallery** to watch the adept skills of weavers as they demonstrate the significance of silk weaving in Lao culture and you will be inspired to design your own scarf. Take a break at Le Patio Café, located inside the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC). After that take a tour of TAEC, museum dedicated to exploring the rich diversity of Laos ethnic minorities. In the late afternoon, experience the flavors of Lao cuisine with Lao cooking class form La Residence Phou Vao. Enjoy dinner which you have helped to prepare. Overnight at hotel in Lau Prabang.

##### **Day 03 Luang Prabang**

After breakfast, proceed to the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers to visit **Wat Xieng Thong**. Board the elegant Nava Mekong for a scenic two hour cruise to **the Pak ou Caves** and admire the startling collection of gold-lacquered Buddha statues of all shapes and sizes nestled deep in the massive limestone caverns of the Pak Ou Caves. Lunch while anchored beneath the limestone karsts on a tranquil stretch of river and dine on fabulous Lao cuisine. On the return cruise, stop at small villages Ban Xang Khong and Ban Xien Lek, to see the production of traditional Lao textiles and Sa paper by local artisans. Rest of the evening is free to explore on your own. Overnight at Luang Prabang.

##### **Day 04 Luang Prabang – Vientiane**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a morning flight to the Vientiane. Arrive at Vientiane and we drive along the Mekong River and the city's main boulevards to Patuxai, Vientiane's version of "Arc de Triomphe" and transfer to the hotel. Lunch at the vocational Mak Phet restaurant that serves authentic and delicious Lao cuisine prepared by the instructors and students. This afternoon, visit **"Les Artisans Lao"**. Here the trainees transform recycled and renewable materials such as bamboo, palm, and mulberry leaves into quality notebooks, stationary and printer paper. Carved wood materials and coconut based products are also crafted here. Evening enjoy an enchanting stroll by the lazy Mekong river before dining at

Phatoke Laoderm where you will be enchanted by an elegant performance of Lao traditional dance. Overnight at Vientiane.

#### **Day 05 Vientiane**

After breakfast, we proceed for cultural tour. Visit **That Luang**, the cultural symbol of Laos with its magnificent golden stupa before ascending the steps up to **Patuxai**, Vientiane's own Arc de Triomphe for a spectacular view over a city that has almost no high-rise buildings, Continue down Lane Xang Avenue the serene **Wat Sisaket**, the only temple left intact after the Siamese (Thai) invasion in 1828. It is one of the most beautiful temples in the capital, and its breezy teak covered hallways are filled with thousands of miniature Buddha statues. Continue on to the nearby **Wat Phra Keo**. Used as a religious museum. Wat Phra Keo displays a collection of both Lao and Khmer works of art. Indulge in gastronomic delights at a French style bistro restaurant before pampering yourself with some shopping and spa treatment by your own. Observe the unique Baci Ceremony, an eclectic mix of Animist and Buddhist beliefs followed by authentic Lao cuisine in the home of your evening hosts. Overnight at Vientiane.

#### **Day 06 Return**

Breakfast at the hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure until transfer to Airport for your onward flight.