

SEA09 / 18 DAYS



LAOS + CAMBODIA

# Hidden Kingdoms of the Mekong

Wat Phou, Angkor and the living countryside between them.

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18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS / PRIVATE

Travel in November–February • Tailored to your party

## THE JOURNEY

# Some places stay with you.



Go beyond a first introduction to Laos and Cambodia. After Luang Prabang's rituals and river life, this private journey turns south to the sacred landscape of Wat Phou, the island lanes of Don Daeng and the coffee-growing Bolaven Plateau. A well-timed flight links Pakse with Siem Reap, avoiding an unnecessarily tiring border crossing. Cambodia then unfolds through Angkor, Tonle Sap and Battambang's food traditions, crafts and evening bat flight before concluding in Phnom Penh. There are major monuments, but also people, gardens, waterfalls and working villages. The days are full and the walking moderate. Accommodation is chosen honestly for each region: refined city hotels and the best suitable boutique options in the quieter places, supported by attentive private guiding throughout.

## SEVEN MOMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- Baci blessings, farming and a private Mekong boat
- The sacred Khmer landscape of Wat Phou
- Don Daeng village life and river crossings
- Bolaven waterfalls, coffee and hosted community encounters
- A practical direct Pakse–Siem Reap winter flight
- Angkor, Tonle Sap and Battambang's food artisans
- Pottery communities and Phnom Penh's layered history

DESIGNED TO CONNECT BEAUTIFULLY

# The shape of your journey

Luang Prabang • Vientiane • Pakse • Champasak • Bolaven Plateau • Siem Reap • Battambang • Phnom Penh

YOUR NIGHTS, IN ORDER

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| DAYS 01–04 | Luang Prabang |
| DAYS 05–06 | Vientiane     |
| DAYS 07–09 | Champasak     |
| DAYS 10–13 | Siem Reap     |
| DAYS 14–15 | Battambang    |
| DAYS 16–17 | Phnom Penh    |
| DAY 18     | Departure     |

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

## November–February

December and January are especially attractive for cooler days and the Tonle Sap birding overlap. Southern Laos is usually drier; waterfall flow and local road conditions remain seasonal.

MADE FOR

Experienced travelers, culture lovers, couples, friends & solo guests

*Your own travel dates. Your own companions. Private guides and vehicles, with walks, rooming and dining adapted to you.*

CONNECTIONS THAT RESPECT YOUR TIME

- Arrive Luang Prabang; depart Phnom Penh through Techo International Airport.
- Fly Vientiane–Pakse and Pakse–Siem Reap. The latter is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in the checked winter timetable.
- Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday arrivals align day ten with that winter flight pattern, subject to reconfirmation.
- Luang Prabang–Vientiane is by rail; southern and Cambodian sectors use private vehicles and selected boats.



## DAY 01

## Your private welcome to Luang Prabang

Arrive at Luang Prabang International Airport, where your Midasia Routes representative meets you in the arrivals area after immigration and baggage collection. A private vehicle, chilled drinking water and assistance with your luggage make the transition to your hotel easy. Airport fast-track assistance can be requested where the airport permits it.

After settling in, meet your local guide for a personal introduction to Luang Prabang. Depending on your landing time and energy, enjoy a short neighbourhood walk, a riverside pause or a first taste of the city in a relaxed café. Your guide confirms food preferences, walking comfort and the experiences that matter most to you.

A thoughtfully chosen welcome dinner introduces regional flavours. The evening remains gentle after your international journey; a late arrival means dinner and orientation are adjusted to your flight. Your first night is a comfortable beginning, with the details of tomorrow already taken care of.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Welcome dinner, arrival time permitting

## DAY 02

## Luang Prabang: living traditions and a Baci welcome

Begin with the morning market and the town's everyday food traditions, then visit the former Royal Palace museum and Wat Xieng Thong. Your guide explains the architecture, royal history and living Buddhist traditions. Any observation of morning alms is quiet and respectful, without interrupting participants or using flash.

After lunch, meet a textile or craft specialist for an introduction to the distinct communities of northern Laos. Visit the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre when open, or use a prearranged artisan session as the alternative. Allow time to browse contemporary work and ask questions.

Join a Baci ceremony arranged with willing local hosts and an experienced ceremony leader. White threads, spoken blessings and shared goodwill create a personal welcome; participation follows the hosts' customs. Enjoy dinner afterwards. A Phousi viewpoint visit can be added if the steps and timing suit you.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



## DAY 03

## Rice farming, turquoise falls and rescued bears

Visit the Living Land community farm for a prebooked rice experience. Learn how seedlings, irrigation, harvesting and processing connect to the Lao table, joining light tasks suited to the season and your comfort. Participants can try the muddy stages or observe from the field edge; children receive age-appropriate involvement.

After lunch, continue to Kuang Si. Walk the lower forest paths and visit the public viewing area of the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, where rescued bears illustrate a conservation story. Follow the path to the waterfalls and enjoy the turquoise pools, with swimming only in permitted areas when conditions allow.

Return to Luang Prabang for dinner and an optional short browse of the evening craft market. This is a full day, so the walk remains moderate and the upper, steeper waterfall trail is optional. Bear viewing follows sanctuary rules and is distinct from a specially booked care tour.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 04

## A private Mekong boat, sacred caves and artisan hands

Board your private riverboat after breakfast and cruise upstream along the Mekong. Watch the changes along the banks while your guide explains the river's role in transport, farming and trade. Visit Pak Ou's lower Buddha cave; the additional steps to the upper cave are optional.

Enjoy lunch aboard or at a suitable riverside venue, then continue with a prearranged craft stop. A village or workshop visit may focus on weaving, paper-making or another locally practised skill. Your guide checks that hosts are available and that the stop adds a worthwhile encounter rather than a shopping obligation.

Return to town in the late afternoon. After time to refresh, enjoy dinner with Lao specialities matched to your dietary preferences. The journey takes place on the navigable Mekong stretch around Luang Prabang, with exact landing points selected for water levels and the day's operating permissions.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Pha That Luang, Vientiane, Laos

## DAY 05

## Vientiane: sacred spaces and contemporary Laos

Take a reserved-seat train from Luang Prabang to Vientiane after breakfast, with private transfers at both ends. On arrival, settle into your hotel and enjoy lunch. This efficient connection makes room for a meaningful city afternoon without relying on an all-day drive.

Visit Wat Si Saket and Haw Phra Kaew, then continue to the COPE Visitor Centre when open for an introduction to the continuing human impact of unexploded ordnance and the work of rehabilitation. Your guide adapts the discussion to children and to the interests of your party.

Finish with a stroll beside the Mekong and dinner in a carefully chosen restaurant. The riverfront reveals the city's relaxed evening rhythm. Museum closures and the train timetable may change the visit order; the private guide keeps the historical and contemporary stories connected throughout the day.

Overnight: Vientiane | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 06

## Vientiane beyond the familiar postcards

After breakfast, visit Pha That Luang and the Patuxai area, exploring the national symbolism behind both landmarks. Continue to a textile centre or workshop for a hosted introduction to Lao weaving, with time to examine natural fibres, patterns and the work of the artisan.

After lunch, drive out to Buddha Park and explore its collection of Buddhist and Hindu-inspired sculpture with your guide. Keep to the ground-level paths unless you wish to attempt the steeper internal steps of individual structures. Return to town for the COPE Visitor Centre if it was not visited earlier.

Dinner highlights the flavours of Laos in a comfortable setting. Today's mix of sacred imagery, modern identity and craft gives the capital its own place in the journey. The programme is reordered around opening hours, with shaded breaks and your private vehicle available throughout.

Overnight: Vientiane | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

THE MOMENTS BETWEEN THE LANDMARKS

# Centuries beneath your feet.

Sacred landscapes and the stories held in stone.

## DAY 07

### Fly south to the Mekong at Champasak

Transfer privately to Wattay airport for a published domestic flight to Pakse. Your southern Laos guide meets you on arrival and continues towards Champasak. The confirmed flight determines the day's exact rhythm, with lunch and hotel check-in planned accordingly.

After settling into your riverside accommodation, walk through a quiet part of Champasak, where traditional homes and traces of the town's history sit close to the Mekong. A short private boat outing offers a first view of the southern river landscape when water and daylight conditions allow.

Enjoy dinner overlooking or near the river. Southern Laos offers characterful boutique stays and attentive service rather than a uniform international five-star standard. Tomorrow's Wat Phou visit is timed for the cooler part of the day, when the site's terraces are more comfortable to explore.

Overnight: Champasak | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 08

### Wat Phou and an island's quieter rhythm

Explore Wat Phou early with your private guide, following the processional axis from the lower terraces towards the sanctuary. Learn about the sacred landscape and the relationship between water, mountain and Khmer religious architecture. The upper approach includes uneven steps; the lower complex remains an excellent visit if you prefer fewer climbs.

After lunch, take a private boat to Don Daeng when river conditions allow. Walk through village lanes and gardens with a local host, learning about island farming, fishing and daily routines. A short optional bicycle ride can replace part of the walk, with appropriate equipment arranged beforehand.

Return to your accommodation for time to refresh and dinner. The day pairs a major heritage site with a personal countryside encounter, allowing time for conversation and photographs with consent. Landing points and the exact island path are adapted to the season.

Overnight: Champasak | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Angkor Wat, Cambodia

## DAY 09

## The Bolaven Plateau: waterfalls, coffee and local voices

Drive onto the Bolaven Plateau after breakfast, stopping at Tad Fane's accessible viewing area to appreciate its dramatic setting. Your guide explains the region's geology and agricultural importance. Continue to Tad Yuang for a waterfall visit, choosing the stairs and paths that suit your walking comfort.

Enjoy lunch and a hosted coffee experience with a working producer, learning about growing, processing and tasting. A prearranged village encounter may introduce a Katu, Alak or other local community, according to the hosts' identity and availability; the visit is based on welcome and conversation rather than a staged costume display.

Return to the river for dinner. Waterfall viewpoints can be slippery, so the guide selects suitable paths and keeps to established visitor areas. The programme brings together nature, food and community knowledge while allowing enough time for the road journey and meaningful stops.

Overnight: Champasak | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 10

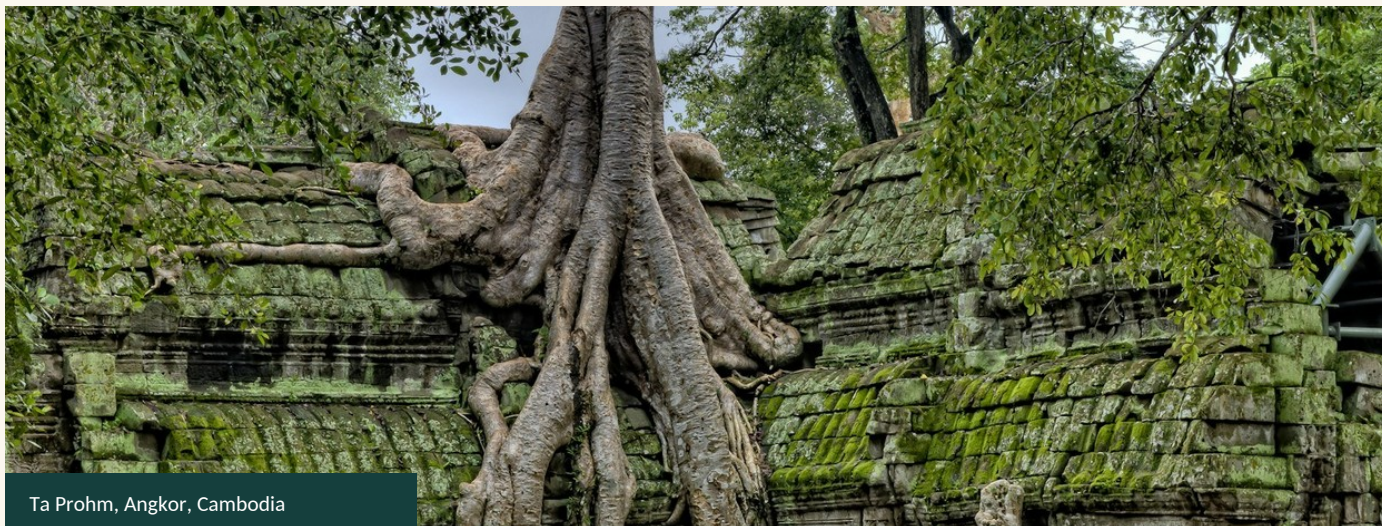
## A new kingdom: welcome to Cambodia

After breakfast, transfer privately to the airport in Pakse. The winter routing uses the published direct Pakse-Siem Reap flight, currently scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays within the checked timetable period. Flight days are planned around published operation, and the final proposal confirms the actual service and baggage arrangements before payment. The journey does not rely on an unverified daily direct flight.

Meet your Cambodian guide at Siem Reap Angkor airport after immigration and baggage collection. Continue privately to your hotel, with lunch or refreshments coordinated around arrival. A gentle orientation introduces the city and gives time to discuss the Angkor visits, walking comfort and food preferences.

Enjoy dinner and, when arrival time permits, a relaxed browse of local design shops or a café stop. Temple visits begin the following morning. The emphasis today is a smooth country-to-country handover, leaving you ready to enjoy Cambodia rather than arriving straight into a demanding sightseeing circuit.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Ta Prohm, Angkor, Cambodia

**DAY 11**

## Angkor: a day worthy of the journey

Leave before dawn if you would like to see Angkor Wat as the light changes, then explore the galleries and courtyards with your private guide. The visit goes beyond a photograph: read the bas-reliefs, understand the temple's symbolism and follow its changing religious life. A later start is possible for families.

After breakfast or a substantial refreshment stop, continue to the great faces of Bayon and selected terraces of Angkor Thom. Lunch and a proper hotel break divide the day. Your guide works around permitted access, heat and conservation restrictions rather than promising empty monuments or closed areas.

Visit Ta Prohm in the later afternoon, when roots and stone create a different atmosphere, then return for dinner. This is a full temple day with uneven paths and steps, but the private vehicle and guide allow shorter walking circuits without losing the essential story.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 12**

## Fine stone, living craft and a Cambodian evening

Travel to Banteay Srei in the cooler morning, taking time to appreciate its intricate carvings and intimate scale. Your guide helps identify the stories in the stone. A countryside stop introduces local produce or palm-based livelihoods when a host is available and the activity is genuinely taking place.

After lunch, return towards Siem Reap for a prebooked APOPO visitor experience, where the team explains its mine-detection work and the role of trained rats. Continue to a reputable artisan studio for a hands-on or hosted craft encounter. Animal demonstrations follow the centre's welfare procedures and available programme.

Enjoy dinner, then attend a Phare performance when the scheduled show fits your date. Its contemporary storytelling adds another dimension to Cambodia after the ancient temples. If no suitable performance runs, replace it with a longer private dinner or a different locally produced cultural evening.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

THE MOMENTS BETWEEN THE LANDMARKS

# Stay curious. Come closer.

Lake life, local kitchens and Cambodia beyond Angkor.

## DAY 13

### Tonle Sap: birdlife and life on the water

Leave early with a specialist birding guide for a prearranged Tonle Sap excursion. Travel to the appropriate pier and continue by private local motorboat towards the Prek Toal area when reserve access and water levels permit. Watch for waterbirds while learning about the lake's seasonal transformation.

Explore permitted channels and viewing locations with local conservation support, then enjoy lunch in a suitable community setting. A respectful floating-village encounter focuses on homes, livelihoods and changing water levels; no school or orphanage stop is included. Species and nesting activity vary, and the day is never sold as a guaranteed wildlife spectacle.

Return to Siem Reap for dinner after a full day on the water. December to February is the preferred core season. If reserve access is unsuitable, your specialist selects an alternative wetland-and-community programme, with the revised route confirmed before departure.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 14

### Village Cambodia and the road to Battambang

Depart Siem Reap after breakfast and travel towards Battambang in your private vehicle, with comfortable breaks en route. Your guide explains the changing agricultural landscape and helps distinguish the living countryside from the ancient-world images that often dominate a first visit to Cambodia.

After lunch and hotel check-in, explore Battambang's historic streets, riverside architecture and creative neighbourhoods. Meet a gallery team or a local artisan when open, with a gentle walk that introduces the city's quieter pace. The visit order follows the day's arrivals and opening hours.

Dinner highlights regional cooking in a carefully chosen local setting. Your accommodation is selected for character, cleanliness and attentive service; this is a provincial cultural stop rather than an international luxury-resort destination. Tomorrow offers a fuller day of food traditions, temples and the surrounding countryside.

Overnight: Battambang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



National Museum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## DAY 15

## Battambang: craft, countryside and the evening bat flight

Visit small working producers in the countryside, where a local host may demonstrate rice-paper making, dried banana preparation or another everyday trade. Walk through village lanes and pause at a temple, learning how food, faith and family businesses connect in this productive region.

After lunch, return to town for an art or heritage visit, then refresh before travelling to the Phnom Sampeau area. Your guide discusses the site's different histories and keeps any difficult material appropriate to your party. Steeper sections can be omitted, with local transport used where permitted.

Watch the bats emerge at dusk from a respectful viewing location, subject to weather and natural behaviour, then return for dinner. This adds a memorable wildlife element without a long expedition. The itinerary does not depend on the tourist bamboo train operating on your date.

Overnight: Battambang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 16

## Pottery villages and the capital ahead

Leave Battambang after breakfast for the journey south, with scheduled comfort stops and a local lunch. In the Kampong Chhnang region, visit a pottery community where a willing artisan introduces clay preparation, shaping and firing. Your guide arranges a genuine workshop encounter, with shopping entirely optional.

Continue to Phnom Penh and check into your hotel. Traffic can affect arrival, so the afternoon stays flexible: a short riverfront walk or a café stop if you feel refreshed, with no essential palace or museum visit tied to a late check-in.

Enjoy dinner in the capital. The day links the agricultural and craft traditions of provincial Cambodia with the city's more formal heritage. Tomorrow is reserved for Phnom Penh's key sites and a private river outing, allowing the final major sightseeing day to feel complete.

Overnight: Phnom Penh | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



## DAY 17

## Phnom Penh: royal heritage and a private river sunset

Explore the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda when official functions allow access, then visit the National Museum's Khmer art collection. Your private guide helps connect the objects with the temples already seen. Walk between selected central stops or use the car according to the weather and your comfort.

After lunch, choose a deeper city experience: contemporary Cambodian art and a market visit, or Tuol Sleng for adults who want to understand the Khmer Rouge period. The latter is emotionally demanding and is discussed in advance; families receive an appropriate alternative.

Board a private boat for a sunset outing on the rivers around the city when conditions permit, then enjoy a farewell dinner. The day brings together artistic achievement, difficult history and the energy of modern Cambodia, with space to reflect rather than hurry through the final chapter.

Overnight: Phnom Penh | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## DAY 18

## A thoughtful farewell

Enjoy breakfast and a final quiet moment in Phnom Penh. If your flight allows, your guide can arrange a short market visit or a stop for last-minute locally made gifts; this is fitted around check-out and airport formalities, never around an optimistic connection.

Your private driver transfers you to Techo International Airport. The team assists with luggage and check-in orientation within the areas open to local representatives. Your international flight, onward baggage arrangements and any airport assistance are reconfirmed before departure.

Leave with the memories of people met, food shared and landscapes explored. A beach extension, a different onward destination or extra nights can be arranged when we customise the journey. International flights are quoted separately unless your personal proposal expressly includes them.

Overnight: Departure | Meals: Breakfast, flight time permitting

PRIVATE TRAVEL, PERSONAL CARE

# Make this journey yours.

Travel as a couple, with family or friends, or on your own with a private guide. We begin with the experiences you care about, then shape the room choices, dining, walking and daily pace around you. A birthday, a photography interest, a quieter village stay or a few extra beach nights can become part of your personal proposal.

**Your welcome & support** · Personal arrivals-area meet and greet; private airport transfers; luggage assistance; coordinated local handovers and a named planning contact. Fast-track services are requested only where permitted and available.

**Your comfort & experiences** · Well-chosen luxury or boutique accommodation, private vehicles and local guides, meals shown in the programme, site entries and the described private boat and activity arrangements are included in the bespoke quotation.

**Your flights & thoughtful extras** · The quotation itemises scheduled domestic and regional flights, baggage, rail travel and private charters. International flights to and from the journey, visas, insurance, personal purchases, gratuities and unlisted extras are separate unless expressly included.

**Your confirmed proposal** · Route planning was reviewed in September 2026. Your final dated proposal confirms the hotels, flights, boats, rail seats, host visits, activity suitability and any seasonal substitutions before you commit.

[Enquire about this journey](#)[Speak with our Asia expert](#)

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