

SEA11 / 18 DAYS



LAOS

Laos: The River & the Soul

Royal towns, northern forests and the wide southern Mekong.

18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS / PRIVATE

Travel in November-February • Tailored to your party

THE JOURNEY

Some places stay with you.



Give Laos the time it deserves. This private journey connects the country's famous royal town with the mountain waterways of Nong Khiaw, the forest setting of Nam Kat and the sacred landscapes of the south. Baci blessings, farming, textile traditions and hosted village encounters sit alongside ethical wildlife experiences, moderate forest walks and a planned balloon ascent. Rail and domestic flights make the broad route possible without pretending every region has the same level of accommodation. Expect refined stays in the main centres and carefully chosen, characterful lodges in the quieter places. The southern chapter adds Wat Phou, coffee, waterfalls and island life on the Mekong. It is a full, varied exploration for travelers who want both Laos's beauty and a deeper sense of the people who make it home.

SEVEN MOMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- Luang Prabang's heritage, Baci and rice-farming traditions
- Rescued bears and a no-riding elephant encounter
- A private Nam Ou boat and village walk around Muang Ngoi
- Khmu community encounters and Nam Kat forest paths
- Planned private ballooning in Vang Vieng
- Wat Phou, Don Daeng and Bolaven coffee country
- Si Phan Don's islands, waterfalls and river heritage

DESIGNED TO CONNECT BEAUTIFULLY

The shape of your journey

Luang Prabang • Nong Khiaw • Muang Ngoi • Nam Kat • Vang Vieng • Vientiane • Champasak • Bolaven Plateau • Si Phan Don

YOUR NIGHTS, IN ORDER

DAYS 01–04	Luang Prabang
DAYS 05–06	Nong Khiaw
DAYS 07–08	Nam Kat / Oudomxay
DAYS 09–10	Vang Vieng
DAYS 11–12	Vientiane
DAYS 13–16	Champasak
DAY 17	Vientiane
DAY 18	Departure

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

November–February

Favour November to January for a cooler journey and, often, clearer northern air. February can also work well, but seasonal haze is variable. Waterfall routes, boats and ballooning are assessed for current conditions.

MADE FOR

Culture and nature lovers, couples, friends, active families & 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 Vientiane.
- The northern road, local river and rail stages respect actual navigable river sections.
- Fly Vientiane–Pakse and Pakse–Vientiane; the last capital overnight protects your international departure.
- Regional lodges offer the best suitable comfort available; remote stops are not described as uniform five-star hotels.



Luang Prabang, Laos

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

Walking alongside an elephant conservation story

Join a prearranged private visit with an ethical elephant operator such as MandaLao, subject to its private-tour availability. Meet the specialist team and learn the individual stories of the elephants before walking through a suitable forest setting under their guidance. There is no riding, and interactions follow the operator's welfare approach.

Enjoy lunch as arranged with the experience, then return to town. Spend the later afternoon with a textile specialist or at a small weaving studio, seeing how fibres, colour and technique become a finished cloth. A shorter elephant walk can be selected for suitable families.

Dinner is arranged in Luang Prabang. Trails can be muddy, and the provider assesses age, mobility and conditions before confirming participation. The experience is a thoughtful wildlife encounter in a managed care setting, with the elephants' needs determining the rhythm of the visit.

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

THE MOMENTS BETWEEN THE LANDMARKS

Follow the river.

Limestone mountains, quiet villages and the Nam Ou.

DAY 05

Pak Ou and the road into the Nam Ou mountains

Leave Luang Prabang after breakfast and travel north by private vehicle. Visit Pak Ou using a short local boat crossing at the appropriate landing point, exploring the lower cave and its many Buddha images. The upper cave is optional for travelers comfortable with the additional steps.

Enjoy lunch on the route and continue by road to Nong Khiaw. The river is not treated as one continuous navigable transfer from Luang Prabang: dams and operating conditions make the road the practical basis of today's journey. Check into a comfortable riverside lodge with views of the limestone landscape.

Take a gentle village walk and enjoy dinner by the river. Facilities here are simpler than in Luang Prabang's finest hotels; the reward is the setting and access to the northern countryside. Tomorrow provides time for a private boat journey on the local navigable stretch of the Nam Ou.

Overnight: Nong Khiaw | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 06

A private Nam Ou boat and a village welcome

Board your private local boat for a scenic journey towards Muang Ngoi, subject to river conditions and current navigation permissions. Watch the cliffs and small settlements along this section of the Nam Ou, with your guide explaining river livelihoods and the changes brought by hydropower development.

After landing, take a moderate walk through village lanes and cultivated land, using a route agreed with local hosts. Enjoy a simple, well-prepared lunch and an encounter with a willing household or artisan. Ask before photographing people, and allow the visit to follow the hosts' own interests and routines.

Return by boat to Nong Khiaw before dusk and enjoy dinner. The day favours a navigable local river excursion over an unrealistic long through-cruise. If water conditions prevent the boat trip, a guided countryside programme by road and on foot replaces it.

Overnight: Nong Khiaw | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Rural Laos

DAY 07

Towards Oudomxay and a forest retreat

Leave Nong Khiaw after breakfast and travel by private vehicle towards Oudomxay. This is a mountain-road day, with breaks for refreshments and lunch. Your guide interprets the changing farming landscapes and the region's cultural diversity, while keeping the schedule flexible for road conditions.

A short Khmu community encounter can be arranged with willing hosts on an appropriate route, focusing on household life or craft rather than a staged performance. Continue to your forest accommodation in the Nam Kat area and settle into the natural surroundings.

Enjoy dinner and a gentle walk near the lodge if daylight allows. The forest visit is scheduled for tomorrow so it can be enjoyed without rushing after the road transfer. Your stay is selected for setting, cleanliness and service; it is a regional nature retreat, with facilities confirmed in your personal proposal.

Overnight: Nam Kat / Oudomxay | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 08

Forest trails, canopy bridges and falling water

Explore Nam Kat with a local nature guide, using the resort's supported vehicle-and-walk programme to reach forest paths and waterfall scenery. Learn about the trees, smaller wildlife and the way the forest is managed. The route is chosen for moderate walking rather than a strenuous full-day trek.

After lunch, follow a suitable canopy or sky-bridge section if you are comfortable with heights, or remain on an easier forest route. An additional craft or food encounter can be arranged through the local team when hosts are available. Birdlife may be seen, but sightings depend on season and conditions.

Return to your accommodation for dinner. Ziplining and other higher-adrenaline activities are optional and separately assessed, not part of the core walking programme. The day is designed to feel adventurous through the setting and the guided discovery, with a gentler alternative available throughout.

Overnight: Nam Kat / Oudomxay | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Vang Vieng, Laos

DAY 09

From the northern forest to Vang Vieng by rail

After breakfast, transfer to Muang Xay station for a suitable southbound train towards Vang Vieng. Your team selects a service that stops at both stations, with a connection only if necessary, and confirms the schedule when tickets are released. Private vehicles connect the accommodation and stations.

Arrive in Vang Vieng, check in and enjoy lunch or a late meal according to the train time. Take a short orientation through the riverside area, with an easy village walk or a private Nam Song boat outing if daylight and water conditions permit.

Dinner is arranged at or near your hotel. Review tomorrow's balloon plans and the local weather assessment with your guide. The railway day offers a comfortable change from the mountain roads; no important timed sightseeing depends on an unusually early arrival.

Overnight: Vang Vieng | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 10

Above the valley, then into village life

Rise early for a planned private hot-air-balloon experience with an established licensed operator. Drift over the limestone country when the pilot judges conditions suitable, then return for breakfast. Private charter availability, loading limits and the operator's age, height and fitness requirements are checked before confirmation.

Explore the valley by private vehicle with short, moderate walks. Visit Tham Chang if open and suitable, then meet a local host for a farming or village-life encounter. A stop beside a permitted lagoon gives time to enjoy the landscape; swimming remains optional and conditions are checked.

After time to refresh, enjoy dinner. Ballooning is weather-dependent: if it cannot operate, use the morning for a longer countryside walk, a craft visit or a gentle river outing. Your proposal confirms the operator's cancellation arrangements. There is no requirement to climb the strenuous hilltop viewpoints.

Overnight: Vang Vieng | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Pha That Luang, Vientiane, Laos

DAY 11

Vientiane: sacred spaces and contemporary Laos

Take the train south 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 12

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

A kingdom in the landscape.

Champasak and the enduring presence of Wat Phou.

DAY 13

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 14

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

THE MOMENTS BETWEEN THE LANDMARKS

Let the day unfold.

Waterfalls, coffee country and the islands of southern Laos.

DAY 15

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 16

Si Phan Don: islands, old railways and the force of the river

Leave early for the Si Phan Don region and take a private local boat to a suitable island landing. Walk or use local transport on Don Khon, exploring village lanes and traces of the former railway. Your guide explains why this stretch of the river shaped trade and colonial ambitions.

After lunch, visit the accessible viewpoints around Li Phi or another permitted waterfall area, then continue to Khone Phapheng on the mainland as timing and conditions allow. The walks are moderate and can be shortened. This is a landscape and heritage day, with birdlife possible but no dolphin encounter promised.

Return to Champasak for dinner after a full excursion. Your private vehicle, boat and local guidance keep the several stages coordinated. If you prefer less time travelling, we can replace the mainland waterfall stop with a longer island lunch and a slower return.

Overnight: Champasak | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Vientiane, Laos

DAY 17

Return to the capital, with a comfortable departure buffer

Enjoy breakfast beside the Mekong, then transfer privately to Pakse airport for the domestic flight to Vientiane. Your guide coordinates check-out and the airport arrival around the confirmed service. An overnight in the capital keeps the international departure separate from the southern domestic flight.

After checking into your hotel, enjoy lunch and a final visit chosen around your interests: a textile atelier, a contemporary café, a small gallery or a temple not previously seen. Your guide avoids repeating earlier stops and leaves time for packing and a rest.

Gather for a farewell dinner that revisits favourite Lao flavours. The evening is personal and relaxed after a wide-ranging journey through royal towns, northern forests and the southern river landscape. Tomorrow's private airport transfer is already arranged.

Overnight: Vientiane | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 18

A thoughtful farewell

Enjoy breakfast and a final quiet moment in Vientiane. 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 Wattay 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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