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## The Kingdom of a Million Elephants

15 days / 14 nights

### Highlights

- Visit Vientiane - the laid back capital, Wat Sisaket, Wat Prakeo, the COPE Centre, That Luang Stupa, Patuxay Monument.
- Explore the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang
- See the best of Luang Prabang: Wat Visoun, Wat Xieng Thong, National Museum
- Take a panoramic view of Luang Prabang and see beautiful sunset on Mekong River
- Take an exciting elephant riding tour in Luang Prabang
- Visit the biggest water fall of Kuang Si in Laos
- Take a captivating trip to visit 4 thousands islands in Parkse

### Detailed itinerary

#### Day 1: Vientiane Arrival

Welcome to Vientiane! Upon arrival, our guide will pick you up at the airport and transfer you to the hotel for check in. Overnight in Vientiane

*Overnight: Vientiane*

#### Day 2: Vientiane Full Day City Tour (B/L)

After breakfast, you will take a full day guided tour to discover the major sights of the charming Vientiane including Wat Sisaket Pagoda which is famous with thousands of Buddha statues and the former royal temple of Wat Prakeo which was originally constructed in 1565 as the Lao royal family's personal chapel, and as a home for the Emerald Buddha. Take some photos of Patuxay Monument before continuing to visit That Luang Stupa, the most sacred monument in the country. Overnight in Vientiane

*Overnight: Vientiane*

#### Day 3: Vientiane - Xiengkhouang - Phonsavan (B/L)

After breakfast, you will transfer to the airport to fly to Xiengkhouang, in which the number of bombs was dropped between 1964 and 1973 more than in the Second World War. We'll arrive in Phonsavan, the

capital of the province of Xiengkhouang. Here we'll stop at the colorful Central Market Phonsavan and then head back to the hotel for the night. Overnight in Phonsavan

*Overnight: Phonsavan*

#### Day 4: Around Xiengkhouang (B/L)

Today we will have a chance to visit the Plain of Jars, the most distinctive and enigmatic of all Laos attractions. The mysterious jars were carved from both sandstone and granite in various sizes from very small to about 3.5 metres high and are thought to be more than 2,000 years old. Of all the many jar sites, the three most popular ones to visit are known as Site 1, 2 and 3. Site 1 is where the biggest jar is located. While Site 2 and 3 offer picturesque views of farmlands and villages as they sit on top of small hills. We will continue to visit the tribes of the ethnic minorities of the H'mong and Thai peoples. Return to hotel for overnight.

*Overnight: Xiengkhouang*

#### Day 5: Xiengkhouang – Luang Prabang (B)

After breakfast, we will head out to Luang Prabang (300km, 6 hours). On the way, you will visit a site more than 200 years old Buddha images in Thampra and varied Hmong and varied hill tribe minority villages along the road. Check in hotel and free at your leisure

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

#### Day 6: Luang Prabang City Tour (B/L)

Early in the morning, you should get up to view the morning rituals of saffron- robed monks on their daily outing collecting Alms (often in the form of sticky rice or fresh fruits) from the faithful residents. It is a unique tradition in Laos that dates back centuries. After breakfast at hotel, you will have a chance to visit the most famous pagodas in Laos such as: Wat Visoun with the site of impressive Thad Makmo stupa, Wat Mai which was built in 1796 by King Anourout, is one of the largest, most picturesque and most photographed of the wats of Luang Prabang, Wat Xieng Thong, the most enchanting of Laos' monasteries. You will continue to visit the National Museum – the former King's palace. You'll climb the 328 zig-zag steps up to the sacred gilded stupa and big drum of the Phu Si Temple for a panoramic view of Luang Prabang and the Mekong at sunset. Back to hotel and you are free at your leisure. Overnight at your hotel

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

#### Day 7: Luang Prabang-Textile Village-Elephant camp (B)

After breakfast, you will drive out of town to visit the elephant camp at Ban Ann. En route, you will stop at a well-known village, Ban Phom Nom, where almost of those villagers are weavers. Historically, they were servants and made handicraft souvenirs for the last king of Laos. Another stop will be at the Henri Mouhot monument at Kang Noon. Mouhot was a French man, who founded Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, but he died at Kang Noon when he moved to Laos and contracted malaria. Upon arrival at the camp, your guide will brief you about the elephants and you will take an elephant ride for 30 minutes before returning to the town and transferring to your hotel

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

#### Day 8: Luang Prabang-Kuang Si Water Fall (B/L)

We will a short time to visit the Phousi vegetable market where you can observe the bustling daily life of local people and buy textile products of surrounding tribes. We will continue to visit the beautiful Kuang

Si fall, the biggest waterfall in Laos, 32 kilometres south of town. Along the way we stop to visit the villages of Ban Tha Pane and Ban Na Oune of Khmu and Hmong minorities. Arrive in Kuang Si Waterfall, you can soak up in cool water or walk along the forest trails. You also visit a Bear Rescue Centre near the falls where the rare Asiatic Black Bear is being protected and restored. Overnight in Luang Prabang

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

### Day 9: Luang Prabang - Nong Khiaw - Muang Ngoi (B)

After breakfast, you will drive about 3 hours to Nong Khiaw. En route there will be a short stop at the junction between Pak Mong and Nong Khiaw or Pak Mong and another northern province. Arriving in Nong Khiaw, you will check in at your bungalow. After a short rest, you will enjoy a boat trip upstream along the Ou River, about 1 hour and 20 minutes to the old town, Muang Ngoi (also known as "Bombing Town" during Indochina War.). Begin exploring around the village to see local life. In the late afternoon, you will return to Luang Prabang

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

### Day 10: Nong Khiaw - Pak Ou Cave - Luang Prabang (B)

Today, you will have an excursion on Mekong River by boat. You will visit the famous and sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves, home to many thousands of Buddha images of all styles and sizes that have been placed by local people since the 16th century. Return to Luang Prabang by boat, stopping at Ban Xang Hai to try some "Lau Lao" Laos Whisky and Ban Phanom, a brocade weaving village. We'll arrive back at Luang Prabang in time for dinner (in your expense). Overnight in Luang Prabang

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

### Day 11: Luang Prabang- Pakse -Tadlo (B/L)

After breakfast at hotel, you will transfer to the airport for flight to Parkse. Continue to drive to Saravanh. You will stop en route to observe the daily life of people in the Boliven Plateau and know how to make traditional coffee and tea. If the time is permitted, you can venture off the beaten track and explore remote areas of the region. Depart to Tad Lo Water Fall, you will drop by at Alak, Nge and Katu village. Return to Parkse and overnight in Parkse

*Overnight: Parkse*

### Day 12: Tadlo - Wat Phu Temple- Khong Island (B)

A scenic drive will deliver you to the former royal capital of Champasak, a gateway to the pre-Angkoran temple of Wat Phu. The hillside edifice was once an important sanctuary of the Khmer Empire. The temple structure was partly destroyed during the areas turbulent history, yet it is still fascinating to walk among the ruins. You will follow the walkway from the lower to the upper section, which features various iconic forms, including Vishnu, Shiva and Kala. The temple upper ground also affords a spectacular view of the surrounding valley and the mighty Mekong River. You will then visit Wat Phou Museum and Oum Moug Temple. Then you will drive to the 4,000 Islands and then 30 minutes by boat from the central market to Done Khone Island, where you will reach the picturesque island of Don Khone with just enough to watch the sunset over the Mekong River. You will stay overnight on Khone Island at Auberge Sala Done Khone

*Overnight: Khone Island*

### Day 13: Khone Island And Four-Thousand Islands (B)

We embark on a long tail boat for venturing into the widest reach of the Mekong River, where during the

dry season the waters recede and leave behind thousands of islets, giving this area a lovely name” Si Phan Done”. We explore the local peaceful villages of Ban Khone and then discover the 4000 islands area by boat. If we are lucky, we may even see the rare freshwater Irrawaddy Mekong dolphin at Ban Hang Khone. Overnight in Done Khone Island

*Overnight: Done Khone Island*

### Day 14: Khone Island / Don Daeng (B/L)

After an early breakfast, you will visit Khone Phapheng Waterfall, considered the largest by volume in Southeast Asia. This is a really impressive site near the Lao-Cambodian border, set within an area teeming with wildlife, making this area one of the most breathtaking destinations in Laos. Then you will continue to Don Daeng Island where you have the afternoon at leisure, to explore the island by bicycle, or relax. You will stay overnight on Don Daeng Island at La Folie Lodge

*Overnight: Don Daeng Island*

### Day 15: Don Daeng / Pakse Airport (B)

After breakfast, you are free at leisure until transfer straight to Pakse Airport for your departure flight

End of the journey!

## Included

### Included

- All private transportation
- Accommodation based on double/twin sharing room
- Meals as stated in the program (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner)
- Local English speaking guide
- Entrance fee and sightseeing tickets
- Two bottles of drinking water
- Boat trip on Mekong River

### Not Included

- International and domestic flights
- Personal travel expenses such as: laundry, telephone, tips
- Drinks in meals
- Others not mentioned in the program
- Laos visa fee
- Single room supplement
- Travel insurance