

Asia Concierge



## CONCIERGE COLLECTION

DAY TRAVEL PROGRAMS TO INSPIRE



LAOS



ASIA-CONCIERGE.COM





# HOW WE DEFINE TRAVEL TODAY

It is all too easy to travel to the main centres of a destination and consider having ‘seen it’. However, the true backbone of Asia’s culture and society is found in the unknown, the unaware, the places and areas where throngs of tourists do not tread because, quite simply, the knowledge and insight is not there to begin with. This is where we come in.

As tourism in the region expands and develops, most of us yearn for a travel experience away from the commercial centres. We have therefore carefully researched and created a series of select journeys that best represent another side of Asia ... an Asia that will enrich a trip with memories, an experience and an education.

This is about travelling with style, a high degree of comfort but, at the same time, being out of ones comfort zone to formulate a travel experience that will enrich a visit with insights and exchanges that will, hopefully, prove to be the highlight of your customer’s stay in this enigmatic region.

Ranging from the exclusive to the moderate, our concierge collection of travel programs are either half or full day excursions from the main centres and are therefore easily placed into a client’s base itinerary.

Please contact our Laos office for pricing and to discuss any custom options to meet your client’s exact needs.

Thank you for travelling with us on this armchair journey.

The Asia Concierge Team



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LAOS

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Above left : Calling monks to lunch.

Above right : Wat Long Khun.

Below right : The Mekong river flowing through Luang Prabang.

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.



## A Royal Pilgrimage

WAT LONG KHUN, WAT HAD SIAW, WAT XIENG THONG, FORMER PRINCE'S HOME

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0630 / Return : 1600

After an early breakfast we begin to explore a bit further afield. A short boat ride across the Mekong river takes us to the hill side temple of Wat Long Khun. The temple is attractively sited on a 1.5 hectare flat area at the top of a long stairway leading from the river's edge with sweeping views of Luang Prabang.

The delightful location provides an air of tranquility and attachment to nature away from the activity found in the town. An original meditation room that was previously used by the king is still intact inside and for those that are interested, a private meditation session can be arranged here. When the coronation of a Luang Prabang King was pending, it was customary for him to spend 3 days in retreat at Wat Long Khun in meditation, before making the pilgrimage back across the river to Wat Xieng Thong to be crowned.

Here we are welcomed with a spiritual Baci ceremony, the most traditional of Laos ceremonies. An ancient tradition for important events such as births and weddings, and also in this case, as a welcome to Laos and to bless us with good luck on our travels.

Afterwards we spend as long as we want here to soak up the atmosphere and views, perhaps talking to some of the young novices and monks. Should we be feeling energetic, there are some short walks to the Tham Sakhalin cave and another dilapidated temple of Wat Had Siaw.

When ready, we then follow in the footsteps of the pilgrimage of previous Kings and head back across the river to Wat Xieng Thong. The most iconic and important temple in Laos, we take some time here with our local Travel Expert to explore the intricate and varied history, including of course, the Royal coronation.

Continuing to the nearby confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong rivers, we relax and enjoy an organic local lunch with delightful views. Perhaps after a revitalising local coffee - grown and roasted on Laos' southern Bolaven Plateau, we continue on our Royal pilgrimage.

We visit the home of Prince Nithakhong Somsanith for a very special encounter. As a child of royal lineage in 1960's Luang Prabang, Somsanith grew up surrounded by courtly arts, such as painting, lacquer, embroidery, dancing, and flower and banana leaf arrangements. He watched his grandmother and mother patiently practice this aristocratic art, making traditional triangular pillows, royal sashes and sabai, jackets, collars and dowry pieces.

Exiled to France in the 1980's, Somsanith returned to Laos in 2005 where he now devotes his time to art and education programs for the community with the mission to preserve, promote, and transmit the cultural and artistic heritage of Laos. Somsanith is well known as an international embroidery artist with his contemporary creations rooted in the traditions of his youth. In the last ten years he has exhibited his works in France, Germany, England, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the USA. He received his master's degree in France, from the Institute of Visual Arts, University of Orleans, and his Ph.D. in Psychology from Sorbonne.

Here we learn more about the traditional arts of Laos and explore the private collection of the Prince, as well as gaining some exclusive insight into his life as a former "Royal" - a once in a lifetime experience that concludes our day of deep insight and spiritual understanding of the ancient history of Luang Prabang and Laos.

Return to hotel thereafter.







# Architectural Luang Prabang

WAT PHOUSI, ARCHITECT ESCORT, WAT PA PHAI, ROYAL PALACE, UXO MUSEUM

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY

Depart : 08.00 / Return : 12.00

After breakfast this morning we have a reasonable start time to transfer into town by car to begin our walking exploration of old town Luang Prabang. We begin with the steep climb up to the iconic Wat Phousi hill in the centre of town.

Traditionally, this is the touristy sunset spot, but the area at the top is small and gets too crowded very quickly at this time. We prefer to climb in the morning to avoid this and before it gets too hot.

Taking the alternative approach, we walk the path that begins next to the Nam Khan river. Although slightly longer at 355 steps, the path takes us to a number of important cultural sites. Wat Tham Phousi is found half way on this route. There are also numerous scenic viewpoints over Luang Prabang and the two rivers so it's worth taking the time on this path to soak it all in. After spending some time to relax and take photos, we descend from the hill and continue on foot to explore the old town which is under UNESCO protection as a World Heritage Site.

We are escorted by a renowned local resident and architecture expert, Mr Francis Englemann. Born in Paris in 1947, Francis is a writer and an independent consultant living in Luang Prabang and has worked closely with UNESCO over the past 10 years. He was deeply involved in the mission to enter Luang Prabang as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995.

Under the expertise of Francis, we tend to avoid the main temple draw-cards (although we will certainly pass by Wat Mai & Wat Xieng Thong) and search out more intimate experiences as he guides us through some of Luang Prabang's picturesque small alleys that meander down to the Mekong.

Directly opposite the Institut Français, the small, beautiful temple of Wat Pa Phai (nown as the Monastery of the Bamboo Forest) is thought to be one of the oldest temples in Luang Prabang. The walls of Wat Pa Phai are painted with sequences of the daily Lao life in the late 19th century in a style that is Tai-Lao. This is a delightful temple to visit and to learn more about Buddhism.

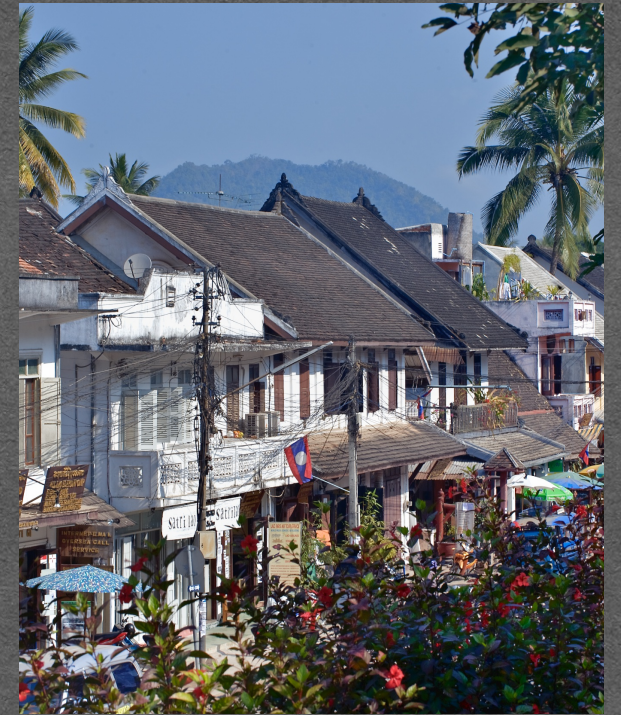
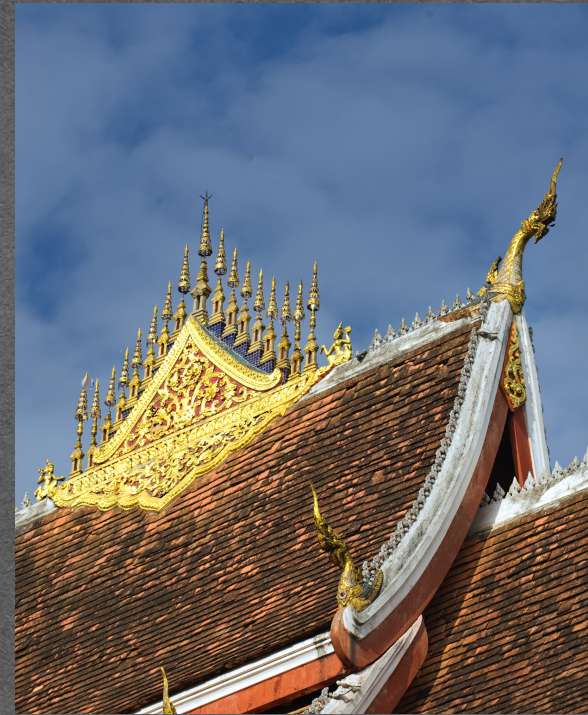
After our walk, the day warms up and its time to escape the heat with an option to visit either the Royal Palace or, for those interested in the region's war history, the rather poignant UXO museum. Whilst the UXO museum does not make everyone's 'must visit' list for Luang Prabang, if you truly want to understand the challenges this nation has faced, this has to be an essential stop off. It provides a fascinating, albeit tragic, insight into the turmoil that enveloped this nation throughout the 1970's.

Alternatively, the Royal Palace museum provides a contrast to the tragedy of war. Built in 1904, during the French colonial era, it became the residence of King Sisavang Vong, who served as the King of Laos for 55 years. When Laos' monarchy came to an end in 1975, the King abdicated the throne and moved to a private residence near a local temple. The palace was then converted into a museum, with all royal artefacts and architecture preserved for the education of future generations.

Lunch can be taken in town or return to Hotel.



LUANG PRABANG  
LAOS



Above left : Royal Palace

Above right : Wat Xieng Thong

Below : Luang Prabang overview

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.







Above left : Pak Ou Caves  
by Boat

Above right : An evening n  
the Mekong

Below right : Kuang si  
Waterfalls

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the  
merits and attractions of this program.



## Sunrise and Sunset

KUANG SI FALLS, BEAR RESCUE CENTRE, PICNIC, RIVERBOAT, PAK OU

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | IDYLIC

Depart : 06.00 / Return : 1900

Before breakfast we depart early by Tuk Tuk enjoying the fresh cool morning air. Just a 40 minute drive from Luang Prabang town through very scenic Laotian countryside, lies Kuang Si waterfalls.

We prefer to visit early in the morning to avoid the crowds and enjoy the pristine falls as they are meant to be enjoyed with no-one else around and in the early morning sunrise light. (In the afternoon it can get quite busy and noisy with backpackers).

Upon arrival at the falls take a short walk through the jungle to visit the Butterfly Park and the “Bear Rescue Centre” where they conserve the black bears in the northern part of Laos.

We then enjoy a Lao style picnic breakfast near the main falls. Afterwards, we then have time to explore the various levels of the falls and take a refreshing swim in the crystal clear turquoise water. These beautiful falls cascade over many calcified tiers and down several hundred feet into a series of cool, turquoise pools.

In keeping with the laid-back life-style of Laos, there is no rush at all, we spend as long as we want here until we are ready to head back to our hotel in the mid or late morning.

After returning to the hotel, we then have a long midday free period for lunch, perhaps to be taken at the hotel followed by some relaxing time by the pool or a massage. Then mid afternoon, at around 2.45pm we are picked up by car and taken to the boat pier.

We take a relaxing local style riverboat trip with your Travel Expert on the mighty Mekong to visit the famous and sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves.

Leaving at this time we arrive at the caves after the crowds have left, and we should also miss the tourists that are visiting the caves as a stop on the way to Luang Prabang from Pakbeng.

Although the caves are interesting to some, the real highlight of this boat trip is the river, scenery, and local life that we see along the way and back.

Pak Ou caves have been home to many thousands of Buddha images that have been placed here by local people since the 16th century, when King Setthathirat found the caves and declared them a holy spot. Today many people still pay respect to this tradition.

After exploring the caves, we return by boat the same way allowing us a different view of the stunning scenery. In addition, Canapés and drinks (with champagne option) are served to your heart’s content.

Arriving back to Luang Prabang in early evening just as the sun sets on the Mekong, we thereafter return to the hotel.







Above : Wat Xien Thong





Above left : Kuang Si falls

Above right : Francis Engelmann

Below : Buffalo Dairy Farm

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.



## A Waterfall Encounter

KUANG SI WATERFALL, BUFFALO DAIRY FARM, ARCHITECTURE EXPERT

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY

Depart : 15.00 / Return : 19.00

Departing mid afternoon by car, just a 40 minute drive from Luang Prabang town through very scenic Laotian countryside, lies the Kuang Si waterfalls.

Our first stop along the way is at the Buffalo Dairy Farm. A social enterprise started by two families who decided to have a mid-life crisis with a “Purpose rather than a Porsche”! The first and only buffalo dairy in Laos, producing a wide array of artisanal cheeses & products; including mozzarella, blue cheese, feta and ice-cream to name but a few.

Offering visitors to Luang Prabang a unique opportunity to try these delicious cheeses and “get up close and personal” with beautiful buffalo and other farm animals.

Visitors to the Dairy are helping support the rental of buffalo providing local farmers an additional income stream, improved feeding, veterinary care, nutrition program, and breeding program to revitalise the local buffalo genetics.

Visitors also help fund workshops for local farmers on animal care, organic methods for feed production and how to milk a buffalo, so they can improve the nutrition of children in rural villages. We enjoy a 45 minute visit here and perhaps try some of the local produce.

We then continue to the falls, and upon arrival at the falls take a short walk through the jungle to visit the Butterfly Park and the “Bear Rescue Centre” where they conserve the black bears in the northern part of Laos.

Afterwards, we then have time to explore the various levels of the falls and take a refreshing swim in the crystal clear turquoise water. These beautiful falls cascade over many calcified tiers and down several hundred feet into a series of cool, turquoise pools.

Once refreshed we then head to the nearby private home of our resident History and Architecture expert Mr Francis Engelmann to enjoy a local beer or glass of wine at sunset and chat about all things Laos.

Born in Paris in 1947, Francis is a writer and an independent consultant living in Luang Prabang and has worked closely with UNESCO over the past 10 years. He was deeply involved in the mission to enter Luang Prabang as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995.

After some interesting insights into Laos from his perspective, we return to Luang Prabang and free time for dinner to close the day.







# Inside the Hearts of Elephants

MANDALAO ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | ACTIVE

Depart : 08.30 / Return : 16.00

After breakfast we are taken on a short scenic drive out of Luang Prabang to the Mandalao Elephant conservation centre.

Deeply rooted in the foundations of Buddhism and local folklore, elephants have attained an almost mythical status across much of their ancestral lands. Laos became known as the “Land of One Million Elephants” or “Lan Xang” from fabled accounts of a procession of them crossing the Mekong River not far from Luang Prabang. By all accounts humans and elephants have worked side-by-side in the region for nearly 2000 years.

Ranging from 4 to over 60 years of age, Mandalao’s elephants have spent the majority of their lives working together in logging camps and low welfare tourist attractions. With new regulations limiting logging operations across Laos, and concern over elephant welfare, we have been able to bring these amazing creatures home to where we offer them a dignified and comfortable life in harmony with nature.

MandaLao believes that in an ideal world, every elephant that can live in the wild should live wild. It is their birthright and their fundamental nature. Their work on wild elephants, which, over the course of the next few years, will unfold in stages, focuses on increasing the population of wild elephants living in one or more of Lao’s 23 National Biodiversity Conservation Areas (NBCAs), initially via the reintroduction of a MandaLao owned baby bull, a soon-to-be established ‘bachelor herd’ and 1-2 matriarchs who have experienced living in the wild.

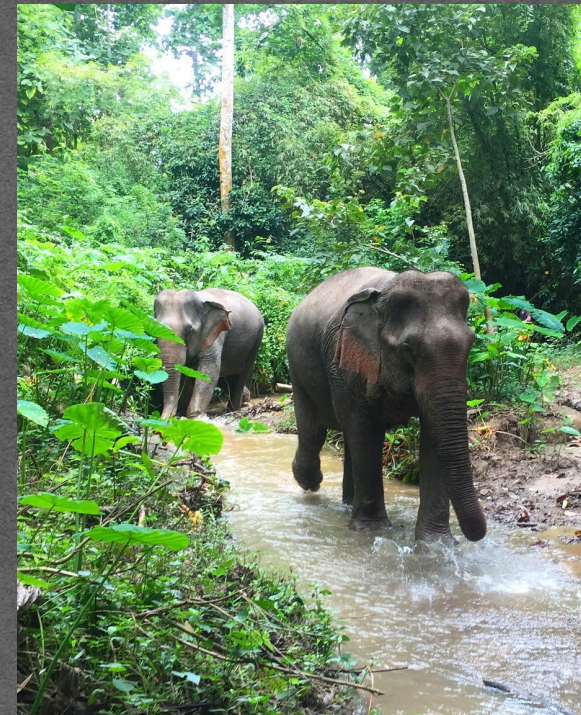
There is, of course, strictly no elephant riding allowed here. With our local travel expert and expert mahout, we embark on a 5km trek with the elephants through the jungle. Walking alongside the elephants we simply enjoy the trek combined with the experience of observing the happy elephants in their natural habit - free from a lifetime of hard work in the tourism and logging industries.

A delicious lunch is served in the forest Lao style before continuing to the remote and isolated Tad Kuang Song waterfall.

We then continue trekking back to the centre surrounded by jungle streams and rice fields, and at around 16.00 return to hotel thereafter.



LUANG PRABANG  
LAOS



Above left : Elephants in their natural habitat  
Above right : Elephant with Mahout  
Below : Elephants washing in the river

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.







**Above left :** Rice fields  
outside Luang Prabang  
Weaving at Ock Pop Tok  
**Below left :** Weaving at  
Ock Pop Tok  
**Below right :** A scene from  
Phosi Market

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the  
merits and attractions of this program.



## Luang Prabang Two Wheel Ramblings

E-BIKE JOURNEY, PHOSI MARKET, EAST MEETS WEST, LIVING LAND ORGANIC FARM

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0500 / Return : 1230

We are taken to the E-bike station for a short briefing before we start our tour. Our first stop is at the local Phosi market. A large busy and vibrant market, we will be almost overwhelmed by the sights smells and sounds as we wander around taking in the daily life activity and some very interesting local produce.

We then continue by our E-bikes further out of town to Ock Pop Tok. Ock Pop Tok, meaning “East Meets West” in Lao, is the perfect analogy for the meeting of British Jo and Laotian Veo, the two co-founders. Since the beginning, the artisan social enterprise, based in Luang Prabang, Laos, has been trying to bring two worlds together. Merging traditions from the east with innovation from the west has allowed us, since 2000, to elevate the profile of Lao textiles and contribute to its preservation.

We take a tour here and see some traditional weaving ,and there is the opportunity to purchase some high quality products at the shop there. For those with a more in-depth interest in traditional weaving, classes are available to learn how to do weaving and dyeing.

We then jump back onto our e-bikes and take a scenic ride out to the Living Land. The entirely organic farm is a Community Enterprise, run by a local team and for the benefit of Lao people. Their produce including organic vegetables, salad greens, herbs and rice supply the leading restaurants and hotels in Luang Prabang. Here we stop for a rest and enjoy a delicious lunch overlooking the farm and rice paddies.

For the more adventurous and those willing to get their feet and hands dirty, The Living Land offer 2 half-day experiences where you experience the life of a farmer.

After lunch we continue our ride back to town and after discussion with our Travel Expert, visit some other sights in the town, perhaps some of the lesser-known temples.

We then continue for a relaxing and rejuvenating one-hour massage before returning to hotel thereafter.







Above : Morning alms collection on the streets of Luang Prabang





Above : Pha That Luang at night, Vientiane



Above : Gold painted wooden Buddha statues in Luang Prabang





Above left : Bamboo trail  
Above right : Garden  
creator, Rik Gadella  
Below right : The Gardens  
beside the Mekong River

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the  
merits and attractions of this program.



## Botanical Wellness

PHA TAD KHE BOTANICAL GARDENS, YOGA SESSION

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | UNUSUAL

Depart : 08.00 / Return : 13.00

This morning we take a short boat ride across the Mekong and a little downstream, which takes us to the newly established Pha Tad Khe botanical gardens.

Opened in 2016, it is the first garden of its kind in the landlocked country. While endangered regional animal species such as tigers, elephants and monkeys regularly make international headlines, far less is heard about Southeast Asia's rare flora species.

Pha Tad Khe has created the first botanical garden in Laos for the conservation and study of the Flora and ethnobotany of Laos. A regional biodiversity research and education centre with the first living collection of plants. The centre, supported by the collaboration and exchange of information with prestigious botanical institutions of South East Asia, the United States and Europe has as its objectives the development of educational programs, the publication of books and scientific articles, research into environmental conservation, botany, horticulture, and ethnobotany in order to promote biodiversity and ecological conservation.

A major challenge at the start was the fact that Laos' plant and forest ecosystems have not been extensively studied or surveyed, and so one of the key missions at Pha Tad Ke is to record Laos' flora and the culture surrounding it before vital information disappears. there are 10 different plots focused around themes like medicinal plants for women's issues; medicinal plants for skin problems; there's one about fiber plants used for weaving, paper making and basketry; dye plants; H'mong plans and more.

Many of the traditions which use these plants and techniques are passed down through word of mouth, and since Laos' flora is so poorly recorded on paper, such practices can be lost as older generations pass away.

Another program researches and cultivates heritage plants, or flora species that were used in Laos centuries ago but had faded from use. For example, a chill currently grown in Luang Prabang is used throughout the country, but this variety was brought over from the United States in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Along with the help of a French historian, the team at the garden determined which type of endemic chilli was used before then, grew it, and is now using it in dishes at Pha Tad Ke's on-site restaurant.

Amid these serene surroundings, we enjoy a 1 hour relaxing Yoga session with a local Yogi expert. Once fully attuned to the environment, we explore the gardens at a leisurely pace with one of the local experts.

Having worked up a significant appetite, we then enjoy a fully organic local lunch before returning back across the river and return to our hotel thereafter.







## Karsts, Rivers & Lagoons

FROZEN CAVE, ORGANIC FARM, NAM SONG RIVER TRIP, KAYAKING, HIKING

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | ACTIVE

Depart : 08.00 / Return : 17.00

We awake to a stunning panorama from our riverside view room, the spectacular karst limestone mountains towering over the famous Vang Vieng scenery will certainly stir our senses.

After a long period when Vang Vieng was notorious as a loud and hedonistic backpacker party destination, it has now returned to its original state - as one of the most beautiful natural spots in Asia.

After a leisurely breakfast, we jump into a tuk tuk and visit some of the sights around Vang Vieng. Starting with the amazing Tham Chang (Frozen Cave), located on the banks of the Nam Song River.

After ascending the steps to the cave entrance you can enjoy panoramic views of the Nam Song River, spectacular karst limestone formations and the quaint town of Vang Vieng.

The cave is quite deep and makes for amazing exploring opportunities. At the base of the cave is a natural spring which is fed by the icy cool cave water.

This is a very popular swimming hole for the local people and the water is believed to have special medicinal qualities, we may wish to take a dip and replenish our body and soul. A delicious lunch is taken at a local restaurant in an Organic farm before we take a short visit to a local tea & coffee plantation.

In the afternoon we enjoy a trip on the majestic Nam Song River. Before the original influx of the backpacker party scene, the best way to enjoy this river trip was to float serenely downstream in a large inflatable tube. This “Tubing” then became an infamous part of the party scene where scores of bars flanked both sides of the river pumping out very loud pop music encouraging excessive alcohol consumption to the tubers.

With all but 3 of these bars gone and strict rules on what they can do, the trip is now as serene as before.

We can either go the trip by local style long-trail boat, or for the more adventurous we can do it by kayak.

If you are active and would like to enjoy Kayaking, you will receive a brief introduction to the basics of kayaking, you will work your way downstream towards town, taking in the towering karst formations around you from the unique perspective of a kayak.

Alternatively, we can still do the original tubing activity if are happy in our swimming costumes. As we float silently and serenely down the river, we have a waiter floating with you to serve you canapés and drinks (with champagne option) to further enhance this wonderful peaceful experience.

If time and inclination allows, we can build in the hike to the top of Nam Xay viewpoint - a 30 minute climb affording spectacular views across Vang Vieng.

Return to hotel thereafter.



VANG VIENG  
LAOS



Above left : Nam Xay viewpoint.

Above right : Vang Vieng Scenery

Below : Vang Vieng Scenery

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.







Above left : The iconic  
That Luang Stupa by night.  
Above right : Buddha  
statues at Wat Sisaket  
Below : Patuxay the "Arc  
de Triomphe" of Vientiane

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the  
merits and attractions of this program.



## Vientiane on Two Wheels

WAT SI MUANG, TALAT SAO MARKET, THAT LUANG, VICTORY MONUMENT, WAT SISAKET

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | ACTIVE

Depart : 07.00 / Return : 14.00

After an early breakfast, today our preferred method of transport is the bicycle. From our hotel, before the morning rush hour, we first head north on the main road back towards Vang Vieng for a couple of kilometres, until near the airport, we take a left and follow a small road through a surprisingly rural looking village until we reach the banks of the mighty Mekong.

Here we follow the course of the Mekong on a brand new road for around 6.5 kilometres simply enjoying the early mornings cycling with the fresh cool air on our face with the Mekong and City views, and Thailand on the other side of the river that acts as the border.

We then turn off the Mekong river road and Continue to Wat Si Muang. Wat Si Muang is a Khmer temple with a fascinating legend that still holds great significance among the Laotian community. The gold structure was built in 1563, during the reign of King Setthathirat. The temple's name comes from a young woman, Si Muang, who sacrificed herself over 400 years ago to appease angry spirits. She threw herself into a hole in the ground where the building's central pillar was to be placed, and was crushed when the massive pillar was lowered into position.

As this central pillar also formed the centre of the town, Wat Si Muang is also called the 'mother temple' of Vientiane. There is a small statue of Si Muang behind the building, along with a heap of bricks that are said to date back to her time. The temple is next to King Sisavang Vong's monument, which you can visit by passing a gate within the temple grounds. Wat Si Muang serves the local Buddhist community, and has several stalls at the entrance selling bananas, coconuts, flowers, incense and candles for offerings. A vibrant and busy working temple, it is our favourite cultural visit in town.

Continuing by increasingly busy roads, we head to the busy Talat Sao (morning market) area, perhaps stopping for a revitalising coffee and observing the local market activity.

We then continue up to the famous That Luang. Pha That Luang is a sacred monument and one of Laos' most impressive religious structures. It was founded in the 3rd century to house the breastbone of Buddha, which was brought to Laos by an Indian missionary.

The current structure was built by King Setthathirat in 1566, after Vientiane became the capital of Laos. A statue of the former Lao king stands in front of the main entrance. Standing at 44 metres, Pha That Luang has a pinnacle covered in real gold, with a set of painted turrets surrounding its central stupa. We stop and take photos, and if interested, we can go inside to take a more detailed look.

We then continue on some backroads until we join the wide boulevard that leads to the striking Patuxay monument - also known as Victory Monument. Allegedly modelled on the Arc De Triomphe, from a distance we can imagine how this would be. Should we stop and take a look however, we will find that it is much less so upon closer inspection. However it is still pleasant spot for a stroll and a photo stop, with an attractive and vibrant park surrounding the monument.

For the final leg of our tour, we cycle back to town towards the central old French colonial quarter. Along the way, depending on discussion with your Travel Expert, we may wish to visit one or two of the sights that appear on most traditional "classic" Vientiane tours such as Wat Sisaket and Haw Phra Keow. Otherwise we continue past the Presidential Palace (not open as an attraction) to the attractive central area for a delicious lunch at one of the best restaurants in town. From here, the rest of the afternoon is free, you can explore the central area on bike or foot, or simply return to the hotel by bike or local tuk tuk and relax.







## A Taste of Vientiane

TUK TUK JOURNEY, MEKONG RIVER SNACKS AND DRINKS

CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY

Depart : 17.30 / Arrive : 21.00

At 17.00, we are picked up by tuk tuk for our evening Foodie Tour, one of Asia Concierge's signature experiences.

Our first stop is for us, the highlight of any trip to Vientiane - a Mekong sunset riverside beer Lao with some local style bbq snacks.

At this time, the riverside area is transformed as many pop-up local restaurants serve local fare and beer, and the whole area is awash with vibrant activity of the locals socialising as the sun sets over the Mekong, with Thailand just across the river.

After soaking up the atmosphere for an hour or so, we then continue to three other stops for a Lao style cocktail, a delicious main course with wine (champagne option), and a final stop with at a local beer-garden-style hangout, with a live band playing a combination of Lao, Thai and international songs.

From here we may wish to return to the Hotel, or for the more adventurous night owls, Vientiane has a fun and friendly nightlife scene, our Travel Expert can recommend some late-night bars.



VIENTIANE  
LAOS



Above left : Night market along the Mekong riverbank  
Above right : Fresh Laotian salad  
Below : Patuxay the "Arc de Triomphe" of Vientiane

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.





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