

Laos Splendors Cruise from Vientiane to Chiang Rai

Discovering the Golden Triangle, this mythical region straddling Thailand, Laos and Burma, naturally leads to the Mekong which demarcates its border. This path taken by the minorities of Laos in search of a refuge for those whom history has forced into exile, is the one you will travel aboard the modern and comfortable R/V Sabaidee Pandaw. Through the mountains dotted with rice fields, tea fields and this opium which earned it a sulphurous reputation, you will encounter an astonishing ethnic diversity: a mixture of costumes, architectures, crafts and flavors. Among the jewels of this region, Luang Prabang, located on the banks of the Mekong, exudes a religious and serene atmosphere with its temples, its monks, its green vegetation and its colorful architecture. While sailing on the river, other wonders are offered to travelers: the magnificent turquoise terraced waterfalls of Kuang Si, the typical and welcoming villages at the bend of a meander, as well as Vientiane, the capital of this marvelous country that is Laos.

- Regions / Countries: **France** **Laos** **Thailand**
- Duration: **14 Days / 13 Nights**
- Tags: **City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife, Town, Secluded, Village**
- URL: https://embarq.travel/boats/sabaidee-pandaw/laos-splendors-cruise-from-vientiane-to-chiang-rai/



Day 1



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 1: FRANCE

Departure on a scheduled flight with a stopover to Vientiane. Overnight in flight.

Day 2



Laos / Vientiane

City

DAY 2: VIENTIANE (LAOS)

In the morning, arrival in Vientiane.
Visit the charming capital of Laos, marked by French colonial architecture, passing by the presidential palace and the triumphal arch of Patuxai, built in memory of the Laotian victims of the Second World War and those of the country's independence. Visit the Si Saket temple, undoubtedly the oldest temple in Vientiane with its extraordinary coffered ceiling, then the Phra Keo housing a remarkable museum of Buddhist objects of Laotian tradition. Lunch and dinner at the restaurant.
Night in a 4* hotel.

Day 3



Laos / Vientiane

City

DAY 3: VIENTIANE

In the morning, visit Xieng Khuan Park, also called "Buddha Park". In a green setting, it houses more than 200 Buddhist and Hindu statues built in 1958 by a shaman priest. Lunch at the restaurant. In the afternoon, discover the Si Muang temple and the Ban Nong Bua Thong district, known for its textile work. Free time for an individual discovery of the city. Dinner at the restaurant.
Overnight stay in a 4* hotel.

Day 4



Laos / Pak Lai

Town

DAY 4: SAILING – PAK LAI

In the morning, board a long traditional barge to begin navigation on the Mekong.
Lasting about 6 hours, the navigation begins across the vast fertile plain of Vientiane, then offers spectacular landscapes of jungle and mountains in the middle of which flows a tumultuous Mekong. Lunch on board the traditional boat.
In the afternoon, arrival in Pak Lai, an old colonial-style town administered by the French. Its position has made it a popular stopover for small boats sailing on the Mekong. Its riverfront and market are very lively. Embark on board the R/V Sabaidee Pandaw. Check into the cabins. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 5



Laos / Xayaburi Dam

Secluded, Village

DAY 5: BAN PHA LEAB - XAYABURI DAM

In the morning, walk in the charming village of Ban Pha Leab, in the heart of a landscape of limestone mountains.
Lunch on board and afternoon of navigation on the Upper Mekong. Passage of the dam and the hydroelectric plant of Xayaburi whose construction was a subject of controversy. Dinner and night on board.

Day 6



Laos / Luang Prabang

Town

DAY 6: KUANGSI FALLS - LUANG PRABANG

In the morning, visit a village of the Hmong ethnic group, then the village of Ban Mouang Khai.
Lunch on board.
In the afternoon, departure by mini-van to discover the beautiful Kuangsi Falls, descending in cascades on limestone formations in which they have dug small turquoise pools. Visit the butterfly farm, then continue towards Luang Prabang, at the confluence of the Mekong and the Nam Khan. This harmonious city with its old-fashioned charm is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the temple of Wat Aham and then Wat Vixoum, the oldest in the city. Walk to the market at night. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 7



Laos / Luang Prabang

Town

DAY 7: LUANG PRABANG

In the morning, visit Wat Xieng Thong, the "temple of the Royal City", the most sumptuous with its facades decorated with impressive mosaics. Then discover Wat Mai, typical of the architecture of Luang Prabang. The visit continues with the National Museum installed in the former royal palace. It houses the Phra Bang, a fine gold Buddha (of Ceylonese origin) which gave its name to the city. Return on board for lunch. Free time for an individual discovery of the city. At the end of the afternoon, presentation on board of local dances and traditions. Lunch, dinner and night on board.

Day 8



Laos / Luang Prabang

Town

DAY 8: LUANG PRABANG - PAK OU

In the morning, departure on foot to follow the procession of the monks passing from house to house to receive the offerings of the faithful. This moment out of time is an opportunity to grasp the gentle and profound spirituality of the Laotians.
Then, resume navigation and stopover near the Pak Ou caves, at the mouth of the Nam Ou River. Transfer in small local boats to discover these caves dug at the foot of the limestone cliff, in which are arranged hundreds of representations of Buddha.
Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.

Day 9



Navigation

DAY 9: NAVIGATION

In the morning, discovery of a village inhabited by the Khmu ethnic group, which represents the largest minority in Laos. They live from fishing, forest products and crafts. They are animists and practice ancestor worship. They are generally settled near the upper waterways.
Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.

Day 10



Laos / Huay Xai

Town

DAY 10: HUAY XAI

After a morning stopover in a traditional village on the banks of the Mekong, continue sailing on the Upper Mekong whose banks offer the landscape of a nature preserved and respected by human activity. In the late afternoon, walk in the village of Huay Xai. Lunch, dinner and night on board.

Day 11



Thailand / Chiang Khong

Village

DAY 11: BORDER CROSSING – CHIANG KHONG (THAILAND)

Continue sailing and clear immigration and customs formalities at the Laos-Thailand border. Arrive in Chiang Khong, on the northern border of Thailand. Early evening, presentation of traditional Thai dances on board. Lunch, dinner and overnight on board.

Day 12



Thailand / Chiang Rai

Village

DAY 12: CHIANG KHONG - CHIANG RAI

In the morning, disembark at Chiang Khong and depart by coach for Chiang Rai, whose name literally means “major city”, in the heart of the Golden Triangle, this corner of land shared between Thailand, Laos and Burma. Lunch at the restaurant and visit to the Opium Museum. This unusual site is dedicated to this illicit substance whose illegal production is the major issue in some contemporary conflicts. Dinner at the restaurant and overnight stay in a 4* hotel.

Day 13



Laos / Vientiane

City

DAY 13: CHIANG RAI

In the morning, discover Chiang Rai, which was a royal capital in the 13th century. Visit the Wat Phra Kaeo temple which houses the Emerald Buddha, one of the most important representations of Buddha in Thailand. Then, discover Wat Rong Khun, 13 km from Chiang Rai, also called "the white temple", an immaculate marvel built in homage to King Rama IX. Lunch at the restaurant. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport. Departure for Paris on a scheduled flight with stopover. Night in flight.

Day 14



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 1: FRANCE

Departure on a scheduled flight with a stopover to Vientiane. Overnight in flight.


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