



## Cruise the Splendors of Laos, from Chiang Rai to Vientiane

Découvrir le Triangle d'or, cette mythique région à cheval entre la Thaïlande, le Laos et la Birmanie, conduit naturellement sur le Mékong qui en délimite la frontière. Ce chemin qu'empruntèrent les minorités du Laos en quête d'un refuge pour ceux que l'histoire a contraint de s'exiler, c'est celui que vous parcourrez à bord du moderne et confortable R/V Sabaidee Pandaw. À travers les montagnes parsemées de rizières, de champs de thé et de cet opium qui lui valut une réputation sulfureuse, vous irez à la rencontre d'une étonnante diversité ethnique : mélange de costumes, d'architectures, d'artisanats et de saveurs. Parmi les joyaux de cette région, Luang Prabang, située sur les rives du Mékong, dégage une atmosphère religieuse et sereine avec ses temples, ses bonzes, sa végétation verdoyante et son architecture colorée. En navigant sur le fleuve, d'autres merveilles s'offrent aux voyageurs : les magnifiques cascades en terrasses turquoises de Kuang Si, les villages typiques et accueillants au détour d'un méandre, ainsi que Vientiane, la capitale de ce merveilleux pays qu'est le Laos.

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



## Day 1

## Day 2



### [Thailand / Chiang Rai](#)

Village

#### **DAY 2: CHIANG RAI (THAILAND)**

In the morning, arrival in 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. Transfer to the city center and panoramic view of this city which was a royal capital in the 13th century. Lunch and installation at the 4 \* hotel. In the afternoon, departure for the visit of the Wat Phra Kaew temple which houses the Emerald Buddha, one of the most important representations of Buddha in Thailand. Then, discovery of the Wat Rong Khun, 13 km from Chiang Rai, also called "the white temple", an immaculate marvel built in homage to King Rama IX. Dinner in town and overnight at the hotel.



## Day 3



### [Thailand](#) / [Chiang Khong](#)

Village

#### **DAY 3: CHIANG RAI – CHIANG KHONG**

Departure by coach (3 hours) in the morning to join the R/V Sabaidee Pandaw, moored on the Thai Mekong. Lunch at the restaurant and visit the Opium Museum. This unusual site is dedicated to this illicit substance whose illegal production is the major issue of some contemporary conflicts. Boarding in the middle of the afternoon. In the early evening, presentation of traditional Thai dances on board.

Dinner and overnight stay on board.

## Day 4



### [Laos / Huay Xai](#)

Town

#### **DAY 4: HUAY XAI (LAOS) (BORDER CROSSING)**

Day of navigation on the Upper Mekong whose banks offer the landscape of a nature preserved and respected by human activity. Passage of immigration and customs formalities at the border between Laos and Thailand. If the time of crossing the border allows it, discovery of the eponymous village. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.



## Day 5



### Navigation

#### DAY 5: NAVIGATION

In the morning, discovery of a village inhabited by the Khmu ethnic group, which represents the largest minority in Laos. Generally settled near the upper courses, the inhabitants live from fishing, forest products and crafts. They are animists and practice ancestor worship.

Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.

## Day 6



### [Laos / Luang Prabang](#)

Town

#### **DAY 6: PAK OU - LUANG PRABANG**

In the morning, stopover near the Pak Ou caves, at the mouth of the Nam Ou River and 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. Return on board for lunch and resume navigation 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 then Wat Vixoum, the oldest in the city. Then, walk to the night market. Dinner and overnight stay 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 which 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 at the end of the afternoon. Presentation on board of local dances and traditions. Dinner and overnight stay on board.



## Day 8



### [Laos / Luang Prabang](#)

Town

#### **DAY 8: LUANG PRABANG – KUANGSI FALLS**

Early 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 deep spirituality of the Laotians. Departure at the end of the morning and lunch on board.

In the afternoon, discover the beautiful Kuangsi Falls, cascading down limestone formations in which they have carved out small turquoise pools. Visit the butterfly farm.

Dinner and overnight stay on board.

## Day 9



### [Laos / Xayaburi Dam](#)

Secluded, Village

#### **DAY 9: XAYABURI DAM**

Morning sailing on the Upper Mekong. In the early afternoon, passage of the dam and the hydroelectric plant of Xayaburi whose construction was a subject of controversy. Then, stopover and walk in the traditional village on the banks of the Mekong.  
Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.



## Day 10



### [Laos / Pak Lai](#)

Town

#### **DAY 10: PAK LAI**

In the morning, stroll through the charming village of Ban Pha Leab, in the heart of a landscape of limestone mountains. In the afternoon, discover 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. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.

## Day 11



### Navigation

#### DAY 11: NAVIGATION

Disembark in the morning and continue sailing on the Mekong aboard a long traditional barge. The navigation, lasting about 6 hours, offers spectacular landscapes of jungle and mountains in the middle of which flows a tumultuous Mekong before approaching the vast fertile plain of Vientiane. Lunch on board the traditional boat. In the middle of the afternoon, arrival in Vientiane which stretches along a wide meander of the Mekong, opposite the Thai city of Nong Kai. Lunch, dinner and night on board in 2024. In 2025 transfer to a 4\* hotel. Check-in to the rooms and dinner. Night at the hotel.



## Day 12



### [Laos / Vientiane](#)

City

#### **DAY 12: VIENTIANE**

Day dedicated to discovering the capital of Laos whose charm remains marked by French colonial architecture: the presidential palace, 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. On the other side of the street, is the Phra Keo housing a remarkable museum of Buddhist objects of Laotian tradition.

Lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board.

In 2025 night at the 4\* hotel

## Day 13



### [Laos](#) / [Vientiane](#)

City

#### **DAY 13: VIENTIANE**

In the morning, visit Xieng Khuan Park, also called "Buddha Park". Built in 1958 by Bunleua Sulitat, a shaman priest, it houses more than 200 Buddha and Hindu statues in a green setting. Lunch at a restaurant. In the afternoon, discover the Si Muang temple and the Ban Nong Bua Thong district, known for its textile work. Transfer to the airport. Flight to France on a scheduled flight with stopover.  
Night flight.



## Day 14



### [France / Paris](#)

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

#### **DAY 1: FRANCE**

Departure on a scheduled flight with a stopover to Chiang Rai. Overnight in flight.

