



Golden Triangle & Laos

NORTHERN THAILAND, UPPER MEKONG & LUANG PRABANG



Experience: A fascinating 2 day cruise on the upper Mekong and the delights of Luang Prabang
Witness: Rural lifestyle and traditional cultures amongst the hill tribes of Thailand and Laos; and breath-taking scenery
Celebrate: The fine examples of eco-responsible tourism - providing for a better way of life
Be inspired: By the simple lives of the hardy hill tribes

Please join me on this fascinating journey in Northern Thailand and Laos. We'll travel along at a very relaxed pace and enjoy a wonderful programme along with the richest of cultural experiences.

14 Days / 13 Nights

Departing Perth
23 November 2017

Escorted by Leith Malcolm

Package Pricing

per person twin share

*single

Ex Perth (other Australian cities on application)

\$5,420 AUD

\$6,520 AUD

*nights at Lanija and Luang Say Lodges may have to be share twin



INCLUSIONS

- International and domestic airfares and taxes (Thai Airways 787 Dreamliner service ex Perth)
- Transfers and transportation
- Accommodation at hotels listed, or similar
- Daily breakfasts, 8 lunches and 4 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as indicated in itinerary

- Entrance fees where applicable
- Services of an English-speaking guide and Tips
- Services of a company appointed escort

EXCLUSIONS

- Beverages
- Meals other than stated
- Visa fees & travel insurance

Trip grading: 2½ – requires a reasonable degree of walking fitness.

Weather conditions (November): Chiang Rai 28 / 17 (55) Luang Prabang 28 / 17 (40) - average maximum / minimum (monthly rainfall in mm).

Minimum / Maximum number on this tour: Minimum 8 / Maximum of 12 including the escort.

Escort: This tour will be escorted by Ms Leith Malcolm.

Extensions: We will be pleased to co-ordinate additional arrangements in Thailand and / or nearby points of interest. Our top suggestion would be to take a side-trip to Siem Reap to visit Angkor Wat (a 5 day / 4 night programme costing from around \$850.00pp – share twin, including airfares).

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Deposit and balance of payment

A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be required to secure your reservation and with the balance due by TUE 26 September 2017. The deposit is non-refundable, except if the tour is cancelled due to lack of numbers (in which case it will be refunded in full).

Cancellation fees

Per person cancellation fees are:-

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| From date of booking to 56 days prior departure | \$500.00 |
| 56-21 days prior to departure | 50% of the tour price |
| Within 21 days | 100% of the tour price |

Plus any charges as may be applied by hotels, operators and/or airlines, but never exceeding 100% of the tour price.

Travel insurance: Travel Tree (Australasia) Pty Ltd will provide insurance proposals for your consideration at time of booking. Comprehensive insurance is mandatory for all participants and the Company will require proof of any insurance purchased indirectly.

Costs: Based on airfares, taxes and USD exchange rates valid as at 30 January 2017. Airfares may be subject to increase. Prices are in Australian Dollars.



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For bookings and information contact

Leith Malcolm on (618) 9388 1899 or leith@traveltree.com.au

Travel Tree (Australasia) Pty Ltd ABN 12 009 028 004

14 Days / 13 Nights Northern Thailand, Upper Mekong & Luang Prabang



Itinerary...

THU 23 November Thai Airways via Bangkok to Chiang Rai
Depart Perth, you'll connect via Bangkok to Chiang Rai. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel, the Dusit Island Resort for a stay of 2 nights.

FRI 24 November Chiang Rai - Cycling to White Temple
This morning, we'll commence cycling along flat terrain - approx. 26 kms. We'll see much local lifestyle as we meander along, following the Lao River downstream. After visiting the White Temple & lunch at a local restaurant we'll then travel by van to the amazing Black Temple, enjoy a walk in the grounds before returning to our accommodation mid afternoon. (B/L)

Note: Those who prefer not to cycle will travel by private vehicle.

SAT 25 November Chiang Rai to Lanjia Lodge
We set off for the "Golden Triangle" at the junction of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos. We'll spend time at the outstanding Hall of Opium Museum to gain a greater understanding of the opium trade which has dominated this region, before enjoying lunch at the Borderview Restaurant. After lunch we'll drive on into the hills and arrive at the Lanjia Lodge where we stay 2 nights. We can relax and enjoy the view before settling in for dinner. (B/L/D)

SUN 26 November Lanjia Lodge
After breakfast, we will view a presentation on the "Golden Triangle," learning of the Hmong and Lahu tribes and the Pla Buek (the world's largest fresh-water fish) which are found in the Mekong River. We walk to the nearby village/s & drink tea with village Hmong shamans. After lunch, the local village ladies will help you create your own Hmong batik masterpiece. You'll also assist in planting trees at the Herbal Plant Nursery Project. The Thai government has, for many years, encouraged the hill tribes to plant vegetables in order to move them away from the production of opium poppies. (B/L/D)

MON 27 November Mekong Cruise to Luang Say Lodge
We set out early this morning in order to board the Luang Say prior to 9am. We then depart on our "slow boat," travelling down river while we relax and view river life (of which there is plenty) and enjoy a buffet lunch before arriving at Pakbeng. Overnight accommodation here will be at the Luang Say Lodge. After viewing the sunset, we take dinner on the terrace, overlooking the Mekong River. (B/L/D) Note: Due to limited availability, accommodation may have to be share twin at Luang Say Lodge.

TUE 28 November Cruise via Pak Ou to Luang Prabang
Breakfast is served prior to our vessel leaving at 8am. A brief stop will be made at a river village to see locals making whiskey. After enjoying a buffet lunch onboard, we stop opposite the mouth of the Nam Ou River to visit Pak Ou's two caves (with their thousands of Buddha images) then continue on to Luang Prabang.
Here, we disembark and make our way to our boutique 4 star hotel - 3 nights. We can relax, wander around the charming town and consider our dinner options. (B/L)

The Royal Capital of Laos until 1975, Luang Prabang has managed to retain much of its charm through a period of dramatic change.



The former Royal Palace now acts as the National Museum and over 40 monasteries accommodate more than 700 monks. Luang Prabang is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

One of the most vivid images from Laos is from 5:30 in the morning onward, silent lines of saffron-clad monks walk down the streets of Luang Prabang to collect alms. The locals are there ahead of them, ready with bowls full of the Lao staple sticky rice; every monk gets a scoopful in their bowl. With almost eighty temples in Luang Prabang alone, this adds up to hundreds of monks.

Leith will certainly rouse those interested in an early morning walk to experience this tradition.

Luang Prabang is rich in culture & architecture. The local cuisine is outstanding with many restaurant choices. You might also consider joining a cooking class at Tamarind Restaurant (optional extra).

WED 29 November Luang Prabang - private guide
This morning we'll be joined by our Lao guide who will escort us on a walking tour of Luang Prabang. The afternoon is free for personal pursuits then, this evening, you might like to join your escort for the walk up Mt Phousi to view the sunset. (B)

THU 30 November Luang Prabang - sightseeing activities
This morning, we will set off to visit Kuang Si Waterfall, the waters of which tumble over multi-tiered limestone formations into a series of turquoise pools where you can have a refreshing swim. On our return, we will stop at a textile village to view hand-weaving. (B)

FRI 01 December Luang Prabang to Nong Khiav
Our local Lao guide will take us via his home village before continuing on to the small town of Nong Khiav, situated on the banks of the Nam Ou River and in (arguably) one of the most attractive settings in northern Laos. You will enjoy the sight of a beautiful river which has cut its way through vertical limestone mountains... simply breath-taking. We stay 2 nights here at the charming, but simple, Nong Kiau Riverside Resort. (B/L)

SAT 02 December Nong Khiav - sightseeing activities
This morning, we will take a light trek to enjoy breath-taking scenery then, this afternoon, we travel upstream by long-tailed boat to visit textile villages, many accessible only by water. Laos National Day (B/L)

SUN 03 December River cruise to Luang Prabang
This morning, we'll set out by private long-tail motor boat via a remote village until we reach the confluence of the Nam Ou and Mekong Rivers. After a picnic lunch on the river bank, we return to Luang Prabang by private vehicle for a further stay of 2 nights at our boutique 4 star hotel. (B/L)

MON 04 December Luang Prabang - at leisure
A full day free for optional visit to Elephant Sanctuary, or for last-minute shopping then, tonight, we share a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B/D)

TUE 05 December Flight to Bangkok
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Late morning we'll be transferred to the airport for our flight to Bangkok. On arrival we'll take the walkway to the Novotel Survarnabumi Airport Hotel for an overnight stay. Optional extra: Join Leith on a Tuk Tuk Cultural/Food Tour of Bangkok city this evening. (B)

WED 06 December Flight Bangkok to Perth.

We'll take the walkway back to the airport for our early morning flight homewards.

Flights - Thai & Bangkok Airways

TG 484 23NOV PERBKK 0915 1510
PG 235 23NOV BKKCEI 1745 1905
Surface Travel
PG 942 05DEC LPQBKK 1220 1420
TG 481 06DEC BKKPER 0720 1515