



# Luang Prabang

Photo: M2020/Shutterstock.com



Trial/Shutterstock.com

Set in northern Laos at the heart of a mountainous region, Luang Prabang is a strong contender for the title of Southeast Asia's best-kept secret. Here, in the heart of Laos, life moves in sync with the sun and nature, in a beautiful symbiosis of old and new. With its unspoilt natural wonders and golden temples glistening in the sun, the once royal capital of Laos is becoming one of the most attractive and awe-inspiring destinations in Southeast Asia, already drawing in over 1 million tourists every year.

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](http://ArrivalGuides.com)*



PicPort/Shutterstock.com



Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock.com

**QUIZ**  
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

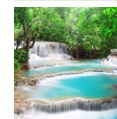
**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



### Phou Si Mountain

Nestled in the peninsula between the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, Phou Si Mou...



### Kuang Si Waterfalls

Perhaps Luang Prabang's most famous attraction, the three levelled waterfall...



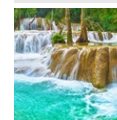
### Nahm Dong Park

Nahm Dong Park is a self-sustaining park teeming with wildlife, located only...



### Cruises in Luang Prabang

Another way to discover the city's wonders is cruising along the Mekong Rive...



### Tat Sae Waterfalls

Dive deep into the emerald waters of Tat Sae waterfalls only 18 km southeast...



## THE CITY



*Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock.com*

Luang Prabang is a true cornucopia of treasures, full of beautifully well-preserved French architecture lined up alongside old wooden structures that blend together in a charming combination of styles, interjected with golden Buddhist temples, and topped off with plenty of things to experience.

Distinguished as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, the "royal Buddha image" city (the meaning of its name) and former royal capital of Laos will awaken your senses and offer a chance to temporarily dive into the past, where life seemingly runs slower and in full contact with nature.

Today, despite the picturesque city of Luang Prabang being well-established on the tourist routes of many travellers to the region, it still preserves much of its pristine beauty and uncharted quality.

## DO & SEE



*Smarta/Shutterstock.com*

There are a plethora of things to do in Luang Prabang, even if ambling around the city's beautifully preserved Old Town where French colonial buildings blend with secular wooden structures. Some of the highlights include climbing the 355 steps that lead to Phou Si Mountain, crossing the meandering rivers, and splashing in the mesmerising turquoise waters of Kuang Si Waterfalls, its *pièce de résistance*.

### Phou Si Mountain



Nestled in the peninsula between the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, Phou Si Mountain (at 100 metres) shows off exactly why it is rightfully

referred to as the heart of this charming city. The jewel in the crown of the summit is surely the 24m gilded stupa called That Chomsi, built in 1804 and famous with sunset junkies that accept the alluring challenge of climbing the 355 steps to enjoy the view of the beautiful city lying below their feet.

Photo: Mazur Travel/Shutterstock.com

Address: Phou Si Mount, Luang Prabang

Opening hours: Daily 5:30am-6pm

Tickets: 20,000K

### Kuang Si Waterfalls



Perhaps Luang Prabang's most famous attraction, the three levelled waterfall is a favourite spot for both tourists and locals. Engulfed by lush tropical jungle, the mesmerising turquoise waters of the natural pools make for a relaxing and invigorating swim. About 23 km (18 mi) south of Luang Prabang, the easiest and fastest ways to get to this jaw-dropping sight are by tuk-tuk and minivan. Don't miss out on the moon bear sanctuary and the small market at the entrance to the falls, selling original handicrafts and delectable food.

Please note that not all the swimming pools are open to the public. Some of them are considered sacred. Therefore, please swim only where permitted.

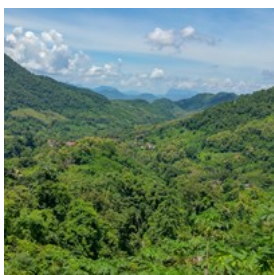
Photo: Preto Perola/Shutterstock.com

Address: Laos

Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm

Tickets: 20,000K

### Nahm Dong Park



Nahm Dong Park is a self-sustaining park teeming with wildlife, located only 10km from Luang Prabang. Different outdoor activities can be pursued here: from zip lining to hiking and trekking, to swimming in the emerald waters of the waterfalls. If you're looking to get fully immersed into nature, take a relaxing stroll and discover the pure natural beauty of the park or have a picnic in a bamboo hut. There are also a viewpoint café and a restaurant offering traditional Lao food.

You can get here by tuk-tuk, motorbike, bike, or book the Nahm Dong shuttle.

Photo: Ovidiu Alexa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ban Xiengmouak, Luang Prabang

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +856 30 56 09 821

Tickets: 20,000K

Internet: nahmdong.com

### Cruises in Luang Prabang



Another way to discover the city's wonders is cruising along the Mekong River - the main aquatic thoroughfare navigable all year round.

During your cruise, you'll be able to stop at local villages and see how local people live, visit the two caves (Pak Ou Caves), crammed with countless Buddha statues, all the while comfortably enjoying the lavish buffet on board.

The most famous route is a 2-day trip from Huay Xai (on the Thailand border) to Luang Prabang.

Book your tour on the majestic Mekong River and get a new perspective of Luang Prabang that will make your journey unforgettable.

Here are some cruise companies to book your tour with:

- Mekong Cruises

50/4 Sakkarine Road, Ban Vat Sene, Luang Prabang

- Mekong River Cruises

16/2 Sakkarine Rd., Luang Prabang

Photo: Bartu Juan/Shutterstock.com

Opening hours: Mekong River Cruises Office: Monday-Friday

8:30am-6pm, Saturday 8:30am-12pm / Mekong Cruises:

Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm

Phone: Mekong River Cruises Office: +856 71 254 768 /  
Mekong Cruises: +856 71 252 553  
Internet: mekong-cruises.com / cruisemekong.com

### Tat Sae Waterfalls



Dive deep into the emerald waters of Tat Sae waterfalls only 18 km southeast of Luang Prabang. Unlike Kuang Si waterfalls, the spot is less famous among tourists, which makes it less crowded and a favourite with locals. Note that locals bathe fully clothed, sometimes even in jeans. To avoid getting stares and blend in better, women are recommended to bring a sarong and men a shirt to cover up, as going around in a bikini is not culturally accepted. Tat Sae waterfalls offer outdoor activities such as zip-lining and kayaking.

The waterfalls are at their best during the rainy season (June to September).

Photo: Khoroshunova Olga/Shutterstock.com

Address: Luang Prabang, Laos

Public Transport: You can get here by tuk-tuk or by renting a motorbike, once you've arrived a boat will wait for you at the entrance of the waterfalls

Opening hours: Daily 8am-5:30pm

### Kayaking at Nam Khan River



Paddling down the scenic Nam Khan River is a must-do experience while in Luang Prabang. Book an organised tour, either a day or half a day, with one of the many travel agencies and enjoy the picturesque landscapes around you.

Many tours include an English-speaking guide, hotel pick-up and drop-off, rental gear, all

transfers, lunch, and drinking water.

Here's a shortlist of reputable travel agencies in Luang Prabang:

- Tiger Trail Outdoor
- Laos Group Tours

Photo: Kosin Sukhum/Shutterstock.com

Address: 27 Ounheun Rd, Luang Prabang / Banxiengmuoan, 62/4 Sisavangvong road, Luang Prabang

Phone: +856 71 252 655 / +856 30 48 66 665

Internet: laos-adventures.com / laos-group-tours.business.site

### Trekking and Hiking in Luang Prabang



Whether it's a high climb or an incredible stroll across the magical landscapes of Luang Prabang, it's the only way to admire the countryside close-up, to discover its secret hideaways and to immerse yourself in a bucolic atmosphere. One of the most famous tours is the Longhut trail which includes a homestay at the Khum village and ends with a 1.5- to 2-hour trek through the rice fields and forest until the final destination, Tad Sae waterfalls.

Tours include all transfers, an English-speaking guide, picnic lunch and drink, boat transfers, plus more. Check out the website below for one local provider.

Photo: Dzmitrock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 27 Ounheun Rd Luang Prabang, Laos

Phone: +856 71 252 655

Internet: laos-adventures.com

## RESTAURANTS



Geet Theerawat/Shutterstock.com

Luang Prabang's dining scene offers a great variety of eateries to choose from.

Internationally-oriented food outlets that offer western-inspired dishes (try Tangor) to home cooked-style Laotian cuisine (e.g. Manda de Laos), you're sure to embark on a fantastic culinary journey.

### Tangor Restaurant Bar & Lounge



Tangor Restaurant Bar & Lounge offers the best fusion of western gastronomy — ranging from French to other international cuisines — and Lao culture. Try their signature ceviche and pair it with a glass of fine wine to enjoy it to the fullest. The venue also stands out for its complimentary cocktails and the breezy outdoor patio.

Photo: VDB Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: 63/6 Sisavangvong Road, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-11:30pm

Phone: +856 20 95 607 262

Internet: [www.thetangor.com](http://www.thetangor.com)

### Pha Khao Lao



On one of the picturesque unnamed alleys in Luang Prabang sits Pha Khao Lao, an establishment that adheres to the Laotian concept of "Mader, kin Khao Nam gan!", which translates to "please come, let's eat together!". Complete with either bamboo or rattan tables, the unassuming eatery offers traditional Lao food along with western and Asian dishes. Try their number one on the menu: noodles which come in different sizes and textures.

Photo: bonchan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Unnamed Road, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 7am-10pm

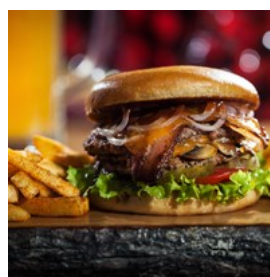
Phone: +856 20 91 237 799

Internet: [phakhaolao.com](http://phakhaolao.com)

Email: [food@phakhaolao.com](mailto:food@phakhaolao.com)

More Info: 5 minutes away from the Night Market, close to Villa Sayada

### BOUANG Asian Eatery



The main thoroughfare is home to the modest Bouang eatery, a vegetarian-friendly restaurant that beautifully reinterprets the Lao cuisine with a modern twist. Though a newcomer in the dining scene of LP, Bouang is earning itself a great reputation for its amazing burgers. In addition to that, the combination of colourful chairs, funky light fixtures and mural-covered walls is so visually appealing that it draws in crowds of locals and tourists.

Photo: Yeti studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 11:30am-9:30pm

Phone: +856 20 55 268 908

More Info: Extra bonus: English- and French-speaking staff

## Manda de Laos



Surrounded by three enchanting lily ponds, Manda de Laos not only offers the best setting for a magical night but also the best home

cooked-style Laotian food in the neighbourhood. The chef recommends 'khoua sin kwai' (wok fried buffalo and flambé with Lao alcohol) or the 'ping pa' (grilled famous Pa Nin fish with lemongrass and Lao herbs, served with homemade tomato maklen) to pair with one of their signature drinks, such as 'Laos parinha' (champa kao with cucumber and lime rimmed with local ground rice).

Photo: mama\_mia/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10 Norrassan Road, Unit 1 Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-3pm / 6pm-10:30pm

Phone: +856 71 253 923

Internet: [www.mandalaos.com](http://www.mandalaos.com)

## Yuni Yupoun



Yuni Yupoun—which translates to "here or there"—offers an assorted menu inspired by the entire world. From Greek to Indian to Peruvian...

you name it, and it's likely on the eclectic menu.

Bonus: happy hours start at noon and run until 7 pm.

Photo: Anna\_Pustynnikova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 11am-11pm, Sunday 24H

Phone: +856 20 97 406 765

## CAFES



Pete Burana/Shutterstock.com

Laos is known in the world for its rich, strong, top-notch coffee: Robusta and Arabica grown at high altitudes, which distinguishes them from varieties elsewhere. With most of its coffee harvested in the Bolaven Plateau, it's Laos' 5th largest export product, with 20,000 tons produced annually.

No trip to Luang Prabang would be complete without paying a visit to some of the coffee shops listed below. Dig into the fascinating Lao coffee culture and history with a guided coffee tour which supports local farmers.

## Saffron Coffee



With an open-air terrace overlooking the meandering Mekong River, Saffron is more than a simple coffee shop to the people of Luang

Prabang—it is a profit-for-purpose company assisting smallholder farmers by re-investing profits. The cafeteria features 100% Arabica coffee beans along with scrumptious delights to go along.

Photo: Somka-ne Emawat/Shutterstock.com

Address: Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Monday-Tuesday 7am-6:45pm, Wednesday

7am-7:45pm, Thursday 7am-6:45pm, Friday 6:30am-6:45pm,

Saturday-Sunday 7:30am-5:30pm

Phone: +856 71 212 915

Internet: saffroncoffee.com

### Joma Bakery Café



Joma Bakery Café—with four outlets in Southeast Asia—is a small jewel in the heart of Luang Prabang. At this coffeehouse you'll find an in-house bakery, comfortable indoor and outdoor seats, free Wi-Fi, tempting healthy salads, and many other options. Everything can be paired with organic Laotian coffee grown in the Bolaven Plateau in southern Laos.

The best part: you get free refills as long as you're there.

Photo: jakkapan dowwongyat/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chao Fa Ngum | Next to Post Office, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-9pm

Phone: +856 71 252 292

Internet: www.joma.biz

More Info: The second location is on the banks of the Nam Khan River

### Kaogee Café



Overlooking the timeless Royal Palace, now a national museum, Kaogee Café is one of Luang Prabang's remarkable rendezvous spots. With limited seats that make it for a cosy and relaxing break, Kaogee Café is the perfect setting for light lunches, coffee, or snacks, all accompanied by light-hearted soundtracks, with 50s classics on rotation.

The best: free WI-FI and plenty of sockets to

charge your devices.

Photo: Pheniti Prasomphethiran/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sisavangvong Road, Luang Prabang, Laos

### Indigo Café



100% Lao Arabica coffee is served in the charming setting of Indigo Café. Aside from the strong coffee, the cafeteria features awesome vegan and non-vegan options, scrumptious cakes and pastries, but the real cherry on top is the breezy terrace that makes the atmosphere even more pleasant; the view goes out onto the Night Market.

Photo: f11photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sisavangvong Road, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-10pm

Phone: +856 71 212 264

Internet: www.indigocafe.la

### Utopia Bar & Restaurant



Tucked away in a tranquil alley overlooking the Nam Khan River, Utopia features beautiful views, great music, free Wi-Fi, yoga classes, a volleyball court, and delicious food. The bar and restaurant is the perfect setting to unwind engulfed by the mountainous jungles of Laos or to groove all night long.

Photo: gg-foto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kingkitsarath Rd, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 8am-11:30pm

Phone: +856 30 53 29 873

Internet: utopialuangprabang.com

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Master1305/Shutterstock.com

Although the magical city of Luang Prabang is known primarily for its cultural and historical heritage, there are many spots to chill and mingle with fellow travelers. Three major hot spots are Icon Klub, LPMC, and 525 Cocktails & Tapas; each offers great cocktails and delectable food to suit all tastes.

Note that the party shuts down at midnight as days start very early in the morning (around 5 am).

### Utopia Bar & Restaurant



Tucked away in a tranquil alley overlooking the Nam Khan River, Utopia features beautiful views, great music, free Wi-Fi, yoga classes, a volleyball court, and delicious food. The bar and restaurant is the perfect setting to unwind engulfed by the mountainous jungles of Laos or to groove all night long.

Photo: gg-foto/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kingkitsarath Rd, Laos  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-11:30pm  
Phone: +856 30 53 29 873  
Internet: utopialuangprabang.com

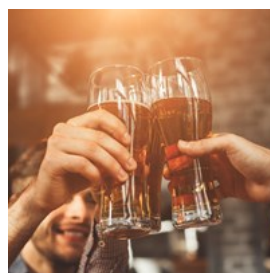
### Icon Klub



Slap bang in the heart of the old town, Icon Klub serves up some of the best cocktails in the city, including classics such as Bloody Mary, mojito, and Martini. Born as the project of an art buff, the establishment hosts live music, poetry slams, and dancing nights. Since 2017, the 2nd floor of Icon Klub is home to an art gallery where poetry and reading workshops take place twice a week led by the owner himself.

Photo: Wollertz/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Sakkaline Rd, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Daily 5:30pm-11:30pm  
Phone: +856 71 254 905  
Internet: www.iconklub.com

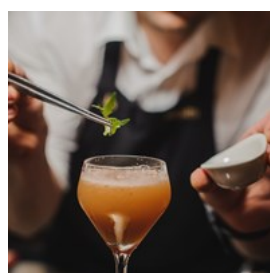
### LPMC



LPMC, opposite the Vat Sene temple, is the perfect setting to get a kick out of Luang Prabang's nightlife. Dine under a canopy of stars or relax with one of their complimentary cocktails on LPMC's spacious outdoor patio.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 3pm-11:30pm  
Phone: +856 20 98 870 254

### 525 Cocktails & Tapas



Perhaps the chicest bar in Luang Prabang, at 525 Cocktails & Tapas one can experience the flavours and ingredients unique to Laos. Everyone here should sample their signature cocktail



Sabaidee Laos (Kaffir lime-infused gin, ginger, lemongrass, lime Forrest honey, pepperwood). A moonlit terrace, a comfy lounge, and long bar seating are just the icing on the cake.

Photo: Maksym Fesenko/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kingkitsarath Rd, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Daily 6pm-11:30pm  
Phone: +856 20 56 665 046  
Internet: [www.525cocktailsandtapas.com](http://www.525cocktailsandtapas.com)  
More Info: Reservations accepted

### Tangor Restaurant Bar & Lounge



Tangor Restaurant Bar & Lounge offers the best fusion of western gastronomy — ranging from French to other international cuisines — and Lao culture. Try their signature ceviche and pair it with a glass of fine wine to enjoy it to the fullest. The venue also stands out for its complimentary cocktails and the breezy outdoor patio.

Photo: VDB Photos/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 63/6 Sisavangvong Road, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-11:30pm  
Phone: +856 20 95 607 262  
Internet: [www.thetangor.com](http://www.thetangor.com)

### Chez Matt



Parked down a busy street, Chez Matt boasts an Italian and French wine cellar. Alongside the fine wines, the candlelit bar offers a tempting selection of alcoholic drinks, including cocktails and whiskies to be enjoyed throughout the evening on the charming terrace.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ban Vat Sene Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 4:30am-11pm  
Phone: +856 20 77 779 497

### Dao Fah



Packed with young Laotians dancing the night away, Dao Fah is located only steps away from the southern bus terminal. Live bands playing Lao and Thai music and DJs spinning international genres — from rap to hip-hop — make it a great place to catch live music and enjoy the atmosphere, even after midnight.

Photo: glazok90/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Rte. 13 near Southern Bus Station, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Daily 9pm-1am  
Phone: +856 71 212 075

### SHOPPING



Vichean Jintakaweekul/Shutterstock.com

The World Heritage City of Luang Prabang is a haven for lovers of handicrafts, fabrics like silk and Laotian cotton, woodcarving, jewellery, and more. The Handicraft Night Market is the most popular place for shopping enthusiasts, but if hidden gems are what you are looking for, read on and find out some of the most interesting spots to shop for charming souvenirs and local products.

### Night Market



Sandwiched between Settathilat and Sisavangvong Roads in the town centre, the Night Market is a beautiful frame to the intricately decorated temples and monasteries and the jungle-covered terrain. From 5 pm onwards, vendors load their stalls with handicrafts and other goods, from clothing to jewellery, to lamps and ceramics. Food stalls are concentrated at the end of the street.

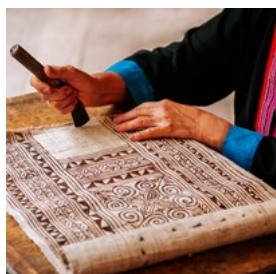
Flocks of tourists from all over the world come here to get a taste of local life and gain insight into Lao offerings.

Photo: pang\_oasis/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Chaofa Ngum Rd, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-11pm

### Ma Te Sai



Ma Te Sai (which translates to "where is it from?") is famed for selling gifts, textiles, and homeware hand made by people from villages across Laos. Shopping at this modest shop means bringing back home a piece of Lao history and culture while supporting local artisans.

Photo: PixHound/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kingkitsarath Rd, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-8:30pm

Phone: +856 71 260 654

Internet: matesai.com

### Garden of Eden



In Ban Phan Louang village, Garden of Eden is a teeny tiny wonder on the other side of a bamboo bridge. Here, not only can you purchase one-of-a-kind jewellery, but even create necklaces, bracelets, and earrings of your own by following instructions from local artisans. The balcony overlooking the river is as dazzling as the jewellery displayed.

Photo: gabriel12/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ban Phan Louang(phan louang Village),opposite dyen sabai restaurant, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm

Phone: +856 20 28 229 059

### Ock Pop Tok Living Craft Centre



Set serenely on the banks of the Mekong River, Ock Pop Tok Living Craft Centre provides insight into the centenary textile tradition. Here, you will have the chance to meet the people that still create textile on traditional looms, and join an array of different classes, from weaving to dyeing and batik drawing. Pay a visit to the adjacent shop for unique souvenirs to bring back home.

Photo: Nguyen Dac Dat/Shutterstock.com

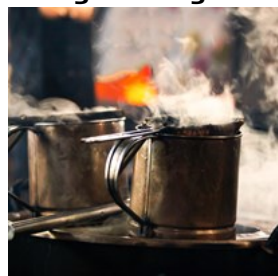
Address: 125/10 Ban Saylom, Luang Prabang, Laos

Opening hours: Daily 8am-7pm

Phone: +856 71 212 597

Internet: www.ockpoptok.com

### Luang Prabang Artisans, Handicrafts & Cafe



Set in a 100-year old wooden home, the Luang Prabang Artisans, Handicrafts & Cafe is a great spot to stop by for some serious souvenir shopping, or an afternoon break away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The shop sells handmade products made by local artisans such as naturally dyed cushions and bags. The café offers light organic meals, plus the traditional Lao coffee.

Photo: Tanes Ngamsom/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm  
Internet: [www.luangprabangartisans.com](http://www.luangprabangartisans.com)  
Email: [lpartisancafe@gmail.com](mailto:lpartisancafe@gmail.com)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*Fine Art/Shutterstock.com*

### Luang Prabang International Airport



Luang Prabang International Airport lies just about 4km (2.5 miles) from the city and is one of the few airports in Laos handling both

international and domestic flights. Bangkok Airways, Lao Airlines, and China Eastern Airlines

are just a few companies operating here. From 2012 to 2013, the airport underwent major renovations, including the expansion of the airstrip.

Note that, unlike at most other airports, security controls are placed before the check-in desks.

Tuk-tuks, taxis and pre-booked hotel shuttles are an easy way to get from the airport to the city centre.

Photo: Juan Garces  
Internet: [www.luangprabangairport.com](http://www.luangprabangairport.com)

### Passport/Visa



Visitors to Laos must obtain a visa from one of the Laotian diplomatic missions or online unless they come from one of the visa-exempt countries

or qualify for a visa on arrival. All visitors must hold a passport valid for 6 months. Citizens of Cambodia, Indonesia, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and South Korea enjoy visa-free access to Laos for a maximum of 30 days; citizens of Japan, Luxembourg, and Switzerland can visit Laos visa-free for a maximum of 15 days; citizens of Brunei and Myanmar can visit Laos visa-free for 14 days. Visitors of other nationalities may obtain a visa on arrival valid for 30 days for a fee at most of the 27 ports of entry to the country, except for Napao-Chalo (Vietnam), Subhun (China), Pakxan-Bueng Kan (Thailand), and Xieng Kok river port (Myanmar). All other citizens must obtain a visa before arrival from a Laotian diplomatic mission.

Please check the following list of whether the e-Visa service is available in your country.

Please find the link below:

Photo: TukTukDesign/Shutterstock.com

Internet: [laoevisa.gov.la/article/Who%20can%20Apply%20for%20Lao%20eVisa](http://laoevisa.gov.la/article/Who%20can%20Apply%20for%20Lao%20eVisa)

### Best Time to Visit Luang Prabang, Laos



Planning your trip to the 'city of the Golden Buddha Phra Bang' from November to March means that you'll have the chance to experience

the city with relatively dry and chill weather. However, these months are known as the peak season, meaning that the area will be overcrowded and accommodation rates doubled. This is also the period to hit several important festivals and events: Pimay, Lao new year and Boun That Luang held respectively in April and October are among the most fascinating ones. An alternative to this would be visiting Luang Prabang during the rainy season (May to September) when the main chunk of tourists leaves and the weather is still pleasant enough to enjoy the city (despite the afternoon showers).

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Time Zone

GMT+7



Photo: Jacky Co/Shutterstock.com

### Languages Spoken in Laos



The Lao language is the official language of Laos, also spoken in northeastern Thailand. As a former French protectorate, French is

still well-liked and appreciated by high-profile individuals, such as diplomats. English is also very common with younger generations. Other minority languages are spoken by the different ethnicities of Laos.

Photo: AVIcon/Shutterstock.com

### Buses



Getting around Luang Prabang might be challenging for newbies but at the same time an adventure. Unlike in other parts of the world,

because of deficiencies in infrastructure even short rides by bus can turn into a "journey of hope" taking hours to reach the destination. Buses are subdivided into ordinary buses characterised by either torn cushions or a hard plank, and air-conditioned-book-in-advance VIP buses. Tickets can be bought at travel agencies or bus stations. Vans and minibuses are also available.

It's best not to rely on the timetable displayed as it's often purely speculative.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

## Taxi



Getting around Luang Prabang by taxi is inconvenient and unpopular. However, they are one way to move from the airport to the hotel or

guesthouse. Taxi stands are just outside arrivals and cost around \$7 to get to town. Besides taxis, tuk-tuks and pre-arranged minivans are also available.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

## Tuk-Tuk



Tuk-tuk is the most traditional and popular way to discover Luang Prabang for only 15,000-30,000 LAK (\$1.7-\$3.5 USD). These

small colourful vehicles are everywhere in the city and you can get one by waving to the driver or approaching one of the many in the parking lots.

In 2015, Luang Prabang launched the eco-friendly E-Bus project along with an electric vehicle station to reduce pollution in the city. Today, E-Buses have become a common way for tourists and locals to move around the city. Fares start at 10,000K for a short ride and 20,000K to further areas of the city.

Photo: bsd/Shutterstock.com

## Bicycle



Bicycle is an eco-friendly way to discover Luang Prabang's wonders. Sabaidee LuangPrabang Travel features a wide range of bikes to choose

from. Prices vary based on the number of days and bike types (e.g. 1-7 days will cost around 6 USD for a mountain bike and around 2.5 USD for a regular bike).

ID, passport, and cash are required to rent a bike or book your bike tour.

Photo: Get Out/Shutterstock.com

Address: 240 Sisavangvong Road, Luang Prabang, Laos

Phone: +856 20 55 771 646

## Boat



To live Luang Prabang to the fullest, hop on a boat and experience the most scenic and picturesque way to marvel at the city's mind-blowing

scenery. The main aquatic thoroughfares are the Mekong River, Nam Ou, Nam Khan, Nam Tha, Nam Ngum and Se Kong. Boats of different sizes navigate jewel-blue streams through lush vegetation. The Mekong River is the most important route and navigable year-around.

You can get from Huay Xai to Luang Prabang on the so-called 'slowboat' on a two-day journey. The fare is around 250,000K (30 USD) and it is the cheapest option. If patience is not your friend, there is also the speedboat which is slightly more expensive but takes you to Luang Prabang in 6 hours.

To make it more comfortable for travellers,

Mekong Cruises and Mekong River Cruises organise multi-day cruises, providing the best service on board. Contact them at the websites below for detailed information.

Photo: Catherina Vasilevskaya/Shutterstock.com  
Internet: mekong-cruises.com / cruisemekong.com

### Medical Care in Luang Prabang



Medical care in Luang Prabang has improved significantly over the last few years, but the lack of medical facilities remains a major problem in the

whole area. Some of the most reputable hospitals in the area of the Luang Prabang are Attapeu Province Hospital and Khammouane Province Hospital with French- and English-speaking staff ready to help travellers in need and a 24-hour emergency service, including ambulances. Most of the time, patients with more serious injuries are transferred by road or air to Thailand.

As for pharmacies, please avoid purchasing medicines from markets since counterfeit pharmaceuticals are a common problem. Here's a shortlist of reputable pharmacies in the area:

- Bouaphan Pharmacy (English-speaking staff)  
Sakkaline Rd., Luang Prabang
- Phakan's clinic (English-speaking staff and efficient service)  
Laos

Photo: ilicon/Shutterstock.com

### Post



Set in close proximity to the night market, the main post office - La Poste - opens Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm. It

provides services such as phone calls, DHL and Western Union facilities. Stamps can be purchased at corner shops.

Photo: Alex Pin/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Luang Prabang, Laos (at the corner of Chao Fa Ngum Road and Kitsalat Road)  
Phone: +856 71 212 545

### Telephone



+586 is Laos' country code that will allow you to call from abroad 71 is Luang Prabang's area code +586 71 is followed by a 6-digit phone

number (e.g. +586 71 xxx xxx)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity



There are five different power plug and sockets types, A, B, C, E, and F. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. See

what electric plugs look like on the image slider and find out whether you need a travel adaptor.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

Luang Prabang Province: 431,889  
Luang Prabang District: 90,313

### Currency

Lao Kip 1/100

N10000 ~ \$1,14

#### **Opening hours**

Most restaurants and banks are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Lao Development Bank and BCEL have a 24-hour ATM. The latter offers a currency exchange service.

#### **Newspapers**

Passasson (Lao)

Pathet Lao (Lao)

Le Rénovateur (French)

Viengchanmay (Lao)

Vientiane Times (English)

#### **Emergency numbers**

Ambulance: 195

Fire: 190

Police: 191

Tourist Police: 192

#### **Tourist information**

Tourist Information Centre

Address: Luang Prabang, Laos

Business hours: Monday–Friday 8 am–11:30 am, 1:30 pm–4 pm

Website: [tourismluangprabang.org](http://tourismluangprabang.org)

\*This guide was researched and written by Brixhilda Dedej