

Impressions of the Mekong

6-day cruise through Northern Laos from Luang Prabang to Vientiane

Our route: Luang Prabang – Kuang Si – Xayabouri Dam – Pak Lay – Vientiane



Embark on an unforgettable journey along the breathtaking Mekong River, cruising from the charming, UNESCO-protected town of Luang Prabang to the vibrant capital of Vientiane. This voyage takes you through once-inaccessible stretches of Southeast Asia's most captivating waterway. Let your senses come alive as you explore bustling markets, and feel the pulse of Laotian culture as you connect with its warm-hearted people, who continue to preserve their rich traditions. Aboard your luxurious river vessel, unwind and soak in the beauty of the Mekong's upper reaches. Be captivated by how our experienced captain skillfully navigates the vessel through narrow gorges, wild rapids, fluctuating water levels, and labyrinths of sandbanks, facing the challenges of one of the world's most temperamental rivers.

Day 1: Boarding in Luang Prabang

In the afternoon, it's time to board your exclusive boutique river vessel, uniquely owned through a joint venture between German and Laotian partners. Settle into your inviting cabin, your home for the next 6 days.

Your first evening promises cultural enchantment: enjoy a traditional Lao dance performance and a heartwarming Baci well-wishing ceremony, followed by our Mekong River Cruises Welcome Dinner.

Throughout the cruise, you'll be treated to a delightful selection of both Asian and European dishes, offering a culinary journey as rich and varied as the sights you'll encounter along the way.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: dinner

Day 2: The Royal Capital, Luang Prabang, Kuang-Si Falls & the Xayabouri Dam

In the soft glow of early morning, the streets of Luang Prabang come alive with an ancient and sacred ritual: the traditional giving of alms. Monks, draped in saffron robes, move silently through the town as you observe this timeless practice—a serene start to your day.

After a delicious breakfast on board, relax as the scenic panorama of Luang Prabang passes by while you cruise downstream. At the Farming village Ban Muang Khai, you'll be taken by tuk-tuk on a guided excursion to the famous Kuang Si Waterfalls. Right next to the waterfalls is the heartwarming "Free the Bears" rescue center, dedicated to the protection and conservation of the endangered sun and moon bears (Malayan and Tibetan bears) throughout Southeast Asia. Here, we'll learn more about the incredible efforts to rehabilitate these gentle creatures.

In the afternoon, admire the remarkable Xayabouri Dam, the largest hydroelectric power plant in Laos. Your evening will be spent moored on a peaceful sandbank.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 3: The Farming Village of Ban Don Saingam

Today, our journey takes us to the charming village of Ban Don Saingam, tucked away between the lush hills along the Mekong River. Upon arrival, we set off on a 30-minute walk, or depending on the season, a local tractor ride, toward a nearly forgotten cave. Armed with torches, we delve into the cave's hidden depths, uncovering its secrets before returning to the comfort of our ship.

As the afternoon unfolds, we continue our downstream journey, taking in the beautiful views while possibly watching local fishermen along the shore. Later, your Cruise Director will offer captivating presentations about the rich history and vibrant culture of Laos. In the evening, we pause a bit earlier to prepare for our renowned Mekong River Cruises barbecue, set in a picturesque riverside location.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 4: Powerful Rapids and the Town of Salakham

As we continue downstream, the landscape changes as the mountains give way to flatter terrain, and the Mekong River widens, revealing intriguing rock formations. This stretch offers a perfect chance to witness our expert captains maneuvering through the wild, untamed waters of the mighty Mekong. In the early afternoon, we glide past a golden Buddha statue perched on a hill, signifying the start of Thailand along the river.

A little further along, we reach the bustling market town of Salakham, renowned for its vibrant wood and spice trade. A stroll through the lively market surrounds you with the sights, sounds, and aromas

of local commerce, offering a window into the region's rich trading traditions. In the evening, we anchor near a peaceful village, settling in for the night.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 5: Wild Nature along the Mighty Mekong

As you sail downstream along the majestic Mekong, known by locals as the “Mother of All Waters,” today's journey takes you to the heart of Laos — the vibrant capital city of Vientiane, which you will reach by late afternoon. *During low water levels, you'll enjoy today's river journey aboard a traditional Lao longboat, followed by a scenic overland transfer to Vientiane. There, you'll stay in a centrally located comfort hotel.* As evening falls, you'll gather with your fellow travelers for a special farewell dinner on board, celebrating the final night of your cruise. This memorable evening offers the perfect opportunity to thank the Laotian crew, cruise director, and captain, marking the close of an unforgettable journey.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 6: Disembarkation in Vientiane

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board as you savor your final moments on the Mekong. After checking out, you can choose to join the last sightseeing tour, exploring the iconic Pha That Luang stupa, the historic Ho Phra Keo temple, and the Patuxai, often called the Arc de Triomphe of Vientiane. Alternatively, your journey concludes as we transfer you to the airport or your local hotel, taking with you lasting memories of Laos' captivating beauty.

Meals included: breakfast

IMPORTANT NOTE: *The water level of the Mekong is constantly shifting over the year. That's why every river cruise on the upper Mekong is a pioneering experience and subject to these changing river conditions, including floods, low water levels, and morning fog. Our vessels were built to cope with this erraticism, making it possible to safely negotiate even low water levels.*

However, there are times when operating as planned will not be viable. We ask for your understanding that the itinerary of this tour may be altered because of the logistical complexities mentioned. For safety reasons, modifications of the tour program will sometimes become necessary, depending on the weather, the river conditions, or orders by local authorities. In such cases, we provide transportation by slowboat and a hotel overnight if needed. Thanks to our high flexibility and our excellent local partners, we're able to organize exciting alternative programs whenever necessary—even on short notice.

Journey Highlights

- The wild upper Mekong aboard a boutique river vessel – one of the most spectacular river cruises in the world
- First-hand experience of Lao peoples' traditional lifestyles
- The waterfalls at Kuang Si, inviting you to swim in their lovely natural pools
- Atmospheric BBQ dinner under the stars on the picturesque banks of the Mekong river
- Unforgettable impressions of the mighty Mekong River, the “mother of waters”
- Professional onboard infotainment, including lectures and documentaries on the region

Tour price includes

- 5 overnights in selected cabin type aboard your boutique river cruise vessel
- Local English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Tours and transfers as mentioned
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, performers and porters
- Water in the vehicles and on the ship
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, and D=Dinner)
- Coffee, tea, and table water is complementary onboard your boutique river cruise vessel
- Presentations and lectures onboard by the cruise director
- Transfers from/to Vientiane and Luang Prabang airports or hotels within city limits (only guaranteed if information was correctly provided 4 weeks prior to embarkation, at the latest)

Not included

- Flights
- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visas for Laos
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for boat crew
- Personal, non-itinerary services
- Alcoholic and soft drinks other than mentioned
- Personal Insurance

PLEASE NOTE: *This journey is generally not for guests with limited mobility or who depend on CPAP machines. Please contact us for more information about your specific requirements before booking.*

Khuon-Tour

MEKONG CRUISE

Cambodge-Vietnam-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand
info@cruise-croisiere-mekong.com
WhatsApp, Telegram, Line & viber +855 99 75 83 39
<https://lesguidesdumekong.fr>