

## Mekong River Cruise – Laos Revealed

### 6-Day Cruise downstream from Chiang Rai/Golden Triangle to Luang Prabang

**Our route: Golden Triangle – Huay Xai – Pak Tha – Pak Ou – Luang Prabang**



*Savor the breathtaking scenery of the Mekong River on this unique cruise, journeying from the mystical Golden Triangle in Thailand to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, nestled in the heart of Laos. Travel along once-inaccessible stretches of Southeast Asia's most captivating river. Stroll through vibrant markets and immerse yourself in the traditional way of life of the Laotian people. Aboard your exclusive river vessel, unwind and take in the untouched beauty of the mighty upper Mekong, surrounded by pristine nature at every turn.*

#### **Day 1: The Golden Triangle—Boarding**

You will be picked up from Chiang Rai Airport or your city hotel between 8–9 am, embarking on an unforgettable journey to the legendary Golden Triangle, once infamous but now celebrated for its intrigue and beauty. Your adventure begins with a visit to the majestic Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak, followed by a museum that delves into the complex history of the opium trade and its impact on health.

Afterward, you'll board your exclusive boutique river vessel, owned through a joint venture between German and Laotian partners. Settle into your comfortable cabin, your home for the next 6 days, and let the excitement of your journey begin.

As evening falls, unwind on the spacious decks, relax in the cozy onboard lounge, and enjoy a delightful welcome dinner, setting the perfect tone for the unforgettable journey ahead.

*Overnight on board.*

*Meals included: dinner*

### **Day 2: The Golden Triangle—Huay Xay and Pak Tha**

This morning begins with your final breakfast on Thai soil, marking the start of your adventure as you cross the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge and step into Laos. Your journey continues with a visit to the bustling border town of Huay Xay, a lively trade hub in the Bokeo province, where 'Bokeo' means 'sapphire,' a nod to the region's rich heritage.

Afterward, your grand voyage on the mighty Mekong River truly begins as we set sail. You'll be captivated by the breathtaking landscapes of northern Laos —lush greenery, mist-covered mountains, and peaceful riverside villages. We journey toward Pak Tha, a significant estuary of the Mekong, where we will anchor for the night, surrounded by the tranquility of this remarkable region.

*Overnight on board.*

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner*

### **Day 3: Astonishing Landscapes and Remote Villages**

After breakfast, set off on a journey to visit one of the local hill tribe villages in the Pak Tha area, where you'll have the chance to experience their unique way of life. Upon your return to the vessel, you'll be greeted with refreshing drinks on the upper deck, offering a perfect moment to relax and enjoy the peaceful river atmosphere before lunch is served.

As we continue downstream, we pass through remote and untouched regions of Laos, accessible only by water. Here, the Mekong unveils some of its most stunning landscapes: lush hills draped in tropical vegetation, dramatic rock formations, and a mesmerizing mix of fast currents and calm waters. Whether you choose to unwind on deck, retreat to the comfort of your cabin, or relax in the lounge, you'll be surrounded by the beauty and tranquility of these breathtaking surroundings.

*Overnight on board.*

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner*

### **Day 4: Pak Ou Caves**

After a peaceful morning, we arrive at a charming riverside village around midday. Here, we explore the legendary Pak Ou Caves, home to thousands of small Buddha statues lovingly placed by pilgrims over the centuries. From this sacred site, you have the option to embark on a jungle trek through lush greenery, leading to the local village of Ban Muang Keo. For a more relaxed pace, a short boat ride will also take you to the village.

In Ban Muang Keo, you'll witness the ancient art of distilling Lao-Lao, the traditional rice whiskey of Laos, under the guidance of Miss Somechan Khonpachith, who has dedicated her life to mastering this craft. She'll not only share the secrets of this time-honored technique but also invite you to enjoy a tasting.

As the day draws to a close, our ship remains anchored, surrounded by majestic limestone mountains, offering a picturesque backdrop for your evening.

*Overnight on board.*

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner*

### **Day 5: The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang**

Today, you will arrive in Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Your adventure begins with a guided walk through the city, taking you to the famous Wat Xieng Thong Temple, a stunning example of Laotian architecture and one of the city's most iconic landmarks.

As evening approaches, you'll ascend Mount Phou Si, where you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the Mekong and Khan rivers, a perfect way to close the day. Afterward, you can take a leisurely stroll along the serene Mekong promenade or immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the colorful Hmong Night Market.

Back on board, a special farewell dinner awaits, celebrating the final night of your cruise. This occasion offers a chance to say goodbye to 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 Luang Prabang**

In the early morning you can visit or attend the Tak Bat - a traditional giving of alms in the streets of Luang Prabang, where dozens of orange robed monks and novices walk through the streets and alleys of Luang Prabang's old town. Afterward, your guide will lead you through the bustling local morning market, where the air is filled with the fragrant aromas of exotic spices, locally grown teas, and freshly brewed Laotian coffee.

After breakfast, you'll check out and disembark, carrying with you the unforgettable memories of your journey along the Mighty Mekong. Our shared adventure concludes with a transfer to the airport or a city hotel in Luang Prabang.

*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*

# Khuon-Tour

## MEKONG CRUISE

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

*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
- The Golden Triangle region, with its infamous past, where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet
- The Pak Ou Caves on the Mekong – containing thousands of Buddha statues
- The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, one of Asia's most beautiful historical towns
- First-hand experience of the Thai and Lao peoples' traditional lifestyles
- Small groups limited to 29 passengers
- Atmospheric BBQ dinner under the stars on the picturesque banks of the Mekong river
- Sunset over Luang Prabang
- 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 Chiang Rai 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

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<https://lesguidesdumekong.fr>

- 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.*