

Mekong River Cruise - Laos Revealed

6-Day Cruise upstream from Luang Prabang to the Golden Triangle

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



Savor the stunning beauty of the Mekong River on this unforgettable cruise from the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang in the heart of Laos to the legendary Golden Triangle in Thailand. Sail along once-remote stretches of Southeast Asia's most exciting river, with hidden wonders at every turn. Stroll through vibrant markets, immersing yourself in the rich traditions of the Laotian people. Aboard your exclusive river vessel, relax and take in the untouched beauty of the mighty upper Mekong, surrounded by lush landscapes and pristine nature.

Day 1: Boarding in Luang Prabang

From 3 PM 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.

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MEKONG CRUISE

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Overnight on board.

Meals included: dinner

Day 2: Pak Ou Caves

During breakfast, your cruise takes you upstream where we explore the legendary Pak Ou Caves, inhabited by 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 you to the local village of Ban Muang Keo. If you prefer a more relaxed pace, a short boat ride will take you to the village. You can witness the ancient art of distilling Lao-Lao, the local rice whiskey of Laos, guided by Miss Somechan Khonpachith, who has dedicated her life to mastering this craft. She will not only reveal the secrets of this ancient technique but also invite you to a tasting.

In the afternoon, your ship continues cruising upstream towards Oudomxay Province, passing by the construction site of the Pak Ou Dam. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax at your leisure, whether you choose to unwind on deck or join our Cruise Director for an engaging infotainment program.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 3: The Mighty Mekong

As you continue upstream, the river traffic thins out, allowing you to fully enjoy the stunning landscapes that surround you. You can unwind on deck, in your comfortable cabin, or in the lounge, soaking up the sun as the landscape transforms into a breathtaking panorama: hills blanketed in lush tropical vegetation, striking rock formations along the riverbanks, and a captivating mix of swift currents and calm waters. The vibrant life along the river and the majestic power of the Mekong creates a true sense of adventure and discovery.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 4: Relaxation and Village Life

Today, unwind on deck as you soak in the diverse landscapes and the serene beauty of northern Laos, offering a true escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. As the lush green hills pass by, your ship cruises toward the Nam Tha, one of the Mekong's most significant estuaries. In the evening, savor our renowned Mekong River Cruises barbecue dinner, set in a picturesque riverside location.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 5: Hill Tribe Village & Border Crossing

After breakfast, embark on a journey to 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. Following your visit, return to the ship for the final leg of your river cruise, soaking in the stunning landscapes as you sail toward the

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Thailand–Laos border. The journey concludes in the bustling border town of Huay Xay, a vibrant trade hub in Bokeo province, where 'Bokeo' means 'sapphire,' reflecting the region's rich heritage. Explore the lively town market and visit the peaceful temple overlooking the Mekong. If time permits, we'll cross into Thailand via the Thai/Lao Friendship Bridge. In the evening, we'll celebrate the memories and adventures shared during this unforgettable voyage with a special farewell dinner on the Mekong.

Overnight on board.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 6: Farewell, Mekong!

After breakfast, say your goodbyes to the Laotian crew as you complete the checkout process and disembark from your boutique ship in Chiang Khong. From there, you'll be transported to the legendary Golden Triangle region, once infamous but now steeped in intrigue and history. During your guided tour, you'll visit the majestic Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and explore a museum that offers a profound exploration of the opium trade's complex history and its impact on health. Afterward, you'll be transferred to either the airport or your hotel in Chiang Rai, bringing your journey to a close (PLEASE NOTE: Flights departing before 18:00 will conflict with the program and incur additional costs for a private transfer).

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.
- Unforgettable impressions of the mighty Mekong River, the “mother of waters”
- First-hand experience of the Thai and Lao peoples’ traditional lifestyles
- Small groups limited to 29 fellow passengers
- Atmospheric BBQ dinner under the stars on the picturesque banks of the Mekong river
- The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, a superb fusion of numerous temples, monasteries, and French colonial architecture. One of Asia’s most beautiful historical towns
- The Pak Ou Caves on the Mekong – containing thousands of Buddha statues
- The Golden Triangle region, with its infamous past, where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet
- 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
- Gratuities for boat crew
- Personal, non-itinerary services

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- 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.*