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VIENTIANE AND CENTRAL LAOS **ADVENTURE 11 DAYS**

Are you a nature lover? Are you keen on joining a tour which you could indulge in natural sceneries? If your answer is yes, our Vientiane and Central Laos Adventure 11 days tour is a perfect option for you. During 11 days trip, you will have a chance to visit must see attractions in Laos such as Vientiane, Thakhek as well as the small and peaceful villages like Ban Konglor, Ban Thalang, Ban Tham Namlort. It is a great chance for you to join ample fascinating activities such as cycling, trekking, long distance kayaking, etc. You will surely get closer to nature. Let's join with us now!

Tour type: Private tour Departure: Daily

Duration : 11 Days

Tour Styles: Interact with local, Soft Adventure, Off the beaten track Destination: Vientiane - Phou Khaokhuay - Paksan - Ban Namsanam - Ban Natane - Ban Thalang - Thakhek

ITINERARY TOUR:

DAY 1: VIENTIANE ARRIVAL

Welcome to Vientiane. Upon arrival at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, tour guide welcomes you at airpor then take you to the hotel to check in (early check-in upon availability).

Free time for the rest of the day to relax at hotel or explore Vientiane on your own.

Meals: NA

Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane

DAY 2: VIENTIANE - CYCLING + KAYAKING

Have breakfast at your hotel. Tour guide picks up you at lobby at 8:30 am then we transfer to the meeting points our sales office in downtown Vientiane. From here, we will start cycling out of the city.

After a short while, city quickly turns into countryside and we continue onwards cycling along the Mekong River where you can enjoy the beautiful views across the river and into neighboring Thailand.

After a few KM it is time to turn off and head towards Ban Tongpong village. From the village we continue along the canal which takes its source from the nearby Mekong River and is used to irrigate nearby rice paddy fields.

As we carry on cycling despite the relative close proximity to the bustling city you will certainly feel like you are a million miles away! Enjoy the peace and serenity as you watch the local people going about their everyday tasks.



Carrying onwards we head through some dirt tracks which take us through rice fields and forest, the trail can get a little muddy and sandy along the way but really takes us away from everything and will immerse us in nature.

Along the way we may see the local people tending to their rice paddy fields depending on the time of the year, the trail leads us back to a tarmac road.

We head along the road for a while until arriving at Tad Moun waterfall which is a popular spot for the local people from Vientiane.

The waterfall itself can actually completely dry up during the dry season however it is still worth a visit to see the different rock formations. We take some time for a quick break and enjoy a cold drink.

From the waterfall we cycle along the main road which is freshly paved and very smooth yet relatively quiet in terms of traffic. We shall begin with a slight ascend which from there the remainder of the cycling takes us on a steady downhill until arriving in the village of Ban Mai which sits on the banks of the Mekong.

Here, we make the transition from land to water as we kayak down the Mekong River back to Vientiane.

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However, before we hit the water it is time to enjoy lunch alongside the river, you will take a lunch of delicious sandwiches, crisps and fruit all washed down with a cold drink whilst your guide gets all the kayaks ready.

After lunch, you will get your lifejackets on and board your kayaks for the journey downstream back to Vientiane.

Along the way you will enjoy the scenery on both sides of the river as you head along the border between Laos and Thailand, of course staying on the Lao side during the entirety...

The Mekong River is home to several river islands ('Don' in Lao) along the way we visit one of the largest 'Don Xing Xou' which is used as for farming taking advantage of the year round fertility, it is also home to a beautiful beach at the far end in dry season!

We carry onwards kayaking down the Mekong until arriving back in Vientiane.

The trip ends just outside the city centre next to a riverside bar, the perfect way to end the day by enjoying an ice cool beer next to the river. From here you will be collected via truck and taken back to your hotel in afternoon. Free time in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane Approximately: Cycling 30 km, kayaking 16km

DAY 3: VIENTIANE - PHOU KHAOKHUAY

After breakfast, tour guide will pick up you at 8:30 am then we transfer to Ban Hatkhai, where we will take a long-tail boat trip up stream on the Nam Mang, before continuing along one of its tributaries, Houay Xai. A 2 hours trek passes through an evergreen canopy as we gain height. A picnic lunch is served on the way.

The magnificent pair of waterfalls Tad Xay and Pha Xay, particularly beautiful during and after the rainy season are reached in the afternoon. You have some free time at Tad Xay which has a pool recommended for bathing.

From here, a truck takes the group to Ban Hatkhai, where the night is spent at a house of a local family.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodation: Homestay in Ban Hatkhai

Approximately: 2.5-hour transfer, 1-hour boating & 2-hour trekking

DAY 4: PHOU KHAOKHUAY - PAKSAN

After an early breakfast, tour guide and driver will pick up you then take you to Tad Leuk Waterfall. The Tad Leuk is a local tourist attraction amidst the mixed deciduous forest. A permanent exhibit at the Visitors' Center gives some good information on the flora and fauna of the national park. The Tad Leuk Nature Trail points out some interesting botanic details. We will have lunch at Tad Leuk.



In the afternoon, we will join intresting trekking along the Nam Leuk to the Tad Sang (Elephant Waterfall) waterfall, another idyllic place for bathing and relaxation. Along the way, a large number of orchids can be seen, especially in wet season.

From here, we will hop on the minivan again and take the direct transfer to Paksan to stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodation: Hotel in Paksan Approximately: 3-hour transfer & 3-hour trekking

DAY 5: PAKSAN - NAM SANAM WATERFALL (TREK) - SAINAMHAI RESORT

This morning, we will take a short transfer to Thang Beng, where you leave the highway and enter the Phou Hin Poun NPA (National Protected Area). The scenery will become much more spectacular, featuring limestone karsts, forests and rice paddies.

We drive through the towering mountains of Khammouane to the Lao Loumvillage of Ban Na Hin.

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Here we enjoy lunch and relax for a while before trekking through old growth forest to get to a nearby Nam Sanam waterfall. At the fall we can spend time swimming, relaxing and enjoying sightseeing around the area before heading back in late afternoon and trekking back to Ban Nahin.

From there, hop on the car again to continue the transfer to the nearby Sainamhai Resort, where we will spend the night

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodation: Sainamhai Resort

DAY 6: BAN KONGLOR - BAN NATANE - BAN KONGLOR

After breakfast, we will have a short transfer (5-10 minutes) towards the Kong Lor Caves.

Life jackets and head torches will be provided before a short walk to the main entrance of the cave.

Upon entering the cave, we will board a long-tail boat for a journey through the length of this spectacular cave, along an underground section of the Hin Boun River. It will be 7.5km before guests see daylight again!

The river flows all-year-round and reveals vast formations of stalactites and stalagmites, which can be explored partly on foot whilst inside the cave. In places the cave is up to 90 meters wide and 100 meters high.

The cave is still used by local villagers as an access route to the region beyond (it is far quicker than climbing over the mountains through which this cave cuts!).

Once out on the other side, guests can stop for refreshments and walk to local villages, enjoying the scenery and observing a simple way of life.

Return by boat, travelling 'downstream' through the cave to Ban Kong Lor. In the late afternoon, tour guide will accompany you on an optional walk through the villages surrounding Ban Kong Lor. The soft light of the late afternoon is arguably the most photogenic and you should meet lots of villagers as they walk home from the fields, markets and schools.

There are various options for walking routes, so again, it is best to discuss with our guide how far you wish to go.



Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Ban Kong Lor

DAY 7: BAN KONGLOR - THALANG

This morning, we will say goodbye to the lovely village and depart for Ban Thalang.

After one-hour drive, we will make the first stop in Ban Thabak, and enjoy the two-hour boat ride along the Nam Theun river. The boat is made from the old aircraft oil tank, and suitable for up to 3 people per boat.

During the cruise, we enjoy the tranquil landscape of the along the bank of the river. We may stop at one or two local villages if you wish to see deeper into the local life.

In the afternoon, we will drive further to Ban Nam Yen, to cool off and take a dip at the natural swimming pool.

We will also make a short stop at Tham Mangkon (Dragon caves) before transferring directly to the beautiful village of Tha Lang in Nakai District.

The rest of the afternoon is free for your own exploration.

You can choose to stroll along the river to admire the sunset, or go fishing on the lake, which is created by the Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Dam (not included – payable on spot)

For the overnight place, you have 2 options. For the ones who like partying, Sabaidee Guesthouse will be the solid choice. If not, Phousi Thalang will give you a quiet and peaceful atmosphere to enjoy your night.

Meals: Breakfast Accommodation: Guesthouse in Ban Thalang Distance: 150KM | 4-hour transfer

12 Floor, 285 Cach Mang Thang 8 Str, 12 Ward, 10 Dist, Ho Chi Minh.

DAY 8: THALANG - THAKHEK

Today, we will wake up early to prepare for your own breakfast with the help of Sabaidee Guesthouse owner.

After breakfast, we transfer to Thakhek, the capital town of Khammouane Province. Along the way, we will make a short stop to visit Nam Theun 2 Visitor Center, where we can have some information of this Hydropower project.

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We then continue driving for another 2 hours to the village of Ban Nakhang Xang, to meet the village guide, who leads the trek.

Trek through secondary forest, while the guide points out forest products that provide the local people with significant food resources. The trail passes through a cave that exits into a striking valley surrounded by towering cliffs and forest.

The picnic lunch will be served wherever you feel hungry, we recommend having it at Tham Hip, which offers the great panoramic view over the area.

In the afternoon, continue the trail, following the shoreline of Nong Thao Lake, where trekkers can see local fishermen at work.

At Tham Nong Paseum Cave, you can join adventurous swimming into the 400-metre-long cavern and explore its dramatic stalactites and stalagmites.

We then continue walking, and climb a bamboo stairway to the Buddha Cave, which was rediscovered in April 2004. The cave contains 229 bronze Buddhas that are said to be over 300 years old.

After that, we will driver to Thakhek to stay overnight there.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodation: Hotel in Thakhek Distance: 130KM / 3-hour transfer / 3-hour trek

DAY 9: THAKHEK - XE BANGFAI

This morning, we depart from your hotel and take a 4-hour drive on an unpaved road through a landscape of limestone mountains. We stop for lunch at the boat landing at Pak Thung.

After lunch, we get on a local motorboat for the 2-hour trip passing forested karsts on the Xe Bang Fai River. We arrive in the village of Ban Tham Namlort at about 5:00 pm and settle into the village lodge. We then take a walk to explore the village.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Village Lodge Approximately: 4-hour transfer, 2-hour long tail boat

DAY 10: XE BANGFAI CAVE - CAMPSITE (KAYAKING)

After breakfast, we paddle in our inflatable kayaks steadily upstream through 5 rapids to the Xe Bangfai Cave. We paddle into the cave, where we will have time to explore the cave and see the stalactites and stalagmites. We then paddle on through the cave for 11 Km to the other side of the cave for a picnic lunch then return the same way to our camp on the beach at the mouth of the cave.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodation: Camping Approximately: 7 hours kayaking

DAY 11: THAKHEK DEPARTURE

We rise early to enjoy breakfast. At 8:00 am, we then kayak for 500 meters to where a tractor will take us for 1 hour to the starting point of our trek. The trek is a 2 hours jaunt through an easy old forest filled with birds to a very large waterfall in the Hin Namno National Protected Area. Picnic lunch is served at the waterfall. We then walk back to the trail head where the pick-up will be waiting to take us back to Thakhek.

Overnight in Thakhek (your own accommodation)





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Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: N.A Approximately: 15-minute kayaking, 1-hour tractor, 4-hour trekking, 4-hour transfer

PACKAGE PRICES:

01 Jul 2023 - 25 Mar 2024	PRIVATE TOUR
Superior Class (3* hotels)	US \$1891
First class (4* hotels)	US \$1813

Notes:

- All prices are based on per adult, in Double/Twin sharing
- Small group tour available (max 10 guests): HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Surcharge will be applied for single traveler or single room request

OUR PRICE INCLUDE:

- 10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 4 Dinner
- Car, Cruise, Bicycle
- Hotel (5 nights), Homestay in Ban Hatkhai (1 night), Sainamhai Resort (1 night), Guesthouse in Ban Thalang (1 • night), Village Lodge (1 night), Camping (1 night), N.A (1 night)
- Transportation with air-condition in private •
- Accommodation in twin/double shared room •
- Boat trip as stated in above sights .
- English speaking guide •
- Admission fee to indicated sights
- Meals as per program
- Tax and service charge •
- Luggage handling and drinking water

OUR PRICE EXCLUDE:

- Hotel early check-in or late check-out
- Visa stamping fee on arrival
- All air tickets quoted separately
- Travel Insurance in all kinds •
- Single room (quoted separately) •
- Other foreign language guide •
- Peak tourist season or special event rates .
- Tip, drinks and other personal expenses

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellation by Customer

o 60 days prior to the arrival date: Non Refundable deposit charge and the cancellation fees applied by the concerned services suppliers such as flight company, boat company, train, hotels... in accordance with their cancellations policies if any.

 \circ 59 – 31 days prior to arrival date: Cancellations fee of 30% per group/booking and plus the cancellation fees applied by the concerned services suppliers such as flight company, boat company, train, hotels... in accordance with their cancellations policies if any.

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 \circ 30 days – 15 days prior to arrival date: Cancellations fee of 50% per group/booking plus the cancellation fees applied by the concerned services suppliers such as flight company, boat company, train, hotels... in accordance with their cancellations policies if any.

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 \circ 14 – 7 days before arrival: Cancellations fee 70% charge plus the cancellation fees applied by the concerned services suppliers such as flight company, boat company, train, hotels... in accordance with their cancellations policies if any.

o Less than 7 days before arrival Or No show: 100 % charge per group/booking.

*** Nonrefundable deposit and banking service fee will be forfeited in all cancellation cases.

CHILDREN PRICES:

- The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults
- For infant (<04 years old): FOC except domestic ticket cost
- 04 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- 04 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate