

- Positive colour print film is only obtainable in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.
- One-hour service photo shops are ubiquitous in tourist areas. Positive film can be processed and printed only in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.
- Digital cards can be printed and made CD burning only in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

Internet

Internet service is easy to find out in most cities. Visitors are able to access the internet at hotels, internet cafes... Get useful information from these popular and reliable website: www.vientianetimes.org.la (Vientiane Times), www.lerenovateur.org.la (French language Newspaper) www.vientianemai.net (Vientiane Mai), www.laocustoms.lapdr.net (Laos Customs), www.lnmcmekong.org (Lao National Mekong Committee), www.laoembassy.com (Lao Embassy).

Shopping

- Laos is ideal place for buying handicrafts and souvenirs. Each area has its own specific design. Vientiane city offers a wide variety of shopping opportunities. Varieties of handmade product of wood, gold, silver or precious stones are widely sold in department store (talat sao), many shops and market.
- Every visitor should remember that it is forbidden to take any antiques or Buddha images (which are older than 40 years) out of the country. Therefore such items brought into Laos from other countries have to be declared at customs.

Health

- No vaccinations are presently required for visitors to enter Vietnam. However, it is advisable that precautionary measures be taken against cholera, malaria, hepatitis A & B, typhoid and tuberculosis. If visitors are going to the provinces, any essential medications should be brought with them as there is no guarantee they will be available in Laos.
- Clinics with qualified Laotian and foreign doctors to treat foreign patients:

Australian Embassy Health Centre: Nehru, Street Phonexay, Vientiane, Tel: (856-21) 413603

International Medical Clinic: Mahosot Hospital, Fa Ngum Road, Vientiane Tel: (856-21) 214018 / 214023

National holidays

- January 1* : International New Year Day
- January 20* : Army Day
- March 22* : Lao People's Revolutionary Party Day
- April 13-16* : Lao New Year
- May 1* : International Labor Day
- August 23* : Liberation Day
- December 2* : National Day

Other useful tips

- ❖ Business hours: (GMT +7)
- ❖ Offices: 8 a.m - 12 p.m and 1 - 5 p.m Monday to Friday
- ❖ Banking: 8.30 a.m - 3.30 p.m, Monday to Friday.
- ❖ Airport tax for every passenger on every departure International flights: all airtickets are included of airport departure tax at Wattay Airport in Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Pakse Airport.
- ❖ When leaving Laos via the Friendship Bridge, visitors will have to pay a departure tax of US\$5, payable in US dollars, Thai baht or Kip. At other border points, officials may ask small "fees" for arriving or departing during lunch time, late in the day or at weekends
- ❖ Taxis and regular buses are popular. Tutuk (local taxi) are wisely used in the large cities/ towns. Visitors can rent bicycles or motorbikes (except in Luang Prabang for motorbike) in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Pakse...
- ❖ Electrical current: 230 volts 50Hz.

Major places of interest

Vientiane

Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is Asia's biggest village. The city has a population of 450,000, about 10% of the country's population. Vientiane is a city full of surprises. Here visitors can find fields of rice and vegetables, agriculture hidden behind tree-lined avenues. French colonial architecture sits next to gilded temples. There is little modern in Vientiane. Old French colonial houses are being restored as offices and as restaurants and hotels. There are only a handful of modern buildings which sometimes look remarkably out of place in this quiet capital.



Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang is the jewel of Indochina, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1995. The ancient royal city is surrounded by mountains at the junction of the Mekong and its tributary, the Khan River. In the centre of the city is Mount Phousi with stunning views of the surrounding temples and hills. Luang Prabang is a city where time seems to stand still. As part of the UNESCO plan, new buildings have been limited and development must be in keeping with this magical place.



Laos

TOURS

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