



Laos and Cambodia Unveiled

Laos and Cambodia Discovered 15 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Discover the stunning scenery and culture in Laos and marvel at Cambodia's majestic ancient and modern history which is prevalent throughout the country.

Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with Guides and entrance fees

Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.



Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Laos and Cambodia continue to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in Laos and Cambodia requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Laos and Cambodia, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Laos and Cambodia Unveiled – Medium Paced Tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require a reasonable level of fitness. A typical tour may include longer periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs, getting on and off boats, longer periods of driving; sometimes on poorly maintained roads.

It is essential that all passengers recognise the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they are likely to encounter in some areas. You will find poor road conditions in both the countryside and cities.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: UK/Vientiane

Fly overnight from the UK. Upon arrival into Wattay International airport, Vientiane, be met in the terminal hall by your Wendy Wu local guide/ National Escort. Along with any other customers who have arrived at the same time, make your way to your vehicle and be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Day 3: Vientiane

Today explore Vientiane. This morning you will visit Thong Khan Kham Market, Wat Si Saket and Haw Phra Kaew. Haw Phra Kaew is the former Royal Temple and a centre and was an important centre of Buddhism. This afternoon visit That Luang Stupa, the most revered shrine in Laos and the Patuxai Victory Monument, a war memorial commemorating the struggle for independence against France. This evening, watch a traditional Lao Music and Dance performance.

Day 4: Vientiane to Vang Vieng

Drive to Vang Vieng this morning (approx. 2hrs15mins). After lunch, visit the Tham Chang and Tham Loup Caves for beautiful cave scenery. Later walk through the peaceful Laos countryside alongside the Nam Song River.

Day 5: Vang Vieng to Luang Prabang

Continue your drive to Luang Prabang (2hrs30mins), stopping at Phoukoun en route to visit the local lively market and Kasi for lunch. Tonight explore the night markets on Sisavangvong Road in Luang Prabang. Stay the night in Luang Prabang.

Day 6: Luang Prabang

Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing. Walk through the old town, visiting the Wat Xieng Thong and Wat Visoun. Later, climb Phousi Hill for a panoramic view of the city.

Day 7: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves

Take a cruise along the Mekong River to the Pak Ou Caves, filled with Buddhist statues and shrines. Later return to Luang Prabang, stopping at Thin Hong and Ban Xang Khong Village.

Day 8: Luang Prabang – Kuangsi Waterfalls

Visit the Royal Palace this morning, now the National Museum and previously the residence of the Laotian Royal Family. Later travel to the Kuangsi Waterfalls, visiting a local market en route. The Kuangsi Waterfalls are tiered over three levels and is one of the most beautiful spots in Laos.

On return to Luang Prabang, stop at Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre on the way back.

Day 9: Luang Prabang to Siem Reap

Rise early this morning to witness the Buddhist Ceremony of Takbat. The rest of your morning is at leisure. This afternoon, fly to Siem Reap (2hrs). In the evening visit the Angkor Night Market on Pub Street.

Day 10: Siem Reap – Angkor Wat

Rise early this morning to explore the amazing temples of Angkor, starting with Ta Prohm. Continue to Angkor Thom, the Bayon, Elephant Terrace, Terrace of the Leper King and the magnificent Angkor Wat. Later take a hot air balloon ride to view the majestic temples from above.

NB: Please note the hot air balloon ride is subject to weather conditions.

Day 11: Siem Reap – Tonle Sap and Beng Melea

Travel by boat to see the floating villages, schools and restaurants around Tonle Sap. Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia and is a UNESCO protected sight. Visit Beng Melea Temple, set in the same style as the temples of Angkor Wat. This evening, watch a traditional Apsara Dance Performance.

Day 13: Khong Island to Pakse

Today you will have a long day of touring starting early with a morning drive to the Khong Phapheng waterfalls (about 30 minutes). At the falls, enjoy the site of the largest waterfalls on the Mekong River. You are able to take photos here of the beautiful scenery only; swimming is not permitted. After lunch you will travel to Pakse by road, approx. 1hr drive.

Day 12: Banteay Srei

Visit the Hindu Temple of Banteay Srei this morning, built in dedication to Lord Shiva. This afternoon visit Preah Khan Temple before returning to the Old Market. Later enjoy a sunset from the summit of Pre Rup, overlooking the Cambodia Rice Fields.

Day 13: Battambang

Drive to Battambang (3hrs), stopping at the National Silk Centre on the way.

Day 14: Battambang

Take in the views of Prasatbanan Temple this morning from Phnom Banan Hill. Return to Battambang this afternoon and stop at a local Vineyard where you will participate in some winetasting. Continue on to visit 'La Maison de Coco', a non-governmental organisation that teaches weaving skills to students.

Day 15: Battambang to Phnom Penh

Drive to Phnom Penh (approx. 5hrs). Visit the 17th century capital of Udong en-route. Furthermore, visit Kampong Chhnang Province to see traditional handmade pottery and climb Touch Hill to admire the scenery. This afternoon you will learn about the atrocities of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge at the emotional Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocidal Crimes.

NB: The Tuol Sleng Museum may be disturbing for some. If you do not wish to visit the Tuol Sleng Museum, you will be able to enjoy some free time in Phnom Penh.

Day 16: Phnom Penh – Return to the UK

This morning visit the Royal Palace, the majestic and unique Silver Pagoda to see the Emerald Buddha and Wat Phnom., from which the city got its name. You will then be transferred to the airport board your flight to the UK.

Day 17: Arrive in the UK

Arrive back in the UK.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Vientiane on Day 2. On Day 16, you will checkout from your Phnom Penh hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Itinerary Changes - Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into Laos and Cambodia. The cost of a Laos visa is not included as there is no Laos consulate in the UK. However, visas are very easy and inexpensive to obtain upon arrival in Laos. Your guide will assist you with this process. The Cambodia visa is included in the cost of your tour.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although Laos and Cambodia are developing, they still lack international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Group Size - All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 22 passengers.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In remote areas accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 3-3 ½ star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Laos. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Laos. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated on your invoice.

Exchanging Cash - British Sterling can be easily exchanged in Laos, provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Extras - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from US\$20-US\$50 per person (payable in local currency). If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

Luggage- All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Seatbelts- Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Laos and therefore the Lao people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort or Local Guide.

Traffic in Laos and Cambodia- Roads in Laos and Cambodia have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Meals - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Laos.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and an Indochina travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.