Round trip: Laos expedition programme
Duration: 6 Days - 5 Nights
Itinerary:

Day 1: VIENTIANE (B,G)

Arrive Vientiane. Meet guide at airport. Then transfer to hotel. Afternoon visit to Wat Sisaket, the oldest temple still standing in Vientiane. Wat Ho Prakeo, once the home of the revered Emerald Buddha. That Luang Stupa, reputed to hold a sacred relic of the Lord Buddha. Pratuxai Victory Gate from which views of the surrounding city can be had. Visit and shop at Talad Xao before travel to visit Wat Xieng Khuane (Buddha Park). Return to town in late afternoon. Overnight in Vientiane.

Day 2: VIENTIANE - NAM NGUM LAKE - VANG VIENG (B,D,G)

Excursion to Nam Ngum dam with stopover at Vang Xang's archeology site. Boat trip (1 hour) on great lake. Continue road to Vang Vieng (2 hours), visit Tham Jang caves then take a long tail motor boat trip on Nam Song river. Explore the night life of the town by your own. Overnight in Vang Vieng.

Day 3: VANG VIENG - XIENG KHUANG (B)

Morning, road to Xieng Khuang province (240 Km) on mountainous and scenic Route No 13 North with stopovers at several minorities villages such as Sala Phoukhoune, Nong Tang. Arrive in Xieng Khuang in late afternoon, continue to visit Site 1 of the famous Plain of Jars before transfer to hotel for check in. Overnight in Xieng Khuang.

Day 4; XIENG KHUANG - LUANG PRABANG (B,D,G)

Visit local market then excursion to Site 2 of the Plain of Jars. Then continue the road to visit Muong Khoune district where is former provincial capital but had been destroyed during Indochina War. 250 km out to and up Route 13, passing through ethnic minority villages, with some houses overhanging steep roadside drop offs. Look for the children playing in the dust with their piglets and puppies. See examples of swidden agriculture hacked out of steep hillsides and the varying checkerboard patches of regrowth as you continue your scenic journey. Arrive in Luang Prabang. Overnight hotel accommodation.

Day 5: LUANG PRABANG - PAK OU CAVES - CITY TOUR (B,L,D,G)

After breakfast, we enjoy a short-guided tour seeing the city's oldest stupa of Wat Visoun and the shrines of Wat Aham, Wat Mai, Wat Sene and the magnificent Wat iengthong. We then board a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which gives us a panoramic view of the tranquil countryside as well as an interesting visit to the mysterious of Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. Along the way, we stop at the village of Ban Xang Hai, where they make the local rice wine. Afternoon, city tour by visiting Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Sene, Wat Mai, Wat Visoun? Then up the steps to the top of Mount Phousi for an enjoyable exploration of the sacred, gilded stupa

as well as viewing a beautiful and panoramic sunset over the ancient city and the Mekong River. In the evening you may wish to visit the Night Market, which is great for local textiles and local art. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Day 6: LUANG PRABANG - CITY TOUR - DEPARTURE (B,G)

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting offerings of Alms from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the procession. Following breakfast, we visit The National Museum at the former Royal Palace, which displays a lovely collection of the artifacts reflecting the richness of Lao culture. Your guide can also take you to visit the silver smith's, where they make fine local jewelry, the Fine Arts School or the Central Market. Transfer to airport for departure flight.

End of service.

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