

# Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise Upstream

## 10 days: Vientiane - Huay Xai

The "Laotian Serendipity" program lasts ten days and features relaxing leisure sailing in remote regions. Visit remote local riverbank villages and observe how locals go about their everyday lives, learn about ancient customs and traditions, engage in active pursuits, and experience the lovely laid-back life at sea on Heritage Line's Anouvong. On this voyage, a thorough tour of Luang Prabang is offered.

- **Durations:** 10 days
- **Trip outline:** Vientiane - Luang Prabang - Huay Xai
- **Price from:** US \$5185/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://bestratetours.com/mekong-river-cruises/heritage-line-anouvong-10-days-upstream-vientiane-huay-xai>

### Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
	Main Itinerary		NA
Day 1	Vientiane - Pha Liep	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Pha Liep - Don Saynhan	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Don Saynhan - Pak Yan - Xayaburi	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Xayaburi - Hatsok - Moeung Kai	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Moeung Kai - Kuang Si - Luang Prabang	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Luang Prabang	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Luang Prabang - Pak Ou - Khok Phou	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Khok Phou - Khok Luang - Khok Aek	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 9	Khok Aek - Pakbeng - Khok Mwe	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Khok Mwe - Huay Xai	NA	Breakfast, Lunch
	Alternative Itinerary		NA
Day 1	Vientiane – Pha Liep	NA	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Pha Liep – Don Saynhan	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Don Saynhan – Khok Akha – Xayaburi	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Xayaburi – Kuang Si	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Kuang Si - Luang Prabang	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Luang Prabang	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Luang Prabang – Pak Ou - Khok Phou	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8	Khok Phou - Khok Luang	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 9	Khok Luang - Khok Ek - Pakbeng	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Pakbeng - Huay Xai	NA	Breakfast, Lunch

## Itinerary

### : Main Itinerary

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**Meals:** NA

### Day 1: Vientiane - Pha Liep

#### Morning

Heritage Line warmly welcomes our esteemed guests by arranging individual pickups from their hotels. A comfortable minivan transfer to the moored vessel located at **Pak Lay**.

Upon arrival, you will step onto our ship. Once all preparations are complete, the captain sets the course for our captivating voyage along the Upper Mekong.

#### Afternoon

After enjoying a delicious lunch, take the opportunity to explore the ship and be captivated by the breathtaking landscape as we gracefully navigate the river's course.

Our knowledgeable guide presents a fascinating lecture on the history of Lao royalty, with a special emphasis on King Anouvong, the distinguished namesake of our vessel.

As the sun begins to set, join us on the terrace deck for a delightful cocktail reception, marking the start of an unforgettable exploration of the Laotian Mekong.

#### Evening

Following a delightful dinner, our lounge transforms into a cozy cinema, where we feature a classic movie as evening entertainment - a perfect way to unwind and relax before retiring to your comfortable night.

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

### Day 2: Pha Liep - Don Saynhan

#### Morning

Embarking on the first morning of your Upper Mekong adventure, our expedition leads us to the captivating village of **Pha Liep**. This hidden treasure is encompassed by majestic limestone mountains, creating a stunning backdrop that sets the stage for an utterly captivating experience.

In this particular area, the Lao Loum community primarily relies on agriculture. Let's witness the exquisite craftsmanship involved in the production of traditional longtail boats.

Venture into a more enjoyable endeavor, a local whiskey distillery, which holds a significant place in the nation's culture, with every Laotian household having a bottle at home.

#### Afternoon

Afterward, we continue our journey and arrive at **Don Saynhan**. Once on land, we will explore the surrounding area by taking a local "tuk-tuk" to venture inland and visit the remarkable **Khao Cave**.

Traveling through lush, jungle-like surroundings, this cave serves as the longstanding home to a population of bats and also acts as a vital source of fertilizer for the village. Step inside and witness the awe-inspiring stalagmites and stalactites that adorn the cave.

### Evening

The ship will remain moored at this location overnight, providing a serene setting. Join us on the deck for some delightful prelude snacks at the bar, while our guide offers insights and outlook for the next day.

Take pleasure in the evening ambiance or choose to unwind with a post-dinner reflexology session, ensuring a peaceful and restful slumber.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## Day 3: Don Saynhan - Pak Yan - Xayaburi

### Morning

Commence your day by embracing a rejuvenating yoga session, setting the stage for a tranquil and leisurely morning.

We disembark for another excursion at **Pak Yan**, a charming village where Hmong, Lao, and Khmu people live together, reflecting a rich blend of cultures and traditions. Many Hmong families resettled here after the 1993 repatriation program, returning from Thailand to rebuild their lives in this close-knit community.

The elevated vantage point of the village offers splendid views of the meandering Mekong, providing ample opportunities to capture superb photos.

### Afternoon

Returning to the vessel, as we cruise northbound towards the nation's famous first dam and hydroelectric power plant later in the day, our knowledgeable guide will share fascinating insights into the pivotal role of energy production in Laos' economy.

Discover its potential to become the 'battery' of Southeast Asia during an engaging evening discussion. The following morning, the journey will bring you up close to this significant structure as we pass through the huge water gate.

### Evening

We take our mooring position near the dam to be ready for the next days's early passage. After dinner, join us in the lounge for a cosy screening of "The Rocket", a 90-minute Lao film about a boy seeking redemption in a land scarred by war.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## Day 4: Xayaburi - Hatsok - Moeung Kai

### Morning

As the morning unfolds, our journey takes us past the **Xayaburi Dam**, with a bit of sailing upstream before we approach the lock.

During this time, guests are invited to a brief guided visit to the wheelhouse. Here, the captain unveils the intricacies of his instruments, offering insights into the challenges of navigating this dynamic river and piloting through the water gate.

Leaving the gate behind, this sailing day is dedicated to pampering and relaxation for mind and body. Become one with the therapeutic Mekong for a bit. The morning program offers a culinary indulgence: you're invited to join a cooking class where you'll learn to make a Lao-Thai dish simple enough to recreate at home later.

The morning program extends to the deck or lounge, presenting guests with a comprehensive introduction to Laotian and Asian culinary delights. Discover exotic fruits, unique vegetables, special herbs, and distinctive spices that grace the kitchens of Laos and Asia.

Guests are encouraged to indulge their taste buds with likely unfamiliar or unseen food. At the same time, the bar opens its doors, enticing guests with an assortment of special fruit smoothies, allowing them to savour some of the locally popular, yet undiscovered, concoctions.

### **Afternoon & Evening**

After a delightful lunch and maybe a soothing siesta in your stateroom, we take a stroll through the small village of **Ban Hatsok**, where our guide highlights seasonal fruits, vegetables, and local crops such as corn and tapioca.

Climbing the steps to a serene pagoda, we have the chance to engage with a monk for a deeper glimpse into the spiritual life of the community.

There remains plenty of time to continue the spoiling in the afternoon, for those seeking relaxation, a spa treatment beckons, offering a serene retreat for both the soul and body - a flawless choice for a leisurely finale of the pampering day.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## **Day 5: Moeung Kai - Kuang Si - Luang Prabang**

### **Morning**

Commence a delightful morning by engaging in a yoga session and savoring freshly brewed coffee or tea in the bar lounge or on the open deck, the perfect way to start your day.

Indulge in a satisfying breakfast to recharge your energy for the exciting morning excursion that awaits.

We will visit the innovative and socially responsible **Laos Buffalo Dairy Farm**. Here, you can witness how Laos has transformed from a lack of dairy products in the past to becoming a producer of locally made cheeses, ice cream, and yogurt that are distributed to markets.

Our next destination today is the captivating [Kuang Si waterfalls](#), located in a scenic natural park. These waterfalls offer a mesmerizing sight, with multiple cascades that differ from the conventional image of waterfalls, adding to their allure. The turquoise and shallow pools formed at the top of the falls invite you to take a refreshing dip.

Upon returning to the ship, we will enjoy a late lunch as we continue sailing towards Luang Prabang, a town renowned as one of Southeast Asia's most enchanting destinations.

### **Afternoon**

Stroll through downtown Luang Prabang, capturing the magical hues of the sunset. For a panoramic view of the city and the approaching dusk, climb up **Mount Phousi**. Return to the ship's restaurant for dinner.

If you wish to further explore downtown Luang Prabang, you can venture out again after dinner to immerse yourself in the town's serene atmosphere.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## **Day 6: Luang Prabang**

### **Morning**

Start your day with the beauty of a sunrise, accompanied by freshly brewed coffee and a selection of teas in the bar lounge. Rejuvenate your mind and body with our daily Yoga class on the terrace deck, nestled at the footsteps of one of Laos' most iconic temples.

After breakfast, embark on an enchanting walking tour through Luang Prabang's UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the **old town** and its scenic peninsula, where the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers converge.

Then, marvel at Luang Prabang's distinctive architecture, accompanied by fascinating tales of the houses and landmarks. Walk leisurely along small roads adorned with antique structures and majestic mango trees.

### Afternoon & Evening

Return to the ship for lunch and refreshment. The afternoon explores Luang Prabang's cultural heritage, visiting the former Royal Palace transformed into the **National Museum** with various intriguing artifacts, documents, etc. Admire local art and historical treasures once owned by the Lao royal family.

After the museum, explore the city center at your own pace or relax in one of the street cafés.

As evening approaches, a thoughtfully curated dining experience awaits - An invitation to embrace Luang Prabang's serene tempo, wherever the night may lead.

Afterward, you may continue exploring the town, including a visit to the vibrant Night Market.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## Day 7: Luang Prabang - Pak Ou - Khok Phou

### Morning

Experience the spiritual Buddhist tradition of the morning alms round, known as "Tak Bat" in Lao, before the sun fully rises. Wake up before dawn to witness the serene procession of hundreds of saffron-robed monks, an integral part of Lao culture.

After bidding farewell to Luang Prabang, our journey continues upstream on the Mekong River towards the renowned **Pak Ou Caves**. During this time, our expert guide will deliver a captivating lecture on the diverse ethnic groups that inhabit the Mekong River region in Laos.

Upon arrival at the Pak Ou Caves, you will discover the lower cave, which is the most impressive and easily accessible.

After we visit the caves, Heritage Line offers *two optional choices* to enhance your excursion: an adventurous kayak tour along the serene **Nam Ou River** or a visit to the nearby village of **Ban Muang Keo**, known for its traditional silk weaving.

### Afternoon

Reach to explore the 200-year-old village of **Ban Khok Phou**, primarily inhabited by the Lao people, many of whom engage in mountain farming.

- Gain insight into their farming practices and observe the collection and processing of agricultural products.
- The highlight of the visit is the **traditional Baci ceremony**, a heartfelt Laotian ritual led by local elders, where blessings will be bestowed upon your journey.

### Evening

The evening commences with a welcome cocktail on the sandbank, followed by a barbecue dinner set amidst the breathtaking natural beauty of the surroundings. Welcome to a memorable exploration of Laotian culture along the Mekong River.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## Day 8: Khok Phou - Khok Luang - Khok Aek

### Morning

For those who rise early, our daily yoga class on the terrace deck provides a refreshing start to the day, surrounded by the breathtaking backdrop of the Mekong River.

The ship departs early, allowing you to enjoy breakfast while observing the vibrant morning life of nature along the river.

Our morning sojourn leads us to a picturesque village inhabited by Khmu people. Simplicity defines this locale, with bamboo huts elevated on stilts amidst vast rice fields.

In this serene setting, we can mingle and meet with different generations in the village, both deeply rooted in the land, sustaining their livelihood through manual agriculture. Learn about their daily existence, observe their way of life, and engage in insightful conversations.

### **Afternoon**

The sailing time into the mid-afternoon offers a breathtaking riverine cinema. We arrive at another village, which has a very interesting character to it. Here, three distinct ethnic groups: Hmong, Lao Loum, and Khamu, live together.

Each possesses its unique history, traditions, ways of life, family dynamics, and housing styles. Walk to a family home where representatives from each of these ethnic groups will show and explain to us their still-kept unique differences and characteristics in day-to-day life.

### **Evening**

Back on board, as the afternoon transitions to evening, gather at the bar to enjoy snacks while taking in an enriching experience as a traditional dance performance takes place on the sun deck.

Afterwards, we will share a preview of the upcoming day's program before dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## **Day 9: Khok Aek - Pakbeng - Khok Mwe**

### **Morning**

Awaken with the rising sun and have the option to join an invigorating yoga class.

Our voyage brings us in the morning to the serene town of **Pakbeng**. Along the riverside opposite the town and nestled in the jungle lies Laos' most sustainable elephant sanctuary. Here, in an almost pristine natural setting, we have the privilege of encountering these majestic creatures.

Born in Laos and once employed as logging elephants, they now find sanctuary in a peaceful and natural environment, their ability to survive in the wild having been curtailed in captivity. The sanctuary, a symbol of ecotourism and sustainability, reflects a deep commitment to these principles.

Let's witness these gentle giants in the rainforest and learning about their unique stories, which makes for an unforgettable experience.

### **Afternoon & Evening**

Our journey continues, gliding along the Mekong's gentle currents to our final overnight mooring spot. Feel free to take this time to unwind and enjoy the glorious riverview.

Subsequently, a farewell dinner is served on the terrace deck, marking the conclusion of this extraordinary voyage.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

## **Day 10: Khok Mwe - Huay Xai**

## Morning

Today offers a more relaxed pace, allowing you to savor the memories created during our journey.

Breakfast is served while we sail into the heart of the **Golden Triangle**. The morning is yours to relax or participate in our captivating presentation, unraveling the intricate history of the complexities of colonialism.

Pass the confluence of the Mekong and **Nam Tha Rivers**, a significant tributary known as the "Green River." Our skilled captain will expertly navigate through rocks, rapids, and sandbanks, providing a fascinating observation from the terrace deck.

Relax and enjoy the tranquil hours of our voyage's conclusion, with lunch being served until approximately an hour before arrival. You can enjoy it in the restaurant, lounge, or on the terrace deck.

## Afternoon

In the mid-afternoon, as we dock at **Huay Xai pier**, we will ensure a smooth transfer to the Lao-Thai border, bidding you farewell in front of the Lao immigration office. We extend our best wishes for a pleasant onward journey.

**Note:** Please note that depending on the water level, the ship may not be able to sail all the way to Huay Xai, and disembarkation will take place at PAK THA instead. In such a case, Heritage Line will organize a land transfer to Huay Xai, which will take approximately 2.5 hours.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** NA

## : Alternative Itinerary

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**Meals:** NA

## Day 1: Vientiane – Pha Liep

### Morning

Heritage Line brings a warm welcome to our venerated guests by arranging individual hotel pickups. A comfortable minivan will transport you to our moored vessel at **Pay Lay**.

Upon arrival, you'll step aboard our ship. Once all preparations are complete, the captain sets our course for an enchanting journey along the Upper Mekong.

### Afternoon

Indulge in a delicious lunch and take the opportunity to explore the ship while being captivated by the awe-inspiring landscape as we gracefully navigate the river's path.

Our knowledgeable guide will present a fascinating lecture on the history of Lao royalty, with a special focus on King Anouvong, the distinguished namesake of our vessel.

As the sun begins to set, join us on the terrace deck for a delightful cocktail reception, marking the beginning of an unforgettable exploration of the Laotian Mekong.

### Evening

Following a delightful dinner, our lounge transforms into a cozy cinema, where we feature a classic movie for your evening entertainment—a perfect way to unwind and relax before retiring to your comfortable accommodations for the night.

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 2: Pha Liep – Don Saynhan

### Morning

Embarking on the first morning of your Upper Mekong adventure, we set our course towards the captivating village of **Pha Liep**. This hidden gem is surrounded by majestic limestone mountains, creating a breathtaking backdrop for an unforgettable experience.

Here, the **Lao Loum community** thrives on agriculture, and we'll have the opportunity to witness the exquisite craftsmanship involved in traditional longtail boat production.

Additionally, we'll visit a local whiskey distillery, an integral part of Laotian culture, where every household proudly keeps a bottle at home.

### Afternoon

Continuing our journey, we arrive at **Don Saynhan**. Once on land, we'll explore the area by hopping on a local "Tuk Tuk" to venture further inland and visit the remarkable **Khao Cave**.

Surrounded by lush, jungle-like scenery, this cave serves as a longstanding home to a bat population and provides vital fertilizer for the village. Step inside and marvel at the awe-inspiring stalagmites and stalactites that adorn the cave.

### Evening

Join us on the deck for delightful prelude snacks at the bar, while our guide provides insights and outlook for the next day.

Enjoy the tranquil evening ambiance or indulge in a post-dinner reflexology session, ensuring a peaceful and restful night's sleep.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 3: Don Saynhan – Khok Akha – Xayaburi

### Morning

Begin your day with a revitalizing yoga session, setting the tone for a serene and relaxed morning.

As we sail northbound, our journey leads us to a significant landmark later in the day—the renowned first dam and hydroelectric power plant in the country. Our guide will provide fascinating insights into the pivotal role of energy production in Laos' economy.

The next morning, we'll pass by this remarkable structure, allowing for a close-up view as we navigate through the expansive water gate.

### Afternoon

Disembark for another excursion at the picturesque village of Khok Akha, nestled on the riverside plateau. This community, predominantly inhabited by "Lao Loum" residents, sustains itself through rice cultivation, fishing, and the sale of wood.

- Immerse yourself in the heart of Lao cuisine as you observe the process of preparing sticky rice, a staple food source.
- From the elevated position of the village, you'll be treated to magnificent views of the Mekong, offering ample opportunities to capture stunning photographs.

Upon returning to the vessel, we will continue our upstream journey toward the **Xayaburi hydroelectric power plant**. Our mooring spot will be located midriver, not far from the plant and in proximity to a charming little village.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 4: Xayaburi – Kuang Si

### Morning

Our journey proceeds past the dam, with a short sail upstream before reaching the lock. During this time, guests are invited to a guided visit to the wheelhouse, where the captain unveils the intricacies of his instruments.

In the morning program, you can choose to relax on the deck or in the lounge while being treated to a comprehensive introduction to the culinary delights of Laos and Asia.

### Afternoon

Following a delightful lunch and perhaps a rejuvenating nap in your stateroom, the mid-afternoon brings another culinary indulgence - a **special cooking session** designed for those with a sweet tooth.

Alternatively, guests can enjoy a leisurely afternoon coffee or a dedicated **tea time**, accompanied by freshly prepared sweet creations by our chef, including the famous and delectable roti dish.

For those seeking relaxation, a **spa treatment** awaits, providing a serene retreat for both the mind and body—a perfect way to conclude this pampering day.

### Night

As the day comes to an end, we find our overnight mooring near the **Kuang Si**, eagerly anticipating a fantastic exploration awaiting us tomorrow.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 5: Kuang Si - Luang Prabang

### Morning

Begin your delightful morning by partaking in a rejuvenating yoga session, followed by savoring a cup of freshly brewed coffee or tea at the bar lounge or on the open deck—a perfect way to kickstart your day.

Indulge in a satisfying breakfast to refuel your energy for the upcoming morning excursion.

Our first destination today will be the beautiful **Kuang Si waterfalls**, situated in a picturesque natural park. These falls offer a mesmerizing spectacle, with the turquoise and shallow pools formed at the top of the falls encouraging you to take a refreshing dip.

Next, we'll visit the innovative and socially responsible **Laos Buffalo Dairy Farm**, where you can witness Laos' journey from a lack of dairy products in the past to becoming a producer of locally made cheeses, ice cream, and yogurt that are distributed to markets.

Upon our return to the ship, we'll enjoy a late lunch as we continue our journey towards Luang Prabang, a town renowned as one of Southeast Asia's most enchanting destinations.

### Afternoon

Take a leisurely stroll through downtown Luang Prabang, capturing the magical hues of the sunset. For a panoramic view of the city and the approaching dusk, ascend **Mount Phousi**. Afterward, return to the ship's restaurant for a delicious dinner.

If you desire to further explore downtown Luang Prabang, you can venture out again after dinner to immerse yourself in the town's serene atmosphere.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 6: Luang Prabang

Embark on your day by experiencing the magnificence of a sunrise, accompanied by a cup of freshly brewed coffee or a delightful assortment of teas in the inviting bar lounge.

Rejuvenate your mind and body with our invigorating daily yoga session on the terrace deck, conveniently located at the foot of one of Laos' most esteemed temples.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 7: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou - Khok Phou

### Morning

Immerse yourself in the spiritual Buddhist tradition of the morning alms round, locally known as "Tak Bat," before the sun fully rises. Wake up before dawn to witness the serene procession of saffron-robed monks, a deeply ingrained part of Lao culture.

After bidding farewell to Luang Prabang, our journey continues upstream on the Mekong River towards the renowned **Pak Ou Caves**.

- Our expert guide will deliver a captivating lecture on the diverse ethnic groups that inhabit the Mekong River region in Laos.
- You'll have the opportunity to explore the lower cave, which is the most impressive and easily accessible.

After our cave visit, Heritage Line offers *two optional choices* to enrich your excursion: an adventurous kayak tour along the tranquil **Nam Ou River** or a visit to the nearby village of **Ban Muang Keo**, renowned for its traditional silk weaving.

### Afternoon

Discover the 200-year-old village of **Ban Khok Phou**, predominantly inhabited by the Lao people, many of whom engage in mountain farming.

- Gain insights into their farming practices and observe the collection and processing of agricultural products.
- Watch a heartfelt Laotian ritual led by local elders - a **traditional Baci ceremony**, where blessings will be bestowed upon your journey.

### Evening

The evening begins with a welcome cocktail on the sandbank, followed by a barbecue dinner set amidst the awe-inspiring natural beauty of the surroundings. Get ready for a remarkable exploration of Laotian culture along the Mekong River.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 8: Khok Phou - Khok Luang

### Morning

For those who rise early, start your day with a refreshing yoga class on the terrace deck, surrounded by the breathtaking backdrop of the Mekong River.

The ship sets sail early, allowing you to enjoy breakfast while observing the vibrant morning life of nature along the river.

Our mid-morning stop takes us to the captivating village of **Khok Luang**, home to the Khum people. This peaceful locale exudes simplicity, with bamboo huts elevated on stilts amidst expansive rice fields.

- Interact with an elderly couple or a multigenerational family deeply connected to the land, sustaining their livelihood through manual agriculture.
- Observe their way of life, and engage in insightful conversations to gain a profound understanding of their unique experiences.

We return to the ship for a delightful lunch.

### Afternoon

Indulge in some onboard entertainment. Join us for a **Laotian cooking class** and learn to prepare special dishes that can be easily recreated at home.

Relax on the deck or in your cabin, or pamper yourself with a spa treatment. Unwind in our bar-lounge with a captivating book or engage in conversations with fellow passengers.

### Evening

We invite you to join us for a terrace deck dinner, weather permitting. After dinner, gather in the lounge for a cozy cinematic experience featuring "Chiang" (Laotian for "elephant").

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 9: Khok Luang - Khok Ek - Pakbeng

### Morning

After enjoying a delicious breakfast on the ship 'Anouvong', we will, unfortunately, have to change our mode of transportation and bid farewell to the ship. Due to water levels and rapids further up the river, it is not feasible for us to continue with the ship.

However, we will transfer to a traditional longtail boat to continue our journey upstream. Relax and take in the scenic views as we embark on this adventurous ride until we reach the village of **Khok Ek**.

In Khok Ek, you will have the chance to witness the harmonious coexistence of three distinct ethnic groups—the Hmong, Lao Loum, and Khamo. These groups live together, each with their own unique history, traditions, ways of life

If time permits and the season is suitable, we may even have the opportunity to glimpse the organic gardens where villagers nurture their crops.

Our chef will serve a delightful lunch aboard the longtail boat as we continue our journey towards Pakbeng.

### Afternoon

On the riverside, located in the jungle opposite the town, lies Laos' most sustainable **elephant sanctuary**, which serves as a symbol of ecotourism and sustainability, reflecting a deep commitment to these principles.

- Witnessing these gentle giants in the rainforest and learning about their unique stories will create unforgettable memories.
- If time allows, we will take you to a hilltop vantage point in Pakbeng town (via vehicle) to immerse in the breathtaking panoramic views.

### Evening

After the excursion, we will check in at Le Grand Hotel & Resort, which boasts fantastic views overlooking the town and the river below. Dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant, providing a delightful culinary experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** NA

## Day 10: Pakbeng - Huay Xai

## Morning

We will begin our day with an early start to ensure we can cover the distance to Huay Xai.

Breakfast will be served onboard the longtail boat, allowing you to savor your meal while enjoying the refreshing morning breeze.

As we navigate the confluence of the Mekong and **Nam Tha River**, known as the "Green River," our skilled captain will carefully guide our small boat through rocks, rapids, and sandbanks.

During mid-day, a delicious lunch will be served, and you can enjoy fruits and drinks in between.

## Afternoon

By mid-afternoon, we will arrive at **Huay Xai Pier**, where we will assist you with a smooth transfer to the Lao-Thai border. We will bid you farewell in front of the Lao immigration office, extending our best wishes for a pleasant onward journey.

**Note:** If you choose to extend your stay in the Golden Triangle on the Thai side, we can arrange transfers to Chiang Rai City or the airport, or to a resort/hotel in Chiang Sean.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** NA

## Booking Policy

### Inclusion

- Accommodation
- Daily (group) shore excursions & entrance fees
- Sightseeing and transfers during the cruise
- Transfers from/to Heritage Line's meeting point to/from the ship (please read details in the embarkation guide)
- English speaking tour guide on-and offshore
- Entertainment/activities during the cruise as mentioned in the program
- Meals as mentioned in the program; welcome drink, brewed coffee, tea, and mineral water
- Passenger liability insurance
- Internet on the ship (subject to cellular network signal); complimentary usage of ship facilities (exclusive of spa treatments)
- Port or anchorage fees
- River pilots; fuel; taxes.

### Exclusion

- Crew and guide gratuities
- Visa fees
- Private transfers
- Personal expenses

- Beverages other than those stated under inclusions; medical services; spa treatments; port and anchorage fees; all other services or items not listed under inclusions.

## Cancellation Policy

- For cancellations of bookings, the following charges will apply:
- Prior 180 days to embarkation date: 5%
- 180 – 121 days prior embarkation date: 15%
- 120 – 91 days prior embarkation date: 30%
- 90 – 61 days prior embarkation date: 50%
- 60 – 31 days prior embarkation date: 75%
- 30 days – embarkation date: 100%

## Children Policy

- A child from 5 to 11 years old: 50% of adult rate (sharing bed ), or 75% of adult rate if staying in a cabin with one adult . Children below 5 years are not allowed on board

## WHY BOOK WITH US?

### Best Rate Guaranteed

Offering the BEST RATE package which is worthy of your payment.

### Money Back Guaranteed

In case the service we provide is not qualified enough, except for out-of-control situations such as weather conditions. We will investigate your case and will offer the reimbursement once your complaint is rational.

### Customizable by local experts

Local consultants with rich of knowledge will give you the most suitable itineraries for you.

## BEST RATE TOURS., JSC

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