

# RV Pandaw Laos Cruise Downstream 11 days: Chiang Khong - Vientiane

This expedition is a unique journey through three countries, encompassing Laos, Thailand, and Burma, and leading us to the once notorious Golden Triangle region. It is important to note that, as is customary with all Pandaw expeditions, the provided itinerary serves as a general guideline, and we expect various changes during the inaugural year.

- **Durations:** 11 days
- **Trip outline:** Chiang Khong - Pak Ou Caves - Luang Prabang - Vientiane
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://bestratetours.com/mekong-river-cruises/rv-pandaw-cruise-downstream-chiang-khong-vientiane>

## Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
Day 1	Chiang Khong	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Into Laos	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Pak Beng Elephant Sanctuary	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Ban Bor - Yoi Hai Khmu Villages	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Pak Ou Caves	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Luang Prabang Crafts & Culture	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Luang Prabang Exploration	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Kaung Si Waterfall	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 9	Xayaboury Dam	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Ban Pak Yun - Pak Lay	Pandaw Laos Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 11	Vientiane	NA	Breakfast, Lunch

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Chiang Khong

#### Morning

Transfer from Chiang Rai (2 hours) or Chiang Mai (6 hours), inclusive of lunch at Ban Rai Sabaidee Farm.

#### Afternoon

Experience a guided visit to the [Golden Triangle](#), an ideal ecotourism destination to explore the scenic surroundings and visit nearby villages.

Stop at the renowned opium museum to gain knowledge about opium, the former worldwide infamous drug trading zone.

Return to your ship by 16:00 and savor welcome drinks on the sundeck accompanied by traditional Thai dancing.

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 2: Into Laos

### Morning

Complete immigration formalities at the Thai/ Lao border and return to the ship. Cruise downstream along the Upper Mekong River, immersing yourself in the tranquil beauty of the surrounding landscapes.

Later, enjoy a captivating presentation on the Lao language, gaining insights into the linguistic nuances of this culturally rich region.

### Afternoon

After lunch, explore Pak Sith on food if time permits. This is a small village that offers a glimpse into the authentic rural life of Laos.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 3: Pak Beng Elephant Sanctuary

### Morning

Take a leisurely stroll through Ban Luang Tong Lao Lowland village to discover the rich cultural heritage of Laos. Admire the village's picturesque streets, adorned with traditional wooden houses and vibrant markets bustling with activity.

Return to the ship for a delightful lunch.

### Afternoon

Visit a remarkable elephant rescue sanctuary dedicated to protecting these gentle giants and providing sustainable employment opportunities for local residents.

Enjoy meaningful interactions with the elephants and witness firsthand the incredible work to ensure their well-being and preservation for future generations.

### Evening

We anchor at a serene sandbank along the river for a magical riverside barbecue and cocktail party. Enjoy lighting paper lanterns and dance performances surrounded by the untouched beauty of remote Laos.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 4: Ban Bor - Yoi Hai Khmu Villages

### Morning

Explore the fascinating culture of the Khmu minority group, gaining insight into their remote way of life.

Our journey begins with a visit to **Ban Bor village** in the morning, where the Lao and Khmu people reside. Here, we can support locally crafted handicrafts and immerse ourselves in the vibrant community.

### Afternoon

Later in the afternoon, we wander through the **Khmu village** of Yoi Haoi, further connecting with the traditions and customs of this unique ethnic group.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 5: Pak Ou Caves

### Morning

Embark on a scenic cruise downstream to Pak Ou, where we will explore the renowned **Pak Ou Caves**, nestled within breathtaking limestone cliff faces. These caves are a sacred Buddhist site, adorned with thousands of ancient Buddha statues.

### Afternoon

We visit the **Whisky Village** to witness the production of local Laos whisky and browse for handmade crafts.

### Evening

Our journey continues as we sail into the World Heritage City of Luang Prabang, where we'll moor overnight, providing ample time to explore the city's rich cultural heritage.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 6: Luang Prabang Crafts & Culture

### Morning

Today's itinerary offers a deeper dive into Laos' vibrant handicrafts scene. Our morning begins with a scenic walk up the 228 steps to Phousi Temple, offering panoramic views of Luang Prabang.

### Afternoon

Visit **Ock Pop Tok**, a renowned social enterprise dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional weaving practices. Join in hands-on weaving workshops led by skilled artisans, where you can learn traditional techniques and create your own woven masterpieces.

Next, we visit **TAEC** (Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre) to gain insights into Laos' diverse musical heritage, exploring traditional instruments and their cultural significance.

### Evening

Enjoy cocktail hour onboard and a traditional Bacci ceremony accompanied by the enchanting melodies of the instruments discovered earlier in the day.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 7: Luang Prabang Exploration

### Morning

Enjoy an early morning walking tour to witness the serene tradition of **alms-giving**, as local devotees offer food to the passing monks, a ritual dating back centuries.

After breakfast, delve into the vibrant ambiance of the morning market, where colorful stalls with fresh produce and local delights.

Next, hop on tuk-tuks for a guided city tour of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its well-preserved architecture and rich cultural heritage. Explore the intricate temples, ancient libraries, and the royal palace, gaining insight into the city's past.

### Afternoon

The afternoon offers leisure time to discover the beauty and unique atmosphere of Luang Prabang at your own pace. Stroll along the charming streets, visit artisanal boutiques, or simply relax by the tranquil Mekong River, soaking in the essence of this enchanting city.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 8: Kaung Si Waterfall

### Morning

Following breakfast, we set sail downstream to the charming village of **Ban Chan**, where we engaged in an immersive pottery demonstration at the local pottery workshop. Delve into the ancient art of pottery-making, offering insights into traditional techniques and designs.

### Afternoon

Continue our journey to **Ban Mouang Khai**, where we embark on a short drive to explore the breathtaking **Kuang Si Waterfall**. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the deep jungle pools, offering a refreshing swim amidst lush greenery and cascading falls.

Our next stop brings us to the **Laos Buffalo Farm**, a unique social enterprise harnessing the abundant buffalo resources of Laos. Learn about their sustainable practices and the significance of buffalo in local culture as you interact with these gentle creatures.

### Evening

Enjoy a picturesque sunset cruise downstream, soaking in the serene ambiance of the Mekong River.

We moor overnight at **Ban Na San**, where you can unwind and relish the tranquility of the riverside surroundings under the starry sky.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 9: Xayabouri Dam

### Morning

Embark on a morning stroll through the charming **Ban Na San Hmong Village**, where you'll have the opportunity to interact with locals and gain insights into their traditional way of life.

### Afternoon

Our journey takes us through the impressive **Xayabouri Hydroelectric Dam**, providing an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the mechanisms and operations of this remarkable structure.

As we navigate through the locks, you will have the chance to witness firsthand the engineering marvels that harness the power of the river for sustainable energy production.

Conclude the day with a leisurely walk at **Ban Khok Fark** before mooring overnight.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 10: Ban Pak Yun - Pak Lay

### Morning

Immerse yourself in the rich culture of the **Ban Pak Yun Mixed** minority tribe by exploring their rural village. Gain insight into their traditional way of life and marvel at the unique customs and practices of this local community.

### Afternoon

Set sail for **Pak Lay**, our final destination, where we have the opportunity to tour our Pandaw ship and participate in a delightful fruit carving demonstration on the sundeck.

### Evening

Join us for farewell cocktails and dinner, celebrating the conclusion of our memorable journey together.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Laos Cruise

## Day 11: Vientiane

### Morning

At **08:30**, disembark and embark on a local long-tail boat excursion downstream to Vientiane. Enjoy lunch and drinks served on the boat by our Pandaw chef and bar staff.

Arrive in Vientiane around **17:30**, with drop-off at your hotel or Vientiane airport.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** NA

## Booking Policy

### Inclusion

- Entrance fees
- Guide services (English language),
- Gratuities to crew
- Main meals
- Locally made soft and alcoholic beverages
- Ugged coffee and selection of teas and tisanes
- mineral water
- Transfers between the meeting point and the ship at the start and end of a voyage

### Exclusion

- International flights
- Port dues

- Airport transfers
- Laundry
- All visa costs
- Fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions)
- Imported beverages such as wines
- Premium spirits and liqueurs
- Fancy soft drinks like Perrier
- Espressos and cappuccinos at bar

## Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation before 120 days prior to the start of the cruise: 30 % of the total rate
- Between 120 and 61 days prior to the start of the cruise: 50 % of the total rate
- Between 60 and 30 days prior to the start of the cruise: 70 % of the total rate
- Less than 30 days prior to the start of the cruise: 90 % of the total rate
- 15 days or less: 100% of the cruise price

## Children Policy

- Free of charge for children below 5 years old, in parents' room and using existing bedding.
- Baby cots are available.
- Children above 5 years must occupy a separate bed and pay full rate (Single or double occupancy).

## 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.

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