Itinerary

16 Day Journey Through The Mekong: Thailand, Laos, Cambodia

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Arrive Chiang Mai, Thailand

Upon arrival at Chiang Mai International Airport, proceed through immigration, after collecting your luggage, head straight to the Exit Gate where our driver (no guide) will be waiting. Following a brief self-introduction, you will be transferred directly to the hotel. Please note that check-in time is 2pm.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: De Charm Hotel, Chiang Mai

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Rimping Village, Chiang Mai

Day 2: Chiang Mai City Tour

After breakfast, set out on a walking tour of Chiang Mai's historic Old Town. Discover some of the city's most beautiful and significant temples, including Wat Phra Singh, Wat Phan Tao and Wat Chedi Luang. Continue with a traditional rickshaw ride along the winding streets before exploring the bustling Warorot Market on foot. Later, travel up to the scenic Doi Suthep Hill for panoramic views over Chiang Mai. The remainder of the day is free for you to relax at your leisure or explore the vibrant night markets.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: De Charm Hotel, Chiang Mai - Deluxe Room

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Rimping Village, Chiang Mai

Day 3: Chiang Mai ~ Chiang Khong

This morning, leave Chiang Mai behind and journey southeast towards Chiang Khong. Along the way, pause at the Mae Ka Chan Hot Springs, a tranquil spot to stretch your legs and enjoy a relaxing break before continuing your journey.

Continue to Chiang Rai to visit the striking Blue Temple, Wat Rong Suea Ten, renowned for its vivid blue tones and intricate details. Later, discover the iconic White Temple, Wat Rong Khun, one of Thailand's most photographed and visually captivating temples, celebrated for its dazzling white architecture and

intricate contemporary design.

In the afternoon, arrive in Chiang Khong and check in to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax and enjoy the peaceful riverside setting.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Chiangkhong Teak Garden, Chiang Kong - Deluxe Garden Room

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Chiangkhong Teak Garden, Chiang Kong - Deluxe River Room

Day 4: Chiang Khong ~ Houayxay - Pakbeng

After an early breakfast, you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Chiang Khong Border, where you will complete the Thailand immigration formalities. From here, take a shuttle bus across to the Laos side and proceed through Lao immigration. Once you have cleared immigration, cross the river to Houayxay, where your Lao guide will be waiting to assist you. After completing the border formalities at the Houayxay checkpoint, board a traditional slow boat for a memorable journey along the Mekong River.

As you cruise downstream, enjoy the tranquil scenery and gain an authentic glimpse into rural Lao life. Along the way, the boat will make stops at tribal minority villages, including Hmong, Yao and Khmu communities, offering an opportunity to learn about their traditional lifestyles and customs.

After approximately 6-7 hours on the river, arrive in Pakbeng, where you will spend the night.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Mekong Riverside Lodge, Pakbeng

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Le Grand Pakbeng Lodge, Pakbeng

Day 5: Pakbeng ~ Luang Prabang

Today, continue the second leg of your slow-boat journey along the Mekong River. Cruise through unspoilt forests and past picturesque riverside villages, with the possibility of spotting local wildlife along the way—if you're lucky, you may even catch sight of an elephant or two.

Along the journey, visit a traditional fishing village and a local rice-wine-making village, where you may have the opportunity to sample the famous Lao rice wine. Continue to the remarkable Pak Ou Caves, home to thousands of Buddha statues accumulated over centuries and one of the region's most fascinating cultural sites.

After approximately seven to eight hours on the river, arrive in Luang Prabang around sunset, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Treasure Laos Hotel, Luang Prabang

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Choasis Hotel, Luang Prabang

Day 6: Khouangsi Waterfall & City Tour

Consider starting your day early to witness one of Laos' most cherished traditions—the daily morning alms-giving ceremony, when saffron-clad monks quietly walk the streets to receive offerings from local residents. After breakfast, visit the vibrant Phosy Market before exploring the surrounding countryside and traditional villages of Ban Ouay and Ban Thane. Continue to Ban Phanom, a renowned weaving village where you can discover the intricate textile traditions that have been passed down through generations.

Later, travel south of Luang Prabang to the spectacular Kuang Si Waterfalls. Surrounded by lush jungle, the falls cascade over white limestone terraces into a series of stunning turquoise pools, creating an almost magical setting. Depending on the season and conditions, there may be an opportunity to take a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear pools.

In the afternoon, continue exploring Luang Prabang with a cultural tour of this historic UNESCO-listed town. Visit the impressive Wat Visoun and the nearby shrine of Wat Aham, followed by Wat Mai, with its beautiful architecture and intricate details. Continue to Wat Xieng Thong, one of Luang Prabang's most revered and beautifully preserved temples.

As the day draws to a close, climb Mount Phousi to explore the sacred stupa at its summit and enjoy panoramic views across Luang Prabang as the sun sets. Afterwards, descend into town and take a leisurely stroll through the lively night market, browsing its colourful selection of local handicrafts, textiles and souvenirs.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Treasure Laos Hotel, Luang Prabang

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Choasis Hotel, Luang Prabang

Day 7: Luang Prabang ~ Vientiane

After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely free morning at your own pace. Later, your driver (no guide) will transfer you to the train station for your high-speed train journey to Vientiane. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Take the opportunity to relax or explore Vientiane independently, discovering its charming streets, local markets and laid-back atmosphere.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: City INN Hotel, Vientiane

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Salana Boutique Hotel, Vientiane

Day 8: Vientiane City Tour

After breakfast, depart for the colourful Thong Khan Kham market, one of many markets in Vientiane. After you have finished your shopping, head over to visit the Pataxuay Monument and That Lang Stupa before arriving at the Wat Sisaket, The oldest temple still standing in Laos. In the afternoon, visit the Wat Si Muang, a Buddhist temple believed to have supernatural powers. Continue to the Buddha Park, filled with over 200 Buddhist and Hindu statues. The approximately 45 minute drive takes you by the Laos-Thailand Friendship Bridge, built by the Australian government in 1994, that connects Laos and Thailand. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy, perhaps with a stroll in the charming colonial neighbourhoods or enjoy a cup of coffee in the shaded terraces while you watch the sun set over the Mekong
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: City INN Hotel, Vientiane

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Salana Boutique Hotel, Vientiane

Day 9: Vientiane ~ Pakse ~ Don Khone

Today, your driver will transfer you to the airport (no guide) for your flight to Pakse. Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide and begin your exploration of southern Laos. Visit the remarkable ruins of Wat Phou, one of Laos' UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Dating back to the 5th century, this ancient temple complex offers a fascinating glimpse into the Khmer civilisation that flourished in the region centuries before the construction of Angkor Wat. Continue your journey to Khong Island, the largest island in the Mekong's famed 4,000 Islands region. Renowned for its tranquil landscapes, lush surroundings and traditional riverside communities, this is one of the most scenic and peaceful areas of southern Laos. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy the serene atmosphere.
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Pon Arena Hotel, Don Khone - Strandard Room

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Pon Arena Hotel, Don Khone - Deluxe Room

Day 10: Don Khone ~ Kratie, Cambodia

After breakfast, board a traditional slow motorboat and cruise along the Mekong River towards Ban Khone, a charming riverside village where remnants of its French colonial past can still be seen. Continue exploring the enchanting 4,000 Islands region, stopping at the spectacular Li Phi Waterfall and Khone Phapheng Waterfalls, often referred to as the "Niagara of the East" due to their impressive scale and powerful cascades. Later, transfer to the Laos–Cambodia border and complete the immigration formalities before crossing into Cambodia. On the Cambodian side, your driver will meet you and continue the journey to the charming Mekong port town of Kratie. Upon arrival, travel to a riverside area where the rare Irrawaddy dolphins gather to feed. Board a local boat and cruise along the Mekong , with the opportunity to observe these endangered mammals in their natural habitat.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Sorya Guest House, Kratie

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Sorya Guest House, Kratie

Day 11: Kratie ~ Siem Reap

This morning, explore Kratie's central market, where you can experience the bustle of local life and observe traditional trades alongside the town's charming French colonial architecture and historic buildings. Later, depart for Koh Ker, the former capital of the Khmer Empire and one of Cambodia's most fascinating archaeological sites. Explore the ancient temples and ruins before continuing onwards to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Pierre Hotel

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Golden Temple Hotel, Siem Reap

Day 12: Angkor Highlight

Today begins early with a visit to the iconic Angkor Wat, arriving in time to witness the breathtaking sunrise over its magnificent temple towers. After sunrise, continue exploring Angkor Wat, taking time to discover its remarkable galleries, intricate carvings and fascinating history. Continue to Ta Prohm, one of Angkor's most atmospheric temples and famously featured in the film Tomb Raider. Here, ancient stone ruins have been dramatically intertwined with enormous tree roots and dense jungle vegetation, creating one of Cambodia's most memorable sights.

Later, visit the magnificent Bayon Temple during the golden hour. Located at the heart of Angkor Thom, the temple is renowned for its 54 towers adorned with 216 enigmatic carved faces, creating an unforgettable spectacle as the warm afternoon light illuminates the ancient stone. Your final stop will be at one of the impressive gates of Angkor Thom, where you can pause to admire the ancient architecture and capture the changing colours of the sky as the sun sets over the surrounding moat.

For those seeking a taste of Cambodia's rich cultural heritage, tonight's dinner will be accompanied by an enchanting Apsara Dance Show at a local restaurant. Enjoy a traditional Khmer dance performance, presented as a captivating dance-drama that brings ancient stories, legends and traditions to life through graceful movements, music and elaborate costumes.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Pierre Hotel, Siem Reap

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Golden Temple Hotel, Siem Reap

Day 13: Banteay Srei & Sunset Quad Bike

Today, venture into the countryside to visit Banteay Srei, a small but magnificent temple dating from the 10th century and dedicated to Shiva. Often regarded as one of the finest examples of classical Khmer art, the temple is renowned for its exquisite pink sandstone carvings and exceptionally intricate details. Its delicate craftsmanship is so remarkable that local legend suggests it must have been carved by women, as the work was considered too fine for a man's hands. Continue to the Landmine Museum, where you will learn about Cambodia's painful history with landmines and the remarkable efforts being made to create a safer future. The museum was established by Aki Ra, a former child soldier who has dedicated much of his life to clearing landmines and helping communities affected by them. His humanitarian work has received international recognition, including a nomination as a CNN Hero of the Year in 2010.

On the return journey, stop at the traditional village of Pradark, where you can see how local palm sugar is produced using age-old techniques.

Later, head to the quad-bike centre for a safety briefing and driving instructions before setting off on a leisurely adventure through the picturesque Cambodian countryside. Ride along quiet country roads, passing rice fields, villages and rural landscapes while experiencing a different side of life beyond Siem Reap.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Pierre Hotel, Siem Reap

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Golden Temple Hotel, Siem Reap

Day 14: Siem Reap ~ Phnom Penh

After breakfast, depart for the Tonlé Sap Lake, the largest permanent freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, which flows into the Tonle Sap River and joins the Mekong in Phnom Penh. Enjoy a boat ride across the lake to explore a floating village, complete with schools, police stations, and homes – all drifting with the seasonal water levels and currents.

Visit a local pagoda where you will change into clothes suitable for getting wet and take part in the "Srouch Teok" water blessing ceremony. A monk will chant in ancient Pali and gently splash water over you, symbolically cleansing you of bad luck and past negativity, offering a fresh start and spiritual renewal.

Later, transfer to the Siem Reap bus station for your journey to Phnom Penh. Upon arrival, you will be met by your driver (no guide) and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the evening is free for you to relax or explore Phnom Penh at your own pace.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT 3-Star: Mettavary Hotel, Phnom Penh

OVERNIGHT 4-Star: Harmony Hotel, Phnom Penh

Day 15: Phnom Penh City Tour

This morning, head out for a visit to the mesmerising Royal palace. the official residence of the Cambodian King. Marvel at the intricate architecture and learn more about Cambodian royalty. Next door, explore the Silver Pagoda, adorned with a gleaming silver floor and housing priceless Buddha statues. In the afternoon, indulge your senses at the bustling Central market, a shoppers paradise! Here you will wander through the alleys with stalls full of local crafts, souvenirs, clothing and Cambodian delicacies. Next you will ascend the scenic Phnom Penh Hill where the Buddhist temple Wat Phnom sits atop. In the evening, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Mekong and Tonle Sap River for an hour. Situated at the "Four Arms" where the Mekong meets the Tonle Sap River before splitting into two branches, Phnom Penh offers an ideal location to experience the mighty Mekong.

MEALS: Breakfast

Day 16: Phnom Penh ~ Departure

On your final day, a driver (no guide) will transfer you to Phnom Penh airport for your departure to your next destination. It’s time to say goodbye. We thank you for traveling with us and warmly welcome you to come again.

MEALS: Breakfast