



Laos

THE LAOS MEKONG

VIENTIANE TO CHIANG KHONG - 10 NIGHTS

UPSTREAM

Enjoy the splendour of Laos on Pandaw's 10 night expedition on the Upper Mekong. Sailing between Chiang Khong on the Thai-Laos border, and through Laos toward Vientiane, the old French capital, you will witness stunning scenery, meet amazingly warm and friendly locals and learn about Laos' national animal, the majestic elephant. We stop for three nights at the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang with its dazzling wood-carved monasteries before heading deep into the mountains, through rapids and gorges on our high-powered little Pandaw vessels.



[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

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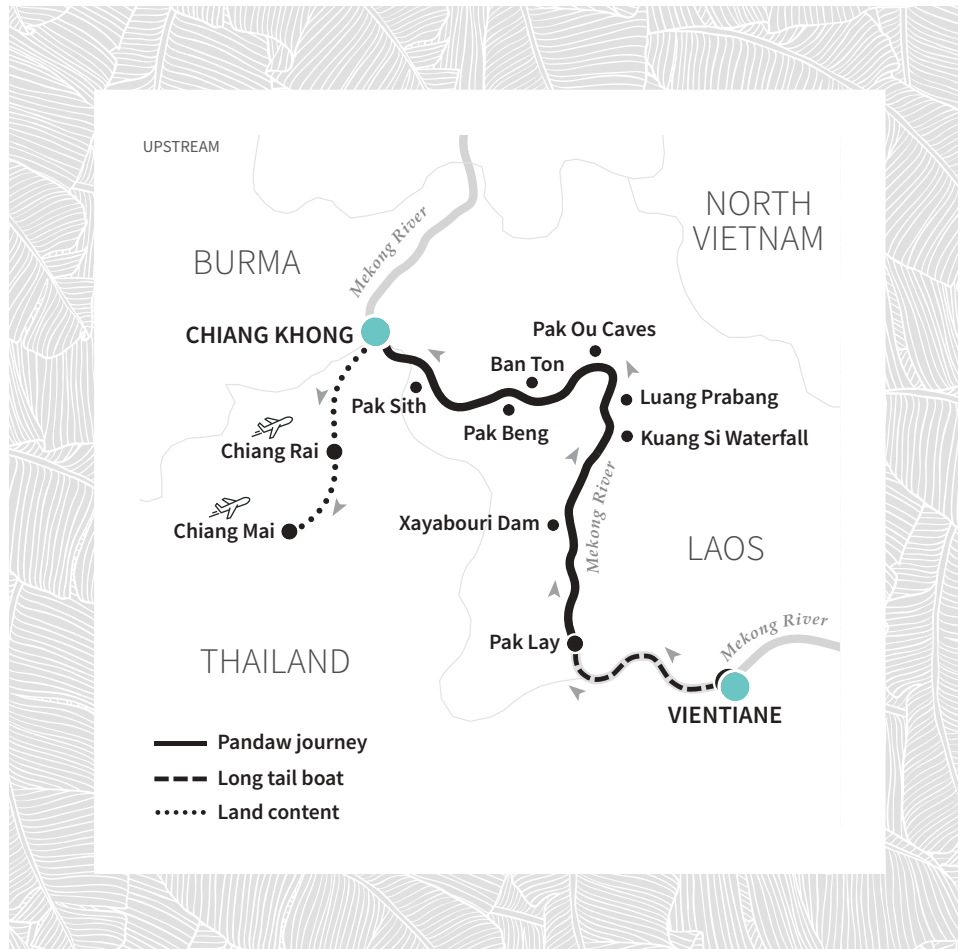
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ROUTE MAP



UPSTREAM



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 1 VIENTIANE

Pick up from your hotel in Vientiane at 08.00am, followed by a local long-tail boat expedition to your Pandaw vessel upstream. Lunch and drinks will be provided on the local boat by your Pandaw chef and bar staff. Embark your Pandaw in the afternoon for a welcome briefing and welcome drinks. We moor overnight at Pak Lay.

[More about Vientiane](#)



DAY 2 CRUISING THE MEKONG

Cruise upstream on the Mekong, passing lush jungle scenery and tiny riverside villages. Morning presentation on the Lao language after a short walk at Pha Laeb village. If time permits, we will also enjoy an afternoon walk at Ban Khok Fark.

DAY 3 XAYABOURI DAM

Morning walk at Ban Pak Bor Khummu village before passing through Xayabouri Hydroelectric Dam, taking an inside look of the workings of this somewhat controversial attraction as we navigate the locks. Afternoon visit to Ban Na San village, a Hmong minority village.

[More about Xayaburi Dam](#)



DAY 4 KUANG SI WATERFALLS

In the morning we moor at the village of Ban Mouang Khai and visit the dramatic Kaung Si waterfall. On the way back to the ship, we stop at the Laos Buffalo Farm, a social enterprise utilizing the abundant buffalo in Laos. Arrive in the heart of the temple city of Luang Prabang mid-afternoon where there is a buzzing night market and many great cafes and local restaurants. Traditional Laos Bacci ceremony and dancing on the upper deck during happy hour. Moor overnight in central Luang Prabang.

[More about Kuang Si Waterfalls](#)



DAY 5 LUANG PRABANG CRAFTS & CULTURE

Today we explore the various handicrafts of Laos in more detail. We start with Ock Pop Tok, a social enterprise providing sustainable employment and training for the women of local weaving villages. We then head to TAEC (Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre) to understand more about Laos musical instruments. After lunch aboard the ship, we sail toward Ban Chan and take part in a pottery demonstration at the local pottery workshop. We finish the day with a sunset cruise on the Mekong alongside Luang Prabang, returning to moor overnight in the centre of town.

[More about Luang Prabang](#)



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 6 LUANG PRABANG

Early morning walking tour to observe the alms offerings to the hundreds of monks who walk around the city every morning. We continue after breakfast to the morning market before taking tuktuks for a city tour of this well preserved and unique world heritage site with its many Buddhist temples, libraries and royal palace. The afternoon is free to explore the beauty and unique atmosphere of Luang Prabang.



DAY 7 PAK OU CAVES

Morning at leisure in Luang Prabang before setting sail at midday upstream. Afternoon sightseeing by local boat exploring the unique Pak Ou Caves, a Buddhist sanctuary with spectacular limestone cliff faces. See the production of local Laos whisky at the Whisky village and shop for locally produced handicrafts.

[More about Pak Ou Caves and Nam Ou River](#)



DAY 8 BAN TON AND SANDBANK BBQ

Day of sailing upstream along the Mekong with morning walk through Ban Ton village. In the evening, we moor alongside a sandbank for a special riverside barbecue and cocktail party. Light paper lanterns with the crew and enjoy a dance in remote Laos.



DAY 9 PAK BENG ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

Laos is known as 'The land of a million elephants' and today we will visit a rescue sanctuary that is helping to preserve the elephants of Laos and provide sustainable alternative employment for Mahouts who once trained and rode these beautiful creatures. Afternoon walk at Ban Pak Sith Khummu village.

[More about Pak Beng](#)



DAY 10 PAK SITH - CHIANG KHONG

Today we sail the final leg of our journey upstream toward Huayxay. Cross over into Thailand via the Thai-Laos Friendship Bridge before rejoining your ship in Chiang Khong. Enjoy a ship tour of your Pandaw vessel and fruit carving demonstration from your Pandaw Chef. Farewell cocktails and Thai traditional dance on board for your last evening.

DAY 11 CHIANG KHONG

Disembark by 8.30 in Chiang Khong and group transfer to hotel/airport. En route, explore the Golden Triangle including a visit to the opium museum. Continue to airports or city hotels in Chiang Rai (2 hours) and Chiang Mai (6 hours).

WHATS INCLUDED, TRANSFERS & VISAS UPSTREAM

Cruise Price Includes: Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Transfers Chiang Rai / Chiang Mai to ship v.v. and ship to Vientiane v.v.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

Transfers & Joining

DAY 1 VIENTIANE

Transfers included from your hotel in Vientiane to the ship in Pak Lay via Pandaw's local long-tail boat. Pick up will be at 08:00am so we advise to stay in VTE at least 1 night pre cruise. Please ensure your hotel information is provided to Pandaw so that pick-ups can be arranged.

DAY 11 CHIANG KHONG

Disembark by 8.30 in Chiang Khong and group transfer to hotel/airport. En route, we will visit the Halls of Opium and the Golden Triangle before we transfers you to Chiang Rai or Chiang Mai hotel or airport. You will reach Chiang Rai at 15.30 and Chiang Mai at 17.30.

Private transfers will need to be arranged at an extra cost. We suggest to book a hotel in Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai after your cruise.

Visa Information

Downstream

Visa on arrival for Laos can be acquired easily at the border crossing and requires 1 passport photo plus USD40 - USD55 in cash for processing. Alternatively, an E-visa can be obtained prior to travel for a fee of \$50 USD. Please use the official Laos E-visa website only - <https://laoevisa.gov.la>.

Upstream

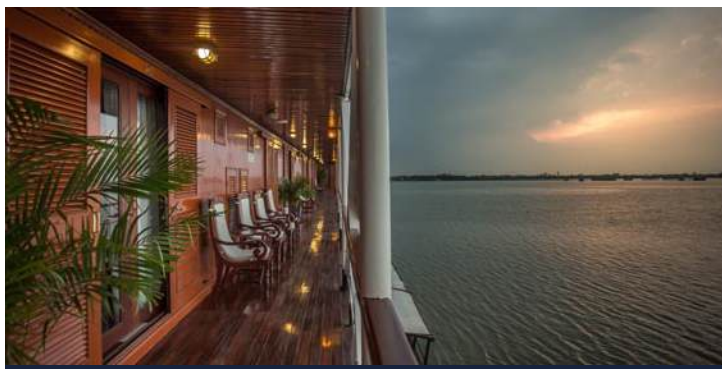
Most nationalities are eligible for visa waiver in Thailand meaning no visa is required for stays of 15 days. Please check your local embassy for up to date information about your personal requirements.

[Click here](#) for further visa information.

PANDAW STATEROOMS

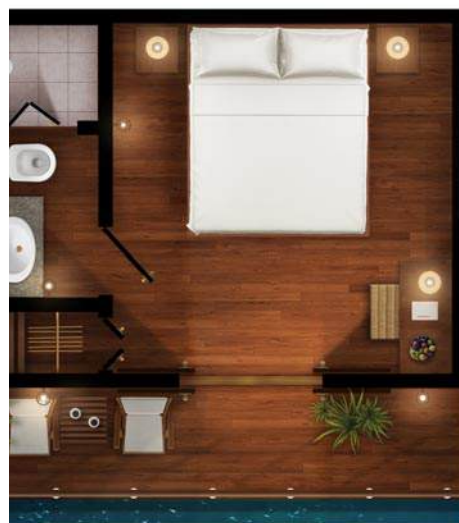
The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the Zawgyi Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

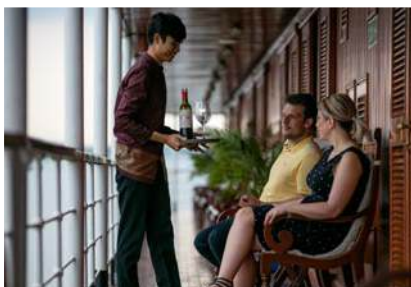
Bedroom	12' x 10'
Bathroom	6' x 4'
Showeroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"
Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



PANDAW SHIPS

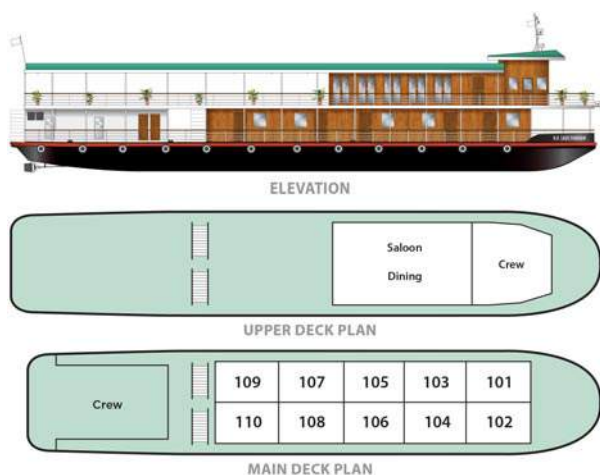
RV Laos Pandaw

Seeing the quality of this ship it is hard to believe it was built in a hurry. There are no proper ship yards above the Khone Falls and we could not persuade our Vietnamese builders to assemble a ship trucked in in bits on the river bank. We tried our Rangoon builder and he also chickened out. By January 2015 we were taking bookings and selling out for November but still had no ship. Paul Strachan in a panic flew to Vientiane and took a taxi down to the river bank and boarded the first cargo ship we saw, a 40 meter barge used to carry heavy loads of cement and rice up to China. She had two 400hp truck engines and was just the thing for tackling the terrifying fast flow of the Upper Mekong. The captain was the owner and agreed terms with Paul. The owner agreed to stay on as skipper and is still there. He immediately took her up to the Golden Triangle, a week's sail away.

The Golden Triangle is where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet and was the perfect place to convert the ship. The build team came over from Mandalay, a two-day bus journey across the Shan mountains. They made a camp on the Burma river bank opposite where she lay on the Laos. We hired a house on the Thai side to act as an office and could source material and supplies from Thailand. Amazingly we had the ten cabin ship finished on time for the maiden voyage on the 1st November 2015. Actually it was the first time we have actually had the ship finished on time! Normally there are still sparks flying as the first passengers come on board.

The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

Images of RV Laos Pandaw



- **Built:** in 2015 in Laos
- **Length:** 44.50 m
- **Beam:** 8.90 m
- **Draft:** 1.20 m
- **Berths:** 20 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 10 main deck staterooms
- Staterooms are 14 square meters (150 sqf), finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic sliding door
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24hr laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés

WINING & DINING

- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Personalized meal services
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, juggled coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Open air lounge and bar
- Bistro style al fresco dining
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

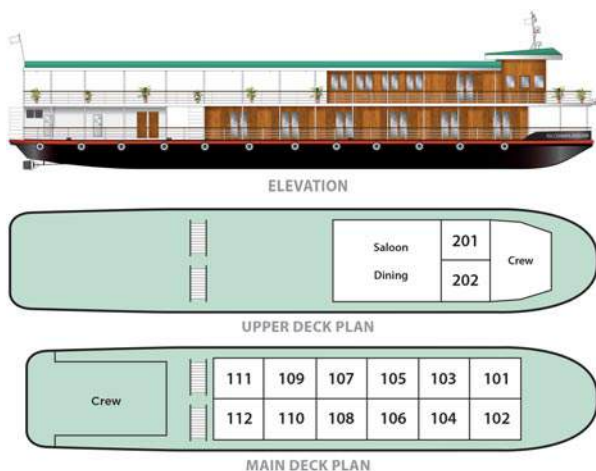
- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendent
- 24 hrs watch on duty

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Champa Pandaw

The Champa Pandaw, sister ship of the Laos Pandaw, began cruises on the Upper Mekong from September 2016. The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

Images of RV Champa Pandaw



- Built: 2016 in Thailand
- Length: 44.50 m
- Beam: 8.90 m
- Draft: 1.20 m
- Berths: 28 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 12 main deck staterooms
- Staterooms are 14 square meters (150 sqf), finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic sliding door
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24hr laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés

WINING & DINING

- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Personalized meal services
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, juggled coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Open air lounge and bar
- Bistro style al fresco dining
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendent
- 24 hrs watch on duty

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Sabaidee Pandaw

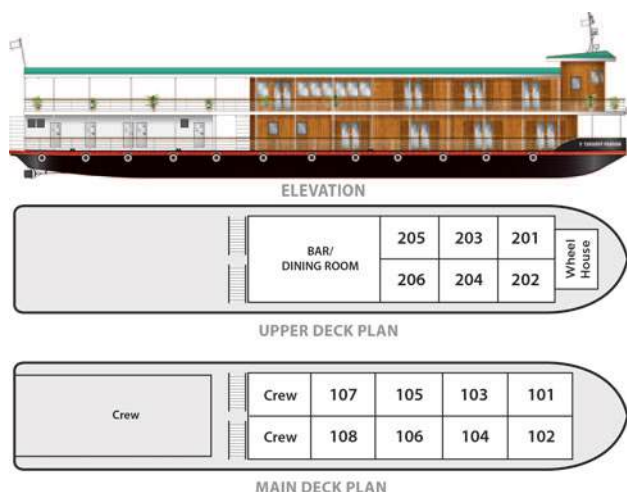
The RV Sabaidee is our seventeenth ship to the Pandaw Flotilla which was constructed to meet demand on our very popular Laos to China route across Yunnan.

In true Pandaw style this double decked vessel is designed to meet the navigational challenges of shooting rapids in the Laos gorges and sailing through shallow waters all the way to China.

The Sabaidee has just fourteen classic Pandaw staterooms; 8 on the main deck and 6 on upper deck as well as an open plan saloon with flexible indoor or outdoor dining. The Sabaidee is handcrafted to our usual level of excellence in teak and brass and provide all the comforts of the personalised service our guests expect.

The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

Images of RV Sabaidee Pandaw



- Sailing from 2018
- Berths: 28 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 6 upper deck staterooms and 8 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, juggled coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- River Pilot
- First Officer
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

THE PLAIN OF JARS

UPSTREAM

The Plain of Jars offers fascinating insights into Phuan, Hmong, Khmu and Tai Dam culture. Very little is known about the civilization that created The Plain of Jars, but you can only imagine the greatness of the ruler who constructed these unusual and enormous storage jars.



This is a Pandaw group tour depending on how many guests booked this extension.

DAY 1 VIENTIANE

Welcome to Laos! We will meet you at the airport and transfer to your hotel in Vientiane. Rest of day at leisure.

Meals: None.

DAY 2 VIENTIANE - PHONSAVANH

8:30: Pick up at hotel and drive to Vat Sisaket, the oldest original temple in Vientiane. Built in 1818, Vat Sisaket is the sole survivor of an invasion in 1828. The temple features remarkable frescoes and 6,840 Buddha images. Nearby is Ho Phra Keo, once the royal temple of Lao monarchy. Built in 1565, Ho Phra Keo has been used as a museum since 1970 and contains some of the finest Buddhist sculptures and artifacts in the country. The main structure originally housed the famous Emerald Buddha that now resides in Bangkok's Wat Phra Keo. One of the most photographed images of Vientiane is Patousay, the victory gate also known as Anousavari. Constructed in 1958, its architecture is inspired by the Arc of Triumph in Paris. Another famous Vientiane landmark is the That Luang Stupa. King Setthathirath built this great sacred stupa in 1566. Its central structure is 45 meters tall and echoes the curving lines of an elongated lotus. The original stupa was said to contain relics of Lord Buddha. Continue to visit the Morning Market (Talaat Sao), known for its superior silk weaving, metal work, and woodcarving. Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Xieng Khuang, the gateway to the plain of jars. Transfer to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 3 THE PLAIN OF JARS

A full day to explore the famous Plain Of Jars, a vast area extending around Phonsavan where over 300 huge stone jars carved out of solid rock from 1 to 3.25 meters high and weighing up to six tons each. And estimated to be 2,500 to 3,000 years old. According to local legend, King Khun Chuang had them constructed in order to store wine for the celebration of his conquest of the province in the 6th century. We visit Site I, II and III. Continue to Ban Na Pia (War Spoon Village) before returning to Phonsavan.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 4 DEPARTURE TO VIENTIANE

Morning visit to scenic Muang Khoun, surrounded by mountains, the ancient capital that was founded by Chao Noi Muang and was a stronghold for the Xieng Khouang royal family was destroyed during the Indochina War. The town was rebuilt after 1975 with rows of wooden Lao houses and a market area. We also visit the ruins at Wat Phia Wat, That Foun and That Chomphet. Transfer to Phonsavan airport for flight to Vientiane followed by transfer to your Pandaw vessel.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Vansana Plain of Jars Hotel

Conveniently located just 30 minutes from the Plain of Jars and 15 minutes from the Airport, the Vansana Plain of Jar Hotel is a simple hotel and the best option in Phonsavan City – Capital of Xiengkhouang Province. The hotel with 44 guestrooms (38 standards rooms and 6 executive suites) is located on a hilltop near the center of the city with 360 degree beautiful views on Phonsavan and the chain of mountains surrounding the Plain of Jars.



Facilities

Rooms come with fan (no AC), bathroom, tea and Coffee making facilities, minibar and safe deposit box, snack bar and restaurant, cable TV, meeting room for 40 persons, shuttle service from the hotel to the airport and the center of the city and laundry service.

Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang, Laos

Tel: +856 61 213170

The Laos Poet

Whether your visit to Vientiane is for business or a holiday, we'll provide you with a relaxing retreat in the heart of the city. Our rooms and suites are designed to provide an indulgent escape for the weary traveler. Bought to you by Mrs. Lamphoune Voravongsa, creator of iconic Satri House hotel in Luang Prabang, her inspiration in creating Lao Poet was deliver a hotel that offered unique elegance and comfort, whilst mixing modern touches with flourishes of 1930's Indochina. The aim is to be original, unique and distinct and Lao Poet is sure to offer that, along with a warm welcome.



Henbounnoy Street, Ban Haysoke, Chanthabouly District,
Vientiane, 10111

Tel: +856 21 253 537

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

English speaking guide, 2-nights at the Vasana Plain of Jars Hotel and 1-night at the Laos Poet Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, 1x lunch at local restaurant, return domestic flights from Vientiane to Phonsavanh, taxes, all transfers and excursions and described and entrance fees.

Extension Code: LTBJ3-VTE-JAR-PRE-O

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

EXPLORING VIENTIANE 2 NIGHT POST TOUR (LA SEINE HOTEL)



UPSTREAM

Vientiane, the capital city of Laos has been given many evocative nicknames, such as the City of Sandalwood and the City of the Moon, at certain points in its history. Explore this French colonial city with a 2 night extension to your Pandaw expedition.

This tour may be operated on a private basis or as a group tour with your fellow passengers depending on bookings.

DAY 1: VIENTIANE ARRIVAL

Upon arrival the airport, our driver will wait you at the airport and transfer to your hotel.

Meals: none.

DAY 2: VIENTIANE FULL DAY CITY TOUR

Depart with your local guide for a full day city tour exploring Laos' French colonial capital. Visit Talaat Sao - Vientiane's Morning Market, Wat Sisaket, Haw Phra Kaew and Putousay, the victory gate inspired by the Arc of Triumph in Paris. After lunch at a local restaurant, head out of town to visit one of Laos' slightly stranger attractions - Xieng Khuan Buddha Park.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch.

DAY 3: EMBARKATION

Check out of your hotel and be picked up at 08:00am for the transfer to your Pandaw ship.

La Seine Hotel

La Seine Hotel by Burasari offers boutique accommodation in the Laos capital that reflect Vientiane's rich French colonial history and enduring, romantic charm. Located directly on the Mekong River it is ideally placed for visits to the nearby night market.

160 Quai Fa Ngum, Ban Sithan Neua, Sikhottabong District n13, Vientiane

Tel: +856 (0)21 253800

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

English speaking guide, 2-nights at La Seine Hotel Vientiane on a bed and breakfast basis, 1x lunch at local restaurant, taxes, all transfers and excursions as described and entrance fees.

Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Extension Code: LTM-VIN-SEINE-PRE

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

EXPLORING VIENTIANE 2 NIGHT POST TOUR (SETTHA PALACE)



UPSTREAM

Vientiane, the capital city of Laos has been given many evocative nicknames, such as the City of Sandalwood and the City of the Moon, at certain points in its history. Explore this French colonial city with a 2 night extension to your Pandaw expedition.

This tour may be operated on a private basis or as a group tour with your fellow passengers depending on bookings.

DAY 1: VIENTIANE ARRIVAL

Upon arrival the airport, our driver will wait you at the airport and transfer to your hotel.

Meals: none.

DAY 2: VIENTIANE FULL DAY CITY TOUR

Depart with your local guide for a full day city tour exploring Laos' French colonial capital. Visit Talaat Sao - Vientiane's Morning Market, Wat Sisaket, Haw Phra Kaew and Putousay, the victory gate inspired by the Arc of Triumph in Paris. After lunch at a local restaurant, head out of town to visit one of Laos' slightly stranger attractions - Xieng Khuan Buddha Park.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch.

DAY 3: EMBARKATION

Check out of your hotel and be picked up at 08:00am for the transfer to your Pandaw ship.

Settha Palace Hotel

Located in central Vientiane, Settha Palace Hotel is a luxury escape steeped in history. Built in the 1930's it was painstaking renovated in the 1990's to become the idyllic escape it is today by the Theodas family who still own and run the hotel to this day.

6 Pangkham Street, Vientiane

Tel: +856 (21) 217 581

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

English speaking guide, 2-nights at Settha Palace Hotel Vientiane on a bed and breakfast basis, 1x lunch at local restaurant, taxes, all transfers and excursions as described and entrance fees.

Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Extension Code: LTM-VIN-SETTHA-PRE

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

THE RACHAMANKHA HOTEL, CHIANG MAI



UPSTREAM

Enjoy the comfort and charm of the deluxe Rachamankha Hotel and explore Chiang Mai on our included full day excursion.

DAY 1. ARRIVE CHIANG MAI FROM PANDAW SHIP

Arrive from your Pandaw ship transfer at the deluxe Rachamankha Hotel, Chiang Mai where you stay in a superior room for 2-nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 2 EXPLORE CHIANG MAI

After breakfast, you will be met by your guide for a morning visit of Chiang Mai including Suan Buak Hat, a lovely park full of flowers that lies just inside the moat. From here, you take a local rickshaw (three-wheeled bicycle taxi) to Wat Pan Tao. Wat Pan Tao is essentially built of wood and, although rarely visited, is certainly one of the most charming temples of Chiang Mai. Then, continue to Wat Phra Sing – the most famous temple in the old city centre. Afterwards, visit Warorot Market, Chiang Mai's biggest market and well known for its huge choice of flowers. Lunch is included at a typical local restaurant serving Northern Thai food.

After lunch, drive up Doi Suthep Mountain and visit Wat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai's most revered temple on the mountaintop. According to an old legend, Monk Sumana presented the king with a bone relic of the Lord Buddha. He then tied it to the back of a royal elephant that stomped through the jungle for days. The elephant finally stopped at the actual place of the temple where he died. Both the king and monk Sumana agreed that this would be the place where Doi Suthep temple would be built.

DAY 3 CHIANG MAI - TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

Check out after breakfast. You will be collected from the hotel lobby and transferred to Chiang Mai airport for your onward flight.

The Rachamankha Hotel

Well located in the heart of historic Chiang Mai old city, the 25-room Rachamankha is the leading luxury boutique hotel, offering charming colonnaded courtyards and gardens - a world of serenity and contentment. The hotel distinctive architecture is inspired by the eleventh centuries B.C. vernacular Chinese dwellings, from which Northern Thai architecture has its roots.

Public facilities

Public areas include the Library with over 2,000 books and an enchanting open-air massage pavilion overlooking a tranquil 20-meter pool where drinks and light snacks are served pool-side throughout the day. You can dine in al fresco or in the stylish restaurant. Antiques from different periods around the world, from Europe, Africa, China, Burma and Thailand are scattered throughout the hotel. The spacious and comfortable air-conditioned superior rooms are fully equipped with wireless Internet connection, TV and CD/DVD player.

6 Rachamankha, 9 Phra Singh, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand

Tel: +66 53 904 111

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

Airport transfer; sightseeing as per itinerary with English speaking local guide; 2-nights accommodation in superior room at the Rachamankha Hotel on bed and breakfast basis; lunch on day 2; entrance fees to specified sights; service charges, room tax and baggage handling.

Extension Code: LTM-RachPost1

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

THE HILL TRIBES OF NORTH THAILAND



UPSTREAM

Travel off the beaten track with your English speaking guide and discover the hilltribes, beautiful scenery and history of the land of opium, in our exclusive post cruise arrangement.

DAY 1 PANDAW CRUISE - CHIANG KHONG

Upon arrival at Chiang Khong, meet and greet by our local guide for pick up and transfer to your hotel. On the way you might be able to stop at Chiang Khong City to visit local Buddhist temple. Lunch will be provided at hotel. Overnight at Chiangkhong Teak Garden Riverfront Hotel. **Meals:** Lunch / Dinner

DAY 2 CHIANG KHONG - GOLDEN TRIANGLE - MAE CHAN

After breakfast at hotel, drive to Sri Don Chai Village where the Tai Lue tribe lives. Experience local life at Tai Lue Cultural Center, Museum and visit ancient houses in Huen Kham Phaeng. Lunch will be provided at local restaurant. In the afternoon, continue to visit Golden Triangle with Golden Buddha viewpoint to enjoy the spectacular view for 360 degree. We visit the Hall of Opium which was built to educate people about the dangers of the drug through an entertaining exhibition which traces opium's history from its first use 5,000 years ago to current issues of drug abuse and addiction. Afterwards, proceed to Mae Chan.

Overnight at Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 MAE CHAN - DOI ANGKHANG - CHIANG MAI

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to Doi Angkhang National Park. The area has a cool climate all year round, particularly from December to January. During this period, visitors should be prepared to cope with cold weather. Doi Angkhang Royal Agricultural Station is a site for planting and researching for flowering plants, temperate fruit trees, vegetables and other crop under the patronage of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX). Lunch is at a local restaurant. Afternoon, visit Muser Hill tribe at Baan Khob Dong village, The tribe believe in ghosts and spirits and still hold on to simple ways of life. The Royal Project has supported this village in promoting agriculture and handicrafts. The Young Local Guide project is underway to guide visitors on the local lifestyle and beliefs, as well as to create a non-migration awareness in local youths. The next stop will be a visit to Baan Nor Lae village, this village is located on the Thai-Burmese border. The people of No Lae migrated from Myanmar about 15 years ago. They speak their own language and are Buddhists. From here we continue to the villages of Baan Khum which is a village located near the Royal Agricultural Station. It is a small community comprising of people from various races such as Burmese, Hwa, and Thai Yai. They settled in the area and run souvenir shops and restaurants. Late afternoon, transfer to Chiang Mai for check in and free day at your leisure. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant en route. Overnight at the Rachamankha

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 CHIANG DAO - CHIANG MAI

Today, before leaving to Chiang Mai, you will visit Chiang Dao cave, with a stop to visit Chiang Dao cave, situated among the rolling hillside. The cave consists of 4 interconnected caverns that are opened. Here you will see an array of different stalactites everywhere. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Continue to Chiang Mai hotel for check in and afternoon at leisure.

Overnight at the Rachamankha

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5 CHIANG MAI DEPARTURE

Today will be your own leisure until check out time at noon. We will transfer you to boarding either flight or train depending on your selection of transportation to next destination. Rachamankha to Chiang Mai Airport: 15-20 min.

Meals: Breakfast

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Chiangkhong Teak Garden Riverfront Hotel

CHIANGKHONG TeakGarden Riverfront enjoys a beautiful riverfront location on the border between Thailand and Laos, the gorgeous Mekong River. CHIANGKHONG TeakGarden Riverfront is adjacent to the main road of the peaceful town of Chiangkhong, which is situated in the relaxing province of Chiang Rai. The rooms feature a fusion between Lanna and Contemporary styles. CHIANGKHONG TeakGarden Riverfront also has a wonderful and relaxing garden of golden teak trees, which are over a hundred years old. This convenient gateway to Indochina is located only 1 kilometer away from the bus station and 400 meters away from the Bug Pier, making CHIANGKHONG TeakGarden Riverfront the perfect destination for you.



666 Moo 8, Vieng, Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai, TH 57140

Tel: (+66) 053 792 008

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa

KATILIYA, is an all-suite luxury resort providing guests with superb services and facilities, in a stunning natural setting. Each of our Villas offers 4 to 6 units ensuring guest privacy and serenity with some units close to our pool and lobby area for convenience and some along our beautiful hillside and surrounded by extensive landscaping, our suites provide the most spacious accommodation in Chiang Rai. The individual sites range in size from 90 to 375 square metres, including large private balconies that open to magnificent views of rolling hills and verdant forests.



388/1 Moo 4 Tambol Pha Sang, Amphur Mae Chan,
Chiang Rai, 57110, Thailand

Tel: +66 53 603 000

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

The Rachamankha Hotel

Well located in the heart of historic Chiang Mai old city, the 25-room Rachamankha is the leading luxury boutique hotel, offering charming colonnaded courtyards and gardens - a world of serenity and contentment. The hotel distinctive architecture is inspired by the eleventh centuries B.C. vernacular Chinese dwellings, from which Northern Thai architecture has its roots.



6 Rachamankha, 9 Phra Singh, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand

Tel: +66 53 904 111

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

Accommodation at selected hotels with daily breakfast, check-in time is 2.00PM and check-out time is 12.00PM. Early or late service is subject to availability with surcharge, meals as mentioned, english speaking guide, tours and transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicle, sightseeing fees and permits during guided time, service charge and current government VAT tax.

Rates exclude

Early/late check in/out service at hotels (surcharge if requested), tips and gratuities, services and meals if not mentioned in itinerary, all drinks, including water, soft drink and alcohol on all included or optional excursions, laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of a personal nature, travel Insurance (Compulsory).

Extension Code: LTTH1BT

OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

Optional cruise add ons

PRE-BOOKABLE HOUSE WINE PACKAGE [Read more](#)

FREE FLOW DRINKS [Read more](#)

FREE FLOW DRINKS & WINE PACKAGE [Read more](#)

River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS [Read more](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD [Read more](#)

VISA INFORMATION [Read more](#)

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