

## AUTHENTIC LAOS

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS



### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the enigmatic Plain of Jars, an ancient archaeological site shrouded in intrigue, where scattered stone jars hint at a rich and mysterious past.
- Experience the serene beauty and spiritual significance of Luang Prabang, once the royal capital of Laos, where historic temples and sacred rituals reflect centuries of cultural heritage.
- Embark on an easy hike to the stunning Kuang Si Waterfall, renowned for its mesmerizing turquoise pools and lush jungle surroundings, offering a refreshing retreat into nature's embrace.
- Explore the scenic wonders of Vang Vieng, where breathtaking landscapes of limestone cliffs, emerald rivers, and verdant rice fields create a picturesque backdrop for unforgettable adventures.

### II. TOUR PROGRAM

## DAY 1

### VIENTIANE ARRIVAL

Welcome to Vientiane! Upon arrival at the airport, you'll be transferred to your hotel for some relaxation and refreshment. Take the remainder of the day at your leisure to unwind. (No guide service included)

## DAY 2

### VIENTIANE CITY TOUR

Discover the charms of Vientiane, the capital and largest city of Laos, known for its serene atmosphere distinct from the bustling cities of Southeast Asia. Begin your exploration of the historic French colonial quarter, adorned with glittering temples, statues, and bustling markets. Visit Wat Sisaket, renowned for its cloister wall adorned with thousands of Buddha images, and the Royal Temple of Wat Prakeo, home to the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Continue to the Patuxai Victory Gate, an imposing archway symbolizing Laos' resilience, and the iconic Golden That Luang Stupa, a sacred monument of the Buddhist faith. Conclude your day with a stroll along the Mekong River to the Night Market, where local vendors offer an array of souvenirs and handicrafts against the backdrop of a breathtaking sunset.

## DAY 3

### VIENTIANE – VANG VIENG

Embark on a scenic drive northwards to Vang Vieng, a picturesque town renowned for its stunning landscapes and outdoor adventures. Spend the afternoon cycling through verdant rice paddies, azure lagoons, and ancient caves, soaking in the natural beauty of the surroundings. Conclude your day with a serene canoe ride along the Nam Song River, enjoying the tranquility as the sun sets on the horizon.

## DAY 4

### VANG VIENG – XIENG KHUANG

Depart from Vang Vieng for an exhilarating journey through mountainous terrain to Xieng Khuang province. Along the way, visit Hmong ethnic villages and witness their traditional way of life and craftsmanship. Arrive in Phonsavan, the provincial capital, and consider a visit to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) UXO Centre for a poignant insight into the impact of the Vietnam War on the region.

## DAY 5

### XIENG KHUANG (PHONSAVAN) – PLAIN OF JARS

Explore the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of the morning market before venturing to the mysterious Plain of Jars. Marvel at the ancient stone jars scattered across the landscape, shrouded in myth and legend. Learn about the intriguing history and significance of these enigmatic artifacts from your knowledgeable guide. If time permits, visit the Mulberry Organic Silk Farm to gain insight into traditional Lao silk production.

#### DAY 6

### XIENG KHUANG – LUANG PRABANG

Embark on an early morning drive to Luang Prabang, soaking in the scenic beauty of rural Laos along the way. Traverse winding roads amidst majestic mountains and lush jungles, with opportunities to visit local villages and immerse yourself in the tranquil countryside.

#### DAY 7

### LUANG PRABANG – CITY TOUR

Embark on a leisurely exploration of the historic quarters of Luang Prabang, beginning with a visit to the vibrant Morning Market, where farmers from provincial villages gather to showcase their fresh produce and exotic delicacies. Stroll along the city's main street and visit the National Museum, formerly the residence of the Laotian Royal Family. Continue your tour with stops at the picturesque stupa of Wat Visoun, the revered shrine of Wat Aham, and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong, known as "The Temple of the Golden City." Conclude your day with a small hike up Phou Si Mountain for a breathtaking panoramic view of the city.

#### DAY 8

### HILLSIDE HIDEAWAY

Depart from Luang Prabang for a 30-minute drive to the valley of Xieng Khoung and the Hillside Resort. Enjoy a leisurely day relaxing by the pool amidst tropical gardens or opt for a short hike to explore Nam Dong Park. (No guide service included)

#### DAY 9

### UNIQUE KUANG SI TREK

After breakfast, embark on a short ride to the starting point of today's hike at a Hmong ethnic village. Begin the 3-hour trek to the renowned Kuang Si river and waterfalls, approaching the falls from the top for a unique perspective away from the crowds. Marvel at the cascading waterfalls and turquoise lagoon, perfect for a refreshing swim. As you descend, encounter the Asiatic Black Bear rescue center before concluding your trek with a transfer back to Luang Prabang in the late afternoon.

#### DAY 10

### DEPARTURE

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for departure. (Without guide)

- END OF SERVICES -

**Tour extensions: pre-tour or post-tour extensions are available, which would include accommodation and private transfers, please speak to Focus Asia travel consultant for further details.**