

## OPTIONAL LAOS EXTENSION

4 days | Explore Prabang Luang



Laos is landlocked in the heart of the Indochina peninsula and traces its historic and cultural identity to the *Kingdom of a Million Elephants Under the White Parasol*. Luang Prabang is a UNESCO World Heritage recognized city with an incredible fusion of architecture and colonial European influence.

### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: DECEMBER 11, 2022

##### Travel to Luang Prabang

📍 Luang Prabang, Laos

After breakfast at the group hotel in Bangkok, you will check out and head to the local airport for your flight to Luang Prabang.

Upon arrival at the local airport, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel for the remainder of the day free to get settled.



Surrounded by thickly forested mountains and situated at the confluence of the Khan and Mekong Rivers, **Luang Prabang** has a tranquil, old world charm rarely found in Asia today. This fascinating town was the capital of the Lane Xang (million elephants) Kingdom until the mid-sixteenth century. In colonial times it served as a provincial headquarters of the north. The legacy of the European presence here - well preserved French architecture and careful street planning - has blended delightfully with more than 30 gilded Buddhist temples to create a town rich in atmosphere and history. Luang Prabang is perhaps the best-preserved traditional city in Southeast Asia. In 1995 UNESCO voted Luang Prabang as a World Heritage City.

Lunch is on your own today with dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Le Bel Air Boutique Resort

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

#### DAY 2: DECEMBER 12, 2022

##### Cultural Exploration

📍 Luang Prabang, Laos



After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by a local guide and transferred for a half-day discovery of some of the priceless monuments around the old city, now under UNESCO protection as a World Heritage Site. Visit Luang Prabang's **National Museum**, formerly the Royal Palace. Displayed inside is a collection of personal artifacts of the former Laotian Royal Family. Visit Wat Mano, a monk school, where you will have the opportunity to meet with young monks learning about Buddhism and Laos histories. Visit Wat Xieng Thong - often said to be Luang Prabang's most beautiful temple. It is characterized by its several roofs sweeping low to the ground and the impressive "tree of life" mosaic. For those who are interested you will have a chance to climb its 350 steps. Phou Sii hill stands right in the center of this small city to enjoy commanding views for many miles in each direction.

Next you will visit **Pak Ou Buddha Cave**. These caves have been home to many thousands of Buddha images that have been placed here by local people since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when King Setthathirat found the caves and declared them

a holy spot. Today many people still pay respect to this tradition. After exploring these caves, enjoy taking a private Mekong Riverboat down the stream to Luang Prabang passing through stunning mountain scenery and traditional villages dotting the riverbank. If time and energy permit, pay a visit to the small, iconic riverside **Ban Thin Hong weaving and fishing village**, where you have an opportunity to interact with the locals and learn about rural Lao life and handicrafts. A great photo opportunity and experience for those looking for a deeper insight into Lao Culture. You are welcomed in the village with the special, traditional Laotian Baci ceremony. 'Baci' plays an important role even today to welcome or say farewell, bring good luck and ward off bad spirits for any major event in the life of local people.



After exploring the village, relax on a **river cruise** along the Mekong Delta to Luang Prabang with unique Lao refreshments and canapés served on board along with a choice of soft drinks.

You will return to the hotel for the remainder of the day to **explore independently** with lunch on your own arrangement.

Dinner will be provided at L'Eléphant Restaurant which offers traditional, as well as more creative, French and Lao cuisine.

**Overnight:** Le Bel Air Boutique Resort

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

### DAY 3: DECEMBER 13, 2022

📍 Luang Prabang, Laos

After breakfast at the hotel, head out with a local expert guide for an **architectural walking tour** of Luang Prabang to discover a fascinating heritage and masterful example of both colonial and Laotian architecture.

*Mr. Francis Engelmann* is your guide on this insightful journey. Born in Paris in 1947, he is a writer and an independent consultant living in Luang Prabang and has worked closely with UNESCO over the past 10 years. He also spent two years at the Luang Prabang Conservation Authority and assisted with 'The Quiet in the Land' art project in Luang Prabang. Francis has lived in Asia for over 25 years and written many successful books and memoirs on his experiences here. He was deeply involved in the mission to enter Luang Prabang as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995 and is happy to answer any questions regarding this magnificent town. Embark on a cultural walking experience with Francis through one of Asia's most pleasant and visually exquisite places. The walk is oriented towards the lesser known parts of the town including remote, charming lanes that show the traditional atmosphere of Luang Prabang.

Enjoy lunch at the Phamxai Riverside Restaurant.

Return to the hotel for some free time before your **dinner cruise**.

The Mekong River is the perfect setting for a very special and magical evening. Luang Prabang's most exquisite and favorite dinner cruise embarks and heads downstream to moor near a small village where traditional Lao dancers perform age-old interpretations of the Ramayana, rural life, folk tales and legends while you watch the sunset with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a fully catered gourmet dinner.

**Overnight:** Le Bel Air Boutique Resort

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

### DAY 4: DECEMBER 14, 2022

**Depart today for the U.S.**

📍 Los Angeles, California

## PROGRAM INFO

**Date & Length:** 3 nights December 11-14, 2022

**Extension cost:** \$1,999 per person (includes all gratuities)

*Single supplement:* \$499

**Inclusions:** Group airport transfer and baggage handling, flight from Bangkok to Luang Prabang, meals and activities as mentioned, most tips and accommodations based on double occupancy.

**Not Included:** Hotel incidentals, spa services, and meals not mentioned.

*To participate in the optional extension, complete and return the extension registration form. Return no later than 90 days prior to departure or within five days of receiving the information.*

**Questions?** 888.747.7501 Info@NandaJourneys.com www.NandaJourneys.com



### Le Bel Air Boutique Resort

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[www.lebelairresort.com](http://www.lebelairresort.com)

Set on the riverbank of the Nam Khan River overlooking the UNESCO Heritage city of Luang Prabang, the Bel Air Resort is the premier 4-star resort in town. The resort has a majestic river view, a riverside restaurant as well as an infinity style pool and bar. It is the perfect place to relax in peace while being close to all central attractions.

