

DAY TRIPS IN LAOS

TOURS ESCAPE FROM VIENTIANE

1. OVERVIEW:

Located on the bank of Mekong River, Vientiane is the capital of Laos since 1563 witnessing the many ups and downs of the history. This delightful small city delivers a refreshingly laid-back atmosphere unlike other Asian capitals. The French architectures contrast pleasingly with the ancient Buddhist temples dotted around the town. There are plenty of things to see, from Buddha Park to the morning market and a wide selection of international cuisines. Navigating Vientiane can be done simply on foot or by bike. The rural countryside is never far away with rice paddies providing a backdrop to most streets.

When in Laos, do as the Lao do and slow the pace right down. Vientiane may not reveal its beauty readily as Luang Prabang, but spend a few days visiting its landmarks, sampling its outstanding dishes, and enjoying Beerlao at sunset by the mighty Mekong, you will soon be inspired.

VIENTIANE – HALF DAY BUDDHA PARK

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| <u>Tour code:</u> | VTE-V02 |
| <u>Tour type:</u> | Historical & Cultural |
| <u>City:</u> | Vientiane capital |
| <u>Time:</u> | Morning or afternoon (08.30 - 12.30h. or 13.00 - 17.00h) |

Overview:

Buddha Park (or Xieng Khuan) is a famous sculpture park with over 200 Hindu and Buddhist statues created in 1958 by monk Luang Pu Bunleua Sulilat who studied both religions. The best spot here is a pumpkin-like structure that you can enter through a demon's mouth and climb up the three stories that represent heaven, earth and hell. From the top, you can view over the entire park.

Itinerary:

Morning or afternoon, you will be picked up at your hotel then transfer to visit Wat Si Muang, which is very famous for its supernatural power.

Next, we transfer about 45 minutes away to visit Buddha Park known which is known as Xieng Khuan, this unusual park is filled with over 200 Buddhist and Hindu statues. On the way, stop and take photos of the Friendship Bridge which was built by the Australian government in 1994 and links Laos and Thailand. Arrival the park, stroll around the Park, you feel the quiet and tranquil setting along the Mekong River a contrast to the slightly eccentric sculptures which were built in 1958 by a Laos's shaman. The concrete sculptures are bizarre but intriguing, sitting majestically in the peaceful park. Afterward, we drive back to Vientiane. En route, a short stop is made at Mai Savanh to explore the traditional textiles of the Lao people. This shop specializes in high quality silk products and involves several families in their process, from the northern province of Luang Nam Tha Province and the southern provinces of Attapeu and Sekong. (Note: Mai Savanh is closed on Saturday & Sunday)

Another stop will be made at the Lao Disabled Women Development Center. This center aims to bring knowledge and skills to disabled women so that they can become self-sufficient, productive members

of the community. The center focuses its efforts on helping people with disabilities gain independence and self-confidence. A visit to the center provides you with the opportunity to talk to these women and to observe their skill at creating handicrafts such as handmade paper. Tour ends at your hotel

| Group | 1 | 2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-9 | 10-12 | 13-15 |
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| Price | 136 | 73 | 51 | 39 | 36 | 32 | 26 |

Included: Private transportation with English or French speaking guide/Entrance fee & mineral water