

## Itinerary specially prepared for USC EMBA Group Laos Post-program Extension June 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

Number of client(s): From 2 – 10 people  
Type of trip: Culture, History & Local Life  
Journey destination(s): Laos

*\* Please note that this proposed itinerary is subject to availability, and we will confirm the pertinent accommodation and services immediately on receipt of your confirmation or payment. We recommend confirmation as early as possible to avoid space unavailability.*

### ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 – 04 June. 2022	<b>Flight Bangkok/Luang Prabang</b>
Day 2 – 05 June. 2022	<b>Luang Prabang</b>
Day 3 – 06 June. 2022	<b>Luang Prabang</b>
Day 4 – 07 June. 2022	<b>Luang Prabang Departure</b>

### ITINERARY IN DETAIL

**Day 1– Sat, Jun 04, 2022: Flight Bangkok/Luang Prabang (Flight: TBA, Economy Class)**

Your time will be your own until you'll be met and transferred to the airport for the flight to Luang Prabang.

Upon arrival at Luang Prabang international airport, after completing immigration and customs formalities with **FastTrack Service & Your Own Laos E-visa**, meet with your guide and be transferred to hotel for check-in. Your guide will be holding a sign marked your name on it. *Lunch and dinner are on your own today.*

*Destination Info: Many a traveler's tale in Luang Prabang begins like this: "Well, I was only supposed to stay here for a couple days, but . . . ." The quiet street-side cafes, ancient temples, and laid-back, friendly locals give this town a tranquility that has drawn many unsuspecting visitors in for weeks (or years) at a time. A visit here feels like a vacation from your vacation.*

*Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995, Luang Prabang is named after the golden statue that's kept here, the Prabang, or the "great holy image." Luang Prabang was the first capital of Laos and has mercifully remained relatively untouched by war, which means that many of the 33 temples are original, and the town's charm is ancient and authentic.*



**Meals:** None

**Accommodation:** [Sofitel Luang Prabang/ Garden Suite](#)

## Day 2- Sun, Jun 05: Full Day Luang Prabang City Tour

*Optional for early riser at 5:30am: Early morning, enjoy giving **Alm Bowl to the monks** on the street for making a merit. The Buddhist monks carry their collection of food as they walk around the village nearby early morning. It's a belief that in order to give people to gain merit before they start their day life, normally people will have to go to Buddhist temple, but in this case it's to give people opportunity to do at home, it is not the way of begging as they never ask for any food and even wait for those who are late for giving alms in the morning. (With the Morning Alms Giving, if you do not wish to make an offering, please keep an appropriate distance, and observe the ritual in silence. Dress appropriately, shoulder, chest and legs should be covered.)*

Then visit the morning **Market**, where you will see such diverse offerings as dried buffalo skin, local tea and saltpeter among the chickens, Mekhong fishes, vegetables and hill-tribe weavings and local delicacies. Return to hotel for breakfast.

**After breakfast**, visit the **National Museum (the former Royal Palace)**, which houses the collections of valuables including the famous Prabang Buddha statue and gifts received from foreign dignitaries. Afterwards, pay a visit to **Wat Xiengthong**, the 16th century temple, which more than any temples in Luang Prabang, epitomizes all the elegance and grace of Luang Prabang architecture.

**In the afternoon**, pay an interesting visit to **The Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre - the first exhibition space and fair-trade store dedicated to the collection, preservation, interpretation, and presentation of the traditional arts and lifestyles of Laos**. Nearby is **The Children Cultural Center**, opened on 15 January 1998 in a former government exhibition room. The Children's Cultural Centre (CCC), Luang Prabang was set up and managed by the local authorities. Operating in the evenings from Tuesday to Friday and all weekend, the Centre presents a wide range of extra-curricular cultural activities for children, including singing, dancing, music, games, weaving, embroidery, handicrafts, painting, and drawing, spoken drama, English language lessons, culture and camping...



In the afternoon, drive to visit **Kuang Si waterfalls** about 35km from Luang Prabang downtown. This ride is a bit more challenging as you continuously go up and down the hills with big climb. On the way, you will visit to some ethnic minority villages if interested such as: Ban Na Oun Hmong hill tribe, Ban Naxom, Ban Ou, Lao Loum villages and Ban Thapene Kh'mu village.

On arrival, you will enter a national park where you hike around to see the waterfall or swimming in the transparent water. The cool & turquoise water might wash away all of your fatigued.

Then take a short walk past the entrance gate, before reaching the pools, is a **bear rescue center**. A number of Asiatic black bears rescued from poachers and illegal wildlife trade live in an enclosure with lots of trees, swings and other things to play with. From a viewing platform you can observe the animals as they play or search for food.

In the evening, *if interested*, pay a visit to the famous **Night Market**, where you can find a lovely selection of handmade textiles made by local and hill tribe people surrounding Luang Prabang.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** [Sofitel Luang Prabang/ Garden Suite](#)

## Day 3– Mon, Jun 06: Full Day Luang Prabang

### Option 1: Pak Ou Cave

This morning at 08:30am, drive overland along the Mekong Riverbank to visit the **mysterious Pak Ou Caves**. Pak Ou Caves are located at the junction of the Mekong River and Ou River. The caves consist of two caves Tham Thing; the lower cave and Tham Phum. Here you will find numerous Buddha images of various styles, ages and sizes. **Enjoy lunch** at a local restaurant along the banks of the Mekong River.

After lunch, **enjoy a 2-hour downstream cruise on the Mekong River** to Luang Prabang. The river is the national highway of Laos. Cruise past forested banks and riverside villages. The craggy mountain scenery is breathtaking with overhanging cliffs above the swift flowing river. Enroute, Lao typical villages are barely visible behind a screen of foliage. Slender canoes bobbing by the shore and bamboo poles and floats mark the location of nets and fish traps.



On route, pay a visit to **Ban Muangkham** where you will see the locals collecting riverweed to make one of the most distinctive snacks of Luang Prabang. Then you'll also stop to visit the charming spot of **Ban Xieng Mene**. The small district of Xiang men houses several temples worth visiting, including Wat Xiengmen and the once-important temple of Wat Long Khoun. Neither the most awe-inspiring nor grand of temples but it is definitely worth taking a look at.

Return to town center at around 15:30 and **make a stop at a small quiet temple to meet a local monk and interact with him to have a better understanding about Buddhism in Laos.**

This evening, take part in a **Baci ceremony with local people at a local home** to wish for safety, happiness and prosperity. After the ceremony, enjoy **beautiful classical and folk dances**, and take part in **Laos social dance "Lamvong"** with local people. You're also invited to try some Laos local food such as sticky rice, local canapés & tea and then be transferred to a local restaurant in downtown for dinner – your own account.

### Option 2: MandaLao Elephant Conservation

This morning at 08:00am, pick up at your hotel lobby and drive about 30mins to **MandaLao Elephant Conservation**. Upon arrival, you will be provided an in-depth introduction to elephant behavior and the ways to interact with them. Next, a quick **boat ride** across the Nam Khan River will deliver you to the waiting elephants. You will be introduced to your new friends and feed them some special treats—a sure way to begin an instant friendship.

Enjoy observing elephants from the riverbank as Mahouts wash them in the Nam Khan river. You can experience elephants washing, swimming and playing in the water. Please note this is voluntary activity for the elephants and Mandalao does not force them to get in the water. (On cold days the elephants are less likely to want to get wet.)



After 2 hours crossing through a beautiful stretch of traditional Lao gardens, you will arrive at the jungle covered Huay Nok stream. As you walk alongside the elephants and crisscross through the cool water, you will experience a profound sense of understanding, respect, and caring for these amazing animals. As you prepare to start your walk back to MandaLao, you will bid farewell to your new friends with more treats and goodbye hugs.

When you get back to MandaLao, you will head to the restaurant and enjoy a delicious fresh Lao meal made from our own organically grown produce. There you can relax, kick-back, and process the day's experiences on the veranda overlooking the river and misty mountains. Following lunch, you will take the short ride back into Luang Prabang and have one more chance to ask your guides any lingering questions. You will arrive back by approximately 13:30.

This evening, take part in a **Baci ceremony with local people at a local home** to wish for safety, happiness, and prosperity. After the ceremony, enjoy **beautiful classical and folk dances**, and take part in **Laos social dance "Lamvong"** with local people. You're also invited to try some Laos local food such as sticky rice, local canapés & tea and then be transferred to a local restaurant in downtown for dinner – on your own.

### **Option 3: Laos Living Land Farm**

After breakfast, meet with your private driver and head out at 08:00am to **Laos Living Land** for a morning tour at a community-based **living rice farm** in the idyllic countryside outside Luang Prabang. Surrounded by mountains and rice paddies, you'll have an opportunity to experience rural life as a Laotian farmer by trying your hand at various farm activities – or observing them from a traditional Lao rice house balcony, set amidst rice terraces and an organic vegetable farm. You'll have time to check out nearby workshops where local bamboo weavers, blacksmiths, and sugar cane processors practice their crafts. Then, take a tour of the organic garden to learn how natural herbs are used in traditional medicine.



After lunch, be transferred to town center for the balance of the afternoon at leisure.

This evening, take part in a **Baci ceremony with local people at a local home** to wish for safety, happiness and prosperity. After the ceremony, enjoy **beautiful classical and folk dances**, and take part in **Laos social dance "Lamvong"** with local people. You're also invited to try some Laos local food such as sticky rice, local canapés & tea and then be transferred to a local restaurant in downtown for dinner – your own account.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** [Sofitel Luang Prabang/ Garden Suite](#)

**Day 4– Tue, Jun 07: Luang Prabang Departure (Flight: Clients' own tickets)**

Your time will be your own until you'll be met to transfer to the airport for the international departure flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** None

**END OF SERVICES**

<b>Total Cost Per Person</b>	<b>Party of 2 people</b>	<b>Party of 3 - 5 people</b>	<b>Party of 6 - 10 people</b>	<b>Single Room Supplement</b>
	\$1,680.00	\$1,510.00	\$1,430.00	\$425.00

*Price quoted are subject to change until booking is paid & confirmed and is based on 2 people sharing a room*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Hotel / Room Category</b>
Luang Prabang	Sofitel Luang Prabang / Garden Suite

<b>Inclusive of</b>	<b>Non-inclusive of</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airport transfer service</li> <li>• Accommodation with daily breakfast</li> <li>• FastTrack services for international arrival in Laos</li> <li>• Private English-Speaking tour guides in each city of visit</li> <li>• All entrance fees</li> <li>• Meals as specified without drinks</li> <li>• Bottled water &amp; cold towels on sightseeing days</li> <li>• Economy Class Ticket: Bangkok/Luang Prabang</li> <li>• Special visits &amp; arrangements as indicated</li> <li>• All operation service charge and government tax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other flight tickets</li> <li>• PCR Tests</li> <li>• Laos E-Visa</li> <li>• Hotel early check in /Late check out</li> <li>• Overweight luggage</li> <li>• Personal expenses</li> <li>• Travel insurance</li> <li>• Tips &amp; gratuities</li> <li>• Other services not listed in inclusive column</li> </ul>

*Note: Regular check-in time at hotels is 14:00 and check-out time is 12:00.*