

**PATRONS TOUR**  
**LUANG PRABANG FILM FESTIVAL**  
**06 – 14 Dec 2017**  
**9 Days / 8 Nights**

We are very excited to invite you on a special tour to Laos (with optional add-ons to neighboring countries), specifically designed for supporters of the Luang Prabang Film Festival, which will take place 8-13 December 2017. The Luang Prabang Film Festival (LPFF) is an annual celebration of filmmaking in Southeast Asia with an additional aim of educating Lao people about film as a means of cultural expression and communication, while supporting a nascent local industry and art form. Since 2010, LPFF has supported and engaged local filmmakers seeking to develop the domestic industry and encouraged Southeast Asian filmmakers to contribute to an exchange between regional film industries. LPFF is one of the largest regular non-religious events in Laos, and the only major festival in the world that solely focuses on Southeast Asian cinema. Best of all, every single one of LPFF's screenings and activities is free and open to the public, and thus, they average 22,000 attendees to their events each year!

In its 8<sup>th</sup> year, LPFF continues to showcase films exclusively from the 10 ASEAN countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Many bold and talented filmmakers are emerging from these countries, telling exciting and profound stories. LPFF showcases the finest films from the region and invites the filmmakers to attend and present their films. Well over half of the festival's 32 feature films in 2016 will have directors, actors, and/or producers in attendance to participate in Q&A sessions and Public Discussions. This year, LPFF has chosen Thailand as its SPOTLIGHT country with extra films and presentations related to their film industry.

As VIP guests of the festival, you will have unique access to some of the most exciting and creative artists working in the film medium in Southeast Asia. Your included donation grants you an "All-Access Pass" to the festival, with invitations to private events just for filmmakers, collaborators, and other VIPs, plus bespoke activities just for patrons. The tour we have prepared will also show you some of the most beautiful natural and cultural sites in and around the World Heritage Site and ancient capital of Luang Prabang, including the Buddha Caves, Kuang Si Falls, the Bear Sanctuary and much more. By booking your tour with Exo Travel, LPFF's Official Travel Partner, you will not only be given access to the above activities, you will also be granted generously discounted rates exclusive to LPFF patrons during the festival period.

**Day 1 (6 Dec): Luang Prabang – Arrival****(-/-/-)**

Arrive in Luang Prabang. Your guide and private car will meet you and transfer you to your hotel for check-in.

Welcome to the spiritual capital of Laos, enjoy your free time at your leisure. We recommend a walk around the town.

Overnight in Luang Prabang

Distance and journey time:

Luang Prabang Airport – Luang Prabang (4 km): 15 min

**Day 2 (7 Dec): Luang Prabang****(B/-/-)**

Today enjoy Luang Prabang at your leisure.

**OPTIONAL: Half-day Cycling Tour of Luang Prabang**

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel in Luang Prabang at 09:00 with your adapted bikes.

After doing a fitting and adjusting your bike, you will start your tour by the former Royal Palace, now the National Museum, where you will explore the history of Laos. Continue to Wat Mai, a temple renowned for its golden bas-relief.

Visit Wat Visoun, the holiest temple in the city, which was entirely rebuilt in 1887 after being destroyed by the invading Black Flags from Southern China. In the courtyard of Wat Visoun stands the Watermelon Stupa shaped like the fruit from which it takes its name. Continue passed Wat Aham, which was first built in the 1500s, and on to Wat That where the ashes of King Sisavang Vong are kept inside the large central stupa.

Ride along the Nam Khan River to visit Wat Xieng Thong, the most revered temple in Luang Prabang. Located at the end of the peninsula, close to the Mekong, this temple was built in 1560 by King Setthathirat and is decorated with ornate carvings and mosaics.

Cycle to a local restaurant or your hotel by bike.

Price: from 78 USD per person (based on 2 people)



**OPTIONAL: Nava Mekong cruise to Pak Ou**

Enjoy a beautiful day exploring the northern region on this Luang Prabang Mekong River cruise. A short transfer will be provided to the city's sleepy jetty, where palm trees shade the river banks.

Board the Nava Mekong, a traditional wooden river boat oozing with charm. The wide, open-air seating area offers the perfect vantage point for viewing scenes of riverine life. Cast off and cruise upstream traveling at a leisurely pace. Limestone mountains and lush foliage set the backdrop as fishing boats pass by. The occasional riverside village punctuates the landscape.

After 2 hours, the Nava Mekong will dock at the Pak Ou caves. Take a short walk up the stairs to the cavernous entrance and stare in wonder at the centuries-old Buddha images. More than 4,000 images have been tucked into every nook and cranny over the years, providing a truly magical atmosphere. It is no surprise that the Lao people consider Pak Ou to be one of their most important spiritual sites.

Return to the ship and resume the Luang Prabang Mekong River cruise, drifting downstream back towards the city. Although following the same path, the ever-changing waterway always offers something new to see. The crew will serve a delicious lunch of freshly-prepared Lao specialties. Sourced from local ingredients and following traditional recipes, the meal is outstanding and made even more memorable thanks to the setting.

Around 14:00 the Nava Mekong will dock in Luang Prabang where a private car awaits. Return to the hotel for a rest or continue to explore the UNESCO Heritage city. **(L)**

Price: from 74 USD per person (based on 2 people)

Overnight in Luang Prabang

**Day 3 (8 Dec): Luang Prabang****(B/-/-)**

Today enjoy the Luang Prabang Film Festival at your leisure.

This evening, witness the opening ceremony and attend the opening reception as a VIP guest.

Overnight in Luang Prabang

**Day 4-8 (9 -13 Dec): Luang Prabang****(B/-/-)**

Today enjoy the Luang Prabang Film Festival at your leisure.

**OPTIONAL: Spiritual Awakening**

After breakfast at your hotel, guests will be transferred to the pier for a unique alms giving across the Mekong.

As we begin our morning cruise upstream, guests will have the opportunity to craft their own small 'Khan Dok Mai' (floral



offering) from banana leaves and marigolds. After plenty of time to enjoy the wonderful scenery offered by the Mekong in the beautiful morning light, guests will arrive at one of the several temples where people regularly pay homage.

Your host will guide you on how to present your offerings to the monks before they appear to receive the alms. Buddhist monks must refrain from eating after midday, therefore we like to offer alms prior to 11am out of respect and in order to give the monks time to bless their food and prepare for lunch themselves.

Once the offerings have been made, it will be time to make the way back to Luang Prabang's city or if time permits, perhaps another close by temple.

Transfer back to your hotel after a truly memorable morning.

Price: from 193 USD per person (based on 2 people)

#### **OPTIONAL: Picnic Breakfast at Kuang Si**

Your driver and guide will meet you at your hotel around 7:30am. You will travel by road for 40-45 minutes through countryside and rural villages, to the Kuang Si Waterfalls where you will be among the first visitors of the day. After a gentle walk of around 10 minutes you will find a private picnic breakfast waiting for you in our favourite spot, overlooking the natural turquoise pools which have formed between the



cascading layers of the falls. Every object has been sourced locally, from the hand-woven tablecloth and basketry to the freshly squeezed fruit juice and "Champagne of Coffee," which is grown in the Boloven Plateau, southern Laos. The menu includes fresh fruit with yoghurt and muesli, bagels with smoked salmon and cream cheese, and a selection of fresh breads, pastries and organic jam.

Having taken your time to enjoy a leisurely breakfast you might wish to spend some time walking around the various levels of the waterfall. You are also very welcome to swim in the natural pools. Please note that the water will be cold from November – March and if you do swim then please be careful not to show too much flesh (no skimpy bikinis please!).

Before you leave you might like to visit the bear sanctuary which is next to the falls, run by Free The Bears Fund Inc. There are currently 23 Asiatic Black Bears living in the sanctuary, which has saved them from poaching. The main threat to these bears is poaching due to the use of their bile in Chinese medicine. By around 10 am the bears are becoming more active, as they anticipate lunch, so this is the ideal time to see them, rather than at lunchtime when the majority of tourists will visit.

Then transfer back to Luang Prabang after a fascinating morning.

On the way back to Luang Prabang, you will stop at the Kuang Si Butterfly Park to visit the beautiful garden filled of hundreds of Laos's butterflies! (Note: closed on Tuesday)

Price: from 92 USD per person (based on 2 people)

**OPTIONAL: Walking With Giants ( Join- In) Maximum 4 persons**

Start this full day elephant encounter with a pick up from the hotel in Luang Prabang. Transport will be provided to the nearby village of Xieng Lom. Upon arrival, enjoy a coffee/tea while the guide provides a breakdown of the day's experiences and explains both elephant behaviour and how to interact with them.

After the brief introduction, take a short boat ride across the Nam Khan River where the elephants await. The guide and mahout will help to introduce the gentle giants, and there will be a chance to feed them some healthy treats shortly thereafter.

Winning their friendship, it's time to begin the hands-on experience! Joining the elephants in the river, use materials taken from the jungle to both scrub down and wash them. Coaxing them out of the water, embark on an unforgettable jungle trek alongside the creatures.

Cross through a beautiful stretch of Lao gardens before arriving to the jungle-clad Huay Nok Stream. The trek is not only naturally stunning, but also helps to establish a profound sense of understanding, respect, and caring for these amazing animals. After the trek, indulge in a traditional Lao lunch in the jungle, followed by a walk to the beautiful Tad Kuang Song Waterfall. Take a dip in the waterfall's pool, cool down under its spray or spend some time soaking in the private beauty of this natural treasure.

Continue with an interactive mahout lesson, learning how to read and communicate with the elephants. The demonstration displays the special skills each elephant has and provides some deeper insight into their individual personalities. After sitting through the presentation, enjoy some uninterrupted private time with the elephants. Experience first-hand why humans and elephants have shared such an unwavering bond for thousands of years.

Wrap up the experience alongside the mahouts, taking the elephants to their nighttime feeding grounds. After saying goodbye, reflect on the amazing experience and begin the trip back to Luang Prabang.

Price: from 142 USD per person (based on 1 -4 people)

Overnight in Luang Prabang

**Day 9 ( 14 Dec): Luang Prabang – Departure****(B/-/-)**

After your breakfast, spend your free time at your leisure. Your guide and private car will meet you at the hotel and transfer you to the airport for your departing flight.

Distance and journey time:

Luang Prabang– Luang Prabang Airport (4 km): 15 min

**\*\*\*\*\* END OF SERVICES \*\*\*\*\***

## RATES & CONDITIONS

### ACCOMMODATION:

#### FIRST CLASS

| City          | Hotel      | Hotel Category | Room Type |
|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Luang Prabang | The Apsara | First Class    | Standard  |

#### FIRST CLASS PRICING: in US Dollars per person for shared twin/double

Rates are valid until 14 December 2017

| Number of Persons  | 1    | 2    | 3-4  | 5-6  | SGL Supp. |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 06 Dec – 14 Dec 17 | 1610 | 1216 | 1204 | 1194 | 358       |

#### DELUXE 1

| City          | Hotel      | Hotel Category | Room Category |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Luang Prabang | Villa Maly | Deluxe         | Superior      |

#### DELUXE 1 PRICING: in US Dollars per person for shared twin/double

Rates are valid until 14 December 2017

| Number of Persons  | 1    | 2    | 3-4  | 5-6  | SGL Supp. |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 06 Dec – 14 Dec 17 | 2672 | 1709 | 1687 | 1687 | 929       |

#### DELUXE 2

| City          | Hotel                 | Hotel Category | Room Category |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Luang Prabang | Sofitel Luang Prabang | Deluxe         | Garden Suite  |

#### DELUXE 2 PRICING: in US Dollars per person for shared twin/double

Rates are valid until 14 December 2017

| Number of Persons  | 1    | 2    | 3-4  | 5-6  | SGL Supp. |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 06 Dec – 14 Dec 17 | 5249 | 2890 | 2878 | 2868 | 2322      |

#### DELUXE 3

| City          | Hotel                 | Hotel Category | Room Category       |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Luang Prabang | La Residence Phou Vao | Deluxe         | Garden Junior Suite |

#### DELUXE 3 PRICING: in US Dollars per person for shared twin/double

Rates are valid until 14 December 2017

| Number of Persons  | 1    | 2    | 3-4  | 5-6  | SGL Supp. |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 06 Dec – 14 Dec 17 | 6461 | 3385 | 3373 | 3363 | 3,039     |

**LPFF All Access Pass Includes:**

- VIP ID Tag – same was the ones exhibiting filmmakers are given
- Entrance to the exclusive, invite-only LPFF Opening Reception and Red Carpet
- Invitation to private meals or cocktail hours with visiting filmmakers
- Festival preview event with insider recommendations by the Selection Committee
- Discounts at numerous restaurants and businesses in Luang Prabang
- Preferential hotel rates exclusive to LPFF when booked through Exo Travel
- Festival t-shirt and welcome bag
- Reserved seating for the films of your choice
- Complimentary water, soda, and beer at the Day Venue

**Exo Services Include:**

- Hotel accommodation in shared twin/double room with daily breakfast
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Tours and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles
- English speaking local guide (for other languages supplements apply)
- All entrance fees as indicated in itinerary
- A \$750 tax-deductible donation per person to the Luang Prabang Film Festival, through the US-based 501(c)(3) Luang Prabang Fund for Culture and Conservation

**Exo Services do not Include:**

- International and domestic flights (quoted separately)
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Camera/video entrance fees
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance, tips, visa
- Other services not clearly indicated in the package inclusions above