

Mekong River Cruise Laos Revealed 8-Day Cruise through Northern Laos from Chiang Rai to Luang Prabang (or vice versa)

Route: Golden Triangle, Huay Xai, Pak Tha, Pakbeng, Pak Ou, Luang Prabang, Kuang Si, Luang Prabang



Dates 2018

Luang Prabang – Chiang Rai	Chiang Rai – Luang Prabang
19 Jan – 26 Jan 2018 (Peak Season) <i>with Mekong Pearl</i>	07. Oct – 14. Oct 2017 (High Season) <i>with Mekong Pearl</i>
04 Jun – 11 Jun 2018 (Green Season) <i>with Mekong Pearl</i>	28 Jan – 04 Feb 2018 (Peak Season) <i>with Mekong Pearl</i>
03 Aug – 10 Aug 2018 (Green Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	10 Aug – 17 Aug 2018 (Green Season) / FR** <i>with Mekong Sun</i>
18 Aug – 25 Aug 2018 (Green Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	27 Aug – 03 Sep 2018 (Green Season)* <i>with Mekong Sun</i>
06 Oct – 13 Oct 2018 (High Season)* <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	15 Oct – 22 Oct 2018 (Peak Season) / FR** <i>with Mekong Sun</i>
30 Oct – 06 Nov 2018 (Peak Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	07 Nov – 14 Nov 2018 (Peak Season) / FR** <i>with Mekong Sun</i>
24 Nov – 01 Dec 2018 (Peak Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	04 Dec – 11 Dec 2018 (High Season)* <i>with Mekong Sun</i>
18 Dec – 25 Dec 2018 (High Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>	03 Jan – 10 Jan 2019 (Peak Season) <i>with Mekong Sun</i>

* date upon request. Currently chartered ;

** minimum number of French speaking guest is 2

Downstream Chiang Rai – Luang Prabang

Day 1. Chiang Rai – The Golden Triangle - Embarkation

Meet and greet at 11:30am in Chiang Rai city. Transfer by Bus to the Golden Triangle area at Chiang Saen. You will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant overlooking the Mekong before visiting the Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and the modern Hall of Opium. This fascinating museum, sponsored by the royal family of Thailand, gives a deep background on the history and politics of the opium trade and the health effects of opium abuse using multimedia exhibitions.

In the evening embark on the RV Mekong Sun, a comfortable German-Laotian Boutique Cruise ship. Settle into your comfortable cabin and unpack for a seven night cruise. Tonight you can enjoy the spacious decks, lounge on board and attend your evening welcome reception.

Overnight on board. Meals included: Lunch (L) and Dinner (D).

Day 2. Welcome to Laos

This morning your cruise will take you from the Golden Triangle region between Burma, Laos and Thailand into the People's Democratic Republic of Laos (Most nationalities can obtain visa on arrival here against USD in cash plus passport sized picture, pls. inquire with your local embassy about visa regulations). From the town of Huay Xay on the Laotian - Thai border your voyage leads into northern Laos amidst beautiful scenery.

Continue to the small village of Pak Tha, where we join a longtail boat for a trip up the Nam Tha River to visit a remote Khmu village. You will visit a small village school sponsored by guests of Mekong River Cruises.

Overnight on board. Meals included: breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D).

Day 3. Pakbeng

The river traffic increases as you pass through a densely populated region accessible only by water. Relax on deck, in your comfortable cabin or in the lounge and soak up the remote scenery.

Our voyage continues to the small town of Pak Beng, where we hope to meet elephants in a nearby camp. Once back on your Mekong cruise you will continue downstream and anchor at a sand bank.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 4. Pak Ou Caves

After a relaxing morning onboard we stop at a small riverside village for a visit and to see their local distillery. From here, you can optionally go on a short jungle trek through the forest to the famous Pak Ou Caves, with thousands of small Buddha statues inside the caverns.

Alternatively you can reach the caves comfortably by boat as well. This evening we enjoy our famous Mekong River Cruises BBQ dinner in a beautiful riverside location.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 5. UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang

Today you reach Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin with a walk up Phou Si-hill, which offers a spectacular view over the Mekong as well as the Khan river and the surrounding mountains. Among other highlights during this full day excursion through Luang Prabang, the famous Wat Xieng Thong temple with its Golden tiled roofs will surely leave you in awe. In the evening, enjoy strolling along the Mekong promenade or visiting the colorful night market of the local Hmong minority. As Luang Prabang offers many opportunities for fine dining, tonight you are free to choose from the numerous offerings in town or along the Mekong River.

Overnight on board. (BL)

Day 6. The Mighty Mekong

In the early morning you will be able to visit the traditional giving of alms in the streets of Luang Prabang. Breakfast is on board. Today you will experience more of the town during a morning visit and enjoy the unique atmosphere provided by the abundance of well-preserved French colonial architecture mingling with traditional Buddhist temples. After returning back on board for lunch your cruise will take you further downriver, where you will discover some of the most remarkable, most impressive landscapes of this still-untamed river. The landscape becomes more and more spectacular: hills covered with tropical vegetation, awe-inspiring rock formations along the river banks, and a fascinating array of fast currents and slower river parts on the river. The power of the mighty Mekong will give your cruise the feeling of a real expedition.

Enjoy the beautiful views and watch nature's wonders along the shores before you stop at a remote sandbank for the night.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 7. Kuang Si Waterfalls

An excursion by local Tuk Tuks will take you to the Kuang Si-falls, one of the most attractive waterfalls in Laos. Back aboard your cruise returns northbound reaching Luang Prabang after lunch. This afternoon you are free to explore the beautiful town on your own pace, rent an E-bike to reach some of the lively outskirts of the town (optionally against premium) or spend some time shopping for souvenirs or presents for your loved ones at home. In the evening enjoy a traditional Lao Baci Ceremony and watch some local dances on board before celebrating with your local crew your farewell dinner.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 8. Disembarkation

After breakfast you will say goodbye to your Laotian crew. Check-out and disembark. End of services with your transfer to the airport or your hotel in Luang Prabang (within city limits)

Breakfast on board. (B)

Upstream Luang Prabang – Chiang Rai

Day 1. Luang Prabang - Embarkation

Upon your arrival at Luang Prabang airport you will be picked up and transferred to town. In the afternoon, you will embark on the Mekong Sun, a comfortable new Laotian cruise ship (Check in is after 4 PM). Settle into your accommodating cabin and unpack for an eight day cruise. Begin with a walk up Phou Si-hill, which offers a spectacular sunset view over the Mekong as well as the Khan river and the surrounding mountains. In the evening, enjoy strolling along the Mekong promenade or visiting the colorful night market of the local Hmong minority. Enjoy the spacious decks, lounge on board and attend our welcome reception and dinner this evening. A selection of Asian and European food will be provided throughout the cruise.

Overnight on board. (D)

Day 2. Luang Prabang

Breakfast on board. Today the ship stays in Luang Prabang, while we take you on a full day of sightseeing to get to know the beauties of this UNESCO World Heritage town. Apart from numerous temples, the atmosphere is enriched by neighboring French colonial architecture. As Luang Prabang offers many opportunities for fine dining, tonight you are free to choose from the numerous offerings in town or along the Mekong River.

Overnight on board. (BL)

Day 3. Pak Ou Caves

Breakfast is on board. Today your spectacular cruise begins with the departure from Luang Prabang from where you will cruise north and visit a Laotian village and observe the traditional production of Lao-Lao, the local liqueur. After a short walk through the jungle you will explore the famous Pak Ou Caves, with thousands of small Buddha statues inside the caverns. The night is spent on a secluded river bank or sandbank.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 4. Pak Beng

The river traffic thins out as you proceed upstream, and you can enjoy the fantastic landscapes along the river. The scenery along the river is incredible... With a little luck you will be able to see working elephants in action today (unless they are busy with an off-site contract by the time of your visit). Later, that day you will have a short stop in the market town of Pakbeng.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 5. Pak Tha

Today is a day to take it all in – relax on deck, in your comfortable cabin or in the lounge and soak up the untouched scenery. The diversity of the landscape is astonishing, now shifting to tropical hills in the background. Enjoy the tranquility of northern Laos, a real retreat from the hustle-and-bustle of daily life. As you cruise along the green hills, you will start heading upstream towards Pak Tha.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 6. Pak Tha – Huay Xay

As you cruise along the green hills, you will start heading upstream towards Pak Tha. At Pak Tha, a small village, you will take off on a long-tail boat excursion on the Namtha River to visit a Khmu village. You will also visit a small village school sponsored by guests of the Mekong Sun. The purely natural landscape is only broken by the seldom sights of small villages and local herds of cattle. Enjoy the comfort and service onboard: exclusive, yet casual, you'll share the boat with no more than 30 fellow guests. Today you proceed to the Thai-Laotian border at Chiang Khong (Thailand) and Ban Huay Xay (Laos). You will then spend a last relaxing dinner and evening in Laos.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 7. The Golden Triangle

Today is spent on an excursion to the Golden Triangle area at Chiang Saen, where you will visit the Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and the new Hall of Opium. This fascinating museum, sponsored by the royal family of Thailand, gives a deep background on the history and politics of the opium trade and the health effects of opium abuse. This last evening on board will be celebrated with a farewell dinner.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 8. Farewell

After breakfast you will say goodbye to your Laotian crew. Check-out and disembark. *Depending on season and water level the check-out will either be at Chiang Saen or Chiang Khong.*

Breakfast on board. (B)

NOTE: *Every river cruise on the upper Mekong is a pioneering experience and is subject to constantly changing river conditions, including floodwaters and shallows. Therefore please understand that we must reserve the right to alter the itinerary of this tour due to the logistical complexities involved. Small deviations in the tour program are sometimes necessary, depending on weather and river conditions. For safety reasons and according to navigating conditions, these programs may be amended without previous notice.*

Costing Information

Tour prices include

- ✓ 7 overnights aboard your boutique river vessel Mekong Sun
- ✓ All meals and tour program as per above itinerary
- ✓ Coffee, tea and water during meal times on board
- ✓ All excursions and necessary entry fees
- ✓ Presentations and lectures by your cruise director
- ✓ Transfers from Chiang Rai airport or your hotel in town and to Luang Prabang airport or your hotel in town

Travel documents and vaccinations

- Passport and visas required
- No vaccinations are prescribed

Not included

- Visa fees
- Alcoholic and soft drinks, tips, personal expenses or not mentioned services of any kind
- Any flights; Video or photography-fees (if requested during excursions)

Payment Conditions

- Deposit payment of 30% of the travel price has to be paid directly upon receipt of the travel confirmation/invoice.
- Rest payment has to be made until 70 days prior to departure.

Cancellation Conditions

- 40 days prior to the start of the cruise: 30 % of the total rate
- 30 days prior to the start of the cruise: 50 % of the total rate
- 14 – 20 days prior to the start of the cruise: 90 % of the total rate
- Less than 14 days prior to the start of the cruise: non-refundable

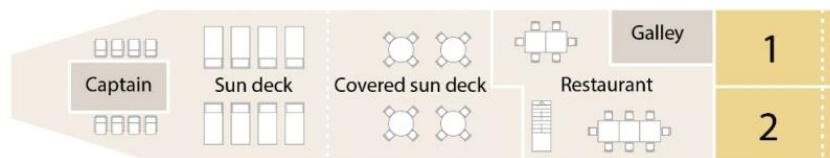
Your Boutique Vessel: Mekong Sun



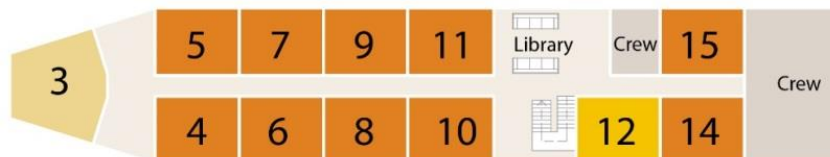
- Operating in Laos and Thailand since 2006
- 2 decks with 14 cabins
- 10 classic cabins on the main deck (129 sq ft), all facing out onto the water, with wide, sliding windows and a French balcony for an excellent view of the passing landscape
- 3 superior cabins, 2 cabins (194 sq ft) on the upper deck with small private balcony; one cabin (172 sq ft) on the bow of the Sun with panoramic view to the front

- 1 economy cabin #12 on the main deck (12 m²/129 sq ft), facing out onto the water, with wide, sliding windows and a French balcony for an excellent view of the passing landscape, close to stairway
- All cabins with en-suite shower/WC and air conditioning
- Large sun deck with bar service and restaurant/bar area
- All offshore excursions guided in English

Upper Deck



Main Deck

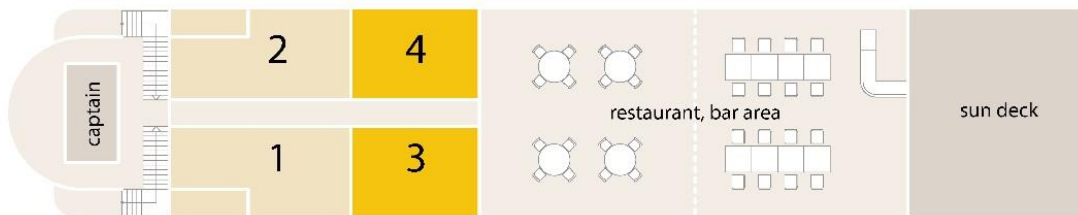


- Classic twin cabins (4 - 11, 14, 15)
- Economy twin cabin (12)
- Superior cabins
1 and 2: Twin cabins with balcony
3: Double cabin with panoramic view

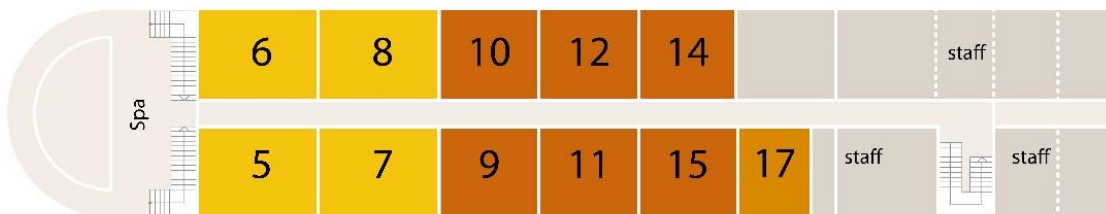
Your Boutique Vessel: Mekong Pearl

- Operating in Laos and Thailand since autumn 2017
- 2 decks with 15 cabins
- 6 Classic cabins on the main deck (12 m²/129 sq ft), all facing out onto the water, with wide, sliding windows and a French balcony for an excellent view of the passing landscape
- 1 SGL Classic cabin on the main deck
- 6 Superior cabins (16 m²/194 sq ft), 4 cabins on the main deck and 2 cabins on the upper deck; with wide, sliding windows and a French balcony
- 2 Deluxe cabins (22 m²) on the upper deck with private balcony
- All cabins with en-suite shower/WC and air conditioning
- Large sun deck with bar service and restaurant/bar area
- SPA area on the main deck
- All offshore excursions guided in English
- 18 persons staff care about 29 travellers maximum

Upper deck



Main deck



- Classic cabins (9 – 12, 14 – 16)
- Single cabin (17)
- Superior cabins (3 – 8)
- Deluxe cabins with private balcony (1, 2)