

wet season: JUN > SEP

TO DO:

Vietnam visa application 4 US citizen

GEN:

Internet cafés: Wi-Fi w/ Mac/Linux laptop or iPad: best

Mobile phone: mushroomed, w/ 4 competing GSM operators; 2 w/ roaming.

Tourist & expats: prefer Tigo or M-phone (Laotel),

Lao Telecom [22] agreements w/ some 30 int'l networks - C roaming w/ Lao Telecom [23].

Beeline (aka Tigo): agreements w/ 100+ Int'l networks - C roaming w/ Tigo [25]. low-cost int'l rate > many countries, if: their SIM card & dial "177" instead of "+". BUT, poor coverage in rural areas.

ETL Mobile [26]: BETTER coverage in rural & remote areas; but not "everywhere". ; May have low-cost int'l. [27]

Unitel (Starphone - old name): most networks gov't tapped.

MONEY

1 USD = 8,125.46 LAK (kip)

8kK LAK = .9845\$ USD

2 kinds of local currency?

Banks: **CONFUSED** GUD; private exchange booths: major tourist areas.

Denominations: 100,000 kip (uncommon); **common:** 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000, 20,000 & 50,000 kip. Withdrawing maximum of 1,000,000 kip from an ATM could result in. CAUTION: ATM may give back: 50 notes of 20,000 kip 4 withdrawing 1,000,000 kip 4 1 -- inconvenient.

US\$ can sometimes accepted, although @ 5-10% discount. ANZ bank ATMs allow 4 withdrawals of up > 2,000,000 kip, however charge 40,000 kip i.e. DBL normal rate, but may offset by US bank's 1 vs 2 transaction fee..

Bath

recommended Laotian experience **herbal sauna**. Often run by temples, R frequently just rickety bamboo shack w/ stove & pipe of water on 1 side. Usually open only in evenings, procedure 4 visit usually :

Enter & pay. Typically rate around 10,000 kip, plus around 40,000 kip 4 an OPT massage afterward.

Go > changing room, take off clothes & wrap up in sarong which usually provided.

Keeping modestly sarong-clad, go > shower or water bucket in 1 corner & CLN .

Plunge into sauna room. will dark, hot & steamy inside, w/ intense herbal scents of lemongrass & whatever sauna master cooking that day. will soon start > sweat profusely.

When had enough, exit sauna, sip on little weak tea & marvel @ how tropical heat of day now feels cool & refreshing.

Repeat @ will.

Season/Climate: **dry season** -- Nov > Mar: = low rainfall & temp -low- 15°C (or even > zero in mtn @ night),

"high tourist season"; in late Mar smoke-hazy

N Laos**Laung Prabang** LP146**Visa:****Consulate General of Vietnam in Luang Prabang, Laos**

Address: No. 427-428, That Bo Sot village, Luang phrabang town, Luang phrabang province, Laos

Phone: (856) 071 25474

Fax: (856) 071 25474

Your Email: luongpb@yahoo.com.vn TRANS-IN/OUT: **Local MYAN knowledge**

TRANS-LOCAL:**TRANS- OUT****GEN:**

Former royal capital; falls & caves, down Mekong RIV trip, colonial ARCH,
Xmas prices higher, constantly new GH opening,

VIC/TIC:

Prov Tourist Dept: LPm150; not very useful
Kevin's LP city maps

FOOD: C LP164-5

'orlam' (aw lam): meat , mushrooms, eggplant bitter spicy wood chips (don't swallow)
'khai paen' : seaweed-like, river-weed fried w/ sesame seeds & sweet-spicy jam-like condiment

ACCM:

Ban Hoxieng: GUD value & CNTR LOC in compact area behind Post Off
Premium 4 places NE of PAL

HW:

YES Liberty: S 16;

REV: PRO: quiet vibe , fridge, safe, GUD Brkfst, GUD tours, , airport PU, Very GUD staff, GUD

LOC, RM cln daily,

CON: bad mattresses,

TIP:

need > know LOC B4 hand, slow wifi,

when telling tuktuk driver name of GH, say "Lie-berty" not "Liberty"

FAC: /c, wifi, 24hr hot show, towel, brkfst, LUG STOR, /c, ceil-fan, wifi, hot show, lock,

Nocknoy Lanexang GH: NEW; 2/5/5xdm \$6,

PRO: GUD: staff, quiet st, NOT party

CON: 2dm- 2 sm;

FAC:m Bike, brkfst, ceil fan, w/d, rest, a/c, lock, KIT, shuttle BUS ?

Private RM ONLY:

? Namkhan Riverswide: 8.6 , P\$10

? Sokdee GH LP: 9.4; P \$5

? Singaharet GH: 8.1; P\$12

Villa Merry Lao III: 84; P\$13: Eng

Cheng BP HHOS 1: 5.4; 6m, 6x dm \$5-7, basic Sgl: \$9, : 2 REV, but seems not liked

FAC: no brkfst, JA style futon, lug stor, bike,

X3 HOS / Xayana GH: GUD 8DM, exce3 Hostel,I Value, No direct acces, HW shows no VAC 4 months

new, CLN, GUD mattress

FAC: ceil fan, LUG STOR, /C, wifi,

NO Matata GARD GH: 7.6, 4xd\$15,

PRO: GUD: LOC, bed, ;;; no moskies, plugs, locks,

CON: DOGS

? Muenna 1989 GH: NEW; 4xdm\$10;

FAC: bike, ceil fan,w/d, shuttle BUS ?, a/c, lock, APT, NO brkfst, lug stor,

IFFY:

Padichith GH: OK beds, hot show, , similar in same alley

Paphai GH:

NO

NO Khammany House: 6.9/645R; REV: PROS: GUD wifi, CON: dirty, Not GUD staff, CATs, bad beds (2), FAC: bikes

NO Kounsavan Guest House 8.5/600R;

REV: PRO: priv rm: friendly staff, CLN, GUD /C, far from DMs/quiet, ; 2) Asia's best;

CON: NOT GUD trav, bad wifi, always party jammed, no security, unsecure BAG STOR,

FAC: bike, LUG STOR (?), /c, wifi, (NOT GUD), Lock, towels, NON-smok

NO CNTR BP Hostels: 7.1/298R , 4/10DM, BETTER \$ OPT in town(LIEs -- wifi thruout, /c, hot s

REV: PRO: quiet, GUD LOC, brkfst, wifi lobby only (?), GUD staff,

CON: dirty sheets, moskies, poor wifi - not ismelled, DMs cold show, poor CHK'd out early,

NO Mojo: 10DM, REV: Pro: GUD wifi,

CON: bad PRV RM, con trolled water, unsfae Dm, (NO Dm in future), cig smok

NO Sisombath House: 7.5/71R; 4/6DM,

REV:PRO:, CLN & lrg, GUD LOC, fall tour, GUD staff, GUD brkft,, GUD show, quiet,

CON: no brkfst ?, many **moskies** cuz pond, **BAD wifi**, 1 /key/rm, lazy staff, **no hot water** (very cold), **staff dominates common rm**

FAC: (**LIE** -- brkfst, ceiling fan, wifi, /c. , no SMOK, child friendly

NO Sengphet GH: twn CNTR,

REV: Pro: GUD staff, :: quiet, ceiling fan, 6 nites, family, CLN, **CATS**

Con: weak wifi (get rm near router)

NO: Soutione GH 1&2:.....Saylom Khemkhong GH.... Mala

SITES:**WALKING TOUR:****½D****Morning MKT:****38B5 TAEC: (closed MON): (2; LP151)**C: N Laos's ethnic exhibit , **Le Patio** (LP166) croissantsTHEN, thru res homes maze > **Phu Si's** S side

THEN, climb >

39C4 That Chomsi (3; LP149),

OR,

Continue instead around hill via

21D3 Buddha's Oversized footprint' (4; LP149)

THEN, descend > main COM ST thru

58E1 Wat Siphouthabat Thippaham (5; LP149)

THEN, if B4 11am visit ...

36B3 Royal PAL MUS (6;LP148)

THEN< follow footpaths thru Ban Xieng Mouane (7;) > ...

Mekong Waterfront's (8;) : cafe terraces & Fr COL houses

THEN, if not after early morn Monk's Alms Procession , C atmospheric wats up peninsula's spine ?

THEN, 62E1 Wat Xieng Thong (9; LP153)

THEN, back along

Nam Khan waterfront (10;)

THEN, cross bamboo bridge (dry season only) 4 lunch @

120D3 Dyen Sabai REST (11; LP146)

NOTE: in WET season, GOTO ...

124C4 Lao Lao GARD (12; LP164) or secret path > Utopia (13; LP166)

Main CNTR LP: LPm150**3½h****36B3 Royal PAL MUS (Ho KHAM) LPm150, 8a-11a, 1:30-3:30p W-M LPm150)****1h**

1904, TRAD Lao & Fr beaux-arts, GUD ENG & audio guide,

Main PAL BLDG: (from S), former Supreme Patriarch of Lao Buddhism's gilded Dias; Cs old metal drums**Main Throne RM:** mirror-glass mosaics,> **R:** King's Reception RM: Gauguinesque-like Lao life canvases**Behind Throne RM:** Royal RES QRTs: reflect 1975 King's DP**Kid's RM:****Exhibition halls** Beneath & entered from W side:: temporary exhibits**Outbuilding:** 2 Lincoln Continentals & rare wing-edged 58 Edsel Citation**Pha Bang:** 83cm gold alloy Buddha (city's name);**¼h****LOC:** easy->-miss little RM; **DIRECS:** E on PAL EXT S terrace > end: peeps thru bars;**NOTE:** rumor that ORIG in Vientiane or Moscow w/ gold over eyes & hole in 1 ankleLegend: cast 1st C AD in Sri Lanka, tho Kymer style, (14th C - more probable),**Wat Ho Pha Bang:** multi-roofed TEMP designed 4 Pha Bang Buddha (notice throne space); ½h
16-man gilt palanquin 4 Pha Bang hauled parades**49B4 WAT MAI Su wan na phu ma ham, 1821, replace 1796 orig****½h****LOC:** beside PAL, Wat Mai: OOM sumptuous MON:Wo oden *sim* (ordination hall) w/ 5 tiered roof in LP style;unusually roofed 'front veranda': detailed gold reliefs: VILL life, Ramayana & Buddha's penultimate birth

1887, Ha gangs did not destroy cuz 'too beautiful'; NOW, top Buddhist's RES

PHOU SI (Phu Si): 1h**LOC:** old city CNTR; steep hill w/ gilded stupa: **That Chomsi** LPm150, 6:30a-7p, DON fee)

From DIST seems > float in air, Grt Views, war remnant cannon

DIRECS:(A) **Ascend from NW side opposite MUS**(36B3) > (1) **Wat Pa Huak** (LPm150,DON fee) abandoned, but intricately carved gable ends of '*sim*'

-- (? OOfew TEMPS NOT over-renovated, carved wood facade:

Buddha rides multi-trunked Hindu Airavata)

THEN, (2) lrg rnd stup (site's TIK booth), THEN, (3) gilded stupa of

Wat Chom Si on top, ALSO, nearby (4) sm chapel: '*wilharn*',(B) **THEN walk hill's spine > NE & descend from NW >** THEN, (1) revolution's gun

emplacment, THEN, > (2) Wat Phra Buddabhat (BUD footprint) by Xing sm bridge-like w/ white & 1 blk railing, THEN, around other side of Kuan Ou STAT > stair down > Khan RIV

(also Wat Wisunalat further on)

INT: extensive fragments: 1860 historic Mekong RIV scenes, muralsS & E side Descent: **Wat Siphouthabat Thippaharam (LPm150)**Miniature **Buddah's** (Brontosaurus sized) **footprint** shrine(free)**Directly SW:** series of new gilded Buddhas around **Wat Thammothayalan** (fee)**38B5 TAEC: N Laos hill-tribe culture MUS; delightful cafe; former Judge's 1920's mansion ¾h**

XIENG MOUANE AREA: LPm150**3¼h****51C3 Wat Pa Phai:** (LPm150): Classic everyday Lao life scenes frescos,

½h

THEN, across ST:

51C3~ Fr CUL CNTR: on footpath > behind >:

¼h

45C3 Villa Xieng Mouane: (LPm150): authentic TRAD longhouse on stilts,

½h

THEN, beside :

6C3 Heritage House INFO CNTR: (LPm150): photos etc: UNESCO HIST BLDGs

½h

THEN, behind > ..

61C3 Wat Xieng Mouane: (LPm150): 1879, LPTEMP maintenance skills > young monks:

¾h

woodcarving, painting, Buddha casting, lost skills after 1975 revolution,

THEN, Next door ...

47C3 Wat Choumkhong GARD: (Map 150):

¾h

Lanes & passages > mekong RIV, colonial era houses, cafes,

Fibre2Fabric shop/MUS: orig minority costumes,**UPPER PENINSULA AREA: LPm150****4¾h**

MONs w/saffron-clad, early morn monk alms hunting

*** 62E1 Wat Xieng Thong:** (LP153): OOM celebrated, ... others quieter, few tourists

½h

Classic everyday Lao life scenes frescos,

52F1 Wat Pakkhan: (LPm150): simple, archaic,

½h

THEN, across ST ...

44F1 UNESCO Offices (former custom's office): colonial era villa

¼h

44F51~ HOT Mekong Riverside VIEWPOINT:

¼h

44F51~ THEN, @ far peninsula tip: "bamboo bridge": rebuilt every dry season

½h

NOTE: **DIRECS:** shortcut > **Ban Xang Khong** (LP157): 1km > NE**58E1 Wat Souvannakhill MON** (Wat Khili; LPm150):

½h

Sm sim : classic now-rare Xieng Khuang style

56E2 Wat Sensoukaram: (Th Sakkarin; LPm150), OOM dazzling facades

½h

1718: 100k K fortune > build

62E1 Wat Xieng Thong (LPm150, fee), 6a-5:30p): best knowns, but most visited;

¾h

1560: classic local design *sim*, low > grnd roofs,**EXT:** W wall: "tree of life" mosaic; ,**INT:** gold stencil work, 1887 , Blk Flag destruction spared cuz leader studied here3 compact chapel-hals "haw": 1) **Haw Tai:** tall tomb shaped, 2&3) ext mirror shard mosaics of local VILL life**Haw Tai Pha Sai-nyaat:** (rare reclining Buddha cuz exquisitely sinuous body w/ "Oh, whatever" hand position) contrast w/ die-straight legs & rocket fume curling robes**Hohng Kep Mien:** ceremonial 'urn carrying' carriage garage w/ lavish gilt-work; 7 red tongued nagas, contrasting w. Bridgestone tires**60C6 Wat Wisuarat** (Wat Visoun) Area: 2 LP's M-IMP TEMPS

½h

42D5 That Makmo (Watermellon Stupa) (LPm150,); 1503, 1887 pillaged, ugly 1932 renov` ,

¼h

THEN facing above TEMP ----

60C6 Wat Wisunarat: (LPm150, fee - **Worth ? : Don't know**) : actually post-1887 reconstruct; ?**46C5 Wat Aham:** (20k K fee - **not justifiable**) , 8a-5p):

¼h

former top dog RES until replaced by Wat Mai, (LP149), colorful, but UN sophisticated Buddha HIST murals (gruesome)

S of CNTR: use bike LPm146**4h***** 5C4 UXO Laos INFO CNTR (LPm146, p32):****¾h**

Grt insight into past/ current 2nd Indochina War destruction; **LOC**: behind new park w/ lrg clapping 'Red Prince' STAT

THEN, winding lanes > W

¼h**8C4 Wat Manorum** (Wat mano, Wat Manolom LPm146, Th PHA Mahapatsaman)

Amid frangipani trees, maybe oldest LP TEMP site; STAT hacked in 1887, reconstructed: 1919/1971

53A5 Wat Pha Mahathat (Wat THat; LPm 150,)**½h**

1548, Lanna-style stupa; 1910 front sim: carved windows, rosette-gilded pillars & ZRT Buddah past life reliefs

10B4 Wat That Laung: (LPm146, 10k K fee, 8a-6p):TRAD Lao royalty cremation site**½h****9A4 Wat Phabaht:** (LPm146, 10k K fee) : kitschy spires array**½h**

DIRECS: behind Mekong-front terrace down > another gigantic Buddha footprint

9A4~ Talat MKT:**1h**

THEN, **DIRECS**: down tiny lane leads 200m towards Mekong >

9A4~ OckPopTok Living Crafts CNTR: (off LPm146, free &, 9a-5p):**½h**

DIRECS: just beyond Talat MKT

TRAD styled weavers, spinner, batik-maker's workshop
free silk production & dye-making tours

ACROSS MEKONG RIV > Muang Chomphet: diff VILL vibe LPm146**5¼h**

TRANS: (take bike 4 hiking part - don't know)

½h

X-RIV boats DFP near Navigation Office (4 FEE: 5k K,)

ALT: from anywhere \$ 20,000K/boat - expensive

GUD OPT: IF ater levels allow: hire 20k K boat > Wat Longkhun jetty, THEN, walk back >

Ban Xieng Maen > main Xing point (Usual way OK, less expensive)

DIRECS: Above ferry landing ...

3B2 Laos Jewel Land TRAV:(LPm146, 8a-4p), district maps 4 sale;**¼h**

from traffic-free Ban Xieng Maen VILL ON scattered E along riverbank

11C1 Wat Xieng Maen: (LPm146, 5k K,) colorful sim, stenciled columns w/ US donors**½h****11C1 Ban Xieng Maen's:** long narrow brick-edged ST ...**½h**

.... slowly degrades > ruff TRK > rocky footpath

6C1 Wat Chomphet: (LPm146, 5k K), uninteresting, but GUD views**¼h****7D1 Wat Longkhun:** (LPm146, 5k K,) cohesive rustic style,**½h**

CNTR sim: old murals w/ curious sense of perspective: giant fish attacking shipwrecked sailors

Tham Sakkalin: (LPm146, fee incld in Wat Longkhun fee)

¼h

NOTE: TIK desk can provide key & torches req'd > visit,

THEN, 3 min walk E & up stairs; flick switch > R of door: very little lite 4 slippery cave flr

½h

Novelty: heat cave creates rather than cool expected

THEN< 20 min walk further E >

Wat Had Siaw (off LPm146, fee)

½h

DIRECS: GO R @ unpromising fork about ½ way along after main path turns inland (will pass lonely hut & cross 1-plank stream-bridge en route)

THEN, wooded, birded hill path up > ... (15min)

Gilt Buddha on 7 headed snake:

½h

ACROSS NAM KHAN RIV ---- LPm150**2³/₄h****TRANS:**

Dry Season: 2 bamboo PED bridge

WET Season: 1 'Old Bridge' PED/ bike

55D3 Wat Punluang: (LPm150)

1/2h

DIRECS: X S bamboo bridge > climb steps >THEN, dusty RD > L - 2km passing ...**? Watpakha Xainggaram:** (LPm150) ruined TEMP shell **(Vang Vieng ?)**

1h

54F2 Wat Phonsaat (LPm150):

1/4h

? Wat Xiengleck (Wat Xieng Lec)(off LPm 150): >

1/4h

(VV ?) wobbly old brick stupa, Angkor Wat style

ALSO (??): Wat Sang Khong, Wat Nong Sai pagodas

, 1/2km further >

Ban Xang Khong: (off LPM150): - craft VILL ; 2 mi from LP CNTR,

3/4h

Lue peeps of VILL noted 4 arts & crafts: Laos silk & ...trad mulberry tree Saa paper

DIRECS: several bamboo bridges; can walk from LP.

BIKE: @ N STA: take the little wooden bridge

WALK: @ N STA, continue 4 50 yds, THEN, turn L (just after petrol STA), THEN,
go straight on: VILL on L, along Mekong.**4 LP again:** continue on dirt track, bring U back to little wooden bridge.**Advice :** Bike's easy cuz flat road tho congested near Petrol STA; avoid tourists:(9h00 - 11h00)**Look 4** 400m of sm old houses & weaver/papermakers craft shops:**Best: Artisans du Mekong:** (off LPm150) behind giant 'tusk' gateway , snacks also

DT:

Kuang Si Waterfall: C “Kuang Si Waterfall - TRANS.pdf” (Note graphic here)

4hr

OOM IMP LP highlights; single lrg cascade tumbles from jungle feeding series of falls & pools that make perfect swimming holes in cool turquoise water.

Facts: 23 km, approx 45 tuk-tuk mins, Fee: 20 k K; changing huts, snacks vendors selling.

Some pools: sacred. SO, obey signs, swim only where permitted. BUY Free Bears t-shirt @ **Bear Sanctuary** (HUH?) inside Kuang Si park: included w/ admission). **Read feature I wrote about Free Bears Laos on Travelfish**

Trails: Only 15-min walk from bottom > big falls; hard soil, fairly level, BUT slippery when wet.

**DIRECS:**

Shared PUB minivan: TRAV agents sell spots on PUB minivan shuttle; quality varies, but MAY B C. **Set departure** (11:30 am & 1:30 pm) **& return times** (**LockNow**) . 60kK

Pro: cheapest

Con: INDV HOT PUs : slow process. Return times: also set. Only few hr @ falls.

Boat: RECM'D: combines 2 must-do LP experiences – falls & Mekong RIV ride. **Banana Boat BB01 trip: 1 hr**, downriver thru gorgeous mtn scenery as close as can, THEN, few km pickup truck ride. **Return:** reverse in beautiful late afternoon Mekong RIV light - BEST.

Con: If spent 2 days on slow boat > Luang Prabang, boat trip probably won't B so exciting .

Tuk tuk: RT ride: 180 – 200k K (\$22-25) (driver wait @ falls > bring back > town). Pay on return > town. B4 GRIPEing: hj \$ Laos petrol, driver pays “special gov't fees 4 privilege” & his day's INC.

Pro: M straightforward / easiest method; time flexibility.

Con: Though Kuang Si road nicely paved, will feel every bump.

Shared Tuk tuk: driver gets many peeps > join / split cost: 200k K; around 50 k K/peeps; leaves when 4-5 peeps; touts organize this @ big intersection in front of post office, fruit shake & baguette stands.

Pro: OO cheapest ways.

Con: Long waits > organize, driver decides; return time: group must agree on DP time

Mmtorbike: not place > learn

TOUR possibilities: Best companies (LP159)

Falls,

Pak Ou Caves: (LP166) Best 4 Mekong RIV boat ride, +/- cave & constant fees hustle



Vang Vieng: LP130 Many bad bars were closed YES!!!!!!

TRANS-IN/OUT:

DP from VV:

NOTE: More expensive minibuses: pickup from GH B4 DP BUS STA: even if TIKs purchased @ BUS STA (?)

LP (S) > VV:

Tuk-tuk > STAs!!! Also, Book @ STAs -- not thru hostels

S BUS STA: LP0m146

Naluang minibus STA (S BUS STA) : (071) 212 979 **LOC**: diagonally opposite S BUS STA

BUS:

REG: (DP: up > 10/d: (6:30a - 7:30a); 9-12h,

Drops off: @ or near RT13 BUS stop, short walk from town CNTR

VIP: (DP: 9a)

MINIBUSES: (DP: **Naluang minibus STA freq**

En route: lunch stop: Kasi (56km N of VV) , beautiful RD views thereafter

VV (S) > Vientiane:

All stop @ Kasi & Phu Khoun (4 Phonsavan)

BUS: stop @ BUS STA 4 5min en route from Vientiane: (evry 1hr btwn 11a - 8pm)

REG Opt: (fan): 5:30a, 6:30a, 7a, 12:30, 2p (fan) ;; minibus: 9a ;; /C: 10a, 1p, 2p

VIP Opt: (Phonsavan ?): 12p & 5p;

Sawngthaew (DP: evry 20min from 5:30a - 4:30pm; 30k K, 3 ½ - 4 ½ hr) can B GUD cuz often NOT full

VV (N) > LP: Get Local INFO

BUS: From LP: LP168 stop @ BUS STA 4 5min en route from Vientiane: (evry 1hr btwn 11a - 8pm)

REG Opt: minibus: 9a & 2p ;; /C: 10a ;

VIP Opt: (Phonsavan ?): 12p & 5p;

VIP & EXP BUSs: LP>Vientiane BUSs: i.e.: board in Vang Vieng, but pay Vientiane price

VIP (LP>VV): 105,000 kip (DP: 09:30 & 12:30).

VIP (LP>Vientiane): 130,000 kip, (DP 8:00, 09:00, 19:30 & 20:00 (sleeper BUS), 6-7h >VV // 10 hr > Vientiane. -- more leg room & comfortable 4 long journey.

EXP (LP>Vientiane): 110,000kip, (DP 06:30, 11:00, 14:00, 16:30, & 18:30).

Note EXP BUSs: just normal air-conditioned BUSs; not faster than VIP.

All BUSs DP from Ban Naluang – southern BUS STA, around 15 m from town centre.

Phone: (071) 252 066

tuk-tuk > Naluang BUS STA from town centre: 20,000-30,000kip.

Minivan:

(LP>VV): 100,000 kip, (DP 09:00, 10:00, 14:00 & 16:00, 6-7 hr)

LOC: Minivan STA close to VIP & EXP STA in Ban Naluang. Phone (071) 212 979.

Note: DP prices & times: guide ONLY -- ALWAYS pre-check prices/times

TIKs: buy @ BUS STA prior to boarding @ BUS STA, @ travel agents or hotels/GH

TIKs: more \$, but may include transfer to STA OR @ TRAV agents, GH & hotels (more expensive, but transfer usually included).

minivans TIKs : can buy @ **minivan STA** prior to boarding (100,000kip) OR most TRAV

Agents agents or hotels, pick-up: usually included;

NOTE: If buy TIKs directly from BUS company & request to be picked up at your hotel you will be charged a pick up fee of 5,000 kip (total 105,000 kip). 4 inquiries call STA at 071 212 979.

To Vientiane:

Tourist BUSs run by Malany Company: (DP 3/d:09:00, 10:00 & 13:30).

Boarding: in front of company office in Ban Savang.

TIKs (50,000kip) can but @ office before boarding.

Other BUSs & minivans: from Vang Vieng BUS STA throughout day.

Normal (slow, no air-con) BUSs DP in morning @ 05:30a, 06:00a, 06:30a, 07:00aat
12:30p, 14:00p. **TIKs: bot** @ BUS STA (40,000kip)

MinivansL DP: 09:00 & cost 60,000kip.

VIP BUSs DP: 10:00 & 13:00, cost 60,000kip.

TRANS-LOCAL:

walk, bike, mt bike,

Sawwngthaew: near old MKt site 4 cave sites

TRANS- OUT

Sawwngthaew: near old MKt: (DP: evry 20m (5:30a-4:30p), 31/2-4 ½ h, -usually not full- enjoyable

Vientiane	30,000	156	3-4	5.30am, 6.30am, 7am, 12.30pm, 2pm (fan)
	70,000			9am (minibus)
	60,000			10am, 1pm, 2pm (air-con)

ACCM:

CAUTION: NOISE: RIV-front 4am bars & CNTR town construction

HW: OK VV Boutique HOT: 8.9 R\$10 Genrly hi REV ("Joy" ; superb!

REV: PRO: BUS/tour tiks, +/- ENG, quiet ; GUD loc cuz quiet area, yet near

CON: OK brkfst, poor/GUD rm wifi, over-\$, **FAC:** /c, lug stor, rest, brkfst, wifi,

OK Real BP HOS VV: 9.1; Dm, \$6.50 OWN RESPONSE

REV: PRO: **GUD+**: staff, tour options, **Viet Visa**, loc, 6DM, ;;; quiet Dm,

CON: dangerous stairs, no RM lock, Dm- not secure,

FAC: bikes, wifi, linen, /c, maps, lock, rest, brkfst, hot show, lug stor,

Pans Place GH: 7.9, D\$4.5,

REV: PRO: ENG, GUD staff, LOC, cave kayak tour ::: **RM's GUD**

CON: iffy wifi, no /c, Dm: **mattress on flr- not GUD- avoid 6DM**; too BP-ish, party place,

FAC: PRO:hot show, LUGsTOR, Rest, linen includ, no brkfst,

? VV BP HOS: New, D\$4, 1 REV **Look if need place once there** **FAC:**, rest, bike,, ceil fan, hot show,

NO Easy Go HOS: 8.0, D <\$4 QUAL LOW Dm & RM: same \$, **NO /c (lied)**

REV: PRO: GUD staff, (Khanh), stayed 5 nites, views,

CON: **no rm sockets**, lock,wifi, 2 very NEG REV, no brkfst

LP:

Seng Duen GH: outside town, friendly ENG spk

Kianethong GH: motel-like, BUT quiet, cheap

Chillao HOS: dm,

Villa Khiun Sri: Don Khang noise

NO Phoubane GH: cheapest, GUD LOC & views, less ENG, moskies, **petty theft**, get better rms

FOOD:

Common ISSUE: identical menus, low qual EXCEPT -----

BRKFST: across from Organic Mulberry Farm Cafe

EVENING: Mitthaphap: Korean BBQ

Bang kuan: rice noodles w/ minced pork & rice porridge: Th Luang Prabang strip N of Chillao:

Grilled meat: pork balls w/ platters of leaves /herbs; No sign, but wooden shack next > Chillao

Indian: Nisha , & also **Nazim**

Jewish: falafel, chicken schnitzel

Le Jardin Organique:

Saysong GH: \$8-12US,

NO: Khamphone GH: \$13, S town-edge

MISC

Caving: spectacular, BUT **dangerous: slippery**, dark, dis-orienting; use guide, multiple lites

SITES:

2h

Long-tail boat ride: up river & down, B4 sunset: grt afternoon; close> nature & grt views: sheer cliffs rising directly beside river; also local life

Tubing:*

Wat Si Vieng Song (Wat That): in town ?

* **Wat Kang:** in town ?

* **Wat Si Suman:** in town ?

Hmong VILL: across RIV ?

Motorbike or a bicycle ride: thru quiet countryside, VILLs & authentic local life. ALSO VISIT: organic farm
 LOC: approx 4 km N of VV: Silk & goat cheese production, poultry rearing. REST: organic food, mulberry pancakes & shake & home made goat cheese
 OVN possible: dm: (30,000 kip per night)



CAVES: (tham) Most ENG signs; 'kid' guides; **negotiate \$ FIRST, always!!!**

Tham Jang (Tham Chang) (LPm132; 15k K, 8a-11:30a & 1-4:30p),

2h

grt RIV valley views, EXT cool spring pool

LOC: S of VV short bit?

DIRECS: walk or bike S > Vang Vieng Resort (2k K fee: crossing grounds) + 3k K parking) THEN, turn L @ far side of bridge

Tham Phu Kham: (BLU Lagoon; LPm132, 10k K): lagoon @ ft of cave,

2h

Main Chamber: Thai bronze reclining Buddha; deeper galleries

LOC: WWN of VV

TRANS: X bridge, THEN pedal 6km (unpaved RDBan Na Thong VILL, THEN, follow signs > ward cliff & stiff 200m climb; CAUTION: beware of misleading info > similarly named caves

THAM SANG TRIANGLE: ½DT (LP133) **HEADLAMP / sandals**

1/2D

LOC: N on LPm132

TRANS: **motorcycle or jumbo** 13km N on RT13, THEN, turn L few 100 ms beyond barely readable KM 169 stone taking this ruff RD > RIV toll bridge (5k K) or boat (29k K rt) directly across > **Ban Tham Sang** (& sm rest)

Tham Sang (Tham Xang) (aka Elephant Cave); (5k K); Buddha footprint, elephant-like stalactite, morn best **LOC:** N on LPm132

THEN, from Tham Sang **take indistinct path** (pay kids > show way) leads 1km NW thru rice fields > both Tham Loup & Tham Hoi (combo TIK: 10k K)

Tham Hoi entry: Irg Buddha: 3km into cave > Irg lake; **use GUIDE;**

Tham Loup: Irg, untouched cavern w/ impressive stalactites

THEN, 400m S of **Tham Hoi** on well-used path > ...

Tham Nam (10k K): **(highlight)**

500m long w. Nam Song Riv tributary flowing out entry,

DRY season: wade into cave; BUT **wet season:** hire tube & lamp from friendly lady & THEN, drag way thru on fixed rope.

If enuf energy), THEN, from Tham Nam path leads S 2km along stream > Tham

Pha Thao: 2 km long w/ pool in middle

OTHERWISE, easy 1km walk back > Ban Tham Sang,

> DOs:

BIKE or MRTBIKE DT: W Vang Vieng LOOP: (LPm132)

1D

Lp134 sidebar "W Vang Vieng LOOP"

BEST: dry season, wet season: maybe impossible **wet season: JUN> SEP****MAP** (BEST): *Hobo Maps Van Vieng* (www.hobomaps.com)**RT:** START from **Maylyn GH:** C series of cave signs, BUT **M worthwhile ones** R**Tham Pha Daeng:** (10kK) **LOC:** turn-off just after Pole 16**Tham Khan:** 2km walk **LOC:** via 1.5km side road after Pole 24 (walk better than cave, so just go few mtr in)THEN, 3km from **Maylyn GH @ Ban Phone Ngeun Hmong VILL:****THEN,** turn R just after Pole 42 (opposites 2 basic shops), follow this flagged RD past local school > desk where local kids collect 10k K fee , THEN, 4 steep 45 min hike > top of **Pha Ngeun** 4 grt VIEWS:THEN, return > main RD, keep R @ next intersection pass thru **Ban Na Thong (Lao Loum) VILL****THEN,** after another 2km > another fork & sign pointing > R about 700m along track >**Tham Phu Kham** (Blu Lagoon; LP132) (Don't confuse locals aka nearby **Tham Phu Thong**THEN, Back on main track, continue W > **Ban Na Som VILL** (Hmong)THEN, & further down main track just beyond **Ban Na Som VILL --- R signs > Golden Flower Cave**

THEN, walk thru rice fields, climbing fence > follow 2 white arrows ,

THEN, 50m up hill > cave. **NOW:** must search undergrowth 4 vague stairs (barely worth effort!

Golden Flower Cave w/ bloom-like formations & golden shimmer all along cave's ceiling. Little old man blocked entry (> stop tourist damage) & guides 2-hr tour 4 all of cave's formations, truly loves & enormous pride; WADR reminds of Gollum; spectacular cave.

THEN, continuing W on beautiful track hugs karst's edge, crosses 2 streams (difficult, if wet) >

Ban Phon Si**BUT,** 1st must cross **Nam Houang** (Houang RIV): tricky in wet season)**CHOICE now:**1) continue 5km W thru more dramatic scenery > **Ban Nampe**2) OR, start back E: along S route about 6km SE of **Ban Phon Sai** over 2 creeks, signs point across sm bridge > track 800 m along > **Python Cave****THEN, Keep along RD, THEN, turn L @ junction (follow power poles) , THEN, immediately cross stream > main road back> Vien Vang****TUBING:**

1/2D

Down Nam Song**TRANS: Tubing Drop-off Point:** (LPm132, 3.5km N of ..); music scene: special**TIKs**, etc: sm BLDG across from 'old MKT site' (LPm131): (Tube rental: 55k K +60k K deposit return by 6PM > avoid late fee), life jackets, & dry bag rental;**INCLUDES:** trans, CAUTION: modesty sarong \$ walk thru town

Vientiane:

VIET VISA: C “VIET Embassy Address.webarchgive” page

Conditions of Visa use:

- 1) Days: 30
- 2) # of Entries: 1
- 3) Validity before Hanoi ARV:
- 4) Fixed ARV date: LOW: can't ARV BEFORE that date, BUT can ARV anytime after that date w/in Validity time period.
- 5) Purpose of “date of ARV ‘ on application?

Address:

www.vietnamconsulate-vientiane.org

vnemb.la@mofa.gov.vn

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. > 5:30 p.m

Procedure:

Application form (which can downloaded from VIET Embassy's website or get directly @ Vietnamese Embassy office)

2 photos (2” x 2”) strictly 4 x 6 cm

ORIG PP (6 mo validity w/1 blank pg (pre-trip:21 pg))

Visa fee

Visa photo requirements

1 Face: neutral expression, **without** smiling or frowning.

2 Taken w/in 6 months of application.

3 White back ground on quality photo paper.

4 No glasses , No accessories

Photo size

Further queries +84-912-685-141; email > vietnamvisabooking@gmail.com.

TripAdvisor Comment: Getting VIET Visa in Vientiane

May 07, 2013: Got VIET tourist visa today in Vientiane.

LOC: Vientiane VIET Embassy: just N of Patuxay MONT on road > Pha That Luang (just past Toyota car dealership on right, known by tuk-tuks as Patuxay Toyota). **C LPm**

Consulate entry: around left-hand side of Embassy building.

Opening hr: Monday 9:30 > 12:00 & 13:30 > 17:00

Tuesday > Friday: 8:30 > 12:00 & 13:30 > 17:00

Basic Form: 1-page, very basic:

passport info, job, nationality, address)

HOT etc: not req'd

Choose single or multiple entry

REQ'D: 1 PP photo: > glue > page (glue stick available there).

NOTE: arrived @ 9:30 AM, Monday, BUT didn't open until 11: so, erratic opening hr, but otherwise: fast & easy process.

FEE: 4 Single Entry Visa: USD

USD \$65.00 4 next-day service

USD \$70.00 4 same day (apply in morning, pick up in PM)

SUGGEST: Walk, or better ride bike or mtrbike > embassy & combine that w/ visit > Patuxay MONT, Wat Phonxai & That Luang.


Vientiane:**TIC:** LP89

Licensed \$ changers, ATMs,

VIET VISA:**TRANS-IN:****AIR:**

Rome2rio, also

Mandalay > Vientiane: Local mandalay knowledge

\$316^{.25} ONE WAY Per Person Choose Itinerary	 Bangkok Airways Flight 706 Flight 943	DEPARTING Yangon, Myanmar (RGN) Mon Jan 4, 2016 6:05 AM		1 Stop Total Time 4h 25m
		-- Connects in Bangkok, Thailand (BKK) -- 1h 25m layover		
ARRIVING Vientiane, Laos (VTE) Mon Jan 4, 2016 11:00 AM				
Show Flight Details Baggage Fees		The Best Prices. GUARANTEED.		

From airport:

Taxi: US\$6; Best & easiest > direct . GH**Jumbo or BUS:** C p116**BUS: > Vientiane:****N BUS STA:** 2km N of CNTR**Sawwngthaew:** near old MKt: (DP: evry 20m (5:30a-4:30p), 3½ > 4½h, -usually not full- enjoyable

Vientiane	30,000	156	3-4	5.30am, 6.30am, 7am, 12.30pm, 2pm (fan)
	70,000			9am (minibus)
	60,000			10am, 1pm, 2pm (air-con)

LPm86; 6:45-11:30 am: (½ hrly)**1:30 -10pm: (½ hrly)****TRANS-LOCAL:**

Lp111 sidebar: "An Idiot's guide > Tuk Tuk & Jumbos

ORIENTATION: Main ST(Th - thanon): Parallel: th Setthathirath & Th Samsenethai, THEN, X Th Luang Prabang & Rt 13 n

Foot: mostly**BIKE** (recommended)**Tuk-tuk & jumbos:** 500m > 20km

Use face masks in dusty season: usual non-filter

TRANS-OUT:**S BUS STA:** LPm119, 9km NE of CNTR on RT13> **Tha Khaek:** FAN: DP: 41,5a, 6a, or any Pakse / Savannakhet BUS; 6h)

VIP: DP: 1pm, 5h)

?: FAN: (DP: 10:30a, 16-19 hr

FOOD:

Lao: p104

Lots of choices: Fr, etc

Bakeries p108

MKTs & Fruit smoothies: p109

MISC:**ACCM:** LOTS inexpensive

Most Ideal - CNTR LOC: US\$5 & up,

Dm: 20k K, **RD GHs**: dm: US6, r: \$12-17 35k K,

LP Pick: **Mixay GH**: d (?): 45K K;

?

YES 1 Dream Home HOS 2: 8.4

REV: PRO: loved, **GUD DMs**, owner "Pikachu" (help w/ Viet Visa), friendly staff, motobike rent, map, OPEN BUS booking,

CON: sm RMs, not CLN,

FAC: **KIT**, bike, brkfst, LUG STOR, wifi, /c, hot show, lock, /C, NO Bike rent,

YES 2 Dream Home HOS 1: 8.2,

REV: PRO: GUD staff, huge brkfst,, GUD LOC-RIV, NITE MKT, hot show, wifi, ENG, security, pow plugs, ;;; mod & cheap

CON: nite noise, loud staff music

FAC: bike, brkfst, w/d, LUG STOR, nite club; wifi, /c, hot show, lock, USD, **NO KIT**

Lucky BP HOST Vientiane: 7.8, 8/16dm:

REV: PRO: GUD, decent CLN, slightly above avg,

CON:

FAC: cafe, com rm, linen, bike, brkfst, wifi, hot show, lock, rest, TRAV, w/d, /c, ceil fan, lug stor,

Kounsavan GH: 8.5

REV: Pro: GUD staff, hot show, brkfst, loc, Dm: lock, plugs, rd lites,

Con: crowded, noisy, **party**, /c: 8pm-10am, poor wifi,

FAC: bikes, hot show, lug stor, /c, wifi, rest, lock (don't use), towels

NO BP GARD HOS: 7.9

REV: PRO: GUD staff, :: not party place,

CON: Sign hard > find, bunk beds unstable, not GUD rm security, BUS BKKg More expensive in HOS

FAC: Fan, wifi, Lock, brkfst, hot show,

NO Vientiane BB HOS: 7.7

REV: PRO: GUD:

CON: bad curb appeal, & worst experience: too few toilets, , sm DMs, w/ no lite

FAC: bikes, brkfst, lock, wifi, hot show, card access, LUG STOR, /c, ceil fan, KIT, Linen - not included, no staff ENG, no rm pow plugs, moskies,

NO Funky Monkey: overpriced, bad security,

REV: PRO:

CON:

FAC:

SITES:

MONT > Mekong CYCLING TOUR: DO p98, (7km, 4-6 h) **Flesh out** **5h**

- can include all these sites below

~C2 "3 Elephants" **STAT: LPm86** **1/4h**

42D4 Wat Si Saket TEMP: oldest surviving **LPm90** **1h**

Cloister: INT: silver/ceramic Buddha's, 16-16th C, 16-19th C

Sim:

Naga Buddha, seated Buddha 13th C,

Colonnaded terrace; Jakata murals,

Flowered ceiling

Altar

Lrg giltwood candle stand- 1819

Wooden trough Naga

30D4 Haw Pha Kaeo TEMP: 1556, lrg, **LPm90** **1/2h**

former site of Bangkok's famed Emerald Buddha

Floor & wooden doors: Angkorean apsaras-lie

SIM: INT: several IMP Buddhas

Landscape GARD

12F3 COPE Visitor CNTR: artificial limbs, UXO exhibits; **LPm86** **3/4h**

15F2 Patuxai (Arc de Triompe-like): LPm86 **1/4h**

USA donated airport cement

Photos @ top banned; WHY HELL!

Popular surrounding PK

34C2 Lao NAT MUS: marginal, some ENG **LPm90** **1/2h**

CUL influences, TRAD musical instruments, etc.

21F3 Wat Si Muang: city pillar/phallus **1/2h**

Lrg SIM:

Behind: Stupa w/ broken stuff

Pillar:

NO Kaysone Phomvihane MEM: late PRES house & MUS -

S 6km on RT13

16H1 Pha That Luang MON: 4km NE Buddhism & Lao sovereignty **LPm86** **3/4h**

High Walled cloister surrounds



HIST: gold topped pyramid

Lao Textile MUS: NW Off LPm86 3km NE of NAT Circus; wooden house, **1h**

AROUND Vientiane:

? **Xieng Khuan S Off 24km LPm86 (Buddha PK)** : 24km S, zealot mixer of religions,

1d
3h

More curious than spectacular: if TOO much free time

Bizarre concrete sculptures

Phu Khao Khuay NPA (NP)(*poo cow kwai*): \$24 min , w/guide?

Ban Na: 82km N, 1,2,3 d treks

En route: **Wat Pha Baht Phonsan**

Keng Khani (VILL?) - can't find online info

Elephant herd & observation tower,

Tat Fe FALLS:

Ban Hat Khai: 2-3 days: another Phu Khao Khuay NPA access point

Water Falls: **Tat Xai;** Pha Xai, Tat Leuk: OVN camp w/equip rentals

>>>>>> **CNTR Laos**

Trekking: p239 sidebar

Tha Khaek: p244

TIC: excellent;

DIRECS: Th Vientiane

Mtrbike rental list; also LP249, Lopp map

TRANS-IN:to Tha Khaek BUS schedule

BUS STA: RT13 **BUS stop:** 3.5km from CNTR;

> **Tha Khaek:** FAN: DP: 41,5a, 6a, or any Pakse / Savannakhet BUS; 6h)
VIP: DP: 1pm, 5h)

> **Savannakhet**

REG: (DP: 10:30a, 11a, 11:30a, & noon; 2-3h, hrly,

/C: (>Pakse) (DP: 8:30a, 6-7h)

THEN , freq noon > mindight

CAUTION: Avoid BUS STA tuk tuk aggressive price gougers

TRANS > TOWN CNTR:

Jumbo: 15k K when full

Around twm: 15k K,

TRANS-LOCAL:

BUS: C p249,

Jumbo

Sawngthaew: C p 249

Mtrbike rental : LP249

TRANS- OUT

BUS:

> Savannakhjet: from Talat Lak Saam (Sook som boon BUS TERM

REG: (DP: 10:30a, 11a, 11:30a, noon2-3hr, 25k K,

> Pakse: /C: (8:340a, 6-7hr)

Also: freq btwn noon - midnite

Sawngthaew: > Ban khoun Kham (Ban Na Hin): (1/d, DP: 7:30a3-4hr)

DP: when full;

ACCM:

Dm: 25k Kr: 35k K

Also: BUS STA GH rms

LP;

ThaKhek TRAV Lodge: D:25k K, LOC: 3km from CNTR; Latest INFO on [Loop LP252](#)

Phonepadidh: not w/ HW

Phoukhanna GH: ENG spkr mgr, r:35kK,

Mekong HOT: not w/bookin.com either

HW:

Best , most \$ Inthira HOT: \$20, (LP also);

REV: PRO: GUD ;;; moskie nets, **SHOW**, brkfst, wifi

FAC:

OK Southida GH: better than most budgets (Khammouan e Inter,) wifi lobby - some rms (must ask), , /c,

Mounthong GH: well maintained, /c, hot show, W toilet, CLN, pay-wifi,

FOOD:

MISC:

SITES: none really

Old Town: Fr-CHI ARCH, wandering (that's !!!)

AROUND Tha Khaek Must C!!

Tham Kong Lo: (pronounc: *tham kawng law*); LP242 **TOUR or IND**

1DT

LOC: N of Tha Khaek; **Flash light**; rubber sandals; **EXT** grt scenery, MIX'd REV, ++ hi **Trip Adviso**

GEN: 7km winding cave ;; OO Lao's Nat Wonders ; stalagmite stupas;

TIC: can arrange DT; approx. 25k K, +5-10k K, ? **TIC in Ban Khoun Kham or Tha Khaek?**

INDEPEND: possible; Mtrbike or sawngthaew from **Ban Khoun Kham** (1hr, DP: LP241,

Ban Khoun Kham:(**BASE 4 Tham Kong Lo:**) LP 241, also **Phu Hin Bun NPA** , LP242))

& Tat Namsanam twin-cataract

Perk: **Tham Kong Lo Cave trip** goes thru spectacular **Phu Hun Bun NPA** (NP)

TRANS-IN:

? : 7:30am, 4 h) shud ARV in time 4 10am **Tham Kong Lo Cave sawngthaew**

OR, any N-bound BUS, get off @ **Vieng Kham**(aka Thang Beng), THEN, sawngthaew >

BKK(1h) **TRANS- OUT:** reverse

MISC: Dog Trucks LP245

ACCM: **R 40-50k K**

Tha Bak: **Bomb Boats:** **p243**, 18km E of **BKK**

Pha That Sikhottabong (STUPA): 6km S: 6-10th C,

LRG seated Buddha in TEMP Hal.

INT: open-air **MUS:** 9 wood houses

Tham Pa Fa (Buddah CAVE): 18km: 229 600yr old Buddahs,

1D

C p 250: **DIRECS:** After xing RT13, THEN, continue 4km looking 4 lrg GRN sign on L side, THEN, hand painted signs lead along old RR remains > cave

TRANS: tuk-tuk: RT, US\$20 w/ bargaining

ALSO, **Tha Kaek's TIC TOUR:** 1/d Buddha Cave trek; C LP250 4 more info

Khoun Kong Leng (stunning **Evening Gong LK**): **legend** (

TRANS: difficult. LP250 or part of 2 day **Phu Hin Bun NPA TREK p246**

N on Rt13, THEN, turn R/E@ KM29 onto dirt RD

THEN, on dirt RD 4 2km, Turn R/S again

THEN, 16km > Ban Na Kheu

THEN, 1 km fartther > Lake

E on RT 12: DT, bike or tuk-tukp

(NO 4 " Loop" cuz too much motorcycle 4 return)

Independent OR:

Ban Bak: LP243 bomb boats **Worth effort?**

TREKS: DBL CHK TREKS 4 including of all/most of following p 246

Tha Khaek TIC's DT (LP246) (250k K - 370k K)

1D

Tham Xang (Tham Pha Ban Tham): aka **Elephant Cave**: stalagmite; **Flashlight**

DIRECS: take R fork @about 2.5km E of RT13 junction w/RT12, stay on rd-- C lrg cave mouth in distance (If wet season: C LP252 4 DIRECS)

Tha Falang (Fr Landiong):

Not as pretty as Khoun Kong Leng

DIRECS: @ KM11 (about 9km from RT13); ruff trail leads 2km N. Water sculpted rocks

Tham Xieng Liap: p251, stunning limestone CAV, stalker monk LEG,

DIRECS:

follow clear sign 4 track > S 4 about 400m (near bridge over Huay

Xieng Liap & Ban Songkhone VILL (about 10km from Rt13

Swim @ other cave end; soft shelled turtles (*pa fa*) live in cave;

Tham Sa Pha In (Tham Phanya Inha): rarely visited

DIRECS: RT12 w cliffs on both sides, continues thru narrow pass (about 11.5km from Rt 13), THEN, immediately, track N > cave: THEN, look 4 faded brick gateway

Tham Nang Aen: touristy, stalker monk: sitting/flirting LEG; pitiful zoo, rarely visited;

DIRECS: 18km from Tha Khaek; clear sign just past L-hand rd bend 16km from Rt13 junction, THEN, turn (L or R ?) > 700m track;

pitiful

ZOO

Legend: sneaky novice monk sitting (nang) w/ his beautiful girl & flirting (aen kan)(?)

Tham Pha Chan: &

Stream thru karst; C LP250 4 VILL's rules

.....**Nam Don Resurgence**: Nam Don RIV EXITS cave w/ swim~ lagoon Too Cool

DIRECS: Difficult; from 10km E of RT13 junction ruff rd goes 9km N;

TRANS: mtrbike, tuk tuk or w/TIC's arranged ENG guide (LP246), wet sea~: really bad.

Tham Lot Se Bang Fai: M impress, least visited CAVE

1DT

CAV huge caverns, impressive rock formations, rapids & falls, OO WRLD's LRG RIV CAVs, **seen by few tourists**

NOTE: I branch of Tham Pha Reusi: accessible ALT entry: stunning porcelin-like formations, **TRANS** into & thru main cave:

> 1st portage: ONLY by Wooden canoes

Full Length: inflatables only w/ 8 portages; kayaks

TRANS-IN/OUT:

BASE TWN: Ban Nong Ping: 2km downstream from CAV ENT (VILL homestay available)

IND TRV: **DIFF/UNSAFE**: 1 of 2 daily sawngthaews, THEN, mini tractor 4 14km (600k K

BEST/SAFEST OPT: tour

Tha Khaek TIC TOUR (LP246) 4d, 3 NITE TRIP (US\$145 up)

Includes: wooden canoes, HinNamno NPA fish w/ locals Tham Pha Reusi,

Phetmexay (aka Ey): well recm'd guide

GRN DISC: 3d trek/US\$135 up, inflatable kayaks + ?

ACCM:

Homestay, no elect

NO Savannakhet (aka Savan) (pre-Vientiane return) : p254 Worth visiting? Mixed, but GE - NO!

TIC: professional, ENG, self-guided DT, "savannakhet Downtown" self guided walking tour

Eco Guide Unit: treks, mtrbike hire ists, BUS times

1 Trip ADV post: questioned any reason > visit except Thai embassy 4

GEN:

Crumbling Fr colonial-era bldgs,

TRANS-IN:

>/from airport: jumbos: 50k K

AIR: Lao Airlines state monopoly, GUD safety record - NOW

Laos:

popular Vientiane-Luang Prabang route costs US\$87 (1-way full fare 4 foreigners), but covers in 40 minutes what would take @ least ten . twelve hr by BUS.

BUS: From Tha Khaek:

BUS TERM: (aka *khiw lot*): tw'n's N edge near Talat Savan Xai,

From Tha Khaek: REG BUS: (10:30a, 11a, noon, 2-3hr, 25kK)

/C: (> Pakse) 8:30a

NOTE:

Also: freq btwn noon - midnite

starts in Vientiane & stops in Tha Khaek

Sawngthaew & mini-vanfrom Tha Khaek:

REG:

ALSO, S-bound btwn noon > midnight: freq

VIP:

TRANS-LOCAL:

Sakai-laep (aka sky lab)(Jumbo): outside passenger ferry pier

Motorbikes: LP254 4 list;

Bikes rental: IMO- suicidal

TRANS- OUT > Pakse: Local Knowledge

BUS: > Pakse:

Tha Khaek originating: (9/d: 7a-10p, 30kK, 5-6 hr,)

Vientiane: reg Vientiane BUSs

1:30 -10pm: (½ hrly)

ACCM: lots of budget options (No HW<)

TRAV FISH:

Boualaung HOT: \$10+, new, CLN, spacious, wifi, hot show, LOC: not GUD

Souannavong GH: fan//c, 50k K, CLN, GUD loc, GUD wifi, hot show, ; Staff difficult > find,

Savanbanhao HOT: LOC: Nerar Souannavongh GH above on CNTR , but quiet Senna RD, GUD beds, /c, wifi, hot show, RM: choose Class 1 RM, friendly staff,

Saisouk GH: 39k K,

Sayamungkhun GH: 50k K, super friendly, CLN, bit noisy,

NO Soulinsouk HOT: 2km ffrom CNTR, lrg/new, CLN, /c, hot show, , wifi lobby, **frosty staff**,

Sounantha GH: next door, ceil fan, hot water , less \$

NO Leena GH: LOC: too far, **Unfriendly**, Pop 4 BP, **Fan rm:best, cool, cool show**, rest, **dogs**, bikes, wifi, 10 min walk > RIV, mesh on windows, 6:30am brkfst,

? Nong Soda GH: (aka Mekong Riverside REST): \$10, by RIV, but bit far, NO wifi, , GUD staff, lazy

SITES:**Walking Twn CNTR: Best**

Along Th Phetsalat near Wat Sainyamungkhun's slow moving *petang*-playiing old men

MUS des Dinsaures: well presented bones & footprints, curator's infectious enthusiasm ;

ENG & Fr Probably closed, & "worst in world."

Wat Sainyaphum MON (Th Tha He): 1542, but most: 20th C, Buddah workshopn near RIV entry

Wat rattanalangsi: 1951, Jataka paintings, reclining Buddha,

Savannakhet PROV MUS: NO!

AROUND Savannakhjet Probably NOT

C LP260 "Spin thru Savannakhet" sidebar

That Ing Hang : 12km >NE, not that interesting

Dong Natad PROV PA: 15km, 2 VILL, 1d bike tour \$42+, expensive

NO Heuan Hin: old Cham or Kyer ruins, but rubble only, difficult > reach, so NO

DT: Probably NOT

Probably NOT Dong Phu Vieng NPA (NP) trek/tour 3d, expensive : Eco-Guide Unit p254

Probably NOT: Sepon (Sepon Kao-old town) p263: 1 of 2 major HCM TRL sites, NOT much

> C

TRANS: BUS: > (7& 9am, noon , 5h), <:

About 50 metres W of BUS STA @ Savansai market songthaew stand where lrg songthaews

DP 4 destinations throughout province. Destinations include:

6 DP btwn 07:00 & 14:00. 30,000 kip. 4 hr.

TRANS: C p264

Probably NOT Ban Dong: p264, 20km E of Sepon: same as Sepon, but also site of US defeat & old US tank

TRANS: C p264

HCM Trail sidebar: p263

S LAOS:

Pakse VIET VISA: C “VIET Embassy Address.webarchgive” page

Conditions of Visa use:

- 1) Days: 30
- 2) # of Entries: 1
- 3) Validity before Hanoi ARV:
- 4) Fixed ARV date: IOW: can't ARV BEFORE that date, BUT can ARV anytime after that date w/in Validity time period.
- 5) Purpose of “date of ARV ‘ on application?

Address:

#31, Banphabt, Pakse, Champassak, LAOS
 21 4199 -Home: 25 2947 / 21-2824 -27 / Code :00-856-31

www.vietnamconsulate-pakse.org

vnemb.la@mofa.gov.vn

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. > 5:30 p.m

LOC: Pakse VIET Embassy: Viet Consulate: LPm269 13D2:

Procedure:

Basic Application Form: 1-page, very basic:

downloaded from VIET Embassy's website DONE

passport info, job, nationality, address)

HOT etc: not req'd

Choose single or multiple entry

REQ'D: 1 PP photo: > glue > page (glue stick hopefully available there)(Super glue?)

(2” x 2”) strictly 4 x 6 cm

Visa photo requirements

- 1 Face: neutral expression, **without** smiling or frowning.
- 2 Taken w/in 6 months of application.
- 3 White back ground on quality photo paper.
- 4 No glasses , No accessories

ORIG PP (6 mo validity w/1 blank pg (pre-trip:21 pg))

FEE: 4 Single Entry Visa: USD

USD \$65.00 4 next-day service

USD \$70.00 4 same day (apply in morning, pick up in PM)

Further queries +84-912-685-141; email > vietnamvisabooking@gmail.com.

Pakse:**GEN:**

Mekon & Se Don RIV confluence; FRCH 1905,

VIET VISA: C above separate page

TIC: (Provincial >)

LOC: near Lao Air office; ENG, treks, Don Kho homestays, BUS SCHEDs

Several BUS TERM:

N TERM (aka *khiw lot lak jet* ((Km7 BUS TERM)) : slow, no /c,/; probably 4 slow Vientiane/ Tha Khaeck BUSs

S TERM: (aka *khiw lot lak pget* ((aka Km8 BUS TERM))

> **Paksong:** (drop-off @ **Tat Fan**) (15kK, 1 ½ hr)

> **Salavan:** (drop-off @ Tat Lo) (regly > 2p, 25kK, 3-4hr)

> **Sekong:** (hrly 7a-11a 30kK, 4hr) -- goes on > **Attapeu** (40kK, 5-6hr)

Other S places ?

TRANS-IN: ---- from Vientiane or Tha Khaeck

BUS: N BUS TERM:

> **Pakse:** /C: (8:340a, 6-7hr)

> Savannakhjet:

REG: (DP: 10:30a, 11a, 11:30a, noon2-3hr, 25k K,

Also: freq btwn noon - midnite

Possible Drop off points: VIP BUS STA or in tw'n: around Lankham HOT & BUS office next > Se Don RIV

TRANS-LOCAL:

Shared basis: 3-8kK - but foreigner MUST bargain; > BUS TERM: 5kK,

BIKE RENTALS: GH & Shops: 10kK/d

Motorbikes: GHs:start @ 60kK > 80kK

Tours: Pakse: LP 268)

Motorbikes (rental) best 4 traveling falls & others in Bolaven Plateau --or not use them & by other kind of transport.

TRANS- OUT

Mai Linh EXP (PH: 254 149, 0592-211 211 in VIET) operates

Daily minibus: Pakse > Kontum (Viet CNTR High) (118,000K): via **Paksong** (15,000K), **Sekong** (34,000K), **Attapeu** (57,000K) & **Ngoc Hoi** (108,000K) on Ho Chi Minh Hwy.

DP 7am: Saigon Champasak HOT, Pakse (LP271),

ARV Kontum: approx 3:30pm. C LP p310.

SO , ON /OFF OK?

Rt18B: dramatic 113km mt rd > Phou Keua (Laos) / BoY (Viet); 2nd ½ : uphill

Arrange **Viet Visa in Pakse:** (US\$40, same day): **C ? ____ pdf**

VIET BORD SIDE Procedure: elaborate: massive duty free complex

NOTE: Possible > GOTO: Hoi Ann & Danang **Can Pakse Mai Linh EXp arrange?**

ACCM:

Most HOS: N of CNTR MKT

YES Nang Noi GH: PRE-BOOK Dm /Sr (40kK/60kK, GUD: wifi, loc, ;;; CLN,/s & fans, new,w/balc, mtrbike (GUD qual), LUG Stor, brfst, Mr Bounthong, manager, GUD trav info,

YES Alisa GH: \$10+, **BEST:** mod, GUD wifi, bed, ;;;/c, mtrbikes, hot show, W toilet,

OK ? Salaxhampa HOT: OK but not grt

TravFish:

Saigon; Champasak HOT: \$10+, LOC: W end, GUD: rm wifi, ;;; Aa/c, hot show, W toilet

Royal Pakse: NOT as GUD as Saigon- Cham~ nxtdoor CLN, missing windows ?,

Lankham HOT: <\$10, Dm, wifi BP, CLN, simple, hot water, W toilet, /c 4 fee, fans ?,

Better than Sabaidy 2

NO:

NO Sabaidy 2 GH: 1TripAdv cesspool; only 4 grt 4dm, rarely avail, cuz sgl rm 2 overpriced, daily Champasak boat, Bolvean Plateau tour,

NO Sedone GH: <\$10, but too unkempt GUD LOC,s/d, but aged, cheap fan rms, cold water,

Suntiphap GH: wifi, LUG STOR, \$15

NO Phonsavan HOT: theft

FOOD:**MISC:**

SITES:**3¼h**~D4 Talat Dao Heung (New MKT): **LOC**: near Lao-JP bridge

1h

14D4 Champasak HIST Heritage MUS:**¾h**

Old Dong Son bronze drums, 7th C sandstone Uo MOUNG lintels, lrg ankle bracelets & ivory ear plugs (rarely seen now), sm lingam (phallus) & Wat Phu Champasak sacled

VIP BU STA (aka Evening Mkt BUS STA)

* 20 wats:.....

15C2 CHI Society BLDG: Th 10: Franco)-CHI style bldg

½h

18C2 Wat Luang: 1935, lrgst, ornate concrete pillars, carved wood doors murals

½h

19C3 Wat Tham Fai (Wat Pha Bat): 1935, lrgst, unimpressive/undistinguished

½h

AROUND Paske:**Don Kho (ISLE): LP275 Ban Saphai** (twn): 15 km N of,

4h

Silk weaving

TIC Ban Saphai Handicraft Centre): can call GH**TRANS-IN/OUT:**

Sawngthaew > Ban Saphai: (rgly, 8kK, 45min) from Dao Heung MKT LP273)

Tuk-tuk (aka saam-laaw): (60kK 1 way/120kK RT) expensive vs 16kK above

Ban Saphai>Don Kho boat: **3 options - all expensive****TRANS-LOCAL:**

NO cars

ACC: **Just say either “homestay” or “guest house”****Homestay** (best): r: 30k K**Community GH:** same as homestay prices**SITES:****Wat Don Kho:** Frn -era bldg, impressive drum TOW, old tree,**NO Phu Xieng Thong NP:** seems very expensive access & 3 day community based trek

S of Pakse:**Champasak:** 2 days

3D

Former Royal Family, Fr-era bldgs, Lao wooden houses,

1st Stop: Dist VIC/TIC:**TRANS-IN:****GH minibus:** (DP 8-9a, THEN, 1hr > ferry point,) all hthe way to Champasak or short of**BUS & Sawngthaew:** > **Champakse:** (20kK, 2hr- if have > wait 4 ferry)**BUS STA: Dao Heung MKT** (Morning MKT): (**NOT S BUS TERM**)

----- regly 6:30a > 3PM (LP273)

BOAT: Sabaidy 2 GH: (LP270): daily 8a, 65kK)

more expensive than new RD but perhaps more interesting.

Ferries: Local knowledge

Mtrbike: 25km,

TRANS-LOCAL:

Bikes & motorbikes (rent most GH)

TRANS- OUTBase Start > Don Daeng visit: twn displays; boats/GH >/@ Don Daeng**ACCM:** several

Homestay & GH:

Vong Paseud GH: US \$2-15, r: 30k K, ENG, RIVside, w/fan, rest, Bike/mtrbike rent**LOC:** near Inthira HOT, 600m S of 'fountain circle'

Saythong GH & Rest: 30kK, musty

Phimphone GH: 30kK, friend family, basic,

Khamhouy GH: 30kK, w/hot water; ceiling fans, new beds

Dokchampa GH & Rest: 40kK, re-furb,

Souchitra GH: 50kK, fan opt- GUD deal, nice verandah,

FOOD:**MISC:**

SITES:

* **WAT PHU CHAMPASAK** (Wat Phu) aka Phu Khuai: p278; UNESCO & WH; 6h

C “Wat Phu Champak Ground Plan.pdf”

Read Sidebar: “Champasak in Antiquity”

LOC: 8 km SW of; ARCH Site: 3 level

TRANS: Pakse: 46 km; Champasak: 10 km

Saam-laaw / tuk tuk: RT: 80k K

Shared Jumbo: (6k K,

Bike: 20 km RT, but no shade, 6.2 miles.

Mid 5th C; Ornate Shiva-lingam sanctuary, crocodile stone, tall trees

Sadly, poor water mng't allows destruction

Ancient Kymer relg complex

MUS: lintels, naga, Buddhas etc.; ENG, CLN bathrooms

ARCH SITE:

6 terraces on 3 levels joined by long promenade:

LOW Level: ancient main entry, THEN, cause-way style ceremonial promenade (Angkor Wat) flanked by 2 *bray* (stone lotus buds line promenade)

MID Level: 2 exquisitely carved Quadrangular pavilions (mid- 10th C or early 11th C,),

THEN, behind Southern pavilion: sm bldg Nandi Hall,

THEN, 2 collapsed galleries,

THEN, *dvarapala* (sentinel figure) near non-extant *gopura*,

THEN, yoni pedestal (cosmic vaginal-womb symbol) ,

THEN, nearby 2 very lrg half buried *dvarapalas* (largest in Angkorian world

NOTE:

1) Ancient royal road once connected > Angkor Wat

2) converted > Buddhist site from Hindu (Hindi influences: lintels, western pediment: reliefs

UP Level: Sanctuary (once enclosed water bathed linga) ,

THEN, inside lintel (LP281),

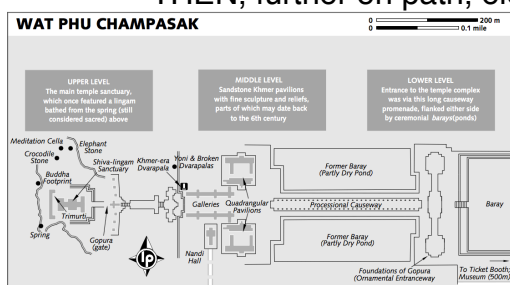
THEN, brick rear section used > hold sacred linga,

THEN, behind sanctuary Kymer inscription in lrg boulder,

THEN, behind some terraces, cave from which holy spring water flowed > sanctuary,

THEN, E of sanctuary past new bldg winding path > crocodile stone w/ incised croc design,

THEN, further on path, elephant stone (looks like ..)



C lrg pdf page

NO Associated Wat Phu Sites > **S** LP 281 AVOID: 1) Un-interesting 2) **unexploded ordinance**

Ho Nang Sida: Hong Tha Tao (Lord Turtle rm): Ban That: out of way

3A3 Wat Nyutthitham (aka Wat Thong): (mildly interesting), past leaders bone-sites

Wat Phuthawanaram (aka Wat Maung Kang):

LOC: 8 km S of; mildly interesting

TRANS: by boat from Champasak or bike,

FR Col & Lao Buddhist ARCH, Colored mosaics @ roof corners

Sm box w/ crystal windows @ cntr top roof ridge: magical capability

OPT: Wat Maung Kang boat trip w/Uo Moug visit (LP282)

AROUND Champasak: GUD Base 4: Champasak & Uo MOUNG

Don Daeng ISLE

TRANS-IN:

IMP: PROV Tourist OFF, Pakse (LP268) **or Champsak Disatrick VIC (Champasak)**
 LP276, can arrange boats & advise VILL I am en route
 Sm Boat from Ban Muang or Champasak

ACCM:

Hua Don Daeng (VILL) on: **ACCM/TRANS BASE**
 Community GH: (dm, 30k K)

SITES/> DO:

Bike ride around isle
Wat Phu Champasak & Uo MOUNG

Uo MOUNG (Tomo TEMP) LP282: 45km S of Pasak off Rt 13,

GEN:

9th C Khmer, oriented > Phu Pasak holy mt but function unknown, more intact gopura's
 mukhalinga w/ 2 faces rather than 4, normal linga: none

TRANS-IN:

Easiest Way (LP282):

Cheapest: bike > Ban Sisouk or Ban Hang,

THEN, charter boat > Ban Tomo: 20ok K RT, & wait time,

THEN, FROM Ban Tomo: walk thru VILL along road > right, then L. P282

Wat Muang Kang:

LOC: W across main RIV from Ban Sisuk @ S end of Don Daeng ILSE

TRANS-IN:

BIKE: Don Daeng > (boat) > Uo MOUNG > then Wat Muang Kang > **THEN** bike riverside
 path > Chapasak

Kiet Ngong (vil) & Ban Phapho (vil) :

LOC: Due E of Don Khao Island

elephant rides & working; ARV so peeps can arrange elephants

NP entry fee: 10k K entry

Phu Asa hilltop elephant ride

VIC/TIC: rides & ACCM

ACCM:

Homestays

5 COM run bungalow: 30k K ; ice fields 15 min walk thru r

TRANS-IN/OUT: p285

Ocassional sawngthaew >< Pakse

ACCM:

COM GH: dm: 30k K; bikes, homestays also

Bolaven Plateau LP298

3D

TOURS: **Attapeu TRAV & Tours Limited**

Phone (856 36) 211 204

Mobile (020) 231 2637

DT:: Tad phapong falls by boat (5h) or trek

"1 day Bolaven tour:" arranged & programmed by "Pakse TRAV Co".

1) **Sabaidy II Gh: Terrible Hostel reputation**

REV: thot "1 day Bolaven tour": very superior; normally, don't tours anywhere cuz too frenetic & shrt visit times, BUT "SabaidyII Gh": enuf time @ ea site

LOC: near **Viet Nam** Consulate building in Pakse, about 50-60m in distance.

Address: #24 Road, Ban Thaluang district, Pakse, *Tel : 856 (31) 212 992

*tour web site: www.sabaidy2tour.com

CAUTION: RESV Req'd & confirm by telephone or direct contact) R required cuz MAY B FULL day before, YET, sometimes "not enough guests"

2) **"Pakse TRAV Co:**

LOC: near "Nazim Indian retaurant" in Pakse city CNTR, 30-40m in distance.

*Address: 108 Ban Thalung, Pakse district, Champasak, Tel: 856-(31)212 842

*Mobile: 856(20)2277277, 2266766

ITIN: "1 day Bolaven tour" of Sabaidy II Gh (bedbugs, filthy, w/ animals, expensive tours) below.

SUM: ½ of 12 sites below seem more 'buying' opportunities 4 guide company

this "1 day Bolaven tour" covers most famous spots in Bolaven Plateau

DP: from Gh in Pakse 08:00am & return > Pakse 18:00pm--(full 10 hr)

COST: 180,000Kip per person` including entry fee of falls`

Vehicle: Hyundai minivan (Max:12 persons=1driver + 1tour guide + 10 guests)

MIN GUESTS: 4 guests (10 guests - Max)

* ENG speaking tour guide(Laotian)

***Following visiting spots:**

visiting Paksong coffee plantation

coffee drinking @ coffee farm house

visiting Paksong tea plantation

tea drinking @ tea farm house

visiting **Tad Fane waterfall** (on way > Paksong)--very beautiful!

visiting **Tad Yuang waterfall** (same as above)--dynamic!

visiting ethnic minority village

visiting sm primary school in village

visiting primary & elementary school built & helped by several W countries' aid.

visiting VILL near school, spending enough time there walking around village w/ guide

□ visiting **Tad Lo waterfall** (btwn Pakse & Salavan)

□ lunch @ local restaurant in Tha Tengß

Pakse > Tat Lo: (C Tat Lo info below this section) 1T/1N/1T

TRANS:

> **Salavan:** (drop-off @ **Tat Lo**) (regly > 2p, 25kK, 3-4hr) **can stop @ Tat Lo, if asked**

S TERM: (aka 'khiw lot lak pget' ((aka Km8 BUS TERM)); @ **S BUS TERM:** just say" Tat Lo) 4
 direcs (5/d,) **THEN:** -- dropped off @ **Ban Khoua Set**

THEN, tuk tuk(if avai) (10kK) or walk: 2km > twn

Tat LO > Paksong: difficult: (Loc Know)

Get > Ban Beng (ask @ **Tim's** songthaew > rd junction few km up rd (?))

THEN 'anything' going towards Sekong or Paksong: Note: may go all way of just > Tha Taeng
 w/ GUD connections > Paksong (few hr)

OR, ALT: GOTO Paksong & backtrack > Tat Lo:

Don't cuz twice hassel described above)

> **Paksong:** (drop-off @ **Tat Fan**) (15kK, 1 ½ hr)

THEN, Paksong > Tat Lo:

CONFUSION: Start @ Ben Beng ?) 4 BUS > Salavan Set: mtrbike / tuk tuk shuttle last 1.8km or walk

THEN, Either all way > Paksong or BUS change @ Tha Taeng Pakse > Ban Khoua Set: (5/d,

THEN, tuk-tuk or uphill walk 1.8km, **THEN,** after , get > Ban Beng, 4 any BUS from Salavan > Paksong (few hrs)

?? Mai Linh EXP (%254 149, 0592-211 211 in VIET) operates daily minibus connecting Pakse
 w/ Kontum (118,000K) in Vietnam's CNTR Highlands. travels via Paksong (15,000K),
 Sekong (34,000K), Attapeu (57,000K) & Ngoc Hoi (108,000K) on Ho Chi Minh Highway.
 DP @ 7am from Saigon Champasak HOT (p271) in Pakse & arrives in Kontum around
 3.30pm. 4 more information on crossing into VIET this way C p310.

Tat Lo INFO:

TIC (COM Guides OFF): trek info, ENG spk of **Tim GH**, wifi, GUD ENG

Most heavily bombed theaters

Laven ethnic GRP; but also Katu & Alak

Tat Lo FALL: 700mt up RIV, not impressive

TRANS:

btwn Pakse <> Paksong p300

DIRECS: X bridge thru Saise GH staying > path alongside RIV

ACCM: s US\$30;

Nearby few km E-TU resort: r US\$45 & falls **TRANS-LOCAL:**

Sites/ DOs: addiional:

Tat Hang falls: nearest twn

Tat Suong: **TRANS:** 10km, bike / mtrbike: **DIRECS:** LP302

Elephant ride:

TRANS- OUT

ACCM:

Tim GH & REST: r 40k K, **BEST INFO**, ENG, computer classroom built by owner 4 kids,

Y: GH: r 25k K (not on RIV);

* **LP Saise GH:** r: US\$8-35

Also, 2 @ r 25k K,

Pakse > Tat Fan: (toward Paksong)

> **Paksong:** (drop-off @ Tat Fan) (15kK, 1 ½ hr)

S TERM: (aka khiw lot lak pget ((aka Km8 BUS TERM))

NOTE: Tat Fan stop request @ Km 38 & follow signs

TRANS: (15,000K, 1 ½ hr ((stop @ Tat Fan, if asked)); also BUS > Salavan can drop off @ Tat Fan; get off @ Km38 & follow sigs p301

Tat Fan > Paksong: w/o OVN **Pakse / Mai Linh / local knowledge**

TIC: Community Guides Office:

ACCM: cheap, just E of bridge,

Paksong: p299 cool temp

Coffee capital,

TIC-like: Ban Won: (Rt16) aka Koffie's Coffee: (lowl 4 free wifi signs;

TRANS- IN: from Pakse (C above)

TRANS-Local: GUD Bolaven Plat TRANS base,

motorbikes (rental): best 4 falls ivisits & others in Bolaven Plateau , THEN, any other TRANS. **Ho Chi Minh trails;** ,

ACCM: LP300

Savanna GH:

Paksong Phuthavada **HOT:**

SITES:

IMP NOTE: Pakse tours may best cuz pub trans very bad

BEST INF source: **Ban Won** aka **Koffie's Coffe (free wifi sign),**

Falls: p300: marked w/ Blue sign w/ falls icon

Tat Yuang: OOM impressive: twin torrents, **earlt > avoid tours,**

TRANS:

BUS: sawngthaew: (freq, 1½h)

DIRECS:

R (S) off Rt23 @ km40, THEN, 2km more

OR, 45 min walk > **Tat Fan** starting near toilets @ Tat Yuang

ACCM: r 600B & up, 70k K

Tat Meelook falls

Tat Fan falls: LP298 OOM spectacular Laos falls,... also Tigers

Trans: get off @ Km38 & follow sigs p301

any transport btwn Pakse > Paksong stops 800 m N of Tat Fan

DIRECS: 800 m S of RT23 (signs @ Milepost km 38

ENG falls tours includ Laven & Katu VILL: 1/2d, U\$5, 8:30am >

DIRECS: 800 m S of RT23 (signs @ Milepost km 38

ENG falls tours includ Laven & Katu VILL: 1/2d, U\$5, 8:30am >

OOM spectaculkar falls, twin streams, 120',

LOC: 800m S of Rt 23 (signs @ Km 38)

Ideal/Safe Viewpoint: **Tad Fane Resort:** sm fee 4 non-guests (LP299) from cliff opposite,

inexpensive ½ day treks avail, ?

Phasoume Waterfall @ Utayan Bajieng Champasak RESORT:

GUD elevated jungle walk, tribal activities: too contrived, exp rms

TRANS: PUB TRANS , THEN, WALK

Bolaven PLAT: Ban Bengkhua Paksong > Sekong:

Katu VIL & Alak VIL:

TRAD VILL: arranged in circle, w/ coffins under houses & TRAD graves in woods; distinctive women's facial tatoos,

Lao Ngam day MKT: (not Muang Lao Ngam)

Sekong > Attapeu:

Sekong (twN) (Muang Lamam):

TRANS/ACCM: Usually Pakse > Attapeu BUSs just pass thru; nice RIV town

NO: Tat Hia: ordinary

Tat Faek FALLs: road @ Km 14 >, swim in upper pond ONLY,

TRANS: 1.5 km off road; take R fork after about 500 mtr, THEN, L fork after about 800 mtr

Tat Se Noi FALLs (aka Waterfall of Heads": (Japs beheaded Laos)

TRANS: @ Km 16 long bridge crosses Se Nam Noi (Attapeu Prov) , just S of bridgetracl goes E >

STRAT: rent moto, 4 2-3 day loop: out & back > Attapue, getting there -- half fun, nice scenery & grt rural life along way.

SITES:

UXO Lao: cleared UXO display

AROUND SEKONG:DT:

* **Nam Tok Katamtok falls:** mighty, 100 mtr drop,

DIRECS: C below*

Phuoi: coffee plantations / VILLs:

Trek >> coffee planta~ from Tat Nam Tok Katamtok (falls): 18 km from Attapeu, unsigned p307

Also 2 falls: Tat Tha Jet, Tat Kameud

ACCM: homestays in Ban Nong Luang VILL

TRANS:

31km S of Sekong, turn W on laterite road (may B slippery when wet) > Paksong: 2 falls from rd:

On Rt 16, After 16-18 km: look > N @ lrg cascade

*Nam Tok Katamtok: 2 km farther

Or, rt 16: 16-18 km from Attapeu, unsigned p307,

EASY > MISS, but HINT: cross 3 bridges & climb hill > 25mi trail goes Land spectacular drop appears out of jungle (?)

Attapeu (aka Maung Samakhi Xai): OPT p310

Every branch of HCM TRL ran thru here, many Vietnamese,

TRANS- IN:

Attapeu BUS TERM: next > Talat Noi @ 3km NW of CNTR

TIC: Yes LP308

TRANS-LOCAL:

Jumbo , bikes, mtrbikes

TRANS- OUT

Attapeu > Da Nang / Hoi An OR Paksed > Da Nang / Hoi An

Attapeu > Bo Y (border Xing) , VERY scenic, good road & no traffic, best drive in [Asia](#) > date

How long will take (allow 2 days).

Rt 18 impassable

From Pakse: (5/d, 5-6 h) w/stops @: Sekong(2h), Paksong (4h)

ACCM:

"Duc Loc" GH:

newly built(run by VIET & 1st floor VIET restaurant "Lao- Viet restaurant"(=former name: Ti-Ti restaurant)

all passenger & BUS staffs lunch time STOP: many menus & very delicious!..

LOC: 3-tier building; 100m from Sekong bridge

Bank: money exchange (USD ./from Lao Kip & VND, Thai Bath & exchange rate OK; w

Ghs r: 40k - 60k K;-GOOG

LAOS > VIET DIRECS:

C VIET ITIN

Pakse> Gia Lai, VN(=Pleiku) in CNTR Highlands, VN --Phou Keau/Bo Y border have direct BUS in each.

Attapeu, Laos & Kontum, VIET: Convenient, @ Bo Y wide open . foreigners, interesting, if challenging, way . enter VIET..

In Attapeu: mini-BUSs > Bo Y: (DP: 1st :07:00a, then thru > about 10:00; > Bo Y: 80,000 kip.(It's 119km from Attapeu . Bo Y.

THEN, after PP CHK (3 hrs), vans continue > Ngoc Hoi town, 18km inside VN

Ngoc Hoi- onward TRANS options: about anywhere

want . go. nearest spot on tourist trail Kon Tum, 68km E of Ngoc Hoi.

*Hoi An > Da Nang--PUB BUS or taxi or mtrbike taxi available, about 30 mins

Laos > VN: Border crossings: @ least six border crossings that can used by foreigners. include:

Bo Y (nearest town on VIET side being Ngoc Hoi & on Lao side Attapeu)

Donsavanh > Lao Bao - ./from Savannakhet

Keo Nua Pass

Lak Sao - from Khammouan Province

many now opt 4 more N crossing near Lak Xao convenient 4 Hue in VIET & Savannakhet in

Laos > Lao visas available & thru BUSs from Savannakhet > Hue run daily.

Nam Can - >/from [Plain of Jars](#)

Na Meo - >/from [Sam Neua](#)

Tay Trang - >/from Muang Khua & [Nong Khiaw](#)

LAOS > C VN BUS Companies:

"Mai Linh EXP" & "Dien Hong": 2 BUS companies btwn Pakse/Attapeu > Gia Lai ([Pleiku](#))

timetables: "Mai Linh EXP" & "Dien Hong" companies **now** regularly daily direct; BUT **never** run on schedule SO APPROX ARV time @ each point below. ASSUME: +/- 1 hr late

Pakse DP:

Any L>VN Relevance.BUS of Mai Ling CO from [Pleiku](#) > [Pakse](#) via Attapeu. BUS DP early in morning around 7 or 8 AM

Phou Keua-(?) Bo Y VIET border crossing links Attapeu w/Ntum or Quy Nhon, VIET & Hoi An & Danang Rt 18B

Sidebar p310: Mai Linh EXP minibus: (1/d @ 7am. 4h,

From VIET: C above p310

Mai Linh Express's direct BUS schedule from Gia Lai(=Pleiku) > Pakse)

NOTE again: Mai Linh BUS CO biggest BUS CO in VN & only BUS CO we really trust "

CORRECTED:

--- Pakse>Pakson>ThaTeng>Sekong> Bo Y:around Pm

Any L>VN Relevance.11-11-11: BUSs (or vans) from Ngoc Hoi > [VIET](#) now leave daily @ 09:00 & 10:00 -- there's no fixed BUS STA 4 them yet, but pick up from in front of Thanh Nga GH, or thereabouts, so you'll want . stop in there . purchase TIK & arrange . get on BUS -- fare 80,000 kip. TRAV via road 18B & terminates in Kontum, VIET. border crossing, known as Bo Y, 113km from Attapeu. This relatively new service & BUSs may eventually DP from main BUS STA.

Ngoc Hoi: around

Any L>VN Relevance. Bo Y / Ngoc Hoi

Danang or Hoi An > Ngoc Hoi:

Quynh (?) Ngoc BUS company's minivan(Ford) that runs btwn Gia Lai & [Dong Ha](#) via Da Nang & Hue —Tel(mobile):0989.354.354 (I caught on NR.14 in front of my GH)

Ngoc Hoi direct BUS . Bo Y OVN??

*Mai Linh Express's Direct BUS booking agent @ Ngoc Hoi : very sm clothing shop "Quynh Anh" @ 115 Hung Vuong St. **btwn** Dang Khoa HOT (address:121 Hung Vuong St.) & Dong Duong HOT (address: 95 Hung Vuong St.), **opposite** market & BUS STA. & **in front of** this sm clothing shop, there stands green colored Mai Linh's sign board (80x100cm) having letters "DAY LY BAN VE" (agent 4 selling TIK) & "Pakse ←→ Gia Lai""Gia Lai ←→ Attapeu") & "Mai Linh group"s logo, that shows this clothing shop Mai Linh Express's booking agent.

Any L>VN Relevance.If buy Mai Linh's BUS TIK here or Dien Hong's BUS TIK @ Nha Nghi Hoa Binh @ Hoa Binh HOT, can 100% surely take direct BUS going > Pakse (will picked up @ Gh next day) without having any contact w/ Mai Linh's or Dien Hong's office 4 ---now I noticed!!!

* most direct route as below.

Hoi An / Da Nang > Ngoc Hoi: (60km N of [Kon Tum](#) & 18km E of Bo Y border)Then, from Bo Y border > (Attapeu) > Pakse■

Da Nang BUS STA: 4 going > Ngoc Hoi)

ALT: * [Dien Hong's EXP minibus](#) : (Ford or Benz) BEST) .Kon Tum > Ngoc Hoi

DP from "Ben Xe Trung Uong **Da Nang**"(Da Nang CNTR BUS STA) ---**NOTE:** -Da Nang several big BUS STA!

*BUS fare & Dep.time of **EXP minibus** from Da Nang > Kon Tum (= Ngoc Hoi, same BUS) ---110,000ND (raised up now) / / 06:30am/07:00am/07:30am/09:30am/11:30am/12:30pm/13:30pm/17:00pm----(Aug.2010)

Kon Tum: *Gia Lai PROV:

Mai Linh Express's Gia Lai(=Pleiku) office, 4 contact w/them B4 leaving Hoi An or Da Nang, SO, van insure **pick up** by direct BUS .(VIET person @ GH will help)

*Mai Linh Express's Gia Lai=Pleiku office--Tel.no. 0987.087.811(mobile)

TIK cost--Pakse > Ngoc Hoi >:

BUS fare includ: Lunch fee @ Attapeu(@ VIET restaurant) it's very delicious!