

PRESS RELEASE

TOP FIVE THINGS TO DO IN LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

Luang Prabang, November 2015 - On this 20th Anniversary of Luang Prabang as a UNESCO Heritage Site, we have put together five of the most amazing 'off the beaten path' experiences. Take a step back in time and discover Lao's many cultural and historical gems, from its golden roofed temples and age old monasteries, stunning natural sights to its charming blend of French and Laotian influences.



Visit one of the 30 spectacular **Buddhist temples** in this ancient town. The best way to explore is by foot or cycling through the little town. You may even have the opportunity to speak to one of the young Buddhist monks. Wat Xieng Thong is its most famous and visited temple and monastery, with ornately designed mosaic tiles and sweeping tier-ed roofs.

Sail down the Mekong River and watch the sun sink into the horizon. Make a pit-stop at the famed Pak Ou Caves, two caves cut into a limestone cliff. The caves hold hundreds of perfectly posed Buddha images of various styles and sizes. For a bird's eye view of the river and town, climb up Mount Phousi, the main hill in the city, during sunrise or sunset, for that picture perfect shot.





Visit the morning market open daily from 5.30am and enjoy **fresh local cuisine** including Khao Soi – a minced meat noodle soup. Alternatively, venture into one of the restaurants along the main street to have a French meal with BeerLao. You can also take up a cooking class at the hotel with Chef and get hands on learning for local authentic dishes.

Rise at dawn and receive blessings from the city's Buddhist monks at the **Alms Giving Ceremony**. Clearly distinguished by their brightly coloured Saffron robes, kneel along Sakkaline Road and give your alms in the form of handfuls of sticky rice to the monks. A spiritual ceremony that started in the 14th century, this age-old tradition is ever present today.



Kuang Si Waterfalls - Just 30 kilometres out of town, this beautiful tiered waterfall is a great half day tour. Upon entering the park, walk through the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre that rescues endangered black bears from poachers, before walking through a forest trail to cascades of azure-blue pools. You are allowed to swim in allocated areas so bring towels and swimsuits. The highlight is the main waterfall at 25 metres high.

20th Anniversary of Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang celebrates its 20th Anniversary as a World Heritage site, from the 5 - 9 December 2015. There will be various events taking place including a market fair of handicrafts, photo exhibitions, artistic performances, an elephant parade; and various conferences pertaining to the preservation and conservation of Luang Prabang's World Heritage value.



All hotel guests at [Maison Souvannaphoum hotel](http://www.luangprabang20.com/) will receive a special book "A Walk Through The Heritage of Luang Prabang" by Francis Engelmann. It is the perfect guide book for a self-exploratory tour of Luang Prabang through its hidden alleys and gardens.
<http://www.luangprabang20.com/>

Fly direct into Luang Prabang with Lao Airlines from Singapore. Fares start from USD520.

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About Maison Souvannaphoum

Nestled in the cultural centre of Laos, find a former residence of Laotian Prince Souvanna Phouma transformed into an idyllic getaway at Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel. Combining old-world charm with contemporary facilities, taste the life of royalty in this colonial mansion with its 24 quaint rooms and suites. Facilities include the tropical Angsana Spa, two restaurants and a swimming pool.

Maison Souvannaphoum is a 15 minute drive from Luang Prabang International Airport. maison@angsana.com

About Angsana

Angsana brings the adventure back into travel whatever your age or reason to visit. Intertwining local chic and a vibrant fun-filled atmosphere, Angsana offers exotic destination playgrounds across the world. Each hotel is uniquely designed to provide spacious stylish rooms and suites, perfect for couples, families and groups of friends.

www.angsana.com