



MEKONG
RIVER CRUISES

MAJESTIC MEKONG

Boutique Ship Cruises in Lovely Laos







BOUTIQUE SHIP CRUISES ON THE MAJESTIC MEKONG

At last, the furthest reaches of the mighty Mekong River, previously inaccessible to travelers, are ready to be discovered. Our two small boutique ships, **MEKONG PEARL** and **MEKONG SUN**, make the impossible happen. On our unique cruises between Laos and Thailand, experienced captains guide our ships and guests through awe-inspiring gorges and labyrinths of pristine sandbanks, confidently navigating turbulent waters.

The Mekong Pearl and the Mekong Sun offer friendly service in a relaxed, old-world atmosphere for 29 guests at most who enjoy local specialties in the onboard restaurant and bar service on the sundeck. The two exclusive feel-good ships travel several different routes between Luang Prabang, the Golden Triangle, and Vientiane. Cruises can be as long as 12 days and as short as 6 days, offering a maximum of flexibility.





BOUTIQUE SHIP CRUISES ON THE MEKONG: A SNEAK PEEK

Enter a world of absolute serenity and outstanding natural beauty—pristine, remote, and captivating. The truly unique **MEKONG RIVER** cruises onboard our two boutique ships immerse travelers in the tropical

landscape and rich culture of Laos and Thailand. Explore the beauty of the Mekong's tranquil waters, marvel at unspoiled vistas of tropical jungles, and get to know everyday life in secluded villages.





The gigantic Golden Buddha statue on top of a boat at Ban Sop Ruak marks the Tri-State area where Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand meet: the **GOLDEN TRIANGLE**. This area was once notorious for cross-border drug deals—today, the modern Hall of Opium Museum gives visitors a vivid impression of those wild days.



RICE makes up 60% of all crops grown in Laos. No big surprise, given that each Laotian eats 454 pounds (206 kg) of rice a year.



Even though Laos is a landlocked country, Laotians get most of their proteins from fish—courtesy of the **MEKONG RIVER**.



Beautiful clothes, hair, and make-up are very important in Thai culture. Looking dapper is a sign of respect for your fellow humans.



PAK OU in Laos is famous for its curious Buddha caves filled with thousands of Buddha statues in all shapes and sizes.



EVERY BOY IN LAOS between the age of eight and twenty is expected to serve as a novice monk to work, pray, and study at a monastery for at least three months. For some families from the more rural areas, the monasteries provide the only form of education available.



Enjoy visits to the Wat Xieng Thong temple, a striking example of Buddhist architecture, Mount Pho Si, a hill with panoramic views, and the lively Hmong night market in **LUANG PRABANG**, the former capital of Laos.



Profound insights into the **EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE VILLAGES** on the shores of the river make for the most memorable experiences of a Mekong cruise.



Said to possess Buddha-like wisdom and patience, every **ELEPHANT IS SACRED** for a Buddhist and has to be treated with respect. It could be a reincarnation of Buddha himself.



LUANG PRABANG, once the royal capital of the Kingdom of Laos that lasted from 1953 to 1975, is said to be the most beautiful city in Laos, some even say in Southeast Asia. Most parts of the little town of only 66,000 inhabitants were declared UNESCO World Heritage in 1995.



The unique multilevel **KUANG SI FALLS** near Luang Prabang are a favorite of travelers because of the gorgeous natural pools.



Laotian rice, French malt, German hops: **BEERLAO**, “Asia’s best beer” (TIME Magazine), is as cosmopolitan as a drink can get.



STREET MARKETS in Laos are one of the few ways for the tribes living in the mountains to exchange their handcraft for money.



The **SINH** is a traditional Laotian costume still worn today. The colorful pattern of the garment is often a code revealing where the woman wearing it comes from.



The **PATUXAI** in Vientiane, a monument erected to commemorate Laos's independence from France in 1949, is ironically nicknamed the Laotian Arc de Triomphe today.



The modern-day capital of Laos, **VIENTIANE** is home to the Pha That Luang temple, a symbol of the nation. Legend has it that the breastbone of Buddha was kept here over 2,000 years ago.



- ◆ Explore historic Luang Prabang (UNESCO World Heritage) and the infamous Golden Triangle with the Hall of Opium
- ◆ Visit remote riverside villages and banter with the kids at a local school
- ◆ Marvel at the collection of golden Buddha statues in the Pak Ou Caves
- ◆ Meet local villagers and experience a traditional Laotian ceremony



THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

11-day Mekong River cruise in Laos and Thailand

Savor the magnificent scenery on our longest and most beautiful section of the Mekong River from the Golden Triangle into the heart of Laos—a journey from Chiang Rai in Thailand to Vientiane in Laos. Discover the Laotian capital and the UNESCO World Heritage city of Luang Prabang and experience the Laotian people's traditional way of life.

- DAY 1** Welcome to the Golden Triangle (D)
- DAY 2** The Golden Triangle—Huay Xay and Pak Tha (BLD)
- DAY 3** Amazing landscapes and remote villages (BLD)

- DAY 4** Thousands of Buddha statues in the Pak Ou Caves (BLD)
- DAY 5** The UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang (BL)
- DAY 6** Welcome to Luang Prabang (BD)
- DAY 7** Fabulous Kuang Si Falls (BLD)
- DAY 8** Ban Don Saingam: a charming farming village (BLD)
- DAY 9** Powerful rapids and the town of Salakham (BLD)
- DAY 10** Vientiane, the capital of Laos (BLD)
- DAY 11** Farewell to Laos in Vientiane (B)

Reverse direction cruise also available.
BLD: breakfast, lunch, dinner



- ◆ Explore the capital of Laos, Vientiane, and its most romantic city, Luang Prabang
- ◆ Fall in love with the fabulous Kuang Si Waterfalls
- ◆ Explore a hidden cave visited exclusively by our guests
- ◆ Marvel at the gigantic Xayaboury Dam, the biggest hydroelectric power plant in Laos



HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHERN LAOS

6-day round-trip Mekong River cruise to and from Luang Prabang

Enjoy a 6-day journey through once inaccessible regions of Southeast Asia's majestic Mekong River on a wonderfully charming boutique ship. Glide by dense jungle wilderness with ease, and marvel at the unspoiled nature of the region. This cruise is perfect for guests who would like to combine a visit to Luang Prabang with a unique cruise experience on the Mekong River: a spectacular round-trip cruise to and from Luang Prabang, once Laos' royal capital, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

- DAY 1** Welcome on board in Luang Prabang (D)
- DAY 2** Beautiful scenery along the Mekong River (BLD)
- DAY 3** Visit to a traditional Hmong village and a local school (BLD)
- DAY 4** The fabulous Kuang Si Waterfalls (BLD)
- DAY 5** Thousands of Buddha statues in the Pak Ou Caves (BLD)
- DAY 6** Luang Prabang (B)



LAOS REVEALED

6-day Mekong River cruise between the Golden Triangle and Luang Prabang

The Upper Mekong is considered one of the world's most spectacular rivers. It is also one of the most difficult rivers to navigate, with. Your comfortable cruise vessel masters tight gorges, negotiates labyrinths of sandbanks, fluctuating water levels, and clears churning rapids. Along this part of the Mother of all Waters, tranquil stretches of the river combine with striking shore scenery of lush green mountains, impressive rock formations, and secluded villages.

DAY 1 Chiang Rai in Thailand, the Golden Triangle, and embarkation (D)

DAY 2 Visits to Huay Xai and Pak Tha, a local school, and ethnic minorities (BLD)

DAY 3 Amazing landscapes, remote villages along the untamed Mekong (BLD)

DAY 4 The surreal Pak Ou Caves and their thousands of Buddha statues (BLD)

DAY 5 UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang (BL)

DAY 6 Disembarkation in Luang Prabang (B)

Reverse direction cruise also available.



- ◆ Take advantage of our expertise and focus on enjoying the Mekong's beauty
- ◆ Visit iconic sights like the Kuang Si Falls in the heart of the Mekong
- ◆ Discover the temples, monasteries and colonial buildings of Luang Prabang
- ◆ Embrace the locals during visits to remote villages and towns
- ◆ Indulge your senses with tasty local drinks like Beerlao and fresh food prepared on board



IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEKONG

6-day cruise on the Mekong River's loveliest stretch between Vientiane and Luang Prabang

Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Mekong River on this unique cruise from the Laotian capital of Vientiane to the UNESCO World Heritage town Luang Prabang, secretly said to be Asia's most beautiful city. Travel along formerly inaccessible stretches of Southeast Asia's most exciting river. Stroll through colorful markets and experience the Laotian people's traditional way of life. Relax aboard your exclusive boutique ship and enjoy unspoiled nature along the mighty Mekong River.

DAY 1 Welcome on board in Vientiane (D)

DAY 2 Wild Nature Along the Mighty Mekong (BLD)

DAY 3 Powerful Rapids and the dreamy town of Salakham (BLD)

DAY 4 Ban Don Saingam: a charming farming village (BLD)

DAY 5 The gigantic Xayabourri Dam (BLD)

DAY 6 Fabulous Kuang Si Falls and Luang Prabang (BL)

Reverse direction cruise also available.



- ◆ Relax in ultimate comfort on our old-world style boutique ships
- ◆ Encounter hidden treasures on jungle treks to remote locations like the Buddha caves in Pak Ou
- ◆ Take the time to get a deep understanding of the people of the Mekong
- ◆ Enjoy Mekong cuisine, signature dishes of Southeast Asia, and lao-lao, a traditional Laotian rice whiskey



BENEFITS OF MEKONG RIVER CRUISES

For more than a decade, we have been providing travelers with unique opportunities to explore the beauty of the Mekong. But we are more than just tour guides. Our journeys are tailor-made to provide unforgettable adventures and a lifetime of memories.

- **CHOOSE** from a wide selection of ship cabins
- **DON'T WAIT** on long lines or travel by bumpy buses
- **ENJOY** our detailed service, including delicious local cuisine
- **RELAX** and let our experts guide you on the tour of a lifetime
- **CUSTOMIZE** your experience with us and feel right at home on the adventure of your dreams!



LEAN BACK, RELAX, AND ENJOY

A FIRST-CLASS EXPERIENCE

- ◆ Well-appointed cabins, each with large windows and balcony
- ◆ Laid-back atmosphere on board—casual clothing welcome
- ◆ Air-conditioned shuttle service between hotel and airports on first and last days
- ◆ Entrance fees, sights and excursions according to itinerary
- ◆ Tours by air-conditioned vehicles according to itinerary
- ◆ Welcome drink and a gift for each guest

EXPERT STAFF

- ◆ Friendly and professional 16-person crew for maximum 29 travelers
- ◆ Experienced, multilingual cruise director available at all times
- ◆ Local English-speaking guides (French-speaking on select departures) and service personnel
- ◆ Informative and entertaining talks on board about lands, culture and history
- ◆ Polite and professional restaurant and bar staff, serving your meals with a smile
- ◆ Traditional Asian massage bookable on board (Mekong Pearl)



FRESH FLAVORS

- ◆ Daily meals according to route description, including coffee, tea, water, snacks, and fresh fruit like bananas, papaya, dragon fruit and mangosteen
- ◆ Delights of regional cuisine freshly prepared on board (vegetarian upon request)
- ◆ Bar service available on board, featuring cocktails and local drinks like Beerlao and lao-lao (rice whiskey)
- ◆ Our most unique and memorable highlight: delicious barbecue with villagers and live music on a sandbank

EVERYTHING ELSE

- ◆ Bathrobe and slippers for each guest
- ◆ Refreshing towelettes and drinks after excursions
- ◆ Detailed information package about the destination
- ◆ Whatever it takes to make your Mekong adventure enjoyable and pleasant!



THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE MEKONG

1

TRAVEL WITH THE PIONEERS

EXPLORE

formerly inaccessible stretches of the Northern Mekong with our exclusive boutique ships.

2

UNIQUE EXPEDITION TOURS

BE SURPRISED

by the mighty Mekong's caprices. The river decides where your ship docks, so every journey is different.

3

WELL-APPOINTED CABINS

CHOOSE

between Classic, Superior and Deluxe cabins, all of which provide spectacular views.

MEKONG PEARL AND MEKONG SUN

The **MEKONG PEARL** and the **MEKONG SUN** are sister ships, owned and operated by Mekong River Cruises (Laos)/Lernidee Trains & Cruises (Germany), offering the most enjoyable way to navigate the mighty Mekong. It's old-world charm and contemporary comfort—combined!

Well-appointed cabins, each with large windows, private bathroom and French balcony or even a private balcony with sitting area.

Every journey on our boutique ships is made unforgettable thanks to the laid-back atmosphere on board, our friendly staff, and of course—dazzling views of the Mekong!



COMPONENTS OF A PERFECT CRUISE

- ◆ Laid-back atmosphere with a maximum of 29 travelers on board—casual clothing welcome
- ◆ Daily meals with delights of regional cuisine freshly prepared on board plus coffee, tea, water, snacks, and fresh fruit
- ◆ Bar service available on board, featuring wine, cocktails and local drinks like Beerlao
- ◆ Friendly restaurant and bar staff, serving your meals and drinks with a smile
- ◆ Experienced, multilingual cruise director plus English-speaking (French-speaking on select departures) local guides
- ◆ Bathrobe and slippers for each guest
- ◆ Entrance fees during excursions and sightseeing included
- ◆ Informative and entertaining talks on board about lands, culture, and history
- ◆ Air-conditioned shuttle service between hotel and airport on first and last days





THE MEKONG SUN: YOUR HOME ON AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

CLASSIC CABINS

- ◆ 11 Classic cabins on the main deck
- ◆ Size: 129 ft₂/12 m₂
- ◆ 2 twin beds per cabin
- ◆ Sliding windows facing water
- ◆ French balcony
- ◆ Private bathroom, shower and air-conditioning

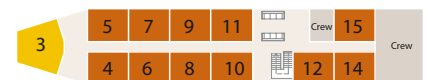
SUPERIOR CABINS

- ◆ 3 Superior cabins, 1 on the bow of the main deck and 2 on the upper deck
- ◆ Size: 194 ft₂/18 m₂ (upper deck)
- ◆ 172 ft₂/16 m₂ (main deck)
- ◆ 2 twin beds per cabin (exception: 1 double bed in cabin #3)
- ◆ Small private balcony (upper deck)
- ◆ Panoramic view from bow (main deck)
- ◆ Private bathroom, shower and air-conditioning

Upper deck



Main deck





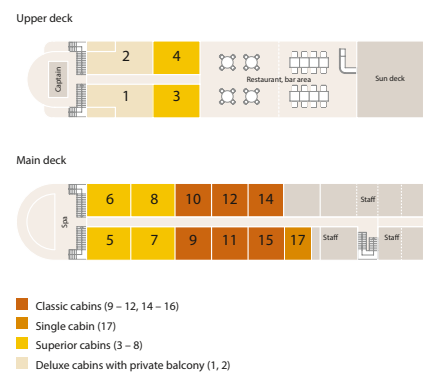
THE MEKONG PEARL: THE BIG LITTLE SISTER OF THE MEKONG SUN

CLASSIC CABINS

- ◆ 6 Classic cabins and 1 Single Classic cabin on the main deck
- ◆ Size: 129 ft₂/12 m₂
- ◆ 2 twin beds per cabin (excluding Single Classic)
- ◆ Sliding windows facing water
- ◆ French balcony
- ◆ Private bathroom, shower and air-conditioning

SUPERIOR/DELUXE CABINS

- ◆ 4 Superior cabins on the main deck; 2 Superior cabins and 2 Deluxe cabins on the upper deck
- ◆ Size: 172 ft₂/16 m₂ (Superior)
237 ft₂/22 m₂ (Deluxe)
- ◆ 2 twin beds per cabin
- ◆ Sliding windows facing water
- ◆ French balcony (Superior)
- ◆ Small private balcony (Deluxe)
- ◆ Private bathroom, shower and air-conditioning





MEKONG
RIVER CRUISES

