



## An exact replica of lifestyle in the former Royal Residence

The former Royal Palace was built during the rule of King Sisavang Vong between 1904 and 1909. His son, King Sisavang Vatthana and his family were the last to occupy the grounds. In 1975, the

Lao people gained independence from the monarchy and the following year, on 15th March, the palace was re-opened to the public as a national museum by the government.

It has been decorated with wall and mosaic paintings throughout and contains furniture and household goods used by the Royal Family. The richness of diplomatic gifts indicates how successful Luang Prabang had been as a kingdom at that time. The museum has over 50,000 artifacts on display in its rooms.

### ② King's Reception Room



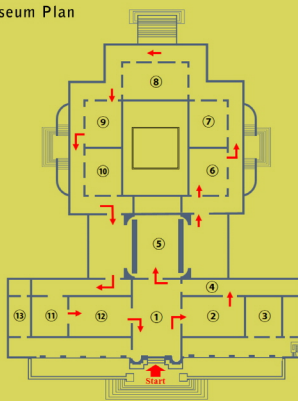
This was the room where ambassadors from far and wide came to deliver their credentials to the King. In 1930 King Sisavang Vong commissioned a French artist, Alix de Fautereau, to decorate the walls.

The theme of this room is 'daily life' in Luang Prabang from dawn to dusk. Another wall features reliefs of Ramayana.

### ⑤ Throne Room

The main throne was used by the last monarch, King Sisavang Vatthana. A smaller throne was used by past Kings such as Oun Kham, Khamsouk, and Sisavang Vong. All walls in this room are decorated with colorful mosaics representing Lao folk tales, customs, ceremonies and wars. These mosaics, made from Japanese glass and lacquer, were produced by Laotian craftsman between 1963 and 1967.

## Museum Plan



- 1 Protocol Room
- 2 King's Reception Room
- 3 Prabang Room (old)
- 4 Bronze Drums Galleries
- 5 Throne Room
- 6 Reading Room
- 7 Queen's Bedroom
- 8 King's Bedroom
- 9 Children's Room (Ramayana Exhibition)
- 10 Dining Room
- 11 Queen's Reception Room
- 12 Secretary's Reception Room
- 13 Check Room



## The Prabang Buddha and the introduction of Buddhism



### ③ Prabang Room (old)

The statue of Lord Buddha, known as the Prabang Buddha, stands with the palms of both hands pacing outward. It's a symbolic gesture of protection against all evils. This Buddha statue came from the King of Khmer when the first King of the Lan Xang empire, Fa Ngum, introduced Buddhism in the 14th century.

Every *Phi-Mai Lao* (Lao New Year), the Buddha is carried to Wat Mai next to the Museum and splashed with water, in a ceremony known as Song Nam Pha.

### ⑪ Queen's Reception



This is where the Queen would meet with people and entertain her guests. There are three Royal portraits painted by famous Russian artist, Ilya Glazunov. The main wall features King Sisavang Vatthana. On the right wall is his wife, Queen Khamphouy. And, on the left wall is their son, the crown prince, Vongsavang.

Each painting uses an artistic device that tricks the eye into thinking you are being followed around the room. See for yourself by moving from right to left while looking at the top of the King's shoes.

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