



TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

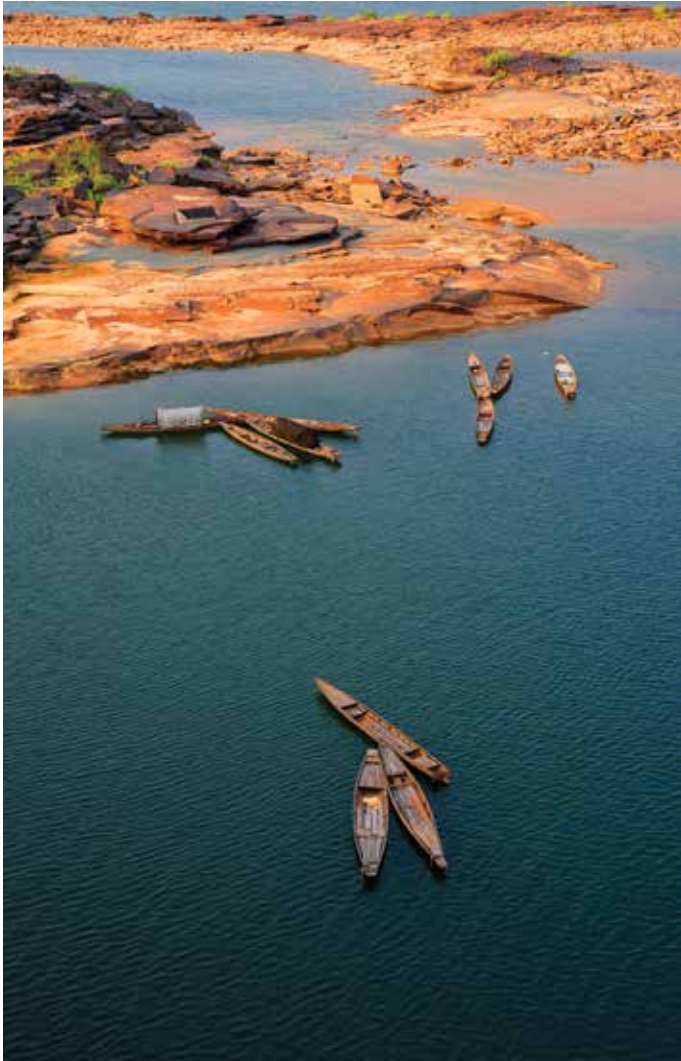
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Vientiane

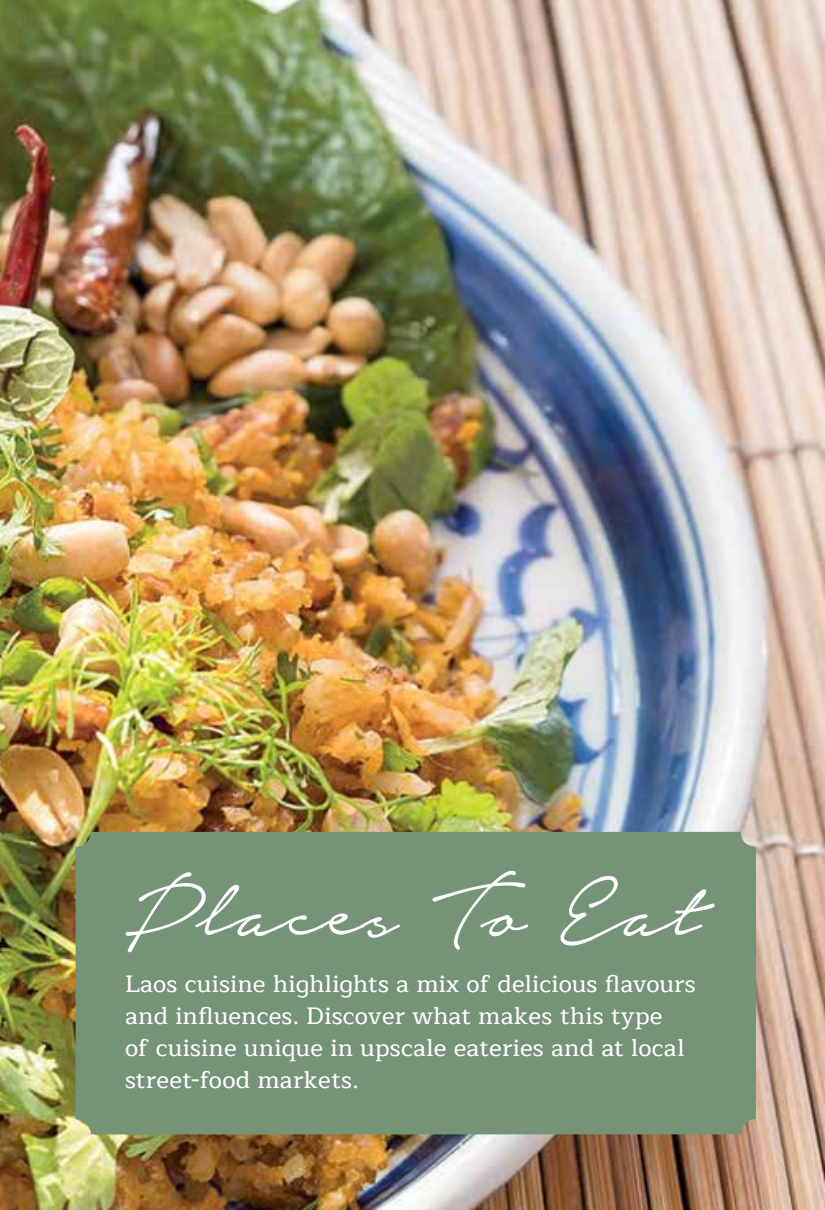
LAOS POCKET GUIDE



As the epicentre of Laos' commerce, there is an eminent sense of old meets new that charms visitors as they wander the well-paved city streets

Vientiane is Laos' largest city and, arguably, its most laid-back. Sitting peacefully on the banks of the Mekong River, this city is home to a charming combination of French-colonial architecture and Buddhist motifs.

The sites of Vientiane create the city's unique character. The Patuxai Monument stands tall and proud, offering panoramic views of the sleepy town. And just outside, Buddha Park presents a maze of intricately carved Buddha statues for travellers to meander.



Places To Eat

Laos cuisine highlights a mix of delicious flavours and influences. Discover what makes this type of cuisine unique in upscale eateries and at local street-food markets.

Must-Try Local Foods



KHAO SOI

Yellow curry soup with rice noodles and a choice of meat



NAM PRIK

A variety of chili dipping sauces



SAI OUA

Grilled herb pork sausages



TAM KHANUN

Young jackfruit salad



LARB MOO

Minced fresh meat mixed with chili paste

LAOS DINING



Pricing Reference: \$ - Inexpensive \$\$ - Moderate \$\$\$ - Expensive

Amphone Restaurant

\$

Amphone Restaurant serves contemporary Lao food in a gorgeous indoor/outdoor space located in the city centre. One of the best new restaurants in the Vientiane, it also features a Lao 'tasting menu,' a delectable introduction to the local cuisine. Open Mon-Sat 11am to 2pm; 5:30pm to 10pm

Setthathirat Rd. - Tel. +856 30 -51-82-615

Bistro 22

\$\$

This recently opened restaurant has rapidly become one of the most popular restaurants in Vientiane. Chef Philippe's specialties include tuna and steak. There is also an extensive and well-chosen wine list to pair with the delicious entrees. Open daily 11:30am to 2pm; 6:15pm to 10pm

22 Samsenthai Rd. - Tel. +856 21-214-129

Kualao

\$

Set in a restored colonial mansion, dining includes a live show with traditional dance performances. Kualao provides an extensive menu of flavourful local food tailored for Western palates, combined with excellent service and a central location. Open daily 11am to 2pm; 6pm to 10pm

134 Samsenthai Rd. -Tel. +856 21-215-777

Lao Kitchen

\$

Colourful décor and melodic music set the atmosphere for this contemporary Lao restaurant. The menu features classic Lao dishes with a twist. Hungry travellers choose from stews, spring rolls, and stir-fries all highlighting the unique flavours of Lao cuisine. Open daily 10am to 10pm

Thanon Hengboun - Tel. +856 20 54-846-421



INTERNATIONAL DINING



Acqua \$\$

Acqua is an achievement of creative gastronomy by Chef Gerardo, an award-winning chef with a wide array of culinary experience, specialising in authentic Italian cuisine with an artistic flair. Featuring sensational haute cuisine, the best varieties of imported Italian wines and exclusive VIP private dining areas. Open daily 11:30am to 2pm; 5:30pm to 10:30pm

007/078 Rue Francois Nginn - Tel. +856 20-59-917-888

L'Adresse de Tinay \$

Owned by a charming Lao-French couple, this small restaurant serves delicious authentic French food, especially southern France specialties. The well-decorated room offers traditional ambience from bamboo-framed artwork, wood carvings furniture and colourful silks. Open daily 5pm to 10:30pm

Wat Ongteu - Tel. +856 20-56-913-434

La Belle Epoque at Settha Palace \$\$\$

La Belle Epoque Settha Palace exudes laidback, old world charm. The menu is a reliable mix of continental favourites and creative dishes, from imported Australian steak to goat cheese pastries, all paired with a wide selection of international wines. Open daily 6:30am to 10pm

6 Pang Kham St. - Tel. +856 21-217-581

La Signature Restaurant - Ansara Hotel \$\$\$

As one of the finest French restaurants in Vientiane, guests have many atmospheric dining options. There is al fresco seating on the roofed terrace or inside seating surrounded by a French inspired ambience. For a private setting, ask the friendly waiters to set up your table in the adjoining garden. Open daily 11:30am to 2pm; 6:30pm to 10pm

Quai Fa Ngum - Tel. +856 21-213-514

Pimenton \$\$

Pimenton, meaning 'paprika' in Spanish, has high ceilings, a sleek bar, and is widely considered to be the best steak restaurant in the capital. Only the choicest cuts of sirloin, chateaubriand and rib eye are cooked on the fiery open grill. Open daily 11am to 2:30pm; 5pm to 10pm

5 Rue Nokeokoummane - Tel. +856 21-215-506

BAR & LOUNGE



Bor Pen Yang

If you are wanting a great place to watch the sun set over the Mekong, then Bor Pen Yang is the place to be. You will find this excellent hotspot overlooking the river and only a few minutes from the city centre. They have everything from local beers to cocktails to sip on as the sun begins to set. Open daily 11am to 12am

Quai Fa Ngum Rd. - Tel. +856 21-261-373

Khop Chai Deu Restaurant-Bar

Day in and day out this restaurant-bar is crowded with friendly patrons living the relaxed Vientiane lifestyle. There is a large menu to order from and its vibrant atmosphere is spectacular. Live music can be enjoyed several nights throughout the week. This eatery is also popular for being a great place to have business meetings. Open daily 9am to 12am

54 Setthathirath Rd. - Tel. +856 21-263-829

CAFÉ & TEAHOUSE



Café Sinouk

\$

Café Sinouk imports their own brand of coffee, creating a farm to table experience. The high quality coffee comes directly from the Sinouk plantation and received the organic certification in 2009, ensuring its excellence as a local Laos coffee brand. Open daily 8am to 5pm

Rue Bourichane - Tel. +856 30-20-000-654

Comma Coffee

\$

Comma Coffee is a cosy café serving delicious pastries, coffee, and fruit juices. The brick wall inside is signed by passer-by travellers, leaving their mark for future visitors to ponder. Make sure to sign as a way to connect with past and present tourists who have stopped at the café. Open daily 8am to 9pm

Setthathirath Rd. Tel. +856 20-58-199-566



1. Wat That Foun
2. Wat That Dam
3. Wat Sisaket
4. Wat Si Muang
5. Wat Ha Prakeo
6. Wat Mixai
7. Wat Ong Teu
8. Wat Ing Peng
9. Presidential Palace
10. Night Market
11. Patuxay Monument
12. Morning Market
13. Laos National Museum

VIENTIANE
DOWNTOWN MAP

Common Grounds Café and Bakery \$

Sofas to read on, a counter boasting wraps, quesadillas, falafel, salads and homemade cookies make this family-friendly Mexican café the perfect lunch spot. Give back to the community as you dine - Common Grounds supports many local charities around Vientiane. Open Mon-Sat 7am to 8pm
101 Chao Anou Rd. - Tel. +856 21-255-057

Joma Bakery Café \$

Vientiane's most contemporary bakery has a friendly atmosphere. A café menu comprised of homemade salads, subs, and fresh-baked pastries like brownies and cake. Comfy couches, free Wi-Fi, unfailing cleanliness, and superb staff give Joma Bakery Café its unrivalled charm. Open daily 7am to 9pm
Zone 1: Rue Setthathirat. - Tel. +856 21-215-265
Zone 2: Nongbone Rd. and Singha Rd. - Tel. +856 21-453-618
Zone 3: Dongpaina Rd. - Tel. +856 21-454-663



Le Banneton \$

Famous for their warm croissants, make sure you get here early to try one. The simple interior makes for a nice place to read a book over a tart, salad, panini or omelette. Tasty breakfasts and homemade marmalade and jam can also be enjoyed outside on the small terrace. Open daily 7am to 6:30pm

Rue Nokeokoumane - Tel. +856 21-217-321

Naked Espresso \$

One of the best-loved coffee shops in Vientiane, Naked Espresso specialises in home-grown Lao coffee and selected gourmet imports from places as diverse as Ethiopia and Indonesia. Light meals are also available, including salads and wraps, plus some impressive homemade cakes. Open daily 7am to 6pm

Dongpalan Rd. - Tel. +856 30-538-3391



Things to Do

For such an easy-going city, there is no lack of activity and intrigue for visitors. From religious temples to historical museums and monuments, there is a cultural experience to be had by all.



Top Things to Do



Wander the sculpture garden at Buddha Park



Visit the turquoise waters of Nam Ngum Reservoir



Explore the city's treasured temples



Learn about Lao weaving at an artist's home-studio



Take a tuk tuk tour to get the local perspective



ENTERTAINMENT

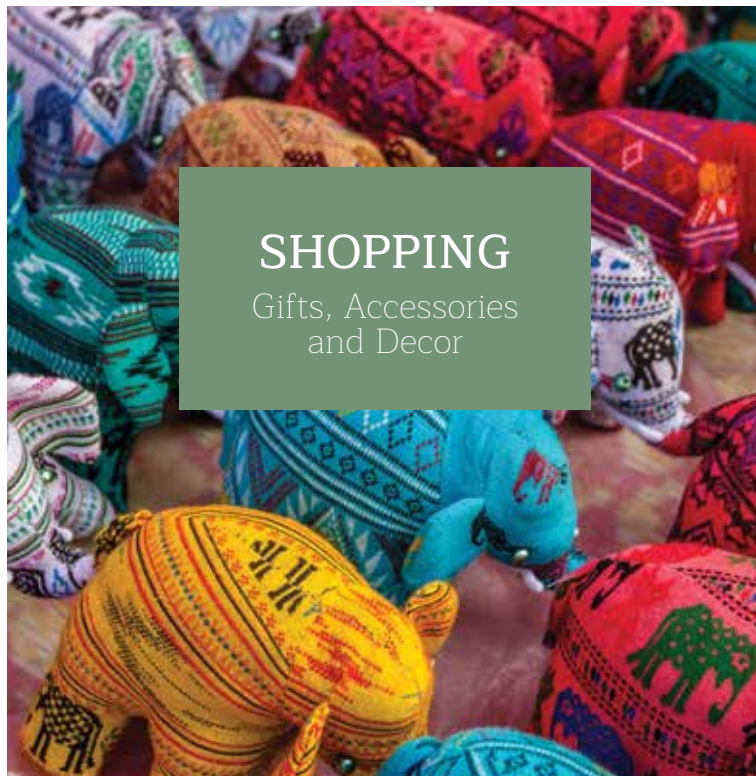


Kualao

\$

Dinner at Kualao is accompanied by cultural performances from the National Performing Arts Academy. Elegant Laotian dancers move to the rhythm of the traditional music being played on customary Lao instruments. A captivating evening of delicious food and exquisite entertainment for all.

134 Samsenthai Rd. - Tel. +856 +856 21-215-777



SHOPPING

Gifts, Accessories
and Decor

Carol Cassidy

Carol Cassidy is an American textiles expert who arrived in Vientiane in 1989 as part of a United Nations project to promote traditional weaving. Today, the studio employs over 40 local weavers who create naturally dyed and woven silk pieces reflecting traditional Lao designs. Open Mon-Fri 8am to 12pm; 2pm to 5pm; Sat 8am to 12pm

Ban Mixay - Tel. +856 21-212-123

Elégant Boutique

Great quality silk and cotton tailoring are fashioned by a young Laotian designer at Elégant Boutique. Items include clothing and intricate hill tribe jewellery made from silver. Garments are made using local silk and cotton with the option to order more online once you've been measured in the store. Open daily 9:30am to 8pm

103 Pangkham St. - Tel. +856 20-55-702-223

Saoban Village

Some of the finest craftsmen in Laos sell their wares at Saoban Village, which was started by community leader and award-winner, Sombath Somphone, as a place for villagers to sell their art under fair trade principles. Whatever you purchase here, your proceeds will go directly back to the artist. Open Mon-Sat 9am to 8pm

97/1 Chao Anou Rd. - Tel. +856 21-241-835



Talat Sao (Morning Market)

Talat Sao is a shoppers' paradise. There are two sections for exploring. One is an inside mall where you will find the usual selection of consumer goods. The original morning markets invited visitors outside with trinkets and other souvenirs to choose from. Open daily 7am to 5pm

Lane Xang Ave. - Tel. +856 21-285-001

Vientiane Night Market

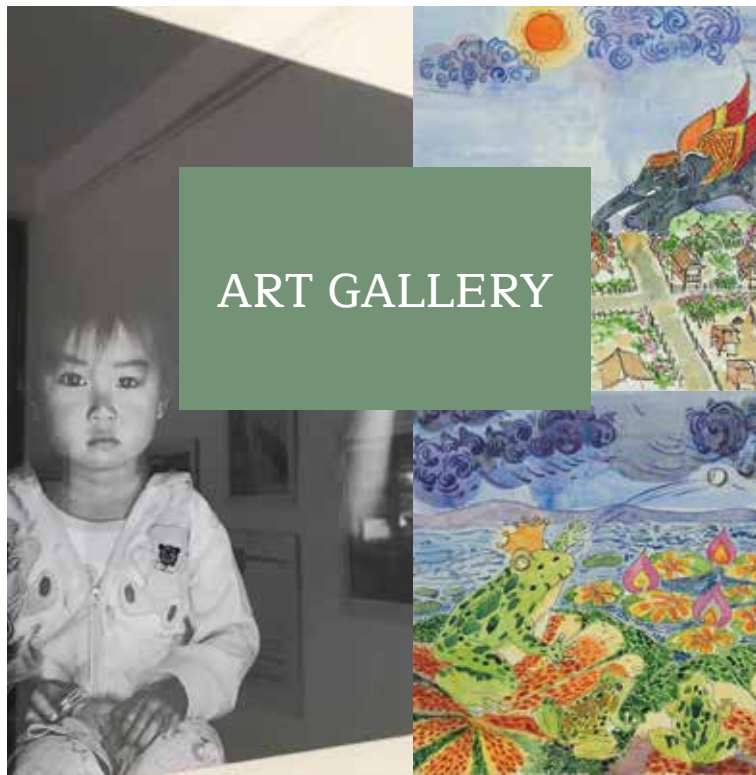
The Vientiane Night Market has many different types of mementos organised in rows of colourful stalls, sitting on the riverside promenade. Opening as the sun begins to set, shoppers can weave between booths bargaining with the friendly merchants to get the best price on the local goods. Open daily 6pm to 10pm

Riverside Promenade





SPA & WELLNESS



ART GALLERY

Champa Spa

A full service massage and spa provider, Champa Spa has two centrally located facilities to service all your beauty needs. Spend the afternoon relaxing as the expert therapists guide you through specialised treatments. Open daily 9am to 10pm

Zone 1: Samsenthai Rd. - Tel. +856 21-251-926

Zone 2: Pangkham Rd. - Tel. +856 21-215-203

Icat Gallery

Icat Gallery is a small gallery in Vientiane, showing contemporary art from local Laotian artists, as well as expats and foreigners. Opening in 2009, it has hosted a range of exhibitions and events, including visual art, music performances, poetry readings, design, installations and book launches. Open Mon-Fri 1pm to 7pm; Sat-Sun 12pm to 6pm

230-231 Settathirath St. - Tel. +856 20-77-839-674

M Gallery

M Gallery first opened its doors in 2008 to specialise in contemporary art from Laos. The goal is to showcase the creativity of the local artists to the community and international audiences in well-curated exhibitions that are showed in Vientiane and Singapore.

133 Samsenthai Rd. - Tel. +856 21-214-765

Treasures of Asia

With one of the most interesting collections of contemporary art in Laos, Treasures of Asia distinguishes itself as one of the city's largest galleries. Explore the culture of Vientiane through the eyes of its local artists and exchange ideas with fellow art-lovers.

86/08 Setthathirath Rd. - Tel. +856 21-222-236

Notes

