

A young girl is seen from behind, running through a lush green field. She is wearing a white, sleeveless, knee-length dress and a straw hat with a dark band. The background is filled with tall, leafy trees, and the air is filled with many small, shimmering bubbles. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a sunny day in a park.

AMANTAKA

Family Experience Guide

Family Journeys of Discovery

At Amantaka, we believe that experiences are personal journeys — and even more meaningful when shared as a family. Our aim is to gently introduce you and your loved ones to the rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and warm-hearted people of Luang Prabang, helping you create memories that last a lifetime.

As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Luang Prabang is home to 32 tranquil temples and 111 beautifully preserved Lao-French buildings, making it one of Southeast Asia's best-preserved traditional towns. With strict conservation guidelines in place, the town has retained its timeless charm, where every street corner tells a story. Its small scale and peaceful atmosphere make it ideal for families to explore together — whether on foot or by bicycle — discovering notable landmarks and hidden gems along the way.

From learning to cook traditional Lao dishes on our organic farm to exploring local arts and crafts, or cycling through the historic town, our dedicated team is here to help you craft a tailor-made itinerary that brings you closer — to each other and to the heart of this enchanting destination.



Luang Prabang: A City of Timeless Spirit

Once the royal capital of the Lan Xang Kingdom and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Luang Prabang is a city steeped in history, spirituality, and quiet charm. Nestled between the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, it embodies a graceful blend of traditional Lao architecture and French colonial influence. With its sacred temples, saffron-robed monks, and enduring cultural traditions, Luang Prabang offers a profound glimpse into the spiritual soul of Laos.

Luang Prabang City Tour

Half-day excursion

We begin the tour at Amantaka, and our first stop is Wat Visoun and Wat Aham. Within their precincts stands the gigantic That Makmo (Watermelon Stupa), originally known as That Patum or Lotus Stupa, built in 1503 A.D. We make our way towards Mount Phousi, bearing right to follow the Nam Khan River flanked by small vegetable gardens along its banks. After reaching the end of the peninsula, we visit Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang's most famous wat, known as the Temple of the Golden City and considered the town's main spiritual gateway.

As we walk through the winding streets, observe small storefronts preparing rice cakes and handmade paper products before reaching the main artery of the town to visit the golden Buddha at Wat Sene. We continue to Wat Nong and follow the Mekong to the Royal Palace, now home to the National Museum. Its most treasured exhibit is the Phra Bang (Golden Buddha), for which Luang Prabang—City of the Golden Buddha—was named. We end our tour at Wat Mai, one of the grandest and most impressive temples in Luang Prabang, with its golden frontage and distinctive five-tiered red roof, before returning to Amantaka.



A Town of Creativity

Luang Prabang is a town where creativity flows through everyday life — a place where art, tradition, and storytelling come together. Families are invited to explore this vibrant spirit through hands-on experiences that inspire curiosity and connection.

From sketching quiet temple scenes with a local illustrator, to discovering the beauty of traditional weaving in the Lao Textile Experience, or crafting delicate lanterns in the Mulberry Paper & Lantern Making Workshop, each activity offers a joyful way to engage with the town's rich cultural heritage.

Sketch Walk Luang Prabang with Paul Bloxham

Paul Bloxham is a friendly and talented illustrator who has called Luang Prabang home for over 20 years. Originally from the UK, Paul first came to Laos in 1997 to support local health workers through creative design and training. Captivated by the beauty and culture of Luang Prabang, he chose to stay and has since worked with many heritage, tourism, and development projects across the region.

With a lifelong passion for drawing — especially from real life — Paul loves helping others discover the joy of sketching, no matter their age or experience. His calm, encouraging teaching style makes him a favorite among both children and adults, ensuring your family's creative journey through Luang Prabang is both inspiring and unforgettable.





Lao Textile Experience

Spend a creative afternoon discovering the rich textile traditions of Laos at Ock Pop Tok's Living Crafts Centre. Located in a beautifully restored wooden house in Ban Saylom, this experience blends hands-on learning with cultural storytelling.

Begin with a warm welcome over tea, followed by an introduction to the origins of silk, traditional dyeing techniques, and three distinct types of Lao weaving. Try your hand at dyeing a silk scarf with natural dyes, then move to the riverside weaving sala where a master weaver guides you through basic loom techniques. Finish your journey with a batik workshop led by Mrs. Suxiong, the only Hmong batik teacher in Luang Prabang, as she helps you create your own design on hemp using traditional tools.

Mulberry 'Saa' Paper & Lantern Making Workshops

Create your own unique souvenir by decorating mulberry paper with your chosen patterns, and crafting a lantern using your preferred colours. The experience begins with a brief tour of the mulberry production house, souvenir shop, and art gallery.

Next, join the mulberry paper-making workshop, where you'll decorate your paper with fresh flowers, leaves, and fibres. After a short break, select your favourite coloured paper to create your very own lantern.

Morning private session 9.30am-12pm

Afternoon private session 1.30pm-4pm



Family Adventures in Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang's peaceful landscapes and rich traditions provide the perfect setting for unforgettable family experiences. Ride through scenic trails on gentle Equestrian Adventures, meet rescued giants in the Elephant Experience or enjoy playful learning at the Buffalo Farm, where little ones can feed, bathe, and interact with these beloved animals.

For a more active exploration, join our Family Cycling Tour through the quiet lanes and historic quarters of this UNESCO-listed town — a fun and enriching way for families to connect with the heart of Luang Prabang.

Buffalo Farm Experience

In Laos, the buffalo is known as a friend of the farmer not only for draught power and fertiliser but also for taking full advantage of feed resources, free time and subsidiary labours. At the farm, you will be shown around the dairy, learn how to milk a buffalo and try some delicious ice cream.

Family Cycling Tour

Discover historical temples and experience the local way of life on two wheels with your family. As you ride through the enchanting lanes of Luang Prabang.

A private tour guide is available to offer riding tips and share insights into notable architectural landmarks and other distinctive attractions along the way.

Please kindly note that tour guides incur an additional cost.





Equestrian Adventures

Embark on a journey through the stunning natural landscapes of Luang Prabang on horseback, discovering the region's enchanting beauty. Our guided tours cater to all abilities, offering a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the area's rich culture and breathtaking scenery. Learn the art of horseback riding at our equestrian school, where we focus on ethological riding to foster a deep connection and harmony between rider and horse. Explore a variety of exotic trails, winding through lush forests and alongside serene rivers, and experience the authentic Laotian countryside from an unparalleled perspective.

The private experience lasts approximately 90 minutes, offering a peaceful ride through the forest and occasionally along the river.

Please note that rides are available only before 11am and after 3.30pm to avoid the midday heat.

For safety, there are weight and height restrictions: the maximum weight is 65 kg and the maximum height is 1.70 m.



Amantaka Elephant Experience

With their mission to demonstrate respect for the elephants through interactive learning experience, Manda Lao Elephant Sanctuary invite guests to participate in its new training process largely pioneered by Khun Prasop Tipprasert in hope that these techniques will be adopted throughout the region and in other elephant-inhabited countries.

This is a unique chance to participate in something entirely new with a potential to change the future of elephant welfare in Laos and abroad. The journey ends with Lao lunch, freshly prepared from the sanctuary's own organic vegetables farm.



Lao Culinary Experience

Laos offers a vibrant culinary landscape deeply rooted in its natural environment and cultural heritage. Known for its bold, fresh flavours and balanced use of herbs, spices, and local ingredients, Lao food is a celebration of simplicity and harmony.

From the staple sticky rice to fiery salads and aromatic curries, each dish tells a story of tradition and its homeland. This rich tapestry of tastes invites both locals and visitors to experience the soul of Lao culture through its food.

Organic Farm Tour & Lao Cooking Class

Just a short drive from Amantaka, you will arrive at a tranquil organic farm set against a backdrop of rice fields, lush forest, and distant mountains. The farm is fully organic and plays an active role in supporting the education of local children and improving village infrastructure.

Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed by our chef, who will introduce you to the vegetables and herbs grown on-site, highlighting their culinary and medicinal uses. Guests are invited to hand-pick fresh ingredients, deepening their connection to the land.

The experience begins with an introduction to the foundations of Lao cuisine, followed by the traditional steaming of sticky rice — a staple of every Lao meal. As the rice steams, your chef will guide you through the preparation of several classic dishes, such as spicy green papaya salad (Tam Mak Hoong) and fragrant pork curry (Moo Phak Sikai).

Once your dishes are complete, enjoy your meal in a peaceful dining sala overlooking the rice paddies — a moment to savour both the flavours and the setting.



Organic Farm Tour & Cooking Class

On arrival of the Amantaka's organic farm, you will be taken on a short tour of the farm and its open-air kitchen overlooking eight hectares of sticky rice fields as your chef provides an overview of the basic tenets of the Lao cuisine. Then, prepare all the ingredients that will make up your feast. Once all the hard work is done it is time to enjoy the fruits of your labour overlooking the rice fields, fishpond and the mountains in the distance.

Rice Planting Experience

In the midst of ancient rice terraces, embrace Luang Prabang way of life on rice planting experience. Learn the life of a rice farmer and have hands-on experiences with family including planting seedlings, cutting and bundling rice, ploughing a rice paddy with a buffalo, and threshing rice.



The Mekong – Cruise, Caves and Sunsets

The mighty Mekong River starts its journey in the Tibetan Plateau and passes through Laos on its way to the South China Sea. One of the most scenic places to enjoy the river is around Luang Prabang, and there is no better way to absorb the atmosphere than on one of Amantaka's private boats. We suggest several cruising itineraries for you to choose.

Cruise to Pak Ou Caves

Morning or afternoon

Cruise leisurely along the Mekong River on your private Amantaka boat to the caves at Pak Ou where pilgrims have been visiting and offering Buddha statues for hundreds of years. The caves are believed to have been discovered in the 16th century and were possibly a centre for spirit worship prior. Cruise along the Mekong observe village life as children play on the river bank, women do laundry and men fish for some of the large catch that live deep on the river floor. Reaching the caves, you will then ascend a flight of stairs to see the lower and upper-level limestone caves filled with thousands of Buddha statues.

Sunset Mekong Cruise

Absorb the magic of dusk in Luang Prabang on a private cruise as the sun sets behind forested mountains. Enjoy snacks and drinks served by your personal bartender as you float down the river. Witness the end-of-day local rituals as villagers return home on small boats and fishermen check their catches. After the cruise, guests can walk leisurely through the streets part the part the bustling night market en route to Amantaka.

Waterfalls & Wildlife

Trip to Kuang Si Waterfall (Tad Kuang Si)

A winding road takes you through small villages and rice paddies into the lush area of Kuang Si. As you wander through the cool rainforest, you will come upon a majestic tiered waterfall tumbling 100 metres over white limestone formation into multi-level turquoise pools. It is possible to cool off in some of the pools below, or just wade in the water. Walk down the path that follows the stream, passing small pools and ancient trees.

Breakfast at Kuang Si Waterfall

Savour your breakfast in the midst of this serene oasis, where the cascading waters and lush greenery provide a captivating backdrop. Our carefully crafted menu offers a delightful array of options, from freshly baked pastries and artisanal bread to a vibrant selection of fruits, yogurt, and granola, all designed to satisfy your palate.

Lao Bear Sanctuary

Amantaka has arranged a unique experience for our guests. On arrival at the rescue centre you will receive a “behind the scenes” tour, including time with some of the centre’s newest arrival (these bears, and cubs are usually raised away from general visitors with a little human contact as possible). After rewarding the bears with a banana or two you will then join the keepers as they hide the bear’s lunch time food around their enclosure. Finally, from a safe vantage point, watch the bears return from their dens to forage for the treats you have hidden.

Free the Bears Fund relies on generosity in order to continue their work and would like to kindly thank guests for their donation which is included in your visit and added to your personal account.





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