



AMANTAKA

Pi Mai Lao
2023

Sabai Dee!

Season's Greetings from Amantaka!

One of the year's most highly anticipated festivals, Pi Mai Lao sees the whole of Laos and much of Southeast Asia celebrating the Buddhist New Year. Falling in mid-April, this special time of family connection, introspection and fresh beginnings is marked by joyful water purification rituals, flower-bedecked elephant parades, the giving of alms and many other vibrant traditions. Celebrations to bless the dawn of a radiant and prosperous year ahead can last up to a week in Luang Prabang, and Amantaka is perfectly placed to offer you a fully immersive Pi Mai Lao experience.

Here on our historic garden estate in the very heart of this Unesco-protected town, we are pleased to offer a carefully curated holiday calendar of festive feasting, spiritual blessings, performances and cultural experiences, as well as guided excursions beyond the property.

If you are interested in participating in any of the events across these pages, please contact our team, who are dedicated to making your experience as seamless as possible. We are also happy to assist with any special requests, to make your stay even more memorable.

We wish you a joyous New Year!

Your Amantaka Family



Pi Mai Itinerary

Date	Event	Details
14 April	Elephant procession	Witness elephants' procession from Wat Mai at 9am
15 April	Muu Sangkhan Luang	Enjoy traditional foods, crafts and other goods at Village Market Fair
	Sand stupa making	Experience the unique tradition of sand stupa making in Hatsai Mounghoun, Mekong River Island at 1pm
	City tour	Discover the city and take part in water pouring ceremonies at various temples
16 April	First light alms offering 'Sai Bat'	Take part in a traditional alms offering at 5.30am in front of the Outing Gate
	Miss Luang Prabang procession	Join the procession of Miss Luang Prabang from Wat Thatnoi to Wat Xiengthong at 1.30pm
	Baci ceremony	Experience a traditional Baci blessing ceremony at 5pm in Amantaka's Gallery
	Lao royal court cuisine dinner	Indulge in the rich culinary traditions of Laos with a multi-course poolside dinner at 7.00pm
17 April	First light alms offering 'Sai Bat'	Take part in a traditional alms offering at 5.30am in front of the Outing Gate
	Miss Luang Prabang Procession	Join the procession of Miss Luang Prabang from Wat Xiengthong to Wat Thatnoi at 1.30pm
	Naga and lantern Procession	Witness the Naga and lantern procession from the top of Phousi Hill down to the pond in the National Museum grounds at 7pm
	Lao barbecue dinner	Savour a Lao barbecue dinner by the Main Pool at 7.30pm



14 April 2023

Elephant procession

9am at Wat Mai

The elephant procession begins its journey from Wat Mai, a monastery with a rich history and special significance. For centuries, it has been a sacred temple for the royal family and has served as the home of the Phra Sangkharat, the highest Buddhist dignitary in Laos.

From Wat Mai, the majestic elephants will make their way to Wat Xieng Thong, also known as the 'Golden Tree Monastery'. This stunning temple is strategically located near the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers, making it a gateway to the beautiful city of Luang Prabang.

Together, these two temples represent the deep spiritual and cultural heritage of Laos, and the procession of elephants between them is a symbol of the country's rich history and traditions.

15 April 2023

Muu Sangkhan Luang

6am at the Village Market Fair

In preparation for the New Year, the Village Market Fair (Lolat) will be set up on the main street between the Old Stadium grounds and the Royal Palace, a route known as 'cleaning day' or Muu Sangkhan Luang.

This day is filled with symbolic rituals of purification, and the fair offers a chance for guests to enjoy traditional foods, crafts and other goods. It is a vibrant and lively celebration not to be missed.

Sand stupa making

1pm at Hatsai Mounghoun

Experience the unique tradition of sand stupa making in Hatsai Mounghoun, Mekong River Island in the charming village of Xiengman.

After a boat ride to the island, join villagers in creating intricate sand stupas. Skilled artisans will guide you through the process, teaching you techniques and symbolism while using colourful sands and other materials to construct each stupa.

Prepare to be fully immersed in the sights, sounds and aromas of Laos' New Year celebrations as locals play music, light incense and offer prayers to the Buddha.

City tour

7pm

Experience the city by night and join in water pouring ceremonies cleansing Buddha statues at various temples to gain New Year blessings.





16 April 2023

First Light Alms Offering 'Sai Bat'

5.30am at the Outing Gate

Join the traditional Sai Bat alms offering that takes place daily in Luang Prabang at dawn. At this time of year there is special significance to the act of giving Buddhist monks and novices gifts of rice prepared by our Amantaka family. This contemplative and spiritual experience is an opportunity to cultivate generosity of spirit and start the New Year with a sense of peace.

Miss Luang Prabang Procession

1.30pm at Wat Thatnoi

Featuring the newly-crowned Miss Luang Prabang, her attendants and locals carrying colourful sand flags that symbolize good luck and prosperity, today's procession ends at Wat Xiengthong. The pageant provides young women the chance to showcase their beauty, talent and intelligence, and is highly anticipated part of the Pi Mai Lao celebrations.

Baci Ceremony

5pm at Amantaka's Gallery

Also known as 'Sou Khouan', this centuries-old Brahmin-influenced ritual invites luck and prosperity into the New Year.

Lao Royal Court Cuisine Dinner

7pm at the Main Pool

Poolside beneath the stars, indulge in the rich culinary traditions of Laos with a multi-course royal feast. The menu will feature the finest locally-sourced ingredients perfectly balanced with sweet, sour and spicy flavours and lashings of fresh herbs. Local dancers will perform for the evening's entertainment.

USD 145++ per person

Reservation essential



Lao Royal Court Cuisine Dinner

7pm at the Main Pool

Kaeng Kathi Kai

Chicken coconut soup with galangal, lemongrass, shallot, oyster mushroom, coconut milk, spring onion, coriander and lime

Pork Sausage

Pork sausage with shallot, lemongrass and spring onion

Mok Paa Fork

Steamed minced fish in banana leaf with red curry rice powder, coconut milk, shallot, chicken egg and herbs

Leon Som Moo

Pork curry with pickled fish roe, eggplant, shallot, garlic, long bean, eggplant, peas and coconut milk

Khua Nor Mai Sai

Stir-fried bamboo shoots with garlic, glass noodles and herbs

Kao Niew

Sticky rice

Nam Wan Mark Fak

Pumpkin in coconut milk

USD 145++ per person

Rates are in USD and exclusive of tax and service charge
Reservations essential



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Naga and Lantern Procession

7pm at National Museum

Experience the cultural richness of Luang Prabang by witnessing the magnificent naga and lantern procession from the top of Phousi Hill down to the pond in the National Museum grounds. After the procession, Amantaka guests can watch traditional performances including the captivating Ramayana dance, giant dance and monkey dance. Explore the city, filled with lights and sounds, as Luang Prabang comes to life in celebration of the New Year.





Lao Barbecue Dinner

7.30pm at the Main Pool

Relive each atmospheric moment of your day beside Amantaka's serene swimming pool as you settle in for a barbecue feast beneath the stars.

The evening's menu showcases Lao barbecue specialties from buffalo with jungle herbs to fish fresh from the Mekong. Herbs are picked from Amantaka's own garden and other seasonal ingredients are hand selected from the town's exceptional farmer's markets. Sample savoury dishes such as khao jee (baguette with spiced tomato and eggplant relish), Luang Prabang sausage and tam mak hung (green papaya salad), and finally kanon krok – traditional coconut rice pancakes with pandan coconut sauce.

USD 145++ per person

Reservation essential

Lao Barbecue Dinner

7.30pm at the Main Pool

Main dishes

Khao Jee

Grilled local baguette with spiced tomato and eggplant relish

Keng Joud Mak Fak On

Young pumpkin consommé with lemongrass, spring onion, local basil, fish sauce and aromatic chilli dip

From the Barbecue

Ping Gai Song Khueang

Marinated chicken thigh with local herbs, fish sauce and curry spice

BBQ Sin Kuay

Buffalo seasoned with herbs of the jungle

Ping Pa Sai Bai Tong

Grilled Mekong fish stuffed with herbs and wrapped in banana leaf

Luang Prabang Sausage

Grilled pork sausage

On the side

Tam Mak Hung

Green papaya salad with garlic, lime and fish sauce

Ping Mundang

Hot coal sweet potatoes

Ping Phuk Luam Tam La Doo

Local grilled vegetables

Condiments

Jeow Som

Sweet and sour sauce

Jae Bong

Chilli sauce

Jeow Mak Len

Tamarind sauce

Dessert

Kanom Krok

Coconut rice pancakes with pandan coconut sauce

USD 145++ per person

Rates are in USD and exclusive of tax and service charge
Reservations essential



Amantaka
55/3 Kingkitsarath Rd, Ban Thongchaleun,
Luang Prabang, Laos LDR
amantaka@aman.com

aman.com