



**FROM 7,300 POINTS**

**10 Nights in this jewel of Asia**  
**3 Nights Vientiane**  
**2 Nights at Bakeo Nature Reserve**  
**5 Nights in Vang Vieng**

Your Stay in Vientiane  
Chang Palace Vientiane

Stay at Bakeo Nature Reserve  
Your own Treehouse in the jungle

Your stay in Vang Vieng  
Riverside Boutique Resort

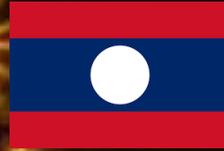
**\* CAR HIRE INCLUDED ON THIS TRIP\***

Country: Laos

Capital: Vientiane

Currency: Lao Kip

Language: Loatian

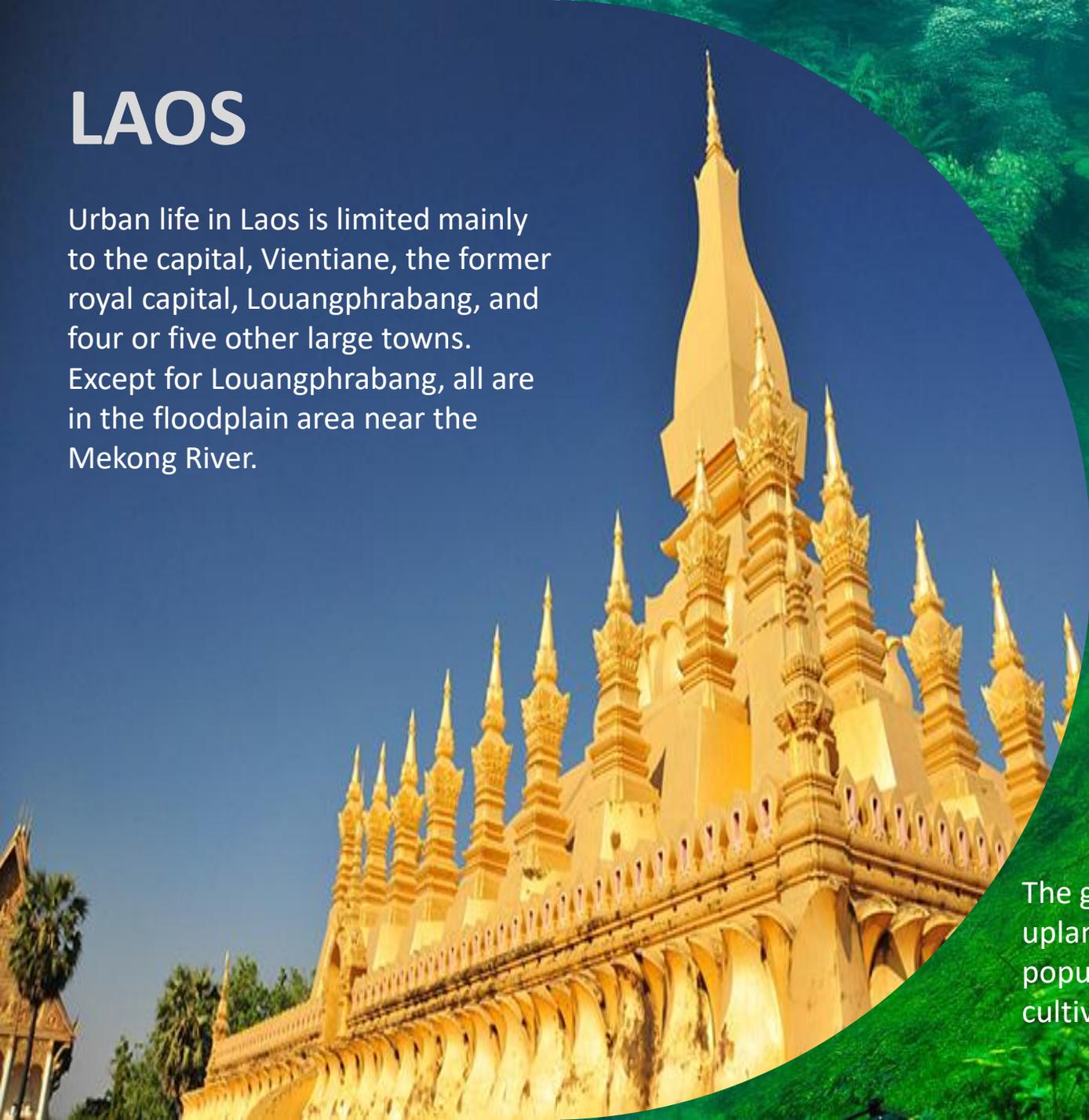


## LAOS

Laos is in Southeast Asia and a country traversed by the Mekong River and known for mountainous terrain, French colonial architecture, hill tribe settlements and Buddhist monasteries. Vientiane, the capital, is the site of the That Luang monument, where a reliquary reportedly houses the Buddha's breastbone, plus the Patuxai war memorial and Talat Sao (Morning Market), a complex jammed with food, clothes and craft stalls. Laos use to be known as the Kingdom of Lan Xang (1354 to 1707), which translates to "Land of a Million Elephants". As Laos had extensive forests and sparse human population, wild herds of elephants roamed all over.... Elephants continue to be considered a sacred animal today.

# LAOS

Urban life in Laos is limited mainly to the capital, Vientiane, the former royal capital, Louangphrabang, and four or five other large towns. Except for Louangphrabang, all are in the floodplain area near the Mekong River.



The geologically diverse landscape of Laos, with its forested mountains, upland plateaus and lowland plains, supports an equally diverse population that is united largely through agriculture, particularly the cultivation of rice.





## Chang Palace Vientiane

Situated in a convenient area of Vientiane, 1.6 km from Laos National Museum, Chang Palace Vientiane features a terrace and views of the garden. Guests can enjoy the on-site restaurant. Free private parking is available on site.

Each room comes with a TV with satellite channels. You will find a kettle in the room. Every room includes a private bathroom equipped with a shower. For your comfort, you will find slippers, free toiletries and a hairdryer. Chang Palace Vientiane features free Wi-Fi .

There is free shuttle service to the airport and bus terminals at the property.

Wat Sisaket is 3.2 km from Chang Palace Vientiane, while Hor Phra Keo is 3.3 km from the property. Wattay International Airport is 2 km away.

Vientiane is not such a big place for a capital city which is great for tourists. Everything in the city is literally within 10 minutes of your location with the added bonus of the mighty Mekong River running adjacent to the capital.



## Chang Palace Vientiane



## A few worth it trips whilst in Vientiane



### Patuxai Victory Monument

Patuxai Victory Monument is one of the best-known landmarks in Vientiane and was designed to resemble the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It is however also carved with symbols of Hindu Gods and has an additional five towers which resemble traditional Laotian buildings making this something of an East meets West kind of attraction. The monument is part of the wider Patuxai Park, and this is a great place to come if you want to go for a serene walk at sunset. You can also take in the views across Vientiane from the top of the Patuxai Victory Monument either by climbing a set of stairs to the viewing platform or using an elevator.



### Xiang Khuan

Xiang Khuan is also known as Buddha Park and is some 25 kilometers outside Vientiane. As you would guess from the name, is known for having more than 200 religious statues which are scattered all over the lush grounds. The piece de resistance here is a sculpture of a reclining Buddha which is some 40 meters high and the park was the brainchild of a monk who designed the area in 1958 and who was interested in both Hindu and Buddhist sculpture, which is why you will find a mix of different influences here. As you walk around make sure to look out for the sculpture of Indra who is atop a three headed elephant and who is considered to be the king of the gods in Hinduism.



### That Luang

That Luang is also called the Vientiane Great Stupa and has the claim to fame of being the most sacred building in all of Laos as well as one of the most picturesque. The stupa dates from the 16th century and is a large complex that features the central stupa covered in gold leaf which soars to a height of 148 feet. This is then surrounded by pretty turrets in the typical Laotian style and the whole complex is around four kilometers outside of the center of Vientiane, so it makes a great place to visit as part of a day trip.



### Wat Ho Phra Keo

Wat Ho Phra Keo is a Buddhist temple in Vientiane which was built in 1565 and is also one of the most spectacular buildings in the city. It is famous as it used to be the location of the famous Emerald Buddha statues which was stolen by Laotian royalty from Thailand before being retaken in 1778 and returned. You can still see the statue in Wat Phra Kaew in Bangkok and the temple in Laos is still known as the 'Temple of the Emerald Buddha' in reference to the story of the carving. Even without the sculpture, this is also a very pretty temple in its own right, so it is well worth a visit.

### Vientiane Night Market

Vientiane Night Market is located along the scenic waterfront in the city. The market usually gets going around sunset and you can come here to buy a range of items like clothes, textiles, accessories, handicrafts, paintings and myriad souvenirs.



## Bokeo Nature Reserve

Bokeo Nature reserve is a national park located near Ban Houayxay village in Bokeo province in Northwest Laos. Being on the banks of the Mekong River, the reserve area is home to precious gems, abundant wildlife and floral life. It was created to protect its population of the black-cheeked gibbon, which are rare species of monkeys unique to this place among many wildlife species. They were thought to be extinct but have been revived. Tourists visiting Laos should travel to Bokeo Nature Reserve to get to know about the extraordinary and enriching ecosystem of Laos.

*"We built the world's highest tree houses so you can experience flying through the forest canopies and waking up surrounded by gibbons".*



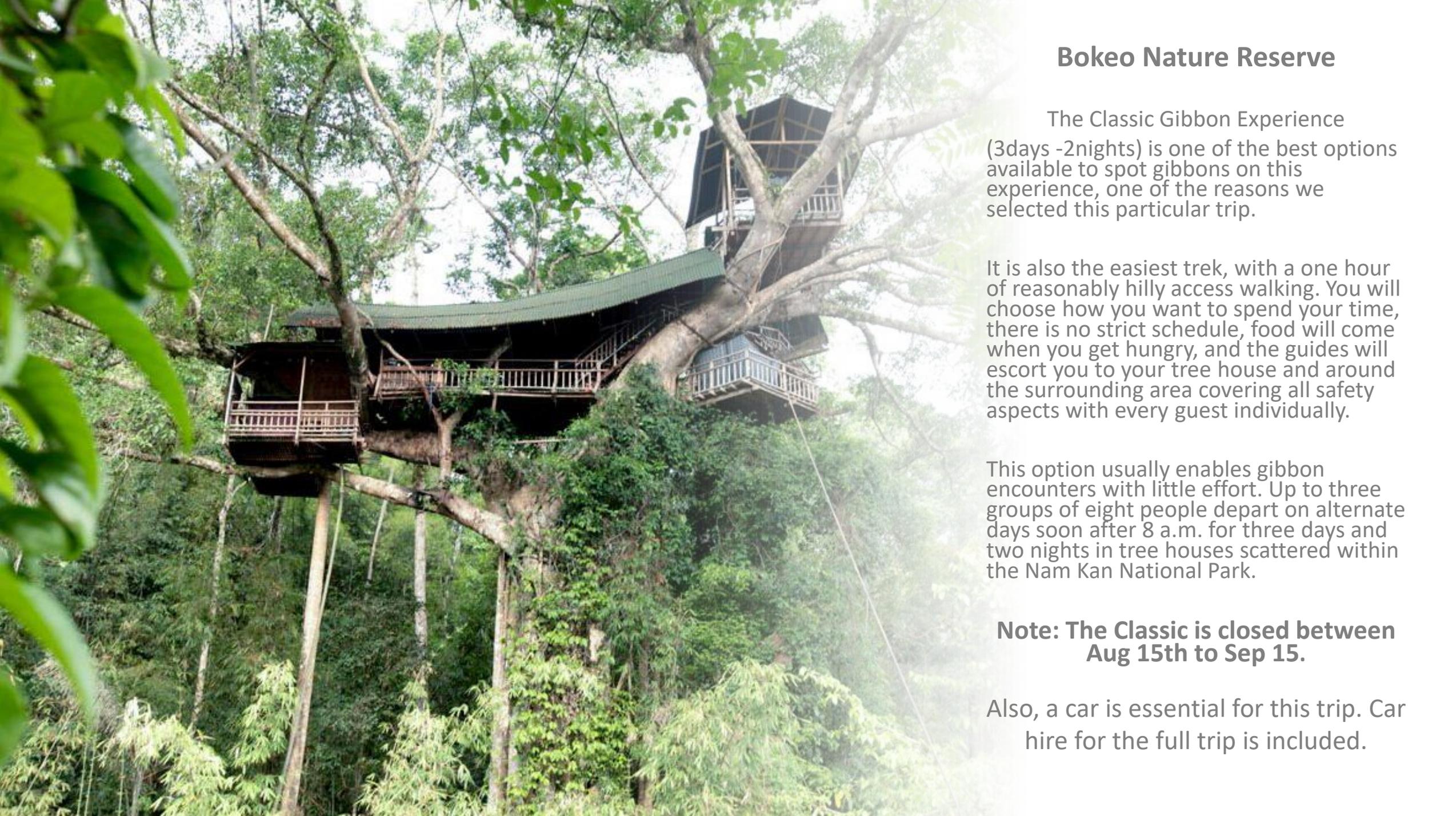
## Bokeo Nature Reserve

Visit Bokeo the National Nature Reserve and you will feel the joy of a truly ecological tour by its irresistible beauty. It was established in 2004 and contains a rich biodiversity worthy of preserving. Over 123.000 hectares of mix-deciduous forest and mountainous terrain, where many animals like tigers, bears, elephants, monkeys, birds, and insects live especially the Black-cheeked gibbon – a rare species of ape.

You will be overwhelmed when stepping into this immense and majestic land with some interesting treehouses, it feels like you got lost in a wonderful wildland from a movie. At Bokeo, tourists can experience an awesome cable network to move around from the treehouses or try out the tottering fragile footbridges. You really could imagine yourself as Tarzan flying over the forest by zip lines, and sleep in cabins at over 40 meters above the ground. The highlight is counted as completely unique in this wilderness which has made Bokeo become one of the most attractive stays when in Laos for every tourist.

With full time wardens guarding the area strictly and carefully every day, the deforestation and illegal animal hunting are becoming less and less. Moreover, a part of the Bokeo Nature Reserve was also planned for local people to use for cultural purposes, and the other is for ecological tours like this one. This trip will probably energize your whole adventure and exploration of Laos.





## Bokeo Nature Reserve

### The Classic Gibbon Experience

(3days -2nights) is one of the best options available to spot gibbons on this experience, one of the reasons we selected this particular trip.

It is also the easiest trek, with a one hour of reasonably hilly access walking. You will choose how you want to spend your time, there is no strict schedule, food will come when you get hungry, and the guides will escort you to your tree house and around the surrounding area covering all safety aspects with every guest individually.

This option usually enables gibbon encounters with little effort. Up to three groups of eight people depart on alternate days soon after 8 a.m. for three days and two nights in tree houses scattered within the Nam Kan National Park.

**Note: The Classic is closed between Aug 15th to Sep 15.**

Also, a car is essential for this trip. Car hire for the full trip is included.

# Vang Vieng



Vang Vieng is absolutely beautiful. The striking scenery and backdrop is worth the visit alone. The Nam Song River runs along breathtaking, karst, jagged mountains that the clouds magically float right through. Grab a bungalow along the river or a guesthouse with a view, it's definitely worth it. The only way in and out of Vang Vieng is by road, with most travellers arriving by bus or private car/motorcycle.

Once little more than a bus stop on the long journey between Vientiane at the Thai border and the World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng has managed to become a destination in its own right – and rightfully so. While the town still isn't much more than three streets and a bus station, it is the stunning scenery of river and rock formations surrounding this place that will keep you dreaming of Laos long after you've settled back into real life. Vang Vieng is so small that everything is easily reachable by foot.





Riverside Boutique Resort  
Vang Vieng  
Vientiane Province  
Laos

Vang Vieng is a small town north of Vientiane, on the Nam Song River in Laos. It's surrounded by striking limestone mountains and caves. Tham Poukham, to the west, is a cave with a blue-green lagoon and a reclining Buddha statue. North is the deep Tham Nam Cave, which has a spring at its entrance. Nearby, Tham Xang Cave has a stalactite resembling an elephant. The town is home to 16th- and 17th-century monasteries.





## Riverside Boutique Resort

Located on the banks of the Nam Song River, Riverside Boutique Resort, Vang Vieng features elegant French colonial architecture and a stylish ethnic decor. Guests can relax by the pool or enjoy a fresh cup of coffee from Bolaven Plateau at the restaurant.

Riverside Boutique Resort is 3-hr drive from Vientiane. It is 5-hr drive from Luang Prabang.

Fitted with tiled flooring, air-conditioned room features a flat-screen cable TV, a minibar and an electric kettle. An en suite bathroom comes with a bathtub, free toiletries and a hairdryer. A bathrobe and slippers are provided.

Staff at the 24-hour front desk can help guests arrange airport shuttles and laundry services. The resort is also equipped with meeting facilities, a gift shop and free private parking.

Offering stunning views of the limestone mountains, Restaurant du Crabe d'Or serves authentic Laos dishes, as well as traditional Asian and French cuisines. A list of French and Chilean wine is available.

## A few suggestions worth exploring in the area



### Visit Tham Nam

Tham Nam has the claim to fame of being one of the most important and pretty caves in Vang Vieng. The inner chamber runs for some 500 meters and the Nam Song River has a small offshoot that trickles through the cave. If you visit during the rainy season you can tube inside the cave, although in the dry season the water levels are usually too low to do this. As you go through the cave you can check out the stalagmites and stalactites, rock crystals and cave dwelling critters.

### Go Tubing

One of the activities that Vang Vieng is most famous for is the chance to go tubing down the charming Nam Song River. Once at the riverside, you can pay a small fee to hire a rubber tube and then float down the river which is also lined with cafes and places to stop off along the way. You can also just tube in front of several restaurants which means that you don't have to stray too far and you can happily spend the full day floating around and enjoying the majestic yet serene surroundings.

### Explore Tham Jang

Tham Jang is one of the best-known caves in Vang Vieng as it was an important spot in the history of Laos. This cave was actually the spot of an army bunker when the Chinese invaded Vang Vieng in the 19th century, so history buffs should make sure not to give it a miss. To get into the cave you will have to walk up a steep set of steps, but it is more than worth the additional effort.

### Go kayaking on the river

The main artery running through Vang Vieng is the river and with that in mind many of the activities in town center around this majestic waterway. If you want to do something a little more exciting than tubing and are looking for an adventure, then you can have a go at kayaking. One of the main kayaking tours will take you to some of the caves around Vang Vieng, and you can kayak up the river and then continue directly on into the mouth of the caves. There is usually also time to get out of the kayak and go for a swim which will help you cool off after a long day paddling.

### Try the grilled meats

If you are looking for something local to eat in Vang Vieng then consider checking out the grilled meat vendors that set up along the waterfront in the evenings. They usually sell what is known as beeng moo which is basically barbecued pork, or you can also try the naam kow which are balls of rice which are mixed with toothsome pork sausage. As is the custom with Laotian food, all the food is served with plates that are heaped with local salads, herbs and other aromatics so that you can customize your meal.

