

Laos

Myths
and Mountains
Journeys of a Lifetime
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Climate:

Laos has the typical tropical monsoon climate of Southeast Asia, though the mountains provide some variations in temperature. The rainy season is May to the middle of October while the dry season (the best time to go) is November to April. Minimum temperatures average between 60° and 70° F (16° and 21° C) in the cool months of December through February, increasing to highs of more than 90° F (32° C) in March and April, just before the start of the rains. In the wet season the average temperature is 80° F (27° C).

Currency: The local currency is the Kip. Once you have exchanged foreign currency to Kip, it is impossible to change it back at the end of your stay. Travelers Checks and Credit Cards are hardly accepted anywhere in Laos. Additionally, you will receive a lot of kip for \$100 so bring a large purse or bag. When traveling to Laos you should carry cash US\$ (please use only new notes in small denominations and perfect condition).

Immunizations: Although no vaccinations are required for travel in SE Asia, we recommend you consult your physician about tetanus, polio, typhoid, gamma globulin, Hepatitis A & B and malaria. For current information, check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

Visas: Visa upon arrival is valid for all entry points except Ubon Ratchathani and Houey Say. For a visa upon arrival, you will need a valid passport, 2 passport sized photos and US\$30 cash for visa fee. Visa's are valid for 14 days and are only single entry visa. It is possible to extend the visa for another 14 days. For entry through Ubon Ratchathani and Houey Say, the details of passport, date and place of entry in Laos need to be faxed to Myths and Mountains where it will be forwarded to our tour operator in Laos to prepare the visa.

Special note for those traveling in to Laos by boat:

A visa facility is now located at Ban Houay Sai. If you are taking the river trip, you will be picked up at your hotel in Chiang Rai and taken to the facility to process your visa before your boat departs for your trip into Laos. **Note:** Many countries require that your passport be valid 6 months after travel.

Be sure to check your expiration date and renew your passport if it expires within 6 months of travel!

Tipping Guideline: Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day
Mainland guides - \$10-\$20 pp per day

Budget: You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp above and beyond tips for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need!



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Dialing Code: 856

Time Zone: GMT/UTC + 7

Electricity: 230V ,50Hz

Additional Country Information: More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

"A mind that is stretched by a new
experience can never go back to its
old dimensions."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

BIBLIOGRAPHY



See the Longitude Books website: <http://www.longitudebooks.com/>
for more book ideas.

Travel Guides

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Cummings, J. (1994). Laos: A travel survival kit. Berkeley: Lonely Planet Publications.
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- Conboy, K. with Morison, J. (1995). Shadow war: The CIA's secret war in Laos. Boulder: Paladin Press.
Epstein, S. Lao folktales: Tales of turtles, tigers and toads. Vientiane: State Printing Enterprise of Lao PDR.
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Hamilton-Merritt, J. (1993). Tragic mountains: The Hmong, the Americans, and the secret wars for Laos, 1942-1992.
Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
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Vanna boupha, D. Let's speak Lao. Vientiane.
Robbins, C. (1987). The ravens. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc.

Additional Titles

- Stuart-Fox, M. A history of Laos.
Buckley, M. Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos Handbook, 2nd Ed.