

Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Downstream 8 days: Huay Xai - Vientiane

Our 7-night itinerary called “Laotian Serendipity” offers you an enjoyable and leisure cruising through untouched areas. You will see the local riverside village life and learn how the residents’ daily life. Let's discover & experience the long-standing cultures and traditions of Laos people with our luxury aboard Heritage Line's Anouvong cruise now.

- **Durations:** 8 days
- **Trip outline:** Huay Xai - Luang Prabang - Vientiane
- **Price from:** US \$4154/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://besttratetours.com/mekong-river-cruises/laotian-serendipity-on-anouvong-cruise-8-days-huay-xai-vientiane>

Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
	Main Itinerary		NA
Day 1	Huay Xai - Huay Phaluang - Huay Ting	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Huay Ting - Pakbeng - Khok Aek	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Khok Aek - Khok Luang - Pak Ou - Luang Prabang	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Luang Prabang	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Luang Prabang - Kuang Si - Xayabouri	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Xayabouri - Don Saynhan	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Don Saynhan - Pha Liep - Sandbank	Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Pak Lay - Vientiane	NA	Breakfast
	Alternate		NA
Day 1	Huay Xai - Khon Teun – Kang Hang Yai	NA	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Kang Hang Yai - Khok Luang - Khok Phou	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3	Khok Phou - Pak Ou cave – Luang Prabang	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Luang Prabang	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Luang Prabang – Kuang Si – Xayabouri	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Xayabouri – Don Saynhan	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Don Saynhan – Pha Liep - Sandbank	NA	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Sandbank – Vientiane	NA	Breakfast

Itinerary

: Main Itinerary

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Meals: NA

Day 1: Huay Xai - Huay Phaluang - Huay Ting

Morning

In the morning, Heritage Line extends a warm welcome to guests at the Lao immigration office. After gathering all the passengers, we embark on a minivan journey to Huay Xai Pier, where the Heritage Line Anouvong awaits. Once preparations are complete, the captain charts the course of the enthralling 7-night voyage along the Upper Mekong.

As the cruise progresses towards its initial destination, our expert guide captivates with an intriguing lecture on the rich tapestry of Laos' diverse ethnic groups along the Mekong River. In the upcoming days, you'll immerse yourself in the vibrant cultures and traditions of these fascinating communities.

Afternoon

We arrive at the confluence of the Mekong and a significant tributary, allowing the gentle currents to carry you downstream, providing uninterrupted views of natural beauty.

Our next stop is **Huay Phaluang village**, home to the Khmu ethnic group spanning China, Laos, Thailand, Burma, and Vietnam. Strolling through the village, we gather for a Baci ceremony - a heartfelt Laotian ritual led by local elders (and possibly monks), bestowing blessings upon your journey.

Continuing our downstream journey, we reach our overnight mooring spot. We dock on a captivating sandbank, where a welcome cocktail precedes a delightful dinner against the backdrop of awe-inspiring natural beauty.

Evening

After dinner, feel free to join us in the lounge for a cosy screening of “Chiang” (Laotian for “elephant”). This cinematic gem, filmed in this very region in 1927 and produced by the visionary behind the first King Kong movie, sets the mood for our next day's adventure.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 2: Huay Ting - Pakbeng - Khok Aek

Morning

We extend a warm invitation for you to join our daily yoga class on the terrace deck, where the breathtaking scenery of the Mekong River provides a picturesque backdrop for your practice.

Our journey leads us to the charming town of **Pakbeng**. Along the starboard side, you will find Laos' well-preserved elephant sanctuary, a shining example of ecotourism and sustainability, showcasing a deep commitment to these magnificent creatures.

Witnessing the elephants emerge from the lush rainforest is an extraordinary experience, offering fascinating insights into their lives.

Afternoon

Sailing into the afternoon, another breathtaking riverine spectacle awaits as we arrive at another **Ban Khok Aek**. Here, three distinct ethnic groups: Hmong, Lao Loum, and Khmu, coexist almost literally under one roof. Each group possesses its own unique history, traditions, ways of life, family dynamics, and housing styles.

Venture into the village to a family home where representatives from each ethnic group will showcase and explain their differences and characteristics in day-to-day life. The theory provided the day before, through our lecture, suddenly comes alive before your eyes.

Evening

As the afternoon transitions into evening, join us at the bar for snacks and a preview of the next day's program. Before dinner, villagers grace us with a performance on the terrace deck, featuring the traditional "Kene" instrument and/or a unique dance.

After dinner, join us in the lounge for a cosy screening of "The Rocket", a 90-minute Lao film about a boy seeking redemption in a land scarred by war.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 3: Khok Aek - Khok Luang - Pak Ou - Luang Prabang

Morning

Rise early to witness the sun's first rays on the river and, if you wish, join our daily yoga class.

Sail towards Luang Prabang through the outskirts of the **Golden Triangle**. Learn about its colonialism, opium trade, conflicts, and the diverse roles played by Burma, Thailand, Laos, Britain, China, and more.

Afterwards, our morning sojourn leads us to the picturesque village of **Khok Luang** inhabited by the Khmu people. Simplicity defines this locale, with bamboo huts elevated on stilts amidst vast rice fields.

In this serene setting, we can mingle and meet with different generations, old and young, in the village, both deeply rooted in the land, sustaining their livelihood through manual agriculture. Peel back the layers of their daily existence, observe their way of life, and engage in insightful conversations to garner a profound understanding of their unique experiences.

Afternoon

After lunch, we arrive at the **Pak Ou Caves**, nestled on the rocky shore of the Mekong, near the mouth of the Ou River. These limestone grottoes house around 4,000 sacred Buddhist statues and images, ranging from small to towering heights of up to 2 meters (7 feet).

We will visit the lower cave, which is the most impressive and easily accessible. Following the cave visit, Heritage Line offers *two optional choices* for further exploration.

- Adventure-seekers can opt for a kayak tour along the tranquil **Nam Ou River**, immersing themselves in the peaceful flow and breathtaking mountainous scenery.
- Alternatively, you can choose a short boat ride to the nearby village of **Ban Muang Keo**, where you'll witness the local artistry of traditional silk weaving.

After the excursion, we set our course towards Luang Prabang, one of the most enchanting towns in Southeast Asia.

Evening

Continuing our course, we head to Luang Prabang, one of Southeast Asia's most enchanting towns. Arriving in the early evening, there's time for a stroll through downtown Luang Prabang after dinner. Immerse yourself in the town's therapeutic aura, slowing down to the depths of your soul.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 4: Luang Prabang

Morning

Start your day by embracing the tranquil beauty of a sunrise and prepare to revitalize your mind and body with our daily yoga class on the terrace deck, situated right next to one of Laos' most iconic temples.

After breakfast, embark on a captivating walking tour through the charming streets of Luang Prabang.

Led by our experienced guide, we will explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site, particularly the old town and its picturesque peninsula where the Mekong and **Nam Khan Rivers** meet.

Let's admire the unique architecture that adorns Luang Prabang's streets and immerse ourselves in captivating stories about the houses and landmarks we encounter.

As we stroll along the winding paths, adorned with antique structures and majestic mango trees, take a moment to pause and refresh.

Afternoon

Return to the ship for lunch and refreshment. The afternoon explores Luang Prabang's cultural heritage, visiting the former **Royal Palace** transformed into the **National Museum**. Admire local art and historical treasures once owned by the Lao royal family.

After the museum, explore the city center at your own pace or relax in one of the street cafés before joining an insightful lecture on Lao life by a regional professor onboard.

Evening

As evening approaches, a thoughtfully curated dining experience awaits - An invitation to embrace Luang Prabang's serene tempo, wherever the night may lead. Afterward, you may continue exploring the town, including a visit to the vibrant Night Market.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 5: Luang Prabang - Kuang Si - Xayabouri

Morning

Experience the spiritual Buddhist tradition of the morning alms round, known as **Tak Bat** in Lao, by waking up before dawn to witness hundreds of saffron-robed monks in a procession, as the town is bathed in warm golden tones.

After bidding farewell to Luang Prabang, our cruise continues downstream along the Mekong River.

Our first stop takes us to an innovative and socially responsible **Laos Buffalo Dairy Farm**. Explore and learn about the production of various dairy products such as cheeses, ice cream, and yogurt, which have gained popularity in recent years.

Afternoon & Evening

Next, we visit the breathtaking [Kuang Si waterfalls](#), known for their cascading turquoise waters. It's an opportunity to leisurely hike through the park and marvel at the creative wonders of Mother Nature.

As we return to the vessel, the cruise proceeds towards Laos' renowned **Xayaburi Hydroelectric Dam**, the country's first major dam and hydroelectric power plant.

Before reaching the dam, we offer an intriguing lecture on the role of energy production in Laos' economy and how the country is poised to become the "battery" of Southeast Asia.

After dinner, we set up our lounge as a cinema and screened another classic movie for your enjoyment.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 6: Xayabouri - Don Saynhan

Morning

Guests will have the opportunity to witness the imposing **Xayaburi Hydroelectric Dam**, standing tall at an impressive height of 32.6 meters (107 feet). The ship will navigate this significant elevation with the assistance of a massive water gate.

During the morning sailing, we offer two onboard activities for your enjoyment. Our guide will present a lecture on the history of Lao royalty, with a particular focus on King Anouvong, after whom this vessel is named.

Additionally, we provide another cooking class, allowing you to learn and replicate a different Lao-Thai dish easily in your own home.

Afternoon

Arrive at **Don Saynhan Village**, we take a local "Tuk Tuk" to venture inland and visit the renowned **Khao Cave**.

Traveling through the lush jungle-like environment and abundant vegetation in a local mode of transportation is an adventure in itself. The Khao Cave has been home to a large population of bats for generations and serves as a vital source of potent fertilizer for the village. Inside the cave, you can observe fascinating stalagmites and stalactites.

Evening

The ship remains moored here overnight. Join us on the deck for some prelude snacks and an outlook for the next day provided by our guide. Enjoy the evening ambiance or opt for an after-dinner reflexology session to ensure a restful slumber.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 7: Don Saynhan - Pha Liep - Sandbank

Morning

On our final full day of this expedition, we navigate to the charming village of **Pha Liep**, where the landscape is adorned with breathtaking limestone mountains that create a magnificent and picturesque backdrop.

The local inhabitants of this region, known as the ethnic Lao Loum, primarily rely on agriculture for their livelihood. We have the opportunity to explore two other intriguing aspects of ethnic Lao Loum.

- The first is crafting traditional longtail boats, which serve as the primary mode of transportation in Laos, and involve intricate craftsmanship.
- The second "business" is owning a local whiskey distillery. Lao whiskey holds a special place in the nation's culture, and it's a staple found in every Laotian household.

Afternoon & Evening

We set sail once again, gracefully gliding along the gentle currents of the Mekong. Our destination is a remarkably secluded sandbar, where we will moor for the night, ending our journey on a high note.

To celebrate the cherished memories we've gathered along the Mekong, we invite you to a cocktail reception, where we can toast to our experiences. Later, under the enchanting Laotian sky, we will indulge in a delightful farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Heritage Line Anouvong Cruise

Day 8: Pak Lay - Vientiane

Morning

Savor the final sunrise of your journey as you engage in a revitalizing morning Yoga session on the outdoor deck.

Today, weather permitting, we have arranged breakfast on the terrace deck, allowing you to relish the last few hours of sailing while enjoying the scenic views until we arrive at **Pak Lay**.

We kindly request that you prepare your luggage and be ready for check-out by **9:00**. Minivans will be available to transfer you to Vientiane, and you can expect to reach the city at approximately **12:30**.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: NA

: Alternate

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Meals: NA

Day 1: Huay Xai - Khon Teun – Kang Hang Yai

Morning and Afternoon

Heritage Line warmly welcomes guests at the Lao immigration office (please ensure punctuality, as indicated in the embarkation guide).

We will embark on a short minivan ride to the pier, where we board a longtail boat for our approximately 8-hour transfer cruise to the Heritage Line 'Anouvong' ship.

During the day cruise on the longtail boat, we provide you with lunch and snacks onboard.

Our dedicated crew accompanies you on the journey, ensuring your comfort and enjoyment. If you wish to indulge in a neck and shoulder or foot massage, please approach our team.

Our knowledgeable tour guide will share information and insights about the destinations we pass along the way, as well as the rich Lao culture. Relax and take in the captivating scenery and activities unfolding along the shores.

Evening

At around **17:00**, we arrive at the Heritage Line Anouvong ship, where you will check in to your comfortable cabin.

Indulge in a delightful multi-course dinner at the restaurant. If you're interested, you can also opt to join our nightly cinema in the lounge, where we screen an intriguing movie each evening.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 2: Kang Hang Yai - Khok Luang - Khok Phou

Morning

Participate in our daily yoga class while we sail downstream to our first destination.

Following a satisfying breakfast, our morning excursion takes us to the picturesque village of **Khok Luang**, home to the Khum people.

- Immerse yourself in the simplicity of this setting as you interact with an elderly couple or a multigenerational family deeply connected to the land, sustaining their livelihood through manual agriculture.
- Peel back the layers of their daily lives, observe their customs, and engage in meaningful conversations to gain a profound understanding of their unique experiences.

We return to the ship to continue our sailing while a delicious lunch is served.

Afternoon

Our next stop is the charming village of **Khok Phou**, a small hamlet nestled above an impressive sandbank and boasting a rich history spanning 200 years.

- The highlight of the visit is the **traditional Baci ceremony**, a heartfelt Laotian ritual led by local elders who bestow blessings upon your journey.
- If time permits, you can also ascend to a small temple, where you can meet the local monk and novices, allowing for serene moments of meditation.

We stay moored at this lovely location. Join us at the lounge for a sunset cocktail, where you can socialize with fellow passengers before proceeding to dinner.

Evening

After the meal, feel free to join us once again in the lounge for a cozy screening of "Chiang" (Laotian for "elephant"). This cinematic treasure, was filmed in this very region in 1927 and produced by the visionary behind the first King Kong movie.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 3: Khok Phou - Pak Ou cave – Luang Prabang

Begin your day with an invigorating yoga session before heading to breakfast. Today, we are on our way to explore one of the most awe-inspiring caves in all of Asia.

Our destination is the **Pak Ou Caves**, nestled along the rocky shore of the Mekong River, just opposite the mouth of the Ou River. We will visit the lower cave, which is the most impressive and easily accessible.

After exploring the cave, Heritage Line offers *two optional choices* for the continuation of our excursion.

- For those seeking adventure, you can embark on a kayak tour along the tranquil **Nam Ou River**, immersing yourself in the serenity of the flowing stream and the breathtaking mountainous scenery.
- Alternatively, you can opt for a short boat ride to the nearby village of **Ban Muang Keo**, where you can witness the local artistry of traditional silk weaving.

Following the outing, we set our course for Luang Prabang, one of the most enchanting towns in Southeast Asia. We will arrive in the late afternoon, allowing for a leisurely stroll through the charming streets of downtown after dinner.

We highly recommend finding a cozy spot in one of the delightful coffee shops, immersing yourself in the ambiance and letting time pass by.

Back on board the boat, we will enjoy a delicious lunch as we continue our downstream journey, passing by the actual town of Luang Prabang.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 4: Luang Prabang

Morning

Prepare to rejuvenate your mind and body with our daily yoga class on the terrace deck, situated right next to one of Laos' most iconic temples.

After enjoying a delicious breakfast, embark on a captivating walking tour through the enchanting streets of Luang Prabang. Accompanied by our knowledgeable guide, we will explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site, focusing on the old town and its picturesque peninsula.

One notable house we will visit is **Lamache**, which was once the residence of noble families and later became the official ice cream supplier to the royal family.

After the tour, we will return to the ship for a scrumptious lunch and some well-deserved relaxation time.

Afternoon

Our first stop is at the **National Museum** as you step inside and marvel at the local art and historical artifacts that once belonged to the esteemed Lao royal family, and gain insights into their rich legacy.

After the museum tour, take the opportunity to further explore the city center at your own leisurely pace. Perhaps find a cozy spot at one of the inviting street cafés, allowing yourself to fully immerse in the relaxed and laid-back "sabai-sabai" atmosphere.

Evening

Disembark from the ship once again for a truly unique dining experience at the renowned 'Le Caloa' restaurant. Indulge in a delectable meal accompanied by captivating entertainment, immersing yourself in the local culture and flavors.

Visit the vibrant **Night Market**, located nearby, where you can browse through a variety of local handicrafts, textiles, and souvenirs, creating lasting memories of your time in Luang Prabang.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 5: Luang Prabang – Kuang Si – Xayabouri

Immerse yourself in the spiritual Buddhist tradition of the morning alms round, known as **Tak Bat**, by waking up before sunrise and witnessing a mesmerizing procession of saffron-robed monks.

Continues its journey downstream along the majestic Mekong River. Our first stop brings us to the innovative and socially responsible **Laos Buffalo Dairy Farm**. Discover and learn about the production of various dairy products.

Next, we venture to the awe-inspiring **Kuang Si waterfalls**, renowned for their cascading turquoise waters, hike through the park and marvel at the breathtaking wonders created by Mother Nature.

As we make our way back to the vessel, the cruise proceeds towards the renowned **Xayaburi Hydroelectric Dam**, which holds the distinction of being Laos' first major dam and hydroelectric power plant.

Following a delightful dinner, we transform our lounge into a cozy cinema, where you can relax and enjoy the screening of another classic movie, adding to the overall enjoyment of your cruise experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 6: Xayabouri – Don Saynhan

Morning

Guests will have the opportunity to witness the imposing **Xayaburi Hydroelectric Dam**, standing tall at an impressive height. The ship will navigate this significant elevation with the assistance of a massive water gate.

We offer *two onboard activities* for your enjoyment. Our guide will present a lecture on the history of Lao royalty, with a particular focus on King 'Anouvong,' after whom this vessel is named.

Additionally, we provide another cooking class, allowing you to learn and replicate a different Lao-Thai dish easily in your own home.

Afternoon

Upon reaching **Don Saynhan Village**, we embark on a thrilling journey inland by boarding a local "Tuk Tuk" to explore the renowned Khao Cave, and traverse through the lush, jungle-like environment and the abundant vegetation.

Inside the cave, you will have the opportunity to witness captivating stalagmites and stalactites, marveling at their fascinating formations.

The ship remains moored at this location overnight, providing a serene setting. Join us on the deck for some delightful prelude snacks and an informative overview of the upcoming day from our guide.

Take in the enchanting evening ambiance or choose to indulge in an after-dinner reflexology session, ensuring a peaceful and rejuvenating sleep.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 7: Don Saynhan – Pha Liep - Sandbank

As we approach the final day of our expedition, we navigate towards the captivating village of **Pha Liep**, adorned with stunning limestone mountains that provide a magnificent and picturesque backdrop to the landscape.

The local inhabitants of this region, known as the **ethnic Lao Loum**, have agriculture as their primary livelihood. During our visit, we have the opportunity to explore fascinating aspects of the ethnic Lao Loum culture.

Once again, we set sail, gracefully gliding along the gentle currents of the Mekong River. Our destination is a secluded sandbar, offering a remarkably serene setting where we will anchor for the night, concluding our journey on a high note.

To commemorate the cherished memories we have made along the Mekong, we cordially invite you to a cocktail reception, where we can raise a toast to our unforgettable experiences.

Later in the evening, under the enchanting Laotian sky, we will indulge in a delightful and romantic barbecue dinner, adding a touch of magic to our final night together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: NA

Day 8: Sandbank – Vientiane

Indulge in the serenity of the final sunrise of your journey while rejuvenating your body and mind with a refreshing morning Yoga session on the outdoor deck.

Today, if the weather permits, we have arranged a special breakfast on the terrace deck, providing you with the opportunity to savor the last few hours of sailing while immersing yourself in the scenic views until we reach **Pak Lay**.

In preparation for check-out, we kindly request that you pack your belongings and be ready by **9:00**.

Minivans will be available to transfer you to Vientiane, and you can expect to arrive in the city at approximately **12:30**, ensuring a smooth and comfortable transition to your next destination.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: NA

Booking Policy

Inclusion

- Accommodation
- Daily (group) shore excursions & entrance fees
- Sightseeing and transfers during the cruise
- Transfers from/to Heritage Line's meeting point to/from the ship (please read details in the embarkation guide)
- English speaking tour guide on-and offshore
- Entertainment/activities during the cruise as mentioned in the program
- Meals as mentioned in the program; welcome drink, brewed coffee, tea, and mineral water
- Passenger liability insurance
- Internet on the ship (subject to cellular network signal); complimentary usage of ship facilities (exclusive of spa treatments)
- Port or anchorage fees
- River pilots; fuel; taxes.

Exclusion

- Crew and guide gratuities
- Visa fees
- Private transfers
- Personal expenses
- Beverages other than those stated under inclusions; medical services; spa treatments; port and anchorage fees; all other services or items not listed under inclusions.

Cancellation Policy

- For cancellations of bookings, the following charges will apply:
- Prior 180 days to embarkation date: 5%
- 180 – 121 days prior embarkation date: 15%
- 120 – 91 days prior embarkation date: 30%
- 90 – 61 days prior embarkation date: 50%

- 60 – 31 days prior embarkation date: 75%
- 30 days – embarkation date: 100%

Children Policy

- A child from 5 to 11 years old: 50% of adult rate (sharing bed), or 75% of adult rate if staying in a cabin with one adult . Children below 5 years are not allowed on board

WHY BOOK WITH US?

Best Rate Guaranteed

Offering the BEST RATE package which is worthy of your payment.

Money Back Guaranteed

In case the service we provide is not qualified enough, except for out-of-control situations such as weather conditions. We will investigate your case and will offer the reimbursement once your complaint is rational.

Customizable by local experts

Local consultants with rich of knowledge will give you the most suitable itineraries for you.

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