

Laos Study Tour June 13– July 2, 2009

Day	Date	Location	Activity	Hotel
1 F or S	June 13	San Francisco	Leave for Laos	
2 S	June 14	Vientiane	Arrive in Vientiane in the afternoon. Vientiane is the capital of Laos and its largest city. In spite of new developments, Vientiane retains an ‘oldworld’ feel, unlike other Asian cities. We’ll take a short tour to orient everyone.	Vayakorn Guest House
3 M	June 15	Vientiane	Morning /We’ll visit the US Embassy for a briefing, possibly meeting with the Ambassador. We’ll learn about USAID-sponsored projects in the country, which include programs for HIV-AIDS prevention and surveillance, trauma care of victims of unexploded ordinance (UXO), silk sector development, and anti-drug trafficking and the locating of MIA remains Afternoon /We will visit the Consortium, the NGO responsible for implementing many of the USAID projects and talk with the director and staff about the challenges of working in Laos Evening /Attend traditional Lao music and dance performance	Vayakorn Guest House
4 T	June 16	Vientiane	Morning / We’ll tour the city’s main sights including Wat Sisaket - Vientiane’s oldest original temple built in 1818. All other temples in Vientiane were re-built after destruction by the Siamese in 1828. We’ll also visit Haw Pha Kaew, the former royal temple of the Lao Monarchy, now converted into a museum. Visit Pha That Luang, the most important national monument in Laos - symbolic of both the Monarchy and the Buddhist religion - and the Patuxai Monument, reminiscent of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and offering spectacular views over the city. Afternoon /Buddhism lecture and visit the National University of Laos	Vayakorn Guest House
5 W	June 17	Vientiane	In the morning we’ll visit the Revolutionary Museum, a monument to Laos' long struggle to free itself from colonization. In the afternoon we’ll visit the National Library of Laos and meet with the Deputy Director and Children’s Librarian to handover donations collected for book box libraries. We also may be able to join with the children’s librarian as the bookmobile goes out to visit a rural school.	Vayakorn Guest House
6 TH	June 18	Luang Prabang	Morning /Fly to Luang Prabang, the ancient royal capital and UNESCO world heritage site - a stunning town of well-preserved wats, colonial architecture, and boutique textile galleries, perched on a peninsula created by the confluence of the Mekong and Khan rivers. Afternoon / We will visit the old Royal Palace, now a national museum, then climb up Poussi Mountain to enjoy the view of Luang Prabang and the mist-covered mountains beyond, and finally the breath-taking Wat Xieng Thong, a temple built in the 15th century	Rama Hotel
7 F	June 19	Luang Prabang	We will take a slow boat up the Mekong to Pak Ou Caves & on the way back visit different ethnic villages,	Rama Hotel
8 S	June 20	Luang Prabang	In the morning we’ll visit the beautiful Kwang Xi waterfalls and in the afternoon get a personal tour of a classic centuries-old Tai-Lue village along the Ou River	Rama Hotel
9 S	June 21	Luang Prabang	In the morning we will visit with a UNESCO official to learn why Luang Prabang was classified as a World Heritage Site. Afternoon /free	Rama Hotel
10 M	June 22	Muang Sing	Drive to Muang Sing (an all day drive)	Muang Sing Guest House

11 T	June 23	Muang Sing	Visit Mien, Tai Dam (Black Tai) and Hmong villages	Muang Sing Guest House
12 W	June 24	Lunag Namtha	Drive to Luang Namtha where we will stay at Luang Namtha's premier Ecotourism Lodge, <i>The Boat Landing Guest House and Restaurant</i> , Afternoon free to relax, bike ride, visit villages, etc.	Boat Landing Guest House
13 TH	June 25	Phonsavan	Fly to Phonsavan Here we will stay at the famous Maly Hotel with Soutsath Phetrasy as our guide. Soutsath is one of the most knowledgeable people about the Plain of Jars and the Secret War as it occurred in this northern theatre.	Maly Guest House
14 F	June 26	Phonsavan	In the morning we will visit the mysterious <i>Plain of Jars</i> and in the afternoon visit the UXO Lao headquarters to learn about the continuing problem with unexploded ordinance in this heavily bombed region	Maly Guest House
15 S	June 27	Sam Neua	Drive to Sam Neua. Along the way we will stop to visit a man and his three young daughters whose wife was killed by a bombie in June 2003	KhaemSam Guest House
16 S	June 28	Sam Neua	Visit the local market and then drive to Vieng Xai and tour the Pathet Lao Leader caves	KhaemSam Guest House
17 M	June 29	Vientiane	Morning/Fly back to Vientiane Afternoon/free time	Vayakorn Guest House
18 T	June 30	Vientiane	This is a possible free day because if the weather doesn't permit us to fly out of Sam Neua we will have to drive back to Phonsavan and fly out of Phonsavan to Vientiane	Vayakorn Guest House
19 W	July 1	Vientiane	Time for last minute shopping, revisiting galleries, morning market, etc.	Vayakorn Guest House
20 TH	July 2	Leave Laos	Leave Laos	