

Laotian Country Guide

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Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders require a visa to enter Laos as a tourist. To obtain a visa before departing Australia, travellers should send their application (including those documents listed in the application form on this site) to the Laotian Embassy in Canberra at least 5 working days prior to their departure. Usually only single entry tourist visas are given, which cost \$45 (\$60 for urgent issue) and allow entry into Laos for a period of up to 30 days. Australians may also obtain a visa on arrival at many boarder crossings upon presenting two passport sized photographs, a copy of their itinerary and payment of a fee. Travellers intending to obtain a visa on arrival are recommended to contact the Laotian Embassy to ensure their itinerary complies with visa on arrival issue points.

When entering Laos, travellers should be able to provide evidence of their ability to financially maintain themselves during their visit, confirmed onward/return tickets and their itinerary. Passports should have at least two blank pages and be valid for at least six months beyond the expected stay in Laos. Travellers should check their passports when entering and leaving Laos to ensure they have received an entry/exit stamp. For further information, please view the visa application form or contact the Laotian Embassy in Canberra on the details provided below.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Laos. Vaccination against Hepatitis B, Rabies (particularly if working with animals) and Typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered, especially by frequent or long stay travellers. Cholera is reported in Laos but vaccination is generally not recommended, care with food and beverage selection is far more important. There is a medium risk of Malaria in Laos and Dengue Fever also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary depending on itinerary. Japanese Encephalitis is present in Laos, vaccination should be considered by travellers spending more than four weeks in rural areas of the transmission zones.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Laos should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Laotian Representation in Australia

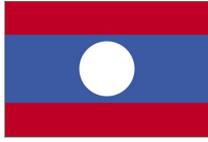
Embassy of Laos, Canberra

1 Dalman Crescent
O'MALLEY ACT 2606
Tel: (02) 6286 4595
Fax: (02) 6290 1910

Consulate of Laos, Perth

10 Hines Road
O'CONNOR WA 6163
Tel: (08) 9338 8111
Fax: (08) 9338 8122

Web: www.laoembassy.net



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Time Differences between Laos and Australia

Laos is Greenwich Mean Time + 7 hours. Daylight saving is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Indochina Time (ICT).

Laos, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 1pm; Darwin 2:30pm; Brisbane 3pm; Adelaide 3:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4pm.
Laos, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 1pm; Darwin, Adelaide 2:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, 3pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Laos: +856
To Dial Australia Call:
00 followed by 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on (+1) 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:
Call the US on (+1) 303 967 1090

MasterCard:
Call the US on (+1) 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:
Call Thailand on (+66) 2273 5296

Emergency Services in Vientiane:
Police - 191, Fire - 190, Ambulance - 195

The emergency services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Lao speaker to call the emergency services.

Australian Embassy Clinic: (021) 35 3840
Open 8.30-12.30 and 13.30-17.00 Mon - Fri.
This medical clinic is for citizens of Australia and certain other countries.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Laos

Australian Embassy, Laos

KM4, Thadeua Road
Watnak Village
Sisattanak District
VIENTIANE

Tel: (+856 21) 35 3800
Fax: (+856 21) 35 3801

Web: www.laos.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Laos are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Vientiane, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Laos and Australia

Duty Free allowance when entering Laos:

Alcohol: 1 litre of spirits and 2 litres of wine.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco.
 Perfume: 250ml of eau de toilette and 50g of perfume.
 Other Goods: Up to US\$50.

For further information on customs and duty free regulations when entering Laos, please visit the Lao Customs website at <http://laocustoms.laopdr.net>.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket: European, Japanese and USA sockets.
 Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia).
 Modem Plug: USA

Source: Korjo Travel Products. Please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au for further information on this matter.



Duty Free allowance when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to AUD\$900 (\$450 for minors).

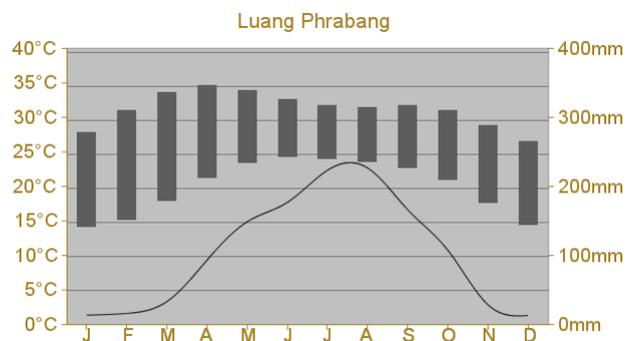
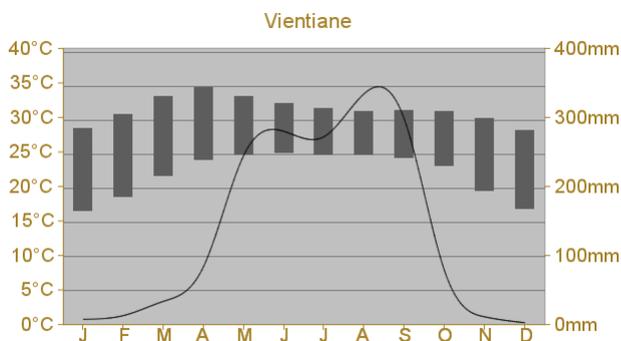
For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to www.border.gov.au.

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

Public Holidays in Laos 2018

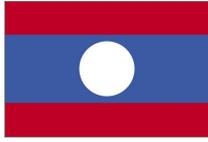
01 Jan: New Year's Day
 08 Mar: International Women's Day
 16 - 18 Apr: Lao New Year holidays
 01 May: International Labour Day
 01 Jun: Children's Day
 20 Jul: Lao Women Union's Day
 27 Jul: Buddhist Lent begins
 24 Oct: Buddhist Lent ends
 25 Oct: Boat Racing Festival
 22 Nov: That Luang Festival
 02/03 Dec: Lao National Day

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Laos



Source: Laos Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. For 5 day local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 6,147 Lao Kip
 10,000 Lao Kip (LAK) = 1.63 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 5,910 Lao Kip
 10,000 Lao Kip (LAK) will cost 1.69 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		
5,000 LAK = \$0.85 AUD	100,000 LAK = \$16.92 AUD	1 million LAK = \$169.19 AUD
10,000 LAK = \$1.69 AUD	200,000 LAK = \$33.84 AUD	2 million LAK = \$338.39 AUD
20,000 LAK = \$3.38 AUD	300,000 LAK = \$50.76 AUD	3 million LAK = \$507.58 AUD
30,000 LAK = \$5.08 AUD	400,000 LAK = \$67.68 AUD	4 million LAK = \$676.78 AUD
40,000 LAK = \$6.77 AUD	500,000 LAK = \$84.60 AUD	5 million LAK = \$845.97 AUD
50,000 LAK = \$8.46 AUD	600,000 LAK = \$101.52 AUD	6 million LAK = \$1,015.17 AUD
60,000 LAK = \$10.15 AUD	700,000 LAK = \$118.44 AUD	7 million LAK = \$1,184.36 AUD
70,000 LAK = \$11.84 AUD	800,000 LAK = \$135.36 AUD	8 million LAK = \$1,353.56 AUD
80,000 LAK = \$13.54 AUD	900,000 LAK = \$152.28 AUD	9 million LAK = \$1,522.75 AUD
90,000 LAK = \$15.23 AUD		10 million LAK = \$1,691.94 AUD

Banknotes of Laos

The legal currency of Laos is the Kip, which is abbreviated using the symbol ₭ and has the currency code "LAK". The subunit of the kip is called the att, however this unit is obsolete. The following units of currency are the most common in Laos however other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Coins are no longer used due to their small value. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.

₭2,000



₭20,000



₭5,000



₭50,000



₭10,000



₭100,000





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About Laos

Full Name: Sathalanalat Paxathipatai
 Paxaxon Lao (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

Independence: July 1949 (from France).

Size: 236,800 sq km (similar to Victoria).

Population: 7 million. Vientiane 810,000.

Ethnicity: Lao 55%, Khmou 11%, Hmong 8%, other ethnic groups 26%.

Language: Lao is the official language. English is commonly used in major tourist centres. French & Chinese are also spoken alongside various other ethnic languages.

Religion: Buddhist 90%, Christian 1.5%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$3,000 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- 1353 - Lane Xang (million elephant) Kingdom formed.
- 1548-71 - Rule of King Setthathirath. Capital moved from Luang Prabang to Vientiane.
- 1641 - Dutch merchants visit Laos.
- 1695 - King Suriya Vongsa dies, Laos eventually splits into 3 kingdoms which are dominated by Siamese (Thai) overlords.
- 1893 - Siam cedes territory east of the Mekong to French Indochina.
- 1944-45 - Japan briefly occupies Laos.
- 1954 - Laos gains independence as a monarchy. Civil war between royalists and communists begins.
- 1960's - US bombs North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Laos.
- 1975 - Communists seize power ending the 600 year old monarchy. The King later dies in captivity.
- 1986 - Laos introduces some market oriented reforms.

