

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## LAOS

### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

**A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Laos.** There are currently three options available as outlined below. A&K recommends a visa on arrival for guests travelling on *Images of Indochina*, *Signature/Private Indochina*, and *the Luang Prabang Extension* and for guests on Tailor Made itineraries that enter Laos via the Chiang Rai Chiang Kong/Huay Xai land border or whose arrangements include fast-track arrival service.

**Visa on Arrival:** A tourist visa can be obtained on arrival at all points of entry. The current fee for a single-entry visa is USD \$40 (subject to change without notice) and must be paid in cash in U.S. dollars or local currency. Two passport-size photos are also required.

**Electronic Visa (eVisa):** A single-entry visa for Laos is available for guests arriving at three main international airports, (VTE, LPQ and PKZ) as well as the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge I and Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge II. The current fee is USD \$50 (subject to change without notice) and requires a minimum of three (3) days for processing. Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Laos. You will be required to upload documents (e.g. passport photo and a copy of your passport information pages) to complete the eVisa process. You will be issued a 30-day visa valid for 60 days (meaning you must enter Laos within 60 days of the visa being issued but can only stay for 30 days). Upon arrival, guests with an eVisa can go directly to the dedicated line for Laos eVisa holders. Print out the approval letter and carry it with you as you will need to present it to immigration authorities in Laos.

**Visa Stamp:** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Laotian consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](https://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

### YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION & MALARIA PREVENTION

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Laos if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

You will be travelling to an area of malaria transmission. We strongly advise that you speak with your doctor or travel clinic regarding your itinerary, individual risk assessment and options for mosquito bite prevention and antimalarial drugs. We recommend filling any prescriptions before you depart.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions can generally be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. U.S. dollars should be recently issued bills in smaller denominations. Major credit cards are accepted on a limited basis, mainly in the larger shops, hotels and restaurants. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns such as Luang Prabang and Vientiane but limited in rural areas.

## PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On flights within Southeast Asia, each passenger is limited to approximately 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of checked baggage in Economy Class and approximately 66 pounds (30 kilograms) in Business Class. For carry-on baggage in both Economy and Business Class, passengers are allowed one piece of luggage with a maximum weight of approximately 11 pounds (5 kilograms).

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

### Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Temples and other religious sites require modest dress to enter. Guests are advised to pack clothing that covers knees, shoulders, and upper arms for select visits. You may be required to remove shoes when entering sacred sites.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Long comfortable skirts for women
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- Lightweight raincoat or poncho
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up
- Foldable umbrella for rain protection and sun shade

### Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Sun block and insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter

### Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Foldable walking stick
- Lightweight binoculars
- Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

### TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey.

|  | <b>All Small Group Journeys<br/>and Pre/Post Tour Group<br/>Extensions</b> | <b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>            |
|--|--|--|
| Resident Tour Director or<br>Group Extension Guide | \$15 per person, per day   | Not applicable                         |
| Local Guides                                       | Included   | \$20 per person, per day<br>(full day) |
| Drivers  | Included   | \$10 per person, per day<br>(full day) |
| Airport Transfer Drivers                           | Included   | \$5 per person, per transfer           |
| Hotel Porters                                      | Included   | \$2 per bag                            |
| Housekeepers                                       | Included   | \$2 per person, per night              |
| Included Meals                                     | Included   | Included                               |
| Restaurants or Room<br>Service on Own              | 10-15% unless already<br>added   | 10-15% unless already added            |

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.