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Laos, Cambodia and the Golden Triangle Adventure Tour

19 Day Conducted Tour

for only **\$4,675** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies

This tour represents great value as the price includes all of the following:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Chiang Mai and out of Phnom Penh with Singapore Airlines & Silk Air, plus two other flights within South East Asia.
- ❖ A 2 night stopover in Singapore.
- ❖ A 4 day tour of the Golden Triangle area.
- ❖ A 7 day coach, air and boat tour of Laos, including two days cruising the mighty Mekong River and three days in the wonderful world heritage town of Luang Prabang.
- ❖ A 5 day tour of Cambodia, including inspecting the wonderful historic area of Angkor Wat.
- ❖ Good accommodation, mainly three to four star.
- ❖ All transfers, transport and entrance fees to many attractions.
- ❖ Prepaid gratuities to the tour guides and drivers.
- ❖ Services of local tour guides and if there are 14 or more participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have a travel partner but wish to travel at twin share rates we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an additional cost of \$1140.



Tour departs Australia 13th March and returns 31st March 2017

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Laos Cambodia and the Golden Triangle Adventure Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

13.03.17 Australia - Singapore

Depart Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.10pm.

Depart Melbourne at 11.30am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 4.10pm.

Depart Sydney at 12.15pm on SQ 232, arriving in Singapore at 5.35pm.

Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel in Singapore for a two night stay.

Accommodation: Peninsula Excelsior Hotel or similar

14.03.17 Singapore

Today is at leisure. While in Singapore you will receive the benefits listed below:

*50% discount on the la carte food menu (food only) at the designated food outlet in the hotel

*Free unlimited rides on SIA Hop-on tourist bus, which travels through the main tourist belt.

*Singapore Cable-Car (round-trip).

*Free admission to several attractions; National Orchid Garden, Singapore River Cruise, Jurong Bird Park, The Singapore Zoo, Singapore Flyer, Malay Heritage Centre, Gardens by the Bay and Universal Studios Singapore.

*Discounts on shopping, dining, sightseeing tours and attractions as listed in SIA Boarding Pass Privileges program.

Please note that the inclusions provided in Singapore are subject to change.

Accommodation: Peninsula Excelsior Hotel or similar

15.03.17 Singapore - Chiang Mai

(L)

Transfer to Singapore airport departing at 8.50am on Silk Air flight MI 702, arriving in Chiang Mai at 10.45am. We will be met at the airport by our Thai guide and transferred to a paper umbrella workshop, followed by a visit to a jewellery centre. We then have lunch followed by a city tour of Chiang Mai. Afterwards we check into our hotel which is located near Chiang Mai's famous night market.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Chiang Mai

16.03.17 Chiang Mai

(B/L)

Mid morning departure from the hotel to visit an orchid nursery where we have lunch.

After this we visit Chiang Mai's famous mountain top temple with spectacular views back over Chiang Mai.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Chiang Mai

17.03.17 Chiang Mai - Chiang Rai

(B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we head north for a beautiful scenic drive to Chiang Rai. Our first stop is at an elephant camp to see a display of the elephants at work. Here we have a short elephant ride in the jungle.

We next travel through the main hill-tribe area of Thailand and stop and visit an Aka village. We then proceed to Chiang Rai, staying at the centrally located Wiang Inn.

Accommodation: Wiang Inn

18.03.17 Chiang Rai**(B/L/D)**

This morning there is a visit to Wat Rong Khun. This white temple is unlike any of the other temples in Thailand. It is a modern masterpiece built by Chalermchai Kositpipat, a popular artist who dedicated 10 years of his life to this grand project, in the name of Buddha. It is a modern project built almost entirely out of white materials and decorated with small pieces of mirrored glass that make it glitter, especially during the night. Then we visit the Queen Mother's beautiful gardens outside Chiang Rai. We also visit the Opium Museum. Our hotel this evening is located within the Golden Triangle area.

Accommodation: Imperial Golden Triangle Resort

19.03.17 Chiang Rai - Houeisay - Pakbeng**(B/L)**

This morning we drive to the Mekong River, which we cross by boat to enter Laos. After completing border formalities, we board a private traditional slow boat for the trip downriver. Serene, timeless Laos is one of Asia's most unvisited, unchanged countries. Bisecting and bordered by the Mekong River, Laos is an omnipresent symbol of Indochina and today is an amalgam of cultural influences including Theravada Buddhism, animism, France and the socialist ideal. It is a peaceful place and the legendary hospitality, resilience and friendliness of the Lao people is much in evidence. Laos is Old Asia preserved. En route with lunch on board, we continue to sail down the Mekong River to Pakbeng, arriving in Pakbeng by late afternoon for an overnight stay.

Note: You will need to pack an overnight bag for this hotel visit as your main luggage will remain secured on the boat. Please note that the accommodation this evening is very basic, but is one of the best available in this small, rural town.

Accommodation: Phetsokxai Hotel

20.03.17 Pakbeng - Luang Prabang**(B/L)**

After breakfast in the hotel overlooking the Mekong, we continue our river journey downstream passing areas of unspoilt forest with little villages along the river banks and perhaps the odd elephant or two with his mahout. We visit a fishing village and rice wine making village with an opportunity to sample some of the local speciality. Lunch is served on board and upon nearing Luang Prabang we stop to visit the famous Pak-Ou caves with their thousands of Buddha statues. We arrive in Luang Prabang around sunset and transfer to our hotel. This evening you might like to visit the night bazaar market and take a stroll around this enchanting little town.

Accommodation: Maison Dalabua Hotel or similar

21.03.17 Luang Prabang**(B/L)**

Today we will enjoy a guided tour exploring this charming city that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Luang Prabang is idyllically situated where the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers converge, surrounded by mountains. From 1353 until 1545 it was the capital of Lane Xang before power was transferred to Vientiane. Despite the move, Luang Prabang remained the seat of monarchical power and when the kingdom broke up in 1694, one of the deceased king's grandsons established a rival kingdom to those in Vientiane and Champassak. Though weakened, the Luang Prabang royalty endured until 1975, when after the reign of 63 kings it was formally dissolved. We spend the day exploring the temples and sites in what is called one of the last Shangri-La's of Southeast Asia. Our city tour takes in some of this history, visiting Wat Xiang Thong, the most important Buddhist monastery in the country, Wat Khili and Wat Mai. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Later we visit the former Royal Palace, which is now a National Museum where you will find ornate, gilded and brocaded reception rooms, as well as Buddha and spectacular

artifacts including the Pra Bang, a large holy image, which was given in the 14th century by the Khmers to King Fa Ngum. At sunset we climb the nearby temple-topped hill of Phousi for a lovely view out over the town and the river. This evening you have the option of attending a Lao traditional dance show performance.

Accommodation: Maison Dalabua Hotel or similar

22.03.17 Luang Prabang - Khouangsi Waterfalls

(B/L)

Today you may choose to rise early and participate in an early morning ritual of saffron-clad monks with their black alms bowls being given offerings from the local people. From there you will visit the morning Dala Market where you will see such diverse products as dried buffalo skin, local tea and saltpeter among the chickens, vegetables and hill-tribe weavings. Next we drive to Ban Thinkeo to see a Hmong village and learn about their local life. We then continue to Kuang Si waterfall, where we enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the beautiful multi-tiered falls. We also have the opportunity to cool off in the turquoise blue pools. Afterwards we return to Luang Prabang in time to catch the sun setting over the Mekong.

Accommodation: Maison Dalabua Hotel or similar

23.03.17 Luang Prabang - Vientiane

(B/L)

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, enjoy some free time until the transfer to the airport for our flight to Vientiane, arriving at approximately 2pm. Vientiane is a charming and fascinating capital, with an interesting mix of Lao, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, French and American influences. We commence a brief orientation tour and drive to Lao's national precious heritage site, That Luang Stupa. We then drive through the Mekong riverside and stop here for a walk and a drink whilst enjoying the sunset. Afterwards we are taken to the hotel for check in. Lunch today is included.

Accommodation: Chanthapanya Hotel or similar

24.03.17 Vientiane

(B/L)

This morning we have a city tour of Vientiane. We visit the National Museum and see the major sights of the capital, including the Wat Sisaket, the oldest temple with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former royal temple of Wat Prakeo, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image. There is an opportunity to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triomphe. Afterwards we visit a shopping mall and then have lunch at a local restaurant. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: Chanthapanya Hotel or similar

25.03.17 Vientiane - Siem Reap

(B/D)

This morning we transfer to Vientiane Airport for our flight to Siem Reap (via Pakse, Laos). Upon arrival at Siem Reap International Airport we are met by our English speaking guide and then transferred to the hotel for check in. We then visit the Angkor National Museum, which is located in downtown Siem Reap. The museum takes visitors through a journey back in time from the creation to the highest point of Khmer civilisation. Through the use of interactive exhibits we can develop a deeper understanding of customs, traditions and different beliefs of the ancient empire. A guided tour of the museum will help set the scene for our temple visits. Afterwards we return to the hotel. This evening we enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: The Aviary Hotel

26.03.17 Siem Reap**(B/D)**

This morning we have an early start to visit the famous Angkor Wat temples. Angkor Wat is a temple complex built for King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and capital city. Angkor Wat is the most significant and best preserved temple in the area. It is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation, first Hindu and then Buddhist. A magnificent moat surrounds the temple on all sides with a long causeway providing access. An alternative eastern entrance is the best way to start our morning tour and avoid the crowds. Take your time to look at some of the more than 3000 Apsara carvings, all of which are different. We then exit Angkor Wat and drive to the ancient city of Angkor Thom, which is surrounded by walls with a height of eight metres and length of twelve kilometres. This city was the last capital of the Khmer Empire. Angkor Thom holds many important monuments including the Bayon Temple, located in the exact centre, the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. We return to the hotel around 1pm. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax or further explore Siem Reap on your own accord.

This evening we enjoy dinner while watching a show of Apsara dancing, first performed in the court of the kings at Angkor. A set menu of Khmer cuisine will be served as you enjoy the show.

Accommodation: The Aviary Hotel

27.03.17 Siem Reap**(B)**

Today we visit Ta Prohm by remark, which is similar to a Thai tuk tuk. Ta Prohm is a unique temple that has been left to nature and has trees and vines growing amongst the structures. This is one of the most photogenic temples in the Angkor area and gained fame as the 'Tomb Raider Temple' after featuring in the Angelina Jolie movie. Enjoy walking along the sandy paths under huge banyan trees as we explore this 12th century temple. In modern Cambodia today, there are many projects helping to revive lost art, music and culture. One such example is Artisan d'Angkor. We visit the workshop and see stone carvings, wooden sculptures, lacquer work and paintings, all being produced and many of which can be purchased. We are then returned to the hotel for some free time. This evening we enjoy some modern Khmer theatre at a performance of Phare, the Cambodian Circus, by professional artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak. Originally a project set up in refugee camps as a way to encourage young people to express themselves using art, the Phare Circus is slowly becoming a world wide name and a good example of responsible tourism that has been a success story. Enjoy an hour long show, which is a great example of modern Cambodia and mixes theatre, dance, music, juggling and contortion. Afterwards we return to the hotel.

Accommodation: The Aviary Hotel

28.03.17 Siem Reap - Phnom Penh**(B/L/D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. We depart Siem Reap approximately 8am this morning and commence the drive to Phnom Penh with a local guide (travel time is approximately 6 hours not including stops). A couple of hours into the drive we stop at the Spean Praptos Bridge, which dates from the Khmer Empire. Apparently the Khmer Rouge tried to blow up the bridge on more than one occasion but were repelled by the sheer strength of the structure and were unsuccessful. We stop to visit the small and interesting Santuk Silk Farm, founded by Vietnam War veteran Budd Gibbons. It is here that we will enjoy a tasty Khmer lunch. A short guided tour of the silk farm will provide insight into all stages of production, from the silk worm to the end product, which we can see the villagers weaving. If we are lucky the charismatic Budd will guide us around and answer our questions on silk, Cambodia and other topics. After lunch we continue our drive to Phnom Penh. On the

way a stop is made at Skuon where it is possible to see the local specialty of deep-fried tarantula being sold at the local market. Cambodians are fond of this tasty snack and sometimes stop to buy a few in passing. International tourists are usually content to take photos, rather than to sample this unusual delicacy. We arrive in Phnom Penh in the late afternoon and check into the hotel. Phnom Penh was known as the Pearl of Asia and like much of Cambodia was a vibrant and culturally developed city until the 1960's. Suffering at the hands of the Khmer Rouge the city was once evacuated by Pol Pot's army and became a ghost town. Today's Cambodia is a country on the move, still many years behind the development of neighbouring Vietnam or Thailand, though ever changing. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Sunway Hotel

29.03.17 Phnom Penh

(B/L/D)

This morning we visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the 'Killing Fields' of Choeung Ek. During the Pol Pot regime Tuol Sleng was converted from a high school to a detention centre known as S21. After interrogation and often torture prisoners were transferred to the 'Killing Fields' where they were often tortured again and brutally killed. Choeung Ek was a Chinese cemetery before it became the Khmer Rouge's best known Killing Field. The remains of almost 9000 bodies have been excavated from mass graves in this area. Today, Choeung Ek is a memorial site for Cambodians and visitors from all over the world to pay their respects to those lost. A memorial stupa has been erected and displays over 5000 human skulls, bones and clothes of the victims. This visit is a profoundly moving but also somewhat depressing experience. However the insight into the cruel Khmer Rouge regime is educational and a part of understanding the Khmer culture as it is today. We then enjoy lunch at Lotus Blanc. The food here is prepared and served by students from a vocational training centre that supports children who cannot afford an education due to poverty. The adjacent school has been a successful project that is a good example of sustainable tourism. A tasty Khmer set menu will be served.

After lunch we continue to Champey Academy of Arts where traditional drawing, music and dance are taught. Enjoy watching the young students practicing classical Apsara dancing. The academy is a local Non Government Organisation that seeks to preserve traditional arts on a free basis for poor students and a visit is sure to put a smile on your face as you see how the children seek to improve their lives by being artistically creative. Afterwards we are returned to the hotel to take a short break. Later we board our carefully crafted stylish wooden boat and cruise out to the point where four rivers converge. We learn about the Upper and Lower Mekong, Tonle Sap and the Bassac Rivers. We cruise past the riverside area which is a hive of activity. Weather permitting we will be able to see the sun setting over Phnom Penh. Later we settle down to an Asian/Western BBQ dinner. Soft drinks, beer and French wine are included on the cruise. Please note that this cruise is on a shared basis. With views of the popular Phnom Penh riverside and the Phnom Penh skyline, this is our chance to relax at the end of the day and reminisce on our journey through South East Asia.

Accommodation: Sunway Hotel

30.03.17 Phnom Penh - Singapore

(B/L)

This morning we visit the Royal Palace, which was built in 1866 by King Norodom. The palace is made up from a number of structures within a pagoda-style compound, one of which is the Silver Pagoda. The Silver Pagoda takes its name from over 5000 silver tiles and the building itself holds a number of national treasures. Perhaps most notable is the lifesize gold Maitreya Buddha, decorated with 9,584 diamonds and weighing 90 kilograms. We continue to the Central Market, which is one of the most beautiful buildings in

Cambodia. The art deco building housing the market has a huge domed roof with four wings full of shops. There is something for everyone including souvenirs, clothes and food. Afterwards we return to the hotel in time to freshen up before our flights home. We check out of the hotel and head to a local restaurant for some authentic Khmer cooking at Sugar Palm, a venue with ambience on street 178. The restaurant is a typical former house from the Protectorate period. Today, delicious home style Cambodian cuisine is served. Afterwards we are transferred to Phnom Penh International Airport for our flights home.

Depart Phnom Penh at 6.30pm on Silk Air flight MI 607, arriving in Singapore at 9.25pm. Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 11.35pm on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 251, arriving in Sydney at 10.15am the next morning (31.03.17).

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 11.55pm on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 237, arriving in Melbourne at 10.20am the next morning (31.03.17).

31.03.17 Singapore - Australia

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 12.45am on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 255, arriving in Brisbane at 10.35am.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Laos, Cambodia and the Golden Triangle Adventure Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia.

Visas are not required for Thailand if travelling on an Australian passport. Visas are required for all Australian passport holders to Laos & Cambodia. Laos and Cambodia visas can be obtained upon arrival at the borders. One colour passport photo, your passport and US\$30 are required for each. (Please note that prices are subject to change).

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.