



LUANG PRABANG RESTAURANT & SHOPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

RESTAURANTS

Blue Lagoon

Location: A narrow lane next to the Royal Pavilion, just off Sisavangvong Road

Cuisine: Lao, Swiss, Fusion

With a view of the Royal Pavilion's golden spires, Blue Lagoon offers a combination of Lao and Swiss classics on its menu, complemented by a selection of Old and New World wines as well as cocktails, mocktails, Laotian beers, gourmet coffees, teas and juices. A fine-dining establishment, it is highly popular among the connoisseurs of gourmet cuisine, with an outdoor dining terrace offering views of its garden and pond.

Café Ban Vat Sene

Location: Sakkarine Road, opposite Wat Sene

Cuisine: French, Western

A lovely colonial-style shop-house, Le Café Ban Vat Sene has wooden tables and chairs set on the pavement and a very relaxed atmosphere. Inside, small shelves display a collection of bottles and 'antiques'. Enjoy a daily selection of French bakery, light snacks, sandwiches, wine and desserts, along with chilled out music and a collection of magazines, books and newspapers. Coffee is very good here, and the free Wi-Fi internet is an added bonus.

Coconut Garden

Location: Sisavangvong Road

Cuisine: Lao and Western

This is one of Luang Prabang's most popular restaurants serving delicious fresh food. Guests can choose to sit outside in the terrace overlooking the town, in the tranquil garden at the back or upstairs to enjoy the view and fresh breeze. This restaurant is a favorite for expats and tourists and is especially known as a great place for a late dinner.

Tamnak Lao

Location: Sakkarine Road

Cuisine: Traditional Lao

Popular with Lao and international tourists alike, Tamnak Lao Restaurant specializes in traditional unique Luang Prabang Lao cuisine. A taste sensation all on its own, Lao food combines texture with flavor, and many of the dishes served at Tamnak Lao Restaurant are prepared with bark, wood and vegetables collected from the local jungle.

Tangor

Location: Rue Sisavangvong

Cuisine: Asian Fusion, French

Ideally located in the main street in Luang Prabang, Tangor is owned by a young French couple and offers a great culinary experience in a chill and jazzy atmosphere. Sticky rice sushis and ceviche are the best!



The Balcony Bar and Restaurant

Location: On the main road to Kuang Si Waterfalls, only minutes outside Luang Prabang

Cuisine: French-Lao Fusion

Run by the Lao National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (Lanith), this unique restaurant serves Franco-Lao fusion style cuisine. Having a background in European Michelin Star-rated restaurants, the Chef Pit Wanderscheid heads a kitchen of highly trained Laotians ensuring finest quality food. The restaurant is located just minutes from downtown Luang Prabang.

Tamarind

Location: Kingkitsarath Road

Cuisine: Lao, Fusion

Tamarind is all about promoting greater understanding of Laotian culture, and from word of mouth alone, the restaurant has become an institution in Luang Prabang's culinary scene. Well known for its tasty and healthy traditional Lao food, as well as the top-rank cooking school, the place is constantly busy and packed at meal times. The menu ranges from platter combinations of dips and salads to soups, wraps (miang), larbs, stir-fried and grilled a-la-carte dishes.

L'Elephant

Location: Down a twisting side street named Phagnalluangmuang-chan, just behind Villa Santi

Cuisine: Lao, French

L'Éléphant restaurant is located in a beautiful colonial building in the heart of the historic peninsula of Luang Prabang, between the Mekong and the Nam Khan river. It offers excellent traditional, as well as more creative, French and Lao cuisine made of local natural produce grown in their own gardens.

Dao Fa

Location: Rue Sisavangvong

Cuisine: French fusion

Managed by a French couple, the chef offers specialties from France with a twist of Lao influence. Nice selection of wines as well.

BARS

1861 Bar

Location: The Luang Say Residence, Ban Phonepheng, south of the town centre

Set inside The Luang Say Residence, 1861 Bar features a classy explorer-theme interior fashioned in the style of French colonial elegance. Hardwood floor and walls, marble fireplace, stained glass lamp shades, mirrors, leather and velvet sofas all combine to evoke a feel of old-school sophistication. The bar stocks spirits and fine wines from around the world.

Hive Bar and Restaurant

Location: 5 Kingkitsarat Road

A stylish bar with a resident DJ, cosy garden terrace, fire pit, exposed brick walls and art installation, Hive is extremely popular among both expats and visitors. The menu covers cocktails, drinks, wood-fired pizzas and tapas. The DJ starts spinning the decks at 17:00 every day, bringing the place to life with electronic, dance, rock, alternative, indie and hip hop tunes.



Pack Luck Wine Bar

Location: Ban Vat Nong, near Wat Sene, opposite l'Elephant Restaurant

With a cosy, contemporary ambience, and an extensive wine list, Pack Luck Wine Bar is a popular hang-out spot among visitors and expats. Its lively and unpretentious vibe adds a nice down-to-earth feel to the place. Cocktails and spirits are also on the bar menu. Here, you can while away the evenings with a drink and the sounds of jazz, latin, bossa nova, R&B, lounge and classic modern music.

S-Bar & Restaurant

Location: Kingkitsarath road, Ban Aphay, Luang Prabang

S-Bar is a lounge bar with a cool ambience, tasty food and great cocktails. The must-try list includes their own popular creation known as the S cocktail and the Lao set menu. Music leans toward electro-house and Jazz. This friendly place offers a good atmosphere in a lovely design.

Icon Klub

Location: Sakkaline Road

Owned by Liza from Hungary, this small and cosy bar will bring you into an original atmosphere. Rock music, home-made and unique cocktails, vintage decoration, live music... this place is perfect for art-lovers and poets!

SHOPPING

Caruso Lao

Location: Sakkarine Road, Old Town

Caruso Lao offers high quality handcrafted home and fashion accessories. Everything is designed and fashioned together by hand in Laos itself. The store's Canadian owner spent a large part of her life in the Hong Kong fashion industry before settling down in Luang Prabang in 1988. All products are crafted from wood or silk, and the impressive range includes wooden bowls, decorative Buddha heads, cushions, natural silk shawls, bed spreads, table runners, and more.

Ma Te Sai

Location: Sisavangvong Road, Old Town

Ma Te Sai showcases crafts from all over Laos, ranging from traditional to modern and innovative (such as giftware made from old bombs). Meaning "where is it from?" in Lao, Ma Té Sai buys handmade products direct from villages, village cooperatives and from organizations all around Laos, thereby supporting tradition and providing sustainable income to poor Lao artisans.

Ock Pop Tok

Location: Old Town

Ock Pop Tok is a Laos based social enterprise working primarily in the field of textiles, handicrafts and design. Meaning "east meets west", Ock Pop Tok brings the fascinating world of traditional Lao handicrafts alive for visitors. Their beautiful Living Crafts Centre overlooking the Mekong is set in a tropical Mekong garden and serves as a resource centre for learning about textiles, crafts and culture.



Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre (TAEC)

Location: Kitsalat Road

Just behind Dara Market, this two-storey heritage shop-house is a museum and resource centre promoting Lao ethnic diversity. It features cultural exhibitions, showcasing traditional arts and lifestyles of diverse ethnic groups. Adopting fair trade and sustainability principles, the museum shop supports over 500 handicrafts producers and their families from all over Laos, with a selection of beaded necklaces, jewellery, embroidered belts, backpacks and children's accessories. There's also a small café, Le Patio Café, where you can enjoy savoury snacks and coffees.

Hill tribe Evening Market

Location: Sisavangvong Road, Between Wat Mai and Stathilat Road

The Evening Market is a nightly event that takes place between 17:00 and 23:00. The street is closed off to vehicles and the hill-tribe traders emerge with their various apparels, ceramics, bamboo, lamps, blankets, bed covers, handicrafts and silk scarves. Vendors often quote higher prices than when buying from the shops during day time, so make sure you haggle (politely) or shop around first.

Phosy Market

Location: Photisalath Road (by the Mekong), south of Phou Vao Road

For a pleasant immersion in the local way of life, head over to Phosy Market on the outskirts of town. This open-air, indoor-outdoor market has everything imaginable, whether bags of ground chilies, buffalo feet, animal parts, meat, fruits, enamelware, ground spices, vegetables, fermented fish paste, cell phones, watches, backpacks, knives, and much, much more. The fresh market section is similar to the morning market in the city centre but is much larger in scale and variety of products. The sights, smells and colours are simply fascinating, and many visitors find that going once is not enough.

PLEASE NOTE: These recommendations are given with best possible intentions and do not offer a satisfaction guarantee given the diversity of offer and tastes. Information and contacts are correct at time of publication.