

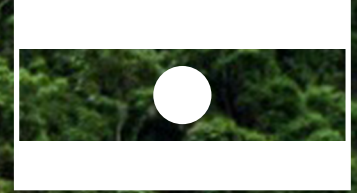
LAOS

AN OVERVIEW OF GIVE'S VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES • 2017 EDITION



1 LUANG PRABANG 2 SOP CHEM

GIVE's Laos Excursion is the perfect extension to our Thailand program, yet it stands alone as an **off-the-beaten-path adventure** into the rugged mountainous interior of this fascinating country. You will support remote villages on a **variety of education, eco-friendly infrastructure and wildlife conservation projects**, while also practicing meditation with monks in a **Buddhist Monastery** and summiting jagged limestone peaks. Come see for yourself why Laos is the **best-kept secret in SE Asia!**

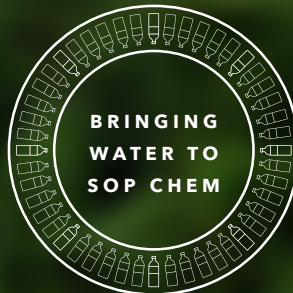


COUNTRY FACTS

- Population: 6.9 million
- Laos is comprised of more than 120 unique ethnic groups
- More than 2 million tons of ordnance was dropped on Laos during the Vietnam War, making it the most heavily bombed country per capita in the world

FREE THE BEARS

GIVE has partnered with a local NGO that protects **Asiatic Black Bears** by rescuing trapped bears from the illegal wildlife trade and providing them with a sanctuary to lead a safe and healthy life.



All 55 families in Sop Chem were suffering **drastic water shortages** throughout the year. The solution lied in piping through 6km of dense jungle and constructing a **communal tank out of repurposed plastic bottles**. Sop Chem villagers now have sufficient **access to freshwater throughout the year**.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

It is vital that Laos' next generation receives their **fundamental right to an education**. As a GIVE volunteer, you will work with our Education Coordinator to **plan and deliver English lessons to children** in Sop Chem Village. With a summer-camp-like atmosphere, lessons are designed to be fun, interactive and conversational in nature. **Many local women also strive to learn English** so they are more prepared to sell their hand-made scarves and other handicrafts in a competitive economy.

COUNTRY LITERACY RATE



WOMENS LITERACY RATE



Soar through the jungle canopy, overlooking tropical forests, limestone waterfalls and scenic mountain ranges on the most **epic Zipline in Laos!**



LAOS EXCURSION

LAOS TRIP LENGTH: 14 DAYS
COST: \$1,895.00

DAY 1

Trip Commencement: Group arrives in Luang Prabang. After a warm welcome and orientation from your GIVE guides, the evening is free to **explore the Night Market** and get to know your fellow volunteers!

DAY 2

Wake up before dawn to take part in the Alms Ceremony, placing handfuls of rice into the collection bowls of saffron-robed monks gliding through the streets. Later that morning, we'll visit a local monastery to learn more about Laos culture and **practice meditation with monks**. That afternoon, we'll head to the Tat Kuang Sii National Park to behold one of Laos' greatest natural wonders - a **200 ft cascading waterfall** feeding a series of dreamlike turquoise pools.



DAY 3

Spend a full day learning about wildlife conservation efforts in Laos and working hard to construct new enclosures for the **Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary**, which will ultimately house more than 150 **Asiatic Black Bears**, along with tigers, gibbons, and other animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade in Asia.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ALL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT LAOS
- ALL MEALS THROUGHOUT YOUR TRIP, EXCEPT FOR DAY 14
- DRINKING WATER 24/7
- ALL PROJECT MATERIALS, GUIDANCE AND FACILITATION
- ALL ADVENTURE & CULTURAL IMMERSION ACTIVITIES



DAYS 4 - 11

Spend the next week volunteering and exploring in Sop Chem - a rustic, riverside village surrounded by limestone mountains and dense jungle; home to some of the most welcoming people on the planet.

Each day we'll work on our **education and eco-friendly construction projects**. Volunteer until lunchtime and then break for a couple hours before returning to the project site for the rest of the afternoon. In the late afternoon, we will take part in a variety of adventure and cultural immersion activities before dinner: **fishing with locals**, brewing rice wine, practicing **yoga and meditation** on the beach, **exploring nearby caves**, learning to make local handicrafts, tubing downstream, joining traditional ceremonies and playing sports with local legends.



DAY 12

Hike through terraced rice paddies and untamed jungle on the way to **Tad Mok waterfall**, where we'll swim in the fresh pools and enjoy a Laos-style picnic. From there it's a long-tail boat cruise to the town of Nongkiaw, where we'll embark on a **trek to one of the most stunning viewpoints in SE Asia!** Climb through dense jungle and bamboo forest on your way to the top, summiting just in time for the sunset.



DAY 13

Soar through the jungle canopy, overlooking tropical forests, limestone waterfalls and scenic mountain ranges on an **epic Zipline adventure!** Finish just in time for a sunset cruise down the Mekong River, heading back to Luang Prabang for one final night of reflection and celebration.



DAY 14

Trip End: All good things must come to an end. Soak up your last few hours in Laos before heading home OR **add-on GIVE's Thailand Experience** to round out your SE Asia adventure!

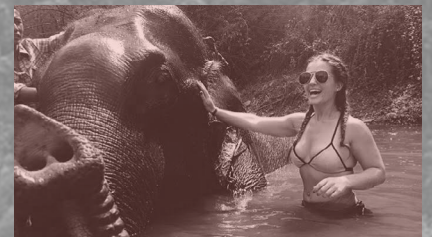
WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- FLIGHTS TO/FROM LAOS AND ALL OTHER TAXES, TICKET FEES, AND ANY COUNTRY ENTRY AND DEPARTURE TAXES.
- MEDICAL AND TRAVEL INSURANCE
- PASSPORT AND VISA (SPECIFIC TO YOUR HOST COUNTRY)
- VACCINATIONS (SPECIFIC TO YOUR HOST COUNTRY)

SE ASIA PACKAGE: THAILAND & LAOS

TRIP LENGTH: 27 DAYS
COST: \$3,290 (SAVE \$500)

- Cross borders by combining Thailand and Laos into a 4-week trip for a complete experience.
- In Thailand you will explore and support remote hill-tribe villages, bamboo-raft down the Mae Tang River, protect Asian Elephants and cap it all off with a 50-meter bungee jump.
- Thailand is the gateway to SE Asia. Don't miss out on the perfect introduction to this fascinating region of the world!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

When GIVE first approached the village of Sop Chem about potential projects, access to freshwater was immediately singled out as the most difficult challenge facing the community. All 300+ residents were facing drastic water shortages because of a series of hydroelectric dams being built along the Nam Ou River.

The community's solution was to build a 20,000 L storage tank and pipe in water through 6km of dense, mountainous jungle from the only remaining freshwater source in the region. To build the tank, GIVE suggested collecting the thousands of plastic water bottles littered throughout the region, packing them tightly with sand, and repurposing them as bricks to construct the tank.

From day one, eager locals joined us on the worksite packing bottles, mixing cement, laying bricks and installing pipes. On the day we finally delivered freshwater to the village, there were more than 200 locals working side-by-side with our volunteers to pull the final 400 meters of piping over the river and into the village.

Today every man, woman and child in Sop Chem has sufficient access to freshwater throughout the year; a feat that would have been impossible without each and every one of their support.



GLOBAL CITIZEN IN ACTION: SALLY MCBRIDE

After volunteering with GIVE in both Tanzania and Thailand, Sally worked as an intern in Laos during the summer of 2015. During this time she was one of the first people to speak with the Chief of Sop Chem about the water shortages in his village; a conversation that led her on an inspiring journey over the course of the next year.



Upon returning home to Perth, Australia, Sally launched her "Run for Laos" campaign; an ambitious initiative to run the Great Wall of China Marathon as a way of fund-raising more than \$8,000 USD for the freshwater project in Sop Chem. Sally finally reached her target just a week before she reached the finish line, and just a couple of months later she was back in Sop Chem putting the finishing touches on the water tank.

Without her passion and determination, there would likely be 55 families in Laos still living without access to freshwater. Sally is a GIVE legend for life and a shining example of the global citizenship we hope to foster through our trips.

LOCAL IMPACT: TONG BAI

Tong Bai is a 60-year-old man from Sop Chem, Laos. He is a father, a husband, a veteran and a doctor. He is also one of 20,000 Lao people that have fallen victim to UXO since the Vietnam War ended, losing his right hand while clearing land more than 30 years ago.

Life since the amputation has been extremely difficult for Tong Bai. Simple, yet vital tasks such as harvesting rice, chopping wood, paddling his canoe and repairing his home have become remarkably more difficult. Beyond that, his ability to practice medicine and earn an income for his family is increasingly limited. Tong Bai's fortunes have certainly changed since 2016, when he was donated a prosthetic hand by a past GIVE volunteer.



Since receiving the prosthetic, everyday tasks are becoming much more manageable for Tong Bai. Sop Chem villagers are also benefiting, as their local doctor can now use both hands while treating patients. In the words of Tong Bai, "Dee koua kao!" Much better!