



4th SUMMIT

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 2–5 April 2023
Innovation and Cooperation for a Water Secure and Sustainable Mekong



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

2-3 APRIL 2023

LAO NATIONAL CONVENTION HALL, VIENTIANE CAPITAL, LAO PDR

Logistics Note for General Participants

1. General Information

The International Conference of the 4th MRC Summit will be organized in the charming and vibrant capital city of Lao PDR, Vientiane. The conference will be 1.5 days and will start from 08:30 to 17:10 hours on 2 April 2023 and 08:30 to 12:40 hours on 3 April 2023 at **the Lao National Convention Hall**. The conference hall, called “Dok Champa Room” is located on the ground floor, where all sessions will be held, including the buffet lunch and tea/coffee break.

Language: English will be the sole communication medium of the conference.

Dress code: Business casual

2. Entering Lao PDR

The Lao Government has announced that travellers entering Lao PDR will no longer show any Covid-19 vaccination certificate or undergo any test or quarantine upon arrival in the country.

Travellers only need to hold a valid visa to enter the country. (If you are required for a visa, there may be a requirement to have a medical or travel insurance with a minimum coverage of USD 10,000 for Covid-19 treatment).

Do you need a visa to enter Lao PDR?

In entering Lao PDR, one of the first questions you may need to ask yourself is whether you need a visa. The answer in most cases is “Yes” you need a visa unless you are from a visa-exempt country. For example, if you are from the ASEAN countries, you do not need a visa to enter Lao PDR.

Please check with the nearest Lao Embassy or your travel agent to see if you need a visa, or what requirements you may need to fulfill. Participants are responsible for arranging their visas. Useful information about visas is provided below.

 Information about Visa on Arrival	 Information about e-Visa	 Information about Visa exemption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.visalaos.com/visa-on-arrival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://laoevisa.gov.la/info ➤ Apply: e-Visa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://immigration.gov.la/visa-exemption

3. Conference Venue

Where will the International Conference take place in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR?

[Lao National Convention Centre](#) – this is where we will host the conference.



How can you find the conference venue?

Address: K.M. 6, Kaysone Phomvihane Avenue, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

On Google Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/National+Convention+Centre>

On QR Code:



4. Transportation

You're recommended to organize your ground transportation on your arrival and departure day.

If you arrive at Wattay International Airport, the taxi counter is on your left when you exit through the glass door on the ground floor of the terminal building.

Taxis are available at the airport. The fare to most hotels downtown should be around 80,000 Lao Kip (5 USD).

MRC Information Countre will be located inside the airport terminal building where you can have more information regarding the transportation service.

Some popular Lao phrases on taxis:

Sabaidee (Hello), **Liaw Khua** (Turn right), **Liaw Saii** (Turn left), **Pai Seu** (Go straight), **Liaw Kub** (Go back), **Thee Yu** (Address), **Thao Dai** (How much), **Kob Jai** (Thank you), **La Kone** (Bye).

During the conference day, the Organizing Team will arrange a roundtrip transportation service from below 3 pick-up points to the conference venue and vice versa, per the following schedules:

Pick-up point no. 1	Pick-up point no. 2	Pick-up point no. 3
National Cultural Hall 	Fountain Park (Nam Phou) 	Vientiane Night Market (Flags pole area) 
Scan QR code for google map: 	Scan QR code for google map: 	Scan QR code for google map: 

Date	Pick-up Time	Remark
On 2 April 2023	07:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First come, first served (to get into the bus). • It would take around 45-60 mins to the venue.
On 3 April 2023	07:00 AM	

We strongly encourage you to join the bus.

If by any chance you missed the bus, you will need to arrange your own travel. Local transportation options are available via the application, called “**Loca**”. You will need to download the App to use the service.



** Requires iOS 8.0 or higher *Android 6.0 or higher*

Please be advised that a car service like “Grab” or “Uber” is not yet available in Lao PDR. Public transportation is also not abundant.

Again, you are highly encouraged to join the arranged bus.

5. Accommodation

All participants are responsible for arranging their preferred place of stay during the event. The hotels on the following list have agreed to provide special contract rates. However, please be noted that accommodation is subject to availability and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

To make a room booking, please send an email to your preferred hotel listed below and notify them to apply **MRC special rate** for MRC International Conference participants.



Near to pick-up point no. 1

[1] City Inn Vientiane

Address: Ban XiengNgeun, Pangkham Road Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 218333, Mobile: +85620 96620889

Email: info@cityinnvientiane.com Website: www.cityinnvientiane.com

Total: 40 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Deluxe Double	55	➤ 15 mins or 5.9 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3HG0vey
2	Deluxe Twin	55	
3	Junior Suite	85	➤ 16 mins or 6.4 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3WHFULi
4	Executive Suite	105	



Near to pick-up point no. 1

[2] Family Boutique Hotel

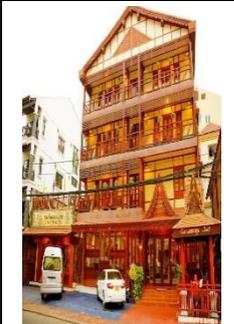
Address: Pangkham Rd, Ban Xiengyeuan, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Laos.

Contact: +85621 260448, Mobile: +85620 23344588

Email: familyboutiquehotel.lao@gmail.com Website: www.familyboutique-hotela.com

Total: 55 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Standard Single room	27	➤ 15 mins or 6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3jhaWfo
2	Standard Double/Twin	35	
3	Deluxe Double/Twin	38	➤ 16 mins or 6.5 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3HICIVo
4	Junior Double/Twin	45	



Near to pick-up point no. 1

[3] Chanthapanya Hotel

Address: No. 138, Norkeokoumam Road, Ban Mixay Chanthabouli District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 241451, Mobile: +85620 55454090

Email: info@chanthapanyahotel.com Website: www.chanthapanyahotel.com

Total: 75 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Single + Twin	37	➤ 14 mins or 6.3 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3wFfXSc
2	Grand room	45	
3	Suite	48	➤ 17 mins or 7.1 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3jh1Cbe



Near to pick-up point no. 1

[4] New Rose Boutique Hotel

Address: 339 Pangkham Road, Sisaket Village, Chanthabuly District, Vientiane Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 216660, Mobile: +85620 58785860

Email: info@newroseboutiquehotel.com Website: www.newroseboutiquehotel.com

Total: 48 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Deluxe King	40	➤ 13 mins or 6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3wG51DO
2	Deluxe Twin	42	
3	Deluxe Family	45	➤ 16 mins or 6.6 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3Rihh6S
4	Suite	55	



Near to pick-up point no. 1

[5] Sokdee City Hotel

Address: Unit 8 pangkham Road, Xiengnyuen Village, Chanthabuly District, Vientiane Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 254001, +85621 254002, Mobile: +85620 77058888/+85620 52518471

Email: sarahdaneancog@gmail.com Website: <https://sokdeecityhotel.com/>

Total: 30 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Standard room	28	➤ 14 mins or 6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3Jm57lc
2	Studio Suite	35	
3	Jacuzzi Suite	45	➤ 16 mins or 6.5 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3XMmys3
4	Premier Suite	50	



Near to pick-up point no. 2

[6] Douang Deuane Hotel

Address: Norkeokoummane Rd, Ban Mixay, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Contact: +85621 222301-3

Email: douangdeuanehotel@gmail.com

Total: 50 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Single room	20	➤ 14 mins or 5.6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3YWcnix
2	Double room	25	
3	Twin room	30	➤ 27 mins or 12.1 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3leA7b4
4	Triple room	35	



Near to pick-up point no. 2

[7] Ibis Hotel

Address: P.O. Box 2359, Namphu Square, Setthathirath Road, Ban Xieng Ngeun, Chanthabury District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 262050, Mobile: +85620 55943981

Email: H8074@accor.com Website: www.ibishotel.com/Vientiane

Total: 63 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Single Standard room	50	➤ 13 mins or 5.4 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3Re1pSR
2	Double Standard room	58	
			➤ 17 mins or 6.7 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3wL55BX



Near to pick-up point no. 2

[8] Mixay Paradise Hotel

Address: 02 Unit 01 Frangcois Ngin Rd, Mixay Village, Chanthabouly, Vientiane, Laos.

Contact: +85621 254223, +85621 254224

Email: laomixayparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.agoda.com/th-th/mixay-paradise-hotel/hotel/vientiane-la.html

Total: 30 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Double room	21	➤ 11 mins or 5.1 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3DqVLHo
2	Twin beds	21	
			➤ 19 mins or 7.7 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3DoXKM6



Near to pick-up point no. 2

[9] Dhavara Boutique Hotel

Address: 25 Manthaturath Road, XlengNgeun Village, Chanthabuly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 222238, Mobile: +85620 22235999

Email: rsvn.dhavara@gmail.com Website: www.dhavarahotel.com

Total: 26 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Deluxe (SGL/TWN)	60/70	➤ 12 mins or 5.2 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3kVfcl2
2	Premiere (SGL/TWN)	80/90	
3	Suites	110	➤ 19 mins or 7.4 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3kQyrwc
4	Royal Dhavara	400	



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[10] Surestay Hotel by Western

Address: 101 Chaoanou Rd, Watchan Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Laos.

Contact: +85621 249999, Mobile: +85620 99987999

Email: info@surestayvientiane.com Website: www.surestayvientiane.com

Total: 68 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Superior King/Twin	60	➤ 13 mins or 5.6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3XOo5M0
2	Deluxe King bed	70	
3	Executive King bed	80	➤ 18 mins or 7.5 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3HFZLpS
4	Suites	120	



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[11] Salana Boutique Hotel

Address: Chao Anou Road, 112 Vat Chan Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 254254, Mobile: +85620 9698 3456

Email: wecare@salanaboutique.com Website: www.salanaboutique.com

Total: 42 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Superior Single	80	➤ 11 mins or 4.9 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3HHK8hl
2	Superior Double	90	
3	Deluxe Single	90	➤ 17 mins or 7.4 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3HHPARV
4	Deluxe Double	100	



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[12] The Riva Vientiane Hotel

Address: 89 Unit 9, Fa Ngum Rd, Watchan Village, Chanthabury District, Vientiane, Laos.

Contact: +85621 253795, Mobile: +85620 98289015

Email: therivahotel@gmail.com Website: www.facebook.com/therivahotel

Total: 35 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Standard Double/Twin	40	➤ 13 mins or 5.5 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3ZmNRai
2	Superior Double/Twin	50	
3	Deluxe Double/Twin	60	➤ 19 mins or 8 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3lyslsu
4	Deluxe Triple	70	



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[13] One Vientiane Hotel

Address: Khun Bu Lom Road, Vientiane City Center, Vientiane, Laos, 1000

Contact: +85621 253664-5, Mobile: +85620 55529819

Email: reservation@onevientianehotel.com Website: www.onevientianehotel.com

Total: 36 rooms (Breakfast: 10 USD/Person (Buffet breakfast) & 5 USD/Person (Set Menu)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Superior Single	30	➤ 12 mins or 4.6 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3kLYkgx
2	Superior Twin/Double	35	
3	Deluxe King Single	40	➤ 17 mins or 7.5 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/40aE5tk
4	Deluxe King Double	45	



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[14] Capitol Residence

Address: 03 Sihom Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR 01000

Contact: +85621 255811, Mobile: +85620 96011309

Email: info@capitollaos.com Website: www.capitollaos.com

Total: 33 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Studio Single room	69	➤ 13 mins or 5.5 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3Egl4wh
2	StudioTwin room	69	
3	Capitol Deluxe room	79	➤ 18 mins or 7.6 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3Xx900k



Near to pick-up point no. 3

[15] Lao Orchid Hotel

Address: Chao Anou Rd, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Contact: +85621 264134, Mobile: +85620 23792929

Email: info@lao-orchid.com Website: www.lao-orchid.com

Total: 32 rooms (All room rates below are included daily breakfast)

No.	Room Type	Room rate (USD)	Remark
1	Superior Single	50	➤ 14 mins or 5.5 km by car from Airport to Hotel https://bit.ly/3JqBTrM
2	Superior Double/Twin	55	
3	Deluxe Suite Single	80	➤ 19 mins or 7.6 km by car from Hotel to Venue https://bit.ly/3Rdyr5C
4	Deluxe Suite Double	85	

6. Contact Information

Can't find what you're looking for?

Do let us know, we're here to help.

Name	Contact	Responsibility
Mr Santi Baran	santi@mrcmekong.org	Programme Lead
Mr Sopheak Meas	sopheak@mrcmekong.org	Programme Co-lead
Ms Phouthamath Sayyabounsou	phouthamath@mrcmekong.org	Programme Coordinator
Ms Malinya Phetsikhiaw	malinya@mrcmekong.org	Logistics Coordinator

Or scan QR code below for information inquiries.



We can't wait to welcome you all to the International Conference and to Lao PDR.
Thank you for joining us.

Lao PDR – General Information

❖ About Lao PDR

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), also known as Laos, is a landlocked country, situated in Southeast Asia, and surrounded by Thailand, Myanmar, China, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. Lao PDR also shares the Mekong River with all its neighbours, with the river flowing through a full length of the country from north to south along its western border with Thailand.

Population: 7.8 million (est. 2009), with 49 ethnic groups

Country area: 236,800 sq km

Administrative divisions: 17 provinces and 1 capital (Vientiane Capital)

Small and lightly populated, Lao PDR is known for its breath-taking array of stunning scenery, natural attractions, adventure, history, culture, great food, and easy-going people.

❖ Language

The official Language of Lao PDR is Lao. Like many languages, the Lao language is read from left to right, and it has an alphabet with 28 vowel sounds, 26 consonant symbols, and 18 vowel symbols.

❖ Lao Culture

One of the beloved characteristics of Laos is its cultural diversity. There are 49 distinct ethnic groups and each of them preserves its dialect, customs, culture, and tradition. In Vientiane Capital and other main cities like Luang Prabang, the culture, tradition, or ways of life of the locals are similar shown in lifestyle and clothing. An example is Sinh (Lao skirt), the traditional skirt worn by women across the country, and it is now an addition to Luang Prabang's vibrant cultural tourism scene. Tourists can rent traditional clothing including Sinh (Skirt), blouses, trousers, sashes, jewellery, and accessories for a few hours or a full-day wear for a photo session.

❖ Lao Food

Lao food is distinct from other Asian cuisines, although it is somewhat similar to the food found in some of its neighbors especially Thailand and Viet Nam. Lao food is uniquely tasty, with great odor, a bit salty, spicy, and herbaceous.

One of the staples of Lao food is sticky rice. A traditional everyday Lao meal is normally consisting of sticky rice served in small bamboo baskets, eaten by hand, some natural vegetables, and some kind of spicy sauce to dip the sticky rice into, plus some fish or meat.

Lao cuisine also has some French influences, so it is normal to see French baguettes with paté sold in street food stalls apart from sticky rice with grilled pork/chicken and spicy sauce.

❖ Dining and Restaurant

Vientiane has plenty to offer when it comes to dining and restaurants. There are a lot, ranging from cheap street food to fine but affordable to top-notch dining, including Lao, Thai, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, and European.

In the Num Phu (fountain) area and the street along the Mekong River is where visitors can find plenty of eateries. Most mid-range to high-price restaurants are located in the fountain area, whereas, more affordable street food can be found along the Fa Ngum road along the Mekong River. These are within walking distance from most hotels in the city.

❖ Climate / Weather

Lao PDR has a tropical climate, with a rainy season from May through October, a cool dry season from November through February, and a hot dry season from March through April.

In April, the warmest month, is around 35-40°C. Temperatures in the upland plateau and the mountains are usually lower than on the plains around Vientiane.

❖ Money

Lao Currency is Lao Kip (Code: LAK), or just Kip is used to refer to the currency in everyday life.

Bank notes are available in 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, and 100,000.

There are no coins in use.

Exchange rate: 1US\$ ≈ LAK16,783 (March 2023)

Where to exchange your money for Lao Kip?

The first point is on your arrival, whether you arrive by air or by land, currency exchange booths are usually located prominently nearby the arrival channel. Once you are in the city, you can find exchange booths scatter almost everywhere in touristy areas, in banks, in shopping malls, and even at some high-end hotels though the exchange rates might not be in your favor.

Note: Before your departure make sure you convert your left-over Lao Kip back to USD or to a currency you can use elsewhere unless you want to keep the notes as a souvenir because you will

not be able to exchange them outside Lao PDR.

Credit/debit cards

Credit/debit cards are accepted at some high-end restaurants, hotels, and big merchants with a 3% fee. You can also use your credit/debit cards to withdraw cash in the banks or through ATMs with a 3% fee. If you do it at the counter you can choose to have cash in US dollars or LAK, but if you withdraw it through ATMs machines, you can only have LAK.

❖ Voltage and Local time

The standard voltage in Lao PDR is 230 V and 50 Hz electricity, with A/B/C/E/F plug type.

The time zone in Lao PDR is (GMT+7).

❖ Tourist Attractions

Lao PDR, a small and relaxed country, has a lot to offer when it comes to tourist attractions including historical, cultural, natural, adventure, and UNESCO World Heritage sites.

▪ That Luang Stupa (Vientiane Capital)

The golden stupa is one of the most famous cultural landmarks and the national symbol of Laos. The original stupa was built in the 3rd century and has undergone many iterations and reconstructions since then. The stupa is one of the top tourist attractions and features some of the oldest archaeology in Vientiane and the country. It is also a place to hold an annual festival (known as That Luang Festival) where people all around the country come together to make merit.

▪ Patuxai (Vientiane Capital)

Situated on Lanexang Avenue, the memorial monument, Patuxai (also known as the Victory Gate of Laos) resembles the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It is probably the most prominent landmark in the city. It was built between 1957 and 1968 to commemorate those that fought for freedom from the French. The monument is adorned with many beautiful frescos and reliefs, while the surrounding gardens display a magical fountain show at night. It is During the day tourists can go up to the observation deck for bird's-eye views of the capital.

Open: daily from 08:00 am - 17:00 pm

▪ Hor Phra Keo Museum (Vientiane Capital)

Located in the centre of the city next door to the Precedential Palace, originally this ancient temple was built in 1565 by King Xayasetthathilath to house the Emerald Buddha 1565-1779 (lost to the Siamese in 1828) as his place of worship. It was reconstructed in 1936, and during the 1970s, the temple was converted from a place of worship into a museum and now houses the finest national collection of Buddhist sculptures and artifacts.

Open: daily from 08:00 am - 12:00 pm and 13:00 pm - 16:00 pm

▪ Sisaket Temple (Vientiane Capital)

Located in the centre of the city (on the other side of the road from Hor Phra Keo Museum), Sisaket was built in 1818 by King Anouvong and is said to be the only ancient temple remaining intact in its

original form after the destruction of the Siamese in 1828. Inside the main hall, the courtyard walls house hundreds of little niches and shelves containing a total of 6,840 Buddha images.

Open: daily from 08:00 am - 12:00 pm and 13:00 pm - 17:00 pm (except on public holidays)

- **Kaysone Phomvihane (National) Museum (Vientiane Capital)**

Located at KM 6, National Highway No.13 close to the National Convention Centre.

Kaysone Phomvihane museum was established in 2000 to give honor Lao's great revolutionary leader and former president Kaysone Phomvihane. The museum features revolutionary history, it is worth a visit if one is interested in the history and wants to get a deeper understanding.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 08:00 am - 12:00 pm and 13:00 pm - 16:00 pm

- **Xieng Khouan Buddha Park (Vientiane Capital)**

Built-in 1958, the park is home to hundreds of Buddhist and Hindu sculptures, the most impressive being the huge reclining Buddha. This well-known park is a 30-minute drive from Vientiane city centre en route to the Friendship Bridge. It is a great place to spend roaming outdoors and taking pictures.

Open: daily from 08:00 am - 14:30 pm

- **Night Market (Vientiane Capital)**

The night market is located on the Mekong Riverside promenade. Sellers start to set up their stalls early in the afternoon, and by 5 pm the whole riverside area is alive with colourful red-roof stalls full of clothes, souvenirs, paintings, and knickknacks that are geared towards tourists. Locals also take advantage of the cool evening breeze, taking their walk or joining an aerobics class that takes place in an open-air area just a few steps away from the market. It is a good place for last-minute souvenir shopping, or just for lazily strolling around to kill time or observe the local way of life.

Open: daily from 17:00 pm - 22:00 pm

- **Nam Pien Yor la Pa – The protected forest area along Nam Pien River**

Located at XiengLae Thar village, ParkNgeum district, Vientiane capital, Nam Pien Yorla Pa is a new tourist site around 1.5 hour's drive outside of Vientiane. The site is spread over 140 hectares in the protected area, and it offers several adventures and non-adventure activities including zip lining, quad bike riding, sightseeing, and trekking in the protected forest area, enjoying the spider web net above the river or just enjoying the natural view and waterfall.

It is a perfect destination for adventure seekers, as well as those with a desire for a relaxing place in the natural atmosphere. There is accommodation inside the site for those who want to stay the night too.

Open: daily from 08:00 am - 16:00 pm

- **Luang Prabang - UNESCO World Heritage City (Luang Prabang Province)**

Once the royal capital, the UNESCO World Heritage Luang Prabang is considered the tourism hub of Lao PDR. It is situated in the northern part of the country with a natural beauty, surrounded by mountains, and is 700 meters above sea level at the confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong Rivers. Even though it is the most visited city in Lao PDR, it is an unspoiled destination, its religion, culture, and tradition still tenacious, plus the old-world charm that is made up of over 2,000 saffron-clad

monks living in 33 gilded Buddhist temples and monasteries, and breath-taking scenery made it popular.

With the new **Laos – China railway** in service, this World Heritage city is even more popular among tourists both Lao and foreigners. From Vientiane Capital it takes only about 2 hours by train to Luang Prabang, one can get on the train in Vientiane to have lunch in Luang Prabang two hours later. In the past it is only possible by air, traveling by car took around 7 hours.

- **Vang Vieng (Vientiane Province)**

Vang Vieng is a small tourist town situated between Vientiane capital and the UNESCO World Heritage Luang Prabang. Despite being a small town, it has a lot to offer, with its natural beauty and breath-taking view of limestone cliffs, paddy fields dotting its landscape, plus a river with crystal-clear water running through, it is undoubtedly a charming and relaxing little town. As for activities, there are lots ranging from kayaking, tubing (inner tubes floating downstream), swimming, zip lining, exploring caves, and rock climbing.

Getting there is a breeze now as there are more options, the **Laos – China railway** is the most popular at the moment. The **expressway** also makes traveling by car or bus a lot faster. Whether you travel by train or by land transport through the expressway, the journey takes 1 hour at most. Traveling on the ordinary road from Vientiane to Vang Vieng is also faster than in the past as the road has been upgraded.

- **Wat Phu – UNESCO World Heritage (Champasak Province)**

Wat Phu in the southern Champasak province is a Khmer temple complex dating back to the 5th century. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2001. The site is a small version of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, though it is no less impressive. The temple is adorned with many carvings and reliefs that are excellent examples of classic Khmer architecture. Even though it is situated in quite a remote location, it never lacks visitors. It is one of the must-see places in Chamapasak province.

- **Plain of Jars - UNESCO World Heritage (Xiengkhoung Province)**

Plain of Jars – the recently granted World Heritage Site the most popular in Xiengkung province. The plain of jars consists of three sites with hundreds of large stone jars spread across hills. These prehistoric stone megaliths attract thousands of tourists to the province each year. Some say this is a national wonder, it is as mysterious as it looks though there is a story about it.

Getting there by plane and by land transport only, the **Laos – China railway** is not in the direction.

Have a pleasant trip to and in Lao PDR!
