

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## GOLDEN TRIANGLE & UPPER MEKONG CRUISE PACKAGE

Embark on a journey like no other, exploring one of Southeast Asia's most remote and mystical regions. The Golden Triangle, once notorious for its association with the opium trade in the early 21st century, is now a hidden gem simply waiting to be discovered. This region, where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge, offers far more than meets the eye.

At the heart of the Golden Triangle, the mighty Mekong River serves as the natural boundary and lifeblood of this enigmatic land. But the allure of the Triangle extends beyond these borders, reaching deep into Myanmar and Laos, with the charming city of Luang Prabang marking its easternmost point. The area remains wonderfully untamed, with the Mekong winding through untouched landscapes, embodying a timeless, mystical charm.

The Golden Triangle is steeped in history, culture, and natural beauty. Its unique atmosphere is both magical and captivating, with stunning vistas and rich cultural heritage at every turn. The local communities, known for their warm hospitality and humble way of life, offer a glimpse into a simpler, contented existence.

This curated travel experience takes you on an unforgettable adventure through Northern Thailand, the Upper Mekong, and Luang Prabang. Revel in the region's luxurious accommodations while moving at the leisurely pace of local life, immersing yourself in the captivating beauty and spirit of the Golden Triangle. Let time slow down as you enjoy each moment in one of the world's most fascinating and untouched destinations.



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### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 – Arrival in Luang Prabang

Upon arrival in Luang Prabang, you'll be whisked away to your luxurious retreat at the Rosewood Luang Prabang. Take the rest of the day to unwind and enjoy the hotel's exceptional amenities. For those seeking a bit of adventure, consider optional activities like a private cooking class, or borrow a complimentary bicycle to explore the charming streets of the town. Cycle through peaceful lanes, and perhaps stop at a local cafe for a refreshing coffee. As evening falls, savour a delicious dinner at the hotel or venture into town for a meal (not included), where you can also visit the lively night market.

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## Dining: -

Pick-up at the airport, train station, or in Luang Prabang town (guest to advise). Check-in time is 14:00 hrs (early check-in is complimentary subject to room availability).

## Day 2 – Tak Bat & Luang Prabang

Start your day at dawn with the enchanting century-old tradition of "Tak Bat" (self-arranged via hotel tuk-tuk), where locals gather in the heart of Luang Prabang to offer sticky rice and fruits to monks in a peaceful sunrise procession. Witnessing this serene ritual from a respectful distance is a truly memorable experience. Afterward, return to the hotel and indulge in a lavish breakfast to begin your day.

The rest of the day is yours to enjoy as you wish. Take advantage of the hotel's complimentary spa treatment to relax and rejuvenate. In the evening, treat yourself to a delectable multi-course Laotian meal at the romantic 'Manda de Lao,' widely regarded as one of the finest restaurants in town. Conclude your unforgettable stay in Luang Prabang before embarking on tomorrow's upstream cruise into the heart of the Golden Triangle.

Dining: B, D

## Day 3 – Pak Ou Caves & Mekong River Cruise

After a delightful breakfast, you will be transferred to the downtown pier to embark on a four-day voyage aboard the boutique ship, Heritage Line 'Anouvong.' As you sail along the Mekong River through the Golden Triangle toward Northern Thailand, settle into your luxurious cabin before attending an insightful lecture on Laos' diverse ethnic groups in the ship's lounge. The first highlight of the journey is a visit to the sacred Pak Ou Caves, home to around 4,000 revered Buddhist statues. Explore the impressive lower cave before choosing from two optional excursions: an adventurous kayak tour along the tranquil Nam Ou River or a visit to the nearby village of Ban Keo, renowned for its traditional silk weaving and Lao whisky distillation.

The voyage then continues to the 200-year-old village of Ban Khok Phou, where the locals, part of the Lao ethnic group, practice mountain farming. The visit culminates with a traditional Baci ceremony, performed by village elders

to bestow blessings upon your journey. As night falls, enjoy a welcome cocktail on an elevated sandbank, followed by a mouthwatering barbecue dinner amidst the breathtaking natural surroundings.

Dining: B, L, D

## Day 4 – Hmong Village & Traditional Music

Start your day with a refreshing yoga session on the terrace deck before enjoying a delicious breakfast. The morning brings a stop at the unique mountain village of Had Sako, home to the Hmong ethnic community. Here, you'll learn about their farming practices and visit a local home, where you'll be introduced to the traditional "Kene" instrument, a central part of Hmong culture.

In the afternoon, the journey continues to another village along the Mekong, where the Hmong, Lao Loum, and Khamo ethnic groups live in harmony. A visit to a family home provides an intimate look into the distinct histories and traditions of each group, offering a vivid complement to the insights from earlier lectures.

As evening approaches, enjoy a traditional dance performance on the open deck, followed by a cosy cinema night in the lounge. The featured film, "Chiang," which was shot in this region in 1927, will transport you back in time and set the tone for the next day's adventure.

Dining: B, L, D

## Day 5 – Pakbeng & Elephant Sanctuary

As the Anouvong continues its upstream journey, start your day with a post-breakfast bamboo weaving workshop. The rest of the morning is yours to enjoy at your leisure—whether it's indulging in the spa, working out in the gym, or simply daydreaming as the stunning scenery passes by.

After lunch, the ship arrives at Pakbeng, where you'll visit Laos' most sustainable elephant sanctuary, nestled deep in the jungle along the riverside. Learn about the sanctuary's vital work and meet elephants roaming freely in their natural habitat, offering an unforgettable wildlife experience. If time allows, take a short excursion to Pakbeng's hilltop temple, where panoramic

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views of the river and surrounding landscapes await.

As the ship continues its northbound course, it will anchor for your final night on board. The evening concludes with a relaxed aperitif and a joyful long-table dinner on the terrace deck, where you can enjoy the serene beauty of the Mekong River one last time.

Dining: B, L, D

## Day 6 – Golden Triangle & Lao Cooking Class

Feel free to enjoy a leisurely morning and extend your snooze if you wish, as breakfast is kept light in anticipation of a lavish culinary brunch later. As we sail deeper into the heart of the Golden Triangle, the day is yours to unwind at your own pace.

You can also join a fascinating presentation that delves into the rich and complex history of the Golden Triangle, covering the effects of colonialism, the opium trade, and the intricate roles played by Burma, Thailand, Laos, Britain, and China in shaping this region.

As we prepare for the lifestyle highlight of your final day on board, a Lao cooking class will introduce you to the region's culinary delights. This leads into a sumptuous brunch buffet, featuring an array of flavourful dishes and indulgent desserts, served in the restaurant, lounge, or on the terrace deck, ensuring a relaxed dining experience up until an hour before our arrival.

Upon docking, you will check out and be transferred to the Lao-Thai border, where you'll pass through immigration. Awaiting you on the other side is staff from the Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, ready to take you to your next luxurious destination.

Dining: B, L, D

## Day 7 – Golden Triangle & Elephant Experience

After breakfast, start your day with a guided exploration of local life. Accompanied by an expert camp guide, cruise along the Mekong River in a traditional long-tail boat, venturing into the heart of the Golden Triangle where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet. Immerse yourself in the vibrant local

scene by travelling like a native—hopping between songtaews and tuk-tuks to explore bustling markets and hidden gems. Find serenity at the ancient Chedi Luang temple before returning to the resort for lunch.

In the afternoon, choose to embark on another thrilling adventure: the "My Elephant & I" experience, where you'll accompany elephants in their natural habitat for an unforgettable encounter. As the day winds down, enjoy a sunset cocktail during happy hour or indulge in a soothing treatment at the resort's spa before savouring your final dinner of the trip.

Dining: B, L, D

## Day 8 – Chiang Rai & Departure

After a relaxing breakfast, enjoy your remaining time before midday—consider visiting the intriguing Opium Museum for a final cultural highlight. When you're ready, we will transfer you to Chiang Rai, either to the airport or the city centre, marking the end of your journey. We sincerely thank you for joining us and wish you a wonderful onward adventure!

Dining: B

### Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: ANOUVONG

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Anouvong</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>River Small Cruise Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>48 m</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2019/2023</b>



Capacity: 20 passengers (10 cabins)

A pioneering Mekong marvel

As imposing as the upper Mekong River in Laos, Anouvong enchants as a small boutique luxury ship that seamlessly blends traditional Laotian ambiance and artwork with French-Colonial finesse. Passengers aboard this exclusive vessel discover the most beautiful, remote areas of Laos along the meandering river in utmost luxury.

The large staterooms and lavish suites welcome guests with an inventive room layout while emphasizing laid-back coziness. The intimate restaurant, the tucked-away spa, the cozy and light-flooded Cafe-Bar & Lounge with its adjacent wooden terrace deck have all its stake in the singular savoir-vivre lifestyle aboard Heritage Line's latest marvel Anouvong. The ship sails the river on different itineraries between the Thai-Lao border, Luang Prabang and Vientiane (vice versa).

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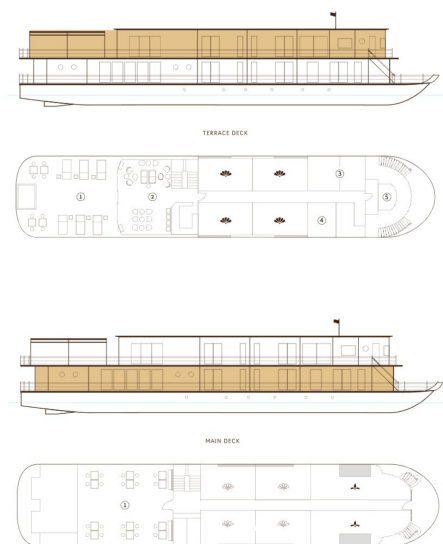
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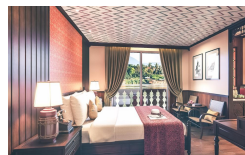
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



### DELUXE STATEROOM



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## PRICING

### 13-Jul-2025 to 20-Jul-2025

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### 17-Jul-2025 to 24-Jul-2025

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### 08-Nov-2025 to 15-Nov-2025

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**Optional extras & upgrades**  
Optional excursions available. Please get in touch for more information.