



“ 24 Hrs in Luang Prabang
Karole Wittmann, our Senior Sales Manager for ICS Americas, shares her experience of a recent whirlwind tour of Luang Prabang, Laos. ”



I was sitting next to the window, as always, as I never want to miss the landscape you see when the plane is landing. I knew that Laos was a beautiful country, but I did not expect it to be that spectacular! With the dense, lush jungle mountains, Luang Prabang excels at making one feel like it's a lost city on the Mekong. This place really isn't like anywhere else!

After landing in the small airport and obtaining my visa on arrival, I made my way out to find my guide waiting for me. I then decided to go directly to the famous night market - this proved to be a great decision.



The Talat Dala Market is located on the main historical area of Luang Prabang in the middle of old temples, magnificent Buddhas and cute authentic local restaurants and outdoor eateries. It was enchanting.

You can find lots of things to "bargain" for - souvenirs, bags, traditional clothing, jewellery, paintings. Unlike other markets in Asia, there are no pushy vendors which is definitely appreciated, instead everyone smiled and welcomed me with "sabai dee".

With my 2 bags full of Laotian goodies, it was time to check in at the Kiridara.

I was excited to finally see it and I was not disappointed! It's a lovely property set on a hill just a few minutes walking distance from town. To dip in the cool water of the infinity pool after a hot day was just a dream.



That night I set my alarm clock for 5am, determined not to miss the morning alms giving to the monks - a must-do while in Luang Prabang.

The next morning, I finally saw what I had previously only seen in photos: "The Monks in their orange robes" - this was an indescribable experience and even better in real life. I knelt down, alms in my hand and waited.

Suddenly, around forty Monks appeared at the street corner, walking barefoot in single file, the oldest in the front, the youngest trailing behind, all clad in orange robes and toting alms bowls in their hands. It's a remarkable sight, a simple act of giving and receiving; yet as quickly as it happens, it ends.

The rest of the day I spent at the Living Lands experiencing the full process of planting, growing, and harvesting rice, all in the company of a buffalo named Susan.



After thanking my guide for his kindness during this short visit, it was time to leave Laos, a peaceful country full of life! One I'll never forget and hope to return to very soon.

Please contact us for more information about tours, hotels and excursions in Laos.

