

Brighton Travelworld

Cycling through Northern Thailand and Laos

 **TRAVEL
INDOCHINA**
Share the Experience



CHIANG MAI - CHIANG RAI - PAKBENG - LUANG PRABANG

Get up close and personal with Thailand and Laos on two wheels on this exclusive Cycling Tour by Brighton Travelworld. Immerse yourself in the landscapes and the local communities with this unique tour.



CYCLING JOURNEY BEGINS IN CHIANG MAI 20th February 2015
10 nights from \$3,200*^{PP} twin share | \$3,950* single

- 10 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast and other meals as specified in the itinerary
- Support vehicles throughout Northern Thailand
- Local English speaking guide escorting throughout
- Transportation and touring as per the itinerary with entrance fees
- Lao cooking class
- Cruising on the Mekong
- Bike hire in Northern Thailand and Luang Prabang
- Tipping for local guides and drivers

 **Brighton
Travelworld**

Brighton Travelworld
12 Church Street,
BRIGHTON
Tel: 9591 9591 Lic No 32316
www.brightontravel.com.au
julie@brightontravel.com.au



*Prices correct as at 01 Dec 14 but may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currency change. Advertised price will change if the minimum number of 10 passengers is not reached. Travel Indochina's general booking terms and conditions apply.

Brighton Travelworld

Cycling through Northern Thailand and Laos



FRI 20 Feb ARRIVE CHIANG MAI (Welcome Dinner)
Arrival in Chiang Mai you will be met by a Travel Indochina representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **Manathai Village Chiangmai**

SAT 21 Feb CHIANG MAI (Breakfast, Lunch)
We'll have a leisurely start along the banks of the Ping River. Today will be an introduction to Thai culture and that can best be done by doing as the locals do and go to temples and markets. Explore the ancient city of Wiang Khum Kham which dates back to the 13th Century. Just excavated in the 1980s after being buried under mud from the river, we can visit an ancient temple which has a spirit house where a former king's spirit is said to reside. We re-enter Chiang Mai's old city through Tha Pae Gate and stop at Somphet market have a look at the local fresh herbs that make northern Thai food so special. Afternoon is free as leisure.

Todays ride is approx 20 kms. Manathai Village Chiangmai

SUN 22 Feb SANKAMPAENG (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Sankampaeng and the beautiful, peaceful Lanna countryside. We visit the Sankampaeng markets where the fresh produce is artfully displayed. We'll pass by temples where we can stop and make an offering. Our ride will take us through open plains and for some variety we'll take short cuts through lush green rice paddies as we head towards the forests and mountains that surround this area. Quiet country roads at the base of a mountain range will bring us to the Sankampaeng Hot Springs where, if you can stand the heat, we can have a dip in the natural mineral springs that are said to be curative and rejuvenating.

Todays ride is approx 40 kms. Manathai Village Chiangmai

MON 23 Feb CHIANG MAI – MAETAENG (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
After breakfast, we again mount our bikes and will likely see Buddhist monks on their morning ritual, walking in their peaceful manner for their daily alms from villagers. Thai Buddhists give alms with their highest respect. Small hard-packed dirt trails lead you to the heart of bright green paddy fields where farmers will be starting their daily work. After your two-wheeled exploration we will transfer you to the Buffalo village where you will have the opportunity to learn all about the rice you saw growing with a hands on demonstration of planting and harvesting rice. Tonight we'll spend more time with ethnic Lisu. We'll have a villager escort us through the village and he'll take us to a local house to have a cup of tea and teach us about traditional medicine at a shaman's house.

Todays ride is approx 30 kms. Lisu Lodge

TUE 24 Feb MAETAENG – CHIANG RAI (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
After breakfast we transfer to Chiang Dao caves and start the ride. After a visit to the cave we'll ride through rice fields set among soaring limestone cliffs. We may meet some local tribes people - Akha, Lisu and Palaung – from the area. The colourful Palaung are recent migrants and you will see their women adorned with heavy brass waist-bands working the fields. After the ride, we will transfer to Chiang Rai.

Todays ride is approx 35 kms. Laluna Hotel & Resort

WED 25 Feb CHIANG KHONG – PAKBENG, LAOS (Breakfast)
This morning drive towards the border with Laos, the 'Land of a Million Elephants.' The drive to Chiang Khong will take you to one of the great rivers of the world, the Mekong. Here at the border, the Mekong divides the more industrious and developed Thailand from 'laid back' Laos, a sparsely populated country and home to a graceful and unaffected people. After visa and immigration formalities, board your

boat for a cruise down the Mekong. Take in river life and picturesque scenery as you cruise (for six to seven hours) to the rarely visited town of Pakbeng. In the late afternoon disembark and ascend the steps to your lodge in Pakbeng village. A simple market town, Pakbeng is home to Hmong and Thai Lu people and is well known for its frontier atmosphere. **Pakbeng Lodge**

THUR 26 Feb PAKBENG – LUANG PRABANG (Breakfast)
After breakfast, re-board the boat for a full day's journey along the Mekong River towards Luang Prabang. Today's boat trip will take you past precious verdant forest and sleepy riverside villages. You will stop at the 'Pak Ou Caves' with their thousands of Buddha images. Here, in a tradition that has lasted for centuries, local people add annually to a repository of Buddha statues. You will glide into the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Luang Prabang and after checking in to your hotel, venture out for either local or French cuisine at one of the many fine restaurants in this delightful town. **Le Sens Boutique Hotel**

FRI 27 Feb LUANG PRABANG (Breakfast)
Day at leisure to explore Luang Prabang. **Le Sens Boutique Hotel**

SAT 28 Feb LUANG PRABANG (Breakfast, Dinner)
Rise early this morning and see robed Buddhist monks collecting alms, following a centuries old ritual. After breakfast, travel to Kuang Si Falls, one of the many beautiful waterfalls near Luang Prabang. En route to Kuang Si falls you shall also make a stop at one of the larger local markets in Luang Prabang where you can see many products produced by the various ethnic minorities and learn more about the diverse range of natural products on offer. Visit a nearby bear sanctuary for Asiatic Black bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade to gain a greater insight into this native species. In the evening, participate in a fun and interactive Lao cooking class where you have the chance to taste your own creations.

Todays ride is approx 55 kms. Le Sens Boutique Hotel

SUN 1 Mar LUANG PRABANG (Breakfast, Dinner)
Begin your day with short walk to the National Museum, formerly the Royal residence. This museum is full of fine examples of Lao art and furniture and set in a building which is testament to some of the amazing architectural styles which can be found in Luang Prabang. Continue your day's exploration of this fabled city to sample some of Luang Prabang's most exquisite temples, including serene Wat Xieng Thong and Wat Mai. This latter temple was spared sacking by the Chinese Black Haws in the late 19th century, supposedly because of its beauty and stunning design. Rest of afternoon at leisure. This evening join the group for a farewell dinner to celebrate the end of a fascinating journey through Northern Thailand and Laos culture and people.

Todays ride is approx 20 kms. Le Sens Boutique Hotel

MON 2 Mar DEPART LUANG PRABANG (Breakfast) Morning at leisure. This afternoon transfer to the airport for flight back to Saigon/ Bangkok and home to Australia.

Accommodation

3 nights	Chiang Mai	Manathai Village Hotel
1 night	Lisu	Lisu Lodge
1 night	Chiang Rai	Laluna Hotel & Resort
1 night	Pakbeng	Pakbeng Lodge
4 nights	Luang Prabang	Le Sens Boutique Hotel