

# On the Road





# Luang Prabang & Around

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## Why Go?

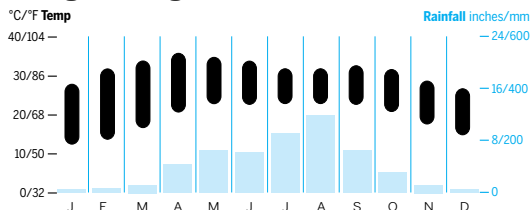
Luang Prabang slows your pulse and awakens your imagination with its combination of world-class comfort and spiritual nourishment. Sitting at the sacred confluence of the Mekong River and the Nam Khan (Khan River), nowhere else can lay claim to this Unesco-protected gem's romance of 33 gilded wats, saffron-clad monks, faded Indochinese villas and exquisite Gallic cuisine.

Over the last 20 years Luang Prabang has seen a flood of investment, with once-leprosy French villas being revived as fabulous – though affordable – boutique hotels, and some of the best chefs in southeast Asia moving in. The population has swollen, and yet still the peninsula remains as sleepy and friendly as a village, as if time has stood still here.

Beyond the evident history and heritage of the old French town are aquamarine waterfalls, top trekking opportunities, meandering mountain bike trails, kayaking trips, river cruises and outstanding natural beauty, the whole ensemble encircled by hazy green mountains.

## When to Go

### Luang Prabang



**Nov–Feb** The ideal season to visit weather-wise, but as this is no secret it's also peak tourist season.

**Mar–May** Hot season with some hazy skies from slash-and-burn cultivation; some like to join in the Pi Mai celebrations.

**Jun–Oct** The wet season sees numbers and prices, plummet – great if you don't mind the odd downpour and extreme humidity.