

## Laos Facts, Figures & Contacts

Capital City                      Vientiane  
 Telephone codes                Country code 856                International code 00

### Money and Tipping

The official currency in Laos is the Lao Kip (LAK)

<b>LAK 100.00 =</b>	US\$ 0.01	£ 0.00	C\$ 0.01	A\$ 0.01	R 0.07	€ 0.01	NZ\$ 0.01
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There are no international ATM facilities in Laos. Major credit cards are accepted at some international hotels and tourist orientated establishments. Travellers cheques can be cashed at most banks in Vientiane and major towns though have limited acceptance. Most transactions are conducted in cash using US Dollars, Thai Baht or Lao Kip Tipping is not expected, however it is appreciated. Most hotels and restaurants are becoming used to revving tips now.

### Climate

The climate of Laos is tropical, with a wet monsoon season between May and October, and a dry season from November to April. Very heavy rainfall can be expected in July and August. Temperature is constantly high all year around.

### Visas

Australian passport holders require a visa when entering Laos, this can be arranged upon arrival Luang Prang International Airport or Vientiane International Airport (single entry tourist visit visa will cost US\$30 and you will need to submit 2 passport size photos). Entry requires travelers to have at least 6 months validity remaining on their passports from the time of entry. Please contact your travel agent at time of travel for current visa information.

### Health Care

Those planning to travel to Laos should seek medical advice about vaccinations and endemic diseases at least three weeks prior to departure. Malaria exists throughout the country except in Vientiane, and typhoid and cholera occur in some areas. Other risks include HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis A, B and E and dengue fever.

### Language

Lao is the official language, but some English and French is spoken

### Electricity

220 volts, 50Hz. A variety of plugs are used, including the European-style two-pin, the UK-style three-pin and the flat two-pin type.

### Where to Get Help

In Laos, you can obtain consular assistance from the: Australian Embassy  
 J. Nehru Street  
 Ban Phone Xay  
 Vientiane, Lao PRD  
 Telephone +856 21 413 600  
 Facsimile +856 21 413 601  
 E-mail: [austemb.laos@dfat.gov.au](mailto:austemb.laos@dfat.gov.au)  
 Website: [www.laos.embassy.gov.au](http://www.laos.embassy.gov.au)

If you are travelling to Laos, whatever the reason and however long you'll be there, we encourage you to register with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. You can register on-line or in person at any Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. The information you provide will help us to contact you in an emergency - whether it is a natural disaster, civil disturbance or a family issue.

In a consular emergency if you are unable to contact the Embassy you can contact the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or 1300 555 135 within Australia.

In Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra may be contacted on (02) 6261 3305.

<http://smartraveller.com.au>

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