



*CALENDAR of
EVENTS & FESTIVALS 2024*

Laos

Laos has a wealth of festivities throughout the year, providing an opportunity to discover the country's culture. Many festivals coincide with religious events based on the lunar calendar and the rice harvest. The exact dates are determined by the Buddhist lunar calendar and change every year. We invite you to check the dates of festivals and celebrations before coming to Laos.

They generally take place on the day of the full moon, sometimes on the 15th day after it.

However, they are determined by each temple and therefore take place over several weeks, depending on the town, village or district.

JANUARY

ASEAN Tourism Forum | Vientiane

FEBRUARY

Wat Phou Festival | Champasak province

MARCH

Vientiane International Half Marathon | Vientiane

APRIL

Boun Pi Mai Lao | Whole Country

SEPTEMBER

Boun Khao Padap Dinh & Boun Suang Heua | Boat Racing Festival | Luang Prabang

OCTOBER

*Boun Ok Phansa | Candle Light Festival | Whole Country
RUN FOR CHILDREN Half Marathon | Luang Prabang*

NOVEMBER

Boun That Luang | Vientiane

DECEMBER

*Hmong New Year | Whole Country
Blue Chair Film Festival | Luang Prabang*

*Asian Trails can manage all land services and additional program around these events. For more information please contact: Asian Trails Laos
Res@asiantrailsloas.com*





JANUARY 2024

ASEAN Tourism Forum

Lao PDR will be hosting the **ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2024** from **22nd to 27th January 2024** in Vientiane Capital with the theme: "Quality and Responsible Tourism - Sustaining ASEAN Future." Vientiane Capital is the home to the most significant Laos cultural and historical attractions, and the center of major businesses with excellent connectivity to the surrounding of our neighbors. In 2024, there will be important events for Laos such as Lao PDR will be the chair of ASEAN Summit, host of ASEAN Tourism Forum 2024 and launching the Visit Laos Year 2024. Therefore; the government of the Lao PDR has developed tourism infrastructure, facilities, transportation, tourism activities, various tourism products and will upgrade the tourism services up to standards. In preparation for Tourism exhibition, the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism has signed the TRAVEX Agreement with ASEANTA to operate the tourism exhibition during the ATF 2024. Take this opportunity, to come and visit Laos to experience Lao tourist attractions by yourselves.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: FROM 22 to 27 January 2024

Website link:
[ASEAN Tourism Forum | Vientiane](#)

Entrance Fee:
Consult the website to know the fee for participation

Contact us:
Res@asiantrailsloas.com

FEBRUARY 2024

Wat Phou Festival *Champassak Province*

This festival is held from **22 to 24 February 2024**, during the third full moon of the lunar calendar on the grounds of the enchanting pre-Angkorian Wat Phou ruins in Champasak. Festivities include elephants parade, traditional Lao music and dance performances, and candlelight procession at night. To coincide with the festival, a trade fair is also held to showcase products originating from southern Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

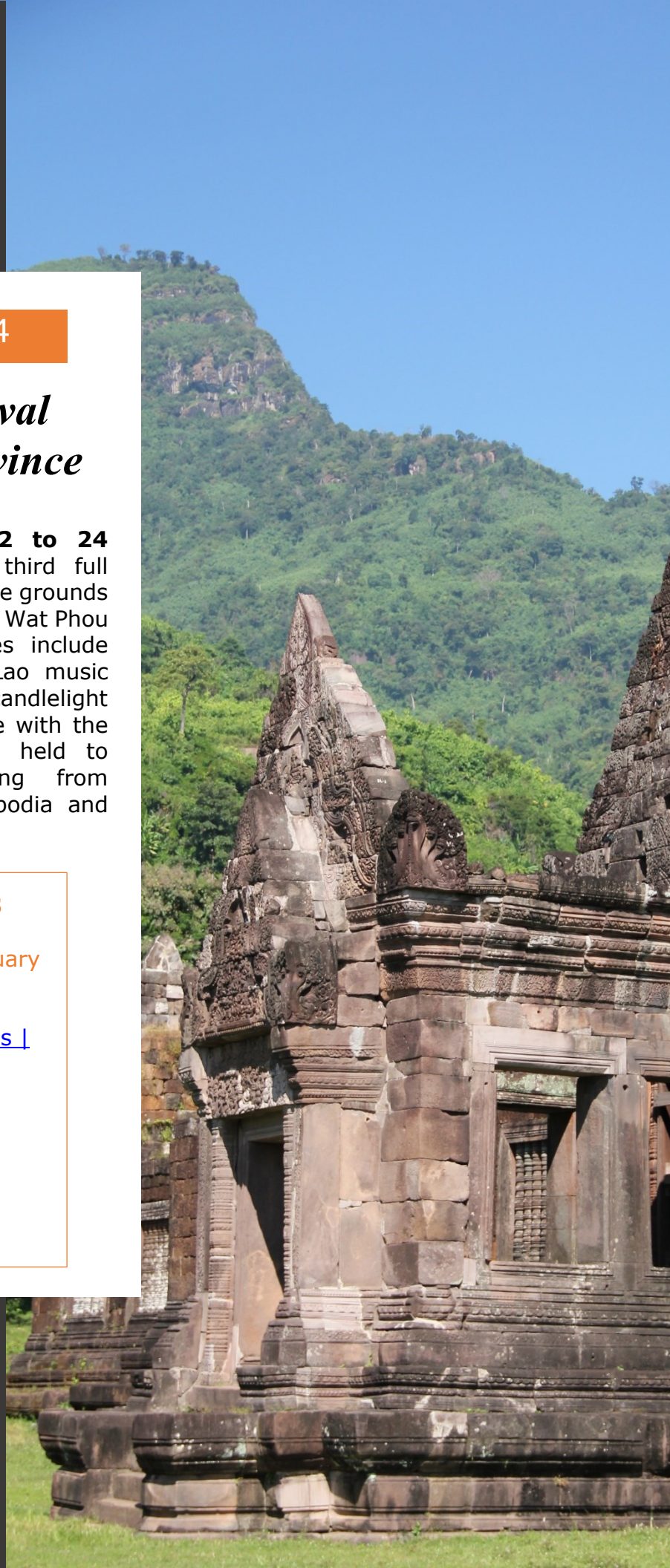
IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: FROM 22 to 24 February 2024

Website link: [Tourism Laos | Pi Mai Lao](#)

Entrance Fee:
Free/ No ticket needed

Contact us:
Res@asiantrailsloas.com



MARCH 2024

Vientiane International Marathon



A unique city tour run

The Vientiane International Marathon features courses of 42 km, 21 km, 10 km and 5 km that take you through the peaceful city of Vientiane, Laos. The courses wind their way through cultural and historical streets and monuments, offering runners a unique experience. The event starts and finishes at the well-known Pa That Luang Grounds.

The race route will be shared during the race, until 6:30 am. After the 6:30 deadline, the route will be fully reopened to live traffic. The Vientiane International Marathon organized by Events for Good (EFG) is pleased to continue the tradition of bringing thousands of novices, passionate and professional runners to the peaceful city of Vientiane each year.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: Dimanche 10
March 2024

Website link: [Official Facebook Page](#) | [International Marathon of Vientiane Lao Tourism](#) | [Interantional Marathon of Vientiane](#)

Entrance Fee:
Participation Fee TBA

Contact us:
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APRIL 2024

Boun Pi Mai | Lao New Year

"Boun Pi Mai" is Lao's New Year (Bouddhist new year) also called "Water Festival" Traditionally, on the first day of the celebration, Buddha images are taken out of the temples to be cleansed with scented water by devotees, and placed on special temporary altars within the compounds of "wats" (temples). Devotees gather the scented water falling off the images, to take home and use it to pour on friends and relatives, as an act of cleansing and purification before entering the New Year. On the evening of the second day, the images are returned to their proper shrines within the temples. Boun Pi Mai is a time for much joyous celebration, with good deeds and prayers in anticipation the New Year.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: FROM 14 to 16 April 2024

Website link:
[Tourism Laos | Pi Mai Lao](#)

Photos link:
[Photo of Boun Pi Mai Lao | ©Asian Trails Laos](#)

Entrance Fee:
Free entrance/No ticket needed

Contact us:
Res@asiantrails Laos.com





SEPTEMBER 2024

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: Monday 02 September 2024

Website link:

[Luang Prabang Tourism Website | Boun Khao Padap Dinh](#)
[Luang Prabang Tourism Website | Boun Suang Heua](#)

Entrance Fee:

Free/ No ticket needed

Contact us:

Res@asiantrails Laos.com

Rice Growing Festival & Boat Racing Festival

Rice growing Festival & Boat Racing Festival: This festival is held on the "Day of the Commemoration of the Dead". At the Khao Padabdin ceremony day, people visit local temples to make offerings to dead ancestors as well as to share merit-making. This festival includes boat racing on the Nam Khan River and a trade fair in Luang Prabang World Heritage town.

Half Marathon Run for Children

Date: Saturday 26 OCTOBER 2024

Run through the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang for the children. All proceeds from this race will support Lao Friends Hospital for Children located in Luang Prabang, Laos.

Strengthen your heart while keeping theirs beating! A beautiful event that makes hospital care and access free for the children at the Lao Friends Hospital of Luang Prabang.

Website link: [Official page](#)

Entrance Fee: Consult the website

Contact us: Res@asiantrails Laos.com



OCTOBER 2024

Boun Ock Phansaa Candle Light Festival

Date: Thursday 17 OCTOBER 2024

The festival marks the end of the Buddhist Lent; it is held after the end of the monks' three-month fast and retreat during the rainy season (Boun Khao Pansa). At dawn donations and offerings are made at temples around the city. In the evening, candlelight processions are held at temples and hundreds of small banana-leaves boats with lights illuminate the Mekong to pay respect to the river spirit. (In Luang Prabang, the procession ending at Wat Xieng Thong, the boats are put to water at the royal pier.)

Photo link: [Photos of Boun Ock Phansa | Candle Light Festival | Luang Prabang | ©Asian Trails Laos](#)

Entrance Fee: No ticket needed / Free

Contact us: Res@asiantrails Laos.com





This religious festival is held in and around That Luang Stupa, the National Symbol of Laos, where hundreds of monks gather to accept alms and floral votives from the people. On the first day a large procession leads from the city centre to That Luang Stupa on the outskirts of town. Around That Luang Stupa a fair attracts people at night time and for one of the largest alms giving the next morning. The festival includes grand fireworks display at night. During the same period a similar festival is also celebrated at Ching Tim Stupa in Luang Namtha Province.



IMPORTANT DETAILS

Website link:

[Lao Tourism | Boun That Luang](#)
[Photo of Boun That Luang | ©Asian Trails Laos](#)

Entrance Fee:

Free/ No ticket needed

Contact us:

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NOVEMBER 2024

Boun That Luang Vientiane

**Date: Monday 11
November 2024**



DECEMBER 2024

THIS COLORFUL FESTIVAL IS A TIME TO RECONNECT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

The Hmong are one of the more famous ethnic groups in Laos – proud of their identity and protective of their culture, they have their own spoken and written language, and are the third-largest ethnic group in Laos, with about 9% of the population. They inhabit the northern and central parts of the country. In the past, the Hmong were called Miao or Lao Soung. Lao Soung means “Lao of the mountaintops”. In December or January, the Hmong celebrate their new year, called Noj Peb Caug (pronounced Nor Pe Chao). At home, families will make rice cakes, present offerings to the ancestor spirits, and share meals with relatives and friends. In towns like Luang Prabang, Phonsavan, and the outskirts of Vientiane, with large Hmong populations, a larger public celebration takes place at an outdoor venue, often lasting a full week. There are many activities during this event, such as top-spinning games, arrow shooting contests, singing and dancing, bullfighting, and courtship games. The distinctive and long Hmong qeej (a mouth organ, called a khaen in the Lao language), is a popular instrument performance, with skilled players able to dance and do acrobatics while maintaining their melody. Young men and women wear colorful interpretations of traditional clothing, in the hopes of attracting a life partner. Visitors are welcome to attend and can partake in photo booths with traditional clothes, play games, and watch local performances.



Hmong Festival

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Date: TBA

Website link:
[Hmong Festival](#)

Entrance Fee:
Free entrance/No ticket needed

Contact us:
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Blue Chair Film Festival

Since 2009, a non-profit cultural organization committed to the celebration of Southeast Asian film, as well as to the growth of local and regional film communities.

Date: TBA
Website link: [Official Website | Blue Chair Film Festival](#)

Entrance Fee: Free
Contact us:
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