

**TRIBAL TOUR OF NORTHWEST LAOS  
AND XISGHUANGBANNA, CHINA  
October 12-31, 2011**

This trip takes us to the tribal areas of northwestern Laos and the adjacent parts of China, particularly the very diverse Xisghuangbanna Culture Area, home to the Dai and several other peoples. The focus of the trip is the ethnic groups in this part of the Mekong Basin.

<u>October</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Night</u>
12 W	Gather at Amari Boulevard Hotel, meet in the lobby at 6 PM for orientation and optional group dinner.	Bangkok
13 Th	Fly to Vientiane. Presentation on the ethnic groups of northwestern Laos. Evening: Group dinner (option).	Vientian (B)
14 F	Fly to Luang Namtha in mid-day. Orientation, visit museum in late afternoon.	Luang Namtha (B)
15 S	Villages near Luang Namtha : Akha, Khmu. Also the stumps of a very aromatic tree are dug to sell to China for perfume making. Probably sandalwood. The trees have been extirpated.	Luang Namtha
16 S	To Muang Sing, check in at hotel. To Ban Toy to see whisky made from corn. Also Yao village, weaving. Later to museum in town.	Muang Sing
17 M	North to an Akha village. Begin at small restaurant, walk around village. Back to Muang Sing for lunch, then Ban Namnai, a Yao village, and others as time permits.	Muang Sing
18 T	To Luang Namtha, cotton weaving, Tai Dam village	Luang Namtha
19 W	To Boten, cross into China and on to Mengla by late afternoon. Check in at hotel, walking near hotel.	Mengla (D)
20 Th	After breakfast visit the Mengla city market. All kinds of fruit and vegetables, tools, etc. Visit Buban and later stop at Yao villages; these Yao people are quite different from those in Laos. Later the Menglun Botanical Garden. In terms of plants this is one of the most diverse areas in the world.	Menglun (B,L,D)
21 F	To Jinuoshan area, visit Jinuo people, the last ethnic group to be recognized by the government (1979). Visit villages and at least one family home. Drive through forests to Mengyang, visit different Dai sects. On to Jinghong Evening: Cultural show.	Jinghong (B,L,D)

22 S	After breakfast to Mt. Nanuo, visit Aini villages and their organic tea plantations. On toward Menghai, more Dai villages, including a Muslim Dai village. Then near to see paper making in a different Dai village. Visit a village of Bulang people.	Menghai (B,L,D)
23 S	To the huge Sunday market south of town. Rural people come weekly to sell their produce and crafts and buy manufactured items. Visit Aini village, cultural show. Visit Octagonal Pavilion, a prominent Theravada Buddhism center.	Menghai (B,L,D)
24 M	Menghai daily morning market, a busy and crowded event. Local tribal peoples, Han Chinese, etc, buying and selling everything from rice to endangered species. Drive through Bulang Shan area to near Myanmar, visiting Bulang, Ake, Aini, and Lahu.	Jinghong (B,L,D)
25 T	Much of the Day is in traditional Dai villages: pottery, traditional healing, house types, religions, religious beliefs, distilling rice and corn whisky.	Jinghong (B,L,D)
26 W	By boat down the Mekong, see river traffic, villages. Take out at Ganlanba, then eastward by road. Lunch with Dai family. Visit villages, nature reserve. Rubber plantations.	Mengla (B,L,D)
27 Th	Drive south to Mohan and depart for Laos. Check in at hotel in Luang Namtha. Late afternoon free.	Luang Namtha (B)
28 Th	Fly to Vientiane in early afternoon. Sundowner by the Mekong	Vientiane
29 S	National Museum, Wat Prakao, Morning Market (Talaat Sao) Army Museum, or shopping.	Vientiane (B)
30 S	AM: Visit silk shop. Mid day: Fly to Bangkok. Later: Option of group dinner.	Bangkok (B)
31 M	Tour ends. Return to US, go elsewhere in Asia, etc.	(B)

The cost of \$2,770 (begin at Amari in Bangkok) covers all air, hotels, vans, guides, airport transfers, and food as indicated. Single supplement is \$701. It does not include most food in Laos, individual taxi, visas, laundry, etc. A deposit of \$500 will hold a place.

Provision will be made for those wanting to remain in Laos for a longer time, go to Luang Prabang, etc.

Weather should be good. The Xisghuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture is claimed to have the greatest biological diversity in China; this translates into a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables.

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