



Educational project in Laos



Help out at local kindergartens by teaching English and organizing fun activities for the children. You'll help in one of our kindergartens or schools by teaching basic English to the children, organizing activities and assisting the local staff. This is a great place to learn more about local Laos culture and at the same time give something back to the local community.

Program description

KINDERGARTEN

The Childcare project helps provide quality English language classes to young children. Without volunteers at the kindergarten, it would be difficult for these children to obtain quality English language lessons in this area.

In this program, you will get to feed, play with the children, organize activities, and at times, help the staff with cleaning chores. You are playing a great role in this program as you work with the children who are very young and not exposed to the elders much.

Your kindness and gentleness towards the kids will make it easier for them to adopt and to feel confident in communicating with the elders. They are shy and playful at the same time which will be challenging for you in the beginning but we are sure it will be a lovely experience working with the kids who adore you and give you unforgettable memories in your life!

SCHOOL

This teaching program may take place at a variety of schools, although our primary teaching placement is a local public school in Luang Prabang where you get to teach English to children aged between 10 to 25 years old, and the classrooms are roughly 15-20 students per class with one teacher. Many schools are open to new concepts and approaches to teaching. This means that you may be able to share your new ideas and teaching strategies that might complement teaching styles in Laos. You may come up with a creative lesson plan yet in line with the syllabus to help the student improve their English as well as their general knowledge.

You can use different tactics such as bringing up various topics and asking the kids to get involved in discussions to share their ideas related to the topic you select. That way you share a broader knowledge with the local children. You will be teaching for around 3- 4 hours per day and will have additional time to create your lesson plans, following the stipulated English Curriculum.

This is a hugely rewarding project and the students are eager to learn as much as they can from you and have a bit of fun in the process.

Accommodation & Food

You will live in a volunteer house with a dorm bed and all the meals are included (3 meals during the week and 2 during the weekend).

Bed linen is provided to all participants, so there's no need for you to bring your own. There is a laundry service and the cost is \$2 USD per kilogram.

Schedule

Monday

- **Welcome and Orientation:** Introduction meeting, house rules, health and safety advice, and document signing.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Learn Lao Do's and Don'ts, dress codes, cultural lessons, and basic Lao language
- **Explore the Local Area:** Guided tour around the compound and nearby shops, with assistance arranging a sim card if needed.
- **Project Overview:** Meet local program coordinators for a project briefing and visit the placement site
- Enjoy a warm dinner followed by a visit to the vibrant local night market.

Tuesday to Friday

- Begin your day with a hearty breakfast followed by English classes with students.
- Take a break for lunch, then continue teaching English, and prepare for the next day lesson during free time.
- Unwind with a delicious dinner and spend time reflecting or socializing with fellow participants.

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Packing List

- Modest clothing (covers knees and shoulders)
- Comfortable walking shoes, sandals, water shoes
- Sun hat, fleece sweater, windproof rain jacket (depending on weather)
- First-aid kit (medications, sunscreen, insect repellent, rehydration tablets)
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Day pack, small travel towel, reusable water bottle
- Moneybelt, locks for bags
- Personal entertainment (books, cards, music player)
- Optional items
 - Games, books, color pencils, chalk, rulers, etc.
 - Pictures from your country, family, and friends.
 - Other small cultural objects from your country of origin.

Additional Requirements

- Genuine interest in teaching and working with children.
- Energy, patience, and adaptability.
- Medical clearance for participants over 65 years.

Climate

The average temperature in Laos is around 29°C although in the cooler months, temperatures can drop to around 15-20°C. It has a tropical monsoon climate with its rainy season spanning from May to October. The dry season can be subdivided into two categories: the cool, dry season spanning from November to February and then the hot, dry season which lasts from March up to April.

High season in Laos tends to be from November to March when the temperatures are more agreeable, note that prices rise accordingly during this period too! July and August can be quite wet with high humidity but the landscape becomes especially greener during this time. The low season months can be found from April to June and September to October. April and May are especially hot, this is when temperatures are most likely to reach 40°C, the months of September and October can be incredibly wet as well.

Culture

Like its neighbours Cambodia and Thailand, Theravada Buddhism is the dominant form

of religion in Laos and has a significant influence in Laotian culture, playing a role in its language, art, literature and performing arts.

It is a country that has managed to retain its authenticity and traditions, more so than some of its neighbours which are becoming increasingly modernised and succumbing to western influences in many ways.