



## You're traveling to Laos!

This short guide will help you prepare for your upcoming journey with Alluring Asia.

### *Passports & Visa*

A valid passport with a minimum of six months validity remaining from the date of entry and evidence of onward/return ticket are required. United States Citizens require a visa for entry into Laos.

*Click on bullet items below for more information.*

- Apply for a passport
- Renew by mail
- Report and replace lost/stolen U.S. passport
- Correct or change U.S. passport information
- Visa information

### *Immunizations & Vaccines*

We strongly recommend you seek the advice of your physician for all travel vaccinations. For additional information please visit [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

### *Tipping*

Service charges of 5-10% are added to bills in most leading hotels and restaurants. Where it is not included, a tip of 10-15% of the bill would be appropriate.

#### **Airport porter/hotel bellboy:**

\$1.00 - \$2.00 USD per bag.

#### **Your tour guide:**

\$10.00 - \$15.00 USD per person per day.

#### **Driver/assistants:**

\$6.00 - \$8.00 USD per person per day.

PRE TRAVEL

LAOS

GUIDE

## What to Pack

Dress is casual and very modest in style and the climate is hot and humid most time of year. Bring lightweight clothing in natural fibers like linen, silk, and cotton, to be the most comfortable. Avoid sleeveless tops and shorts in public areas.

Scarf, sarong or pashmina to cover your head, arms and legs when visiting religious sites or you may wear long sleeves and loose pants or long skirts.

Hiking/trekking shoes and/or a good pair of walking shoes for the city.

Mosquito repellent, sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses, hand sanitizer/handi-wipes, binoculars and a flashlight with extra batteries are all necessities.

Umbrella and rain jacket is essential during the rainy season from May-October, but even during the other months it's wise to have one with you for those occasional showers.

Public restrooms in Laos typically do not have toilet tissue so you may want to carry a small amount of tissue with you.

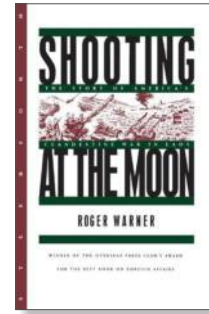
Water purifier or a Safe Water Drinking Bottle since water is not safe to drink in Laos.

Electronic chargers for your camera, phone, computer, etc. and extra camera memory card(s).

Electrical converter and outlet adapter. Their electrical voltage is 220 volts AC, 50HZ and they use a two round prong outlet.

Due to restricted weight limits on all the domestic flights (20kg or 44 pounds) it is recommended that you travel as light as possible.

## Reading List

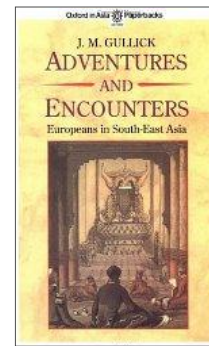


### **Shooting at the Moon, The Story of America's Clandestine War in Laos**

Author: Roger Warner,  
History, 1997, 436 pages.

Description: Soldiers,  
diplomats, Hmong  
villagers and CIA  
strategists are all

depicted fully in this engrossing, well-reported history of the secret war in Laos.



### **Adventures and Encounters, Europeans in Southeast Asia**

Author: J.M. Gullick,  
Anthology, 1996, 336

pages.

Description: This  
anthology offers a diverse  
selection of European  
accounts of Southeast

Asia. The writers range from 16th century explorers and mariners to 19th century naturalists and modern literary travelers. Complemented by engravings and archival photographs.



### **Curse of the Pogo Stick**

Author: Colin Cotterill,  
Literature, 2009, 240  
pages.

Description: Auntie Bpoo,  
the fortune-teller of  
Vientiane, Laos, has  
foretold that the seventy-

three-year-old newlywed Dr. Siri and his equally mature bride will have children by the end of the year. When Siri helps Hmong villagers in peril, the prediction comes true in this thrilling book in a series. Colin Cotterill lives in Chiang Mai with his wife.