

A long, narrow boat with a canopy is on a lake at sunset. The boat is dark with a red stripe along the bottom. The water is calm with some ripples. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains against a warm, orange sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

AMANTAKA

Seasonal Calendar
September to December 2024

Festivals and cultural experiences

Luang Prabang, with its rich cultural heritage, is adorned with historic monuments, tranquil Buddhist temples, and the stunning vistas of the majestic Mekong River and Mount Phousi.

Festivals are integral to Laotian culture, showcasing Buddhist traditions and a blend of influences from neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

From September to December 2024, the vibrant city of Luang Prabang will come alive with regional festivals. Amantaka has crafted exclusive experiences and celebrations, providing guests with the opportunity to delve deeply into the city's rich cultural and historical tapestry.



September

Boun Hor Khao Pa Dup Din
(Boat Racing Festivals)
2 September 2024

The Boun Hor Khao Padap Din, also known as the Festival for Feeding Spirits, is a vibrant annual event where homemade food parcels are prepared for spirits. The festival's highlight is the thrilling boat races along the Khan River.

In the morning, the main street from the Post Office to That Luang transforms into Lo Lat, a traditional market. This bustling market offers visitors a chance to experience and enjoy traditional treats from Luang Prabang.

Before the race begins, a Baci ceremony is performed to ensure good luck and seek permission from the Naga, a revered serpent deity. This ceremony also requests protection from the Naga for the duration of the race.

Throughout the race, the Khan River draws a crowd of locals and tourists. Amantaka guests can witness the excitement of the annual boat racing festival and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere that surrounds them.

Boun Khao Salak
17 September 2024

Boun Khao Salak, also known as the Festival of the Dead, is a deeply spiritual and significant celebration in Luang Prabang. Typically held in late September or early October, this festival provides a meaningful opportunity for families to honour their deceased ancestors and spirits.

During the festival, families prepare an array of offerings, including food and symbolic items, which are brought to temples and sacred sites. Monks and villagers come together to perform ceremonies aimed at guiding the spirits of the departed and ensuring their peace. The festival features traditional activities such as creating intricate displays of offerings and participating in communal prayers and rituals.

The event is further enhanced by cultural activities, including traditional music, dance performances, and local processions. Luang Prabang's temples and streets are adorned with colourful decorations, creating a vibrant atmosphere as the community unites to celebrate and observe these important rites.



October

Boun Ok Phansa
17 October 2024

This day marks the end of Buddhist Lent, and the evening is illuminated by candles in and around the temples. A key highlight of the celebrations is the beautiful ceremony of Lai Hua Fai, or fireboats. During this event, small boats made from banana tree trunks and decorated with flowers and candles are floated down the river. It is believed that these fireboats help to dispel bad luck and invite good fortune for the year ahead.

During Boun Ok Phansa, Luang Prabang is a feast for the senses, where you can experience traditional music and dance performances, and admire the picturesque decoration of lanterns and candles that light up the streets and temples.

Guests at Amantaka are warmly invited to join in the festivities by creating their own Krathong, or fireboat. These will be floated into the Nam Khan River, a tributary of the Mekong, as part of the vibrant fireboat procession.

Luang Prabang Marathon
26 October 2024

Embrace the challenge and charm of the Luang Prabang Marathon 2024, a premier event that combines athletic achievement with the cultural splendour of one of Laos's most captivating cities. Set amidst the stunning landscapes and historic ambience of Luang Prabang, this marathon offers a unique opportunity to experience the city's beauty and heritage while participating in a world-class running event.

Additionally, the programme supports various local charities and community projects. Proceeds from the event are allocated to initiatives that benefit social, environmental, and developmental causes in the Luang Prabang region.

Race Categories:

- Half Marathon (21km)
- 14K Run
- 7K Run

November & December



Boun That Luang
15 November 2024

Boun That Luang is mainly celebrated in Vientiane, Laos, as it honours the That Luang Stupa, a sacred Buddhist monument. However, in Luang Prabang, which is another key cultural and religious hub in Laos, there are also observances and related activities that reflect the spirit of the festival.

Guests at Amantaka have the opportunity to join local residents in visiting temples, where they can make offerings of candles, incense, and flowers, and participate in communal prayers and merit-making ceremonies.

Festive Celebrations
19 December 2024 to 1 January 2025

Embrace the festive season at Amantaka from 24 December 2024 to 1 January 2025, where a captivating programme celebrates Laotian culture and traditions. Enjoy a series of nightly themed dinners that highlight the culinary excellence of Laos, alongside mesmerizing performances of local music and dance. Immerse yourself in the vibrant cultural and ethnic diversity of Luang Prabang, all within the charming atmosphere of Amantaka.

Reservation essential



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