

Laos

Information for applicants

Laos

The Lao People's Democratic Republic – which is surrounded by China, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar – is in South-East Asia. It is often referred to as the 'jewel of the Mekong' owing to its many cultural monuments and places of outstanding natural beauty. Laos is currently experiencing a fast economic upswing, with growth rates of around seven per cent and a constant increase in per-capita income.

Climate and sights

Laos has a tropical monsoon climate with a humid rainy season from May to November, more temperate, relatively cool weather in December and January and a dry-hot period from February to May. Laos is a popular travel destination with lots to explore, from numerous Buddhist temples and historical sites to picturesque islands in the Mekong.

Medical care

Vientiane has a private clinic that provides basic medical care, roughly at the level of a GP's surgery in Germany. In rural areas, health care services are basic and hygienically challenging in some cases. English or French-speaking doctors are not commonplace. If required, it is possible to organise a transfer to an international hospital in neighbouring Thailand.

Accommodation and quality of life

Laos has a moderate supply of single-family homes, some with a garden. There are also apartments in Vientiane. Houses with four or more bedrooms are the exception and disproportionately expensive. However, with the help of specialised real estate agents, it is always possible to find something suitable in Vientiane. In rural areas, the choice is limited and finding a place to live is more difficult.

Shopping and services

There are numerous supermarkets in Vientiane that stock everyday necessities and foods, including Western specialties. Many small supermarkets are open until midnight. The busy local markets and small street vendors sell fresh fruit and vegetables at low prices. Vientiane has many restaurants that serve excellent cuisine – Lao, Indian and even German.

There are also plenty of ATMs that accept EC cards. Since no more than EUR 216 can be withdrawn at any one time, repeated withdrawals are necessary for a larger sum of money. It is advisable to open a bank account locally. In rural areas the supply situation is more restricted, but it is sometimes possible to undertake trips to Thailand to stock up.

Accompanying partners and children

In principle, accompanying partners are not initially granted a permit to work in Laos. Exceptions are possible following approval by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The prospective employer first has to submit a corresponding application requesting exemption. International employers' own internal regulations often forbid them to fill national vacancies with international staff. However, there are no restrictions when it comes to international contracts with international employers.

Schools: Vientiane International School is recognised by the Council of International Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Opened in 2008, this school building is used to teach nursery, pre-school and school children up to year 12. The language of instruction is English. German lessons are currently being offered as part of a mother-tongue programme. The French Lycée Hoffet provides an education in line with French standards from pre-school to A-level. Other schools in Vientiane that teach in English include the Kiettisack International School, Vientiane Pattana School and the Eastern Star Bilingual School.

Childcare: There are some good international pre-schools in Laos.

Good to know

From acroyoga to zumba, Vientiane has a wide range of sports to offer. Outdoor fans have the opportunity to hike, zipline and climb in the many national parks.

Find out more

<https://vientiane.diplo.de/la-de/themen/willkommen/laenderinfos>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/371.html>

https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll/fetch/2000/14004/23639/23807/4355080/64250238/64250329/81350379/Welcome_to_Laos_Guide_pdf.pdf?nodeid=81214715&vernum=-2

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