

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

LAOS

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Laos. There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends a visa on arrival.

Visa on Arrival: A tourist visa can be obtained on arrival at all points of entry. The current fee for a single-entry visa is USD \$35 (subject to change without notice) and must be paid in cash in U.S. dollars or local currency. Two passport-size photos are also required.

Visa Stamp: A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Laotian consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at visacentral.com/abercrombiekent or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19

A&K requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for travel on Small Group Journeys (Luxury Small Group, Marco Polo, Family, Wings Over the World, Connections and Limited Edition journeys) for departures beginning January 1, 2022. For Tailor Made and Signature journeys, guests must comply with all country entry requirements.

Visit the U.S. Department of State at travel.state.gov or the Government of Canada at travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories for comprehensive and up-to-date country entry requirements as well as information for onward travel. A&K will facilitate in-country testing required for returning home or onward travel at the end of your A&K journey. Costs are paid locally and vary depending on the type and location of testing. All details specific to your journey will be included in with your **Final Documents**.

Requirements for Returning Home or Onward Travel

Guests returning to the United States

Before boarding a flight to the United States, all travellers are required to show printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid antigen) result taken no more than one (1) day before travel, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

For up-to-date details and FAQs visit [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 | CDC](#). Be sure to check state COVID-19 entry requirements, as they may vary.

Guests returning to Canada

All travellers, including Canadian passport holders, must provide printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of boarding their flight to Canada. Additional information can be found at travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories.

Note all guests with flights connecting through and/or continuing to other countries should check the specific COVID-19 entry requirements.

VACCINATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Laos if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions can generally be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. U.S. dollars should be recently issued bills in smaller denominations. Major credit cards are accepted on a limited basis, mainly in the larger shops, hotels and restaurants. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns such as Luang Prabang and Vientiane but limited in rural areas.

PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On flights within Southeast Asia, each passenger is limited to approximately 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of checked baggage in Economy Class and approximately 66 pounds (30 kilograms) in Business Class. For carry-on baggage in both Economy and Business Class, passengers are allowed one piece of luggage with a maximum weight of approximately 11 pounds (5 kilograms).

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

Safe Travel Essentials

Be sure to bring personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, travel-sized hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, facial tissues and disinfecting wipes or spray.

Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Temples and other religious sites require modest dress to enter. Guests are advised to pack clothing that covers knees, shoulders, and upper arms for select visits. You may be required to remove shoes when entering sacred sites.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casual slacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking shorts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirts or blouses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweater or lightweight jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Long comfortable skirts for women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes with traction | <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight raincoat or poncho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brimmed hat for sun protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal garments | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear/cover-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Foldable umbrella for rain protection and sun shade |

Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Sun block / Insect repellent
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter

Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Lightweight binoculars
- Foldable walking stick
- Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey.

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.