



## Xieng Khouang Highlights

Take your time to discover the beautiful scenery of high mountains, vast grasslands, forests, traditional villages, caves, waterfalls and archeological sites.

- ✘ Take a walk through Phonsavan town to the local markets and explore the variety of unique food Xieng Khouang has to offer, taste the local chili pastes, the jaeow bong, and check out the cemetery with its unique mix of tombs from various ethnic groups on the way to the lake.
- ✘ Enjoy the panoramic view from the hill top resorts and watch the sunset while taking a drink or a meal.
- ✘ Visit the major Plain of Jars Sites 1,2, 3 and Phakeo. This enigmatic sites consist of clusters of stone jars dotted in the Xieng Khouang landscape. Archeological evidence suggests that the jars are funerary urns, carved by Iron Age people around 2,500 years ago.
- ✘ See the ancient temples in old Xieng Khouang (Muang Khoun), once the center of the Phuan kingdom.
- ✘ Take a trip to the historical Tham Piu Cave, a war-related site, where in 1969 a single rocket from a US airplane caused the death of hundreds of people who had taken refuge in the cave.
- ✘ Relax in the two mineral hot springs near Muang Kham on the way to Houaphanh. Baw Nya has been developed as a resort with bungalows and bathing facilities.
- ✘ Explore the impressive Tham Pa Cave near Nong Tang Lake with its large network of caverns where hundreds of small Buddha figures were stashed away to protect them from invasions a couple of centuries ago.



### For further information, please contact:

Xieng Khouang Tourism Office or any of the local tour agencies.



### Where to stay in Xieng Khouang Town:

There are 10 hotels and 26 guesthouses; prices range from 2 USD to 50 USD.

### How to get to Xieng Khouang and its surroundings

#### By air:

Lao airlines flies between Vientiane and Xieng Khouang 4 days a week (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat) and serves Luang Prabang-Xkhg only in peak season.

#### By bus:

Buses leave Phonsavan for Vientiane every day (9-10 hours). Luang Prabang (1 daily trip: 8 hours), Houphanh (1 daily trip: 8 hours) and Vinh, across the border in Vietnam (Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8 hours).

#### Transport in Xieng Khouang Province:

Jumbos and sawnthaews are available in town; cars and guides can be hired through travel agencies.

#### Border Crossing Nam Khah-Vinh:

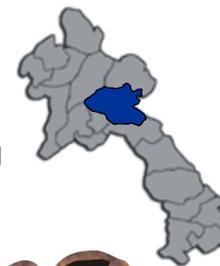
Open daily from 6:00 am - 6:00 pm



### Important Numbers:

Provincial Tourism Office: (061) 312-217  
Police Station: (061) 312-449  
Lao Airlines: (061) 212-107  
Lao Development Bank: (061) 312-188

# XIENG KHOUANG



Place of the mysterious  
Plain of Jars -  
soon World Heritage Site



## Welcome

Xieng Khouang (also called Phonsavan) is the new capital of the Xieng Khouang Province since the old town of Muang Khoun was bombed out during the Indochina war (1964-1975). It is located 435 km north east of Vientiane on a mountainous plateau with an altitude of about 1,100 m.

Xieng Khouang borders the provinces of Luang Prabang, Houaphanh, Vientiane and Vietnam. It is divided into 8 administrative districts with 570 villages. It has a total population of about 240,600.

Xieng Khouang province is inhabited by several ethnic groups including the Hmong, who are occupying mainly the high mountains of Northern Laos. The Plain of Jars is the settlement area of the Tai Phuan, an ethnic group belonging to the lowland Lao. Other ethnic minorities are the Tai Dam, Khmu and Tai Daeng. In the town quit a number of Vietnamese and Chinese have settled.

The whole province covers about 15,880 square kilometers with high green mountains, rugged karst formations and verdant valleys. The plain of jars consists of rolling hills on natural grasslands surrounded by steeper forested hills and more mountainous summits exceeding 2,000 m in altitude.

