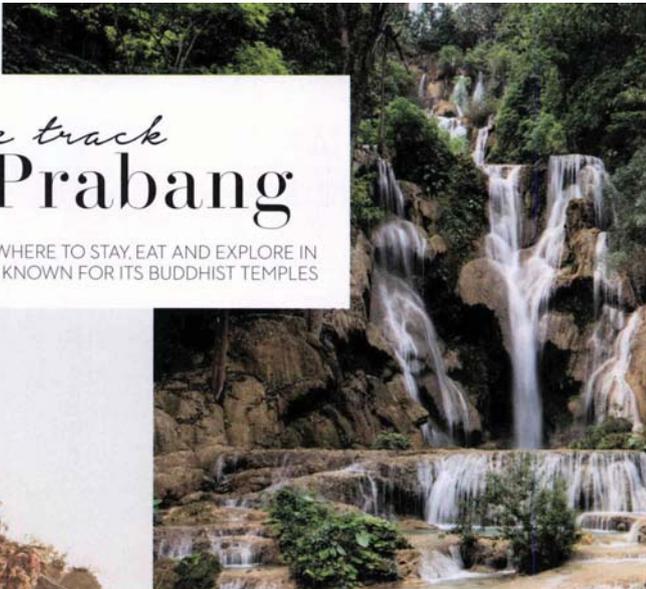


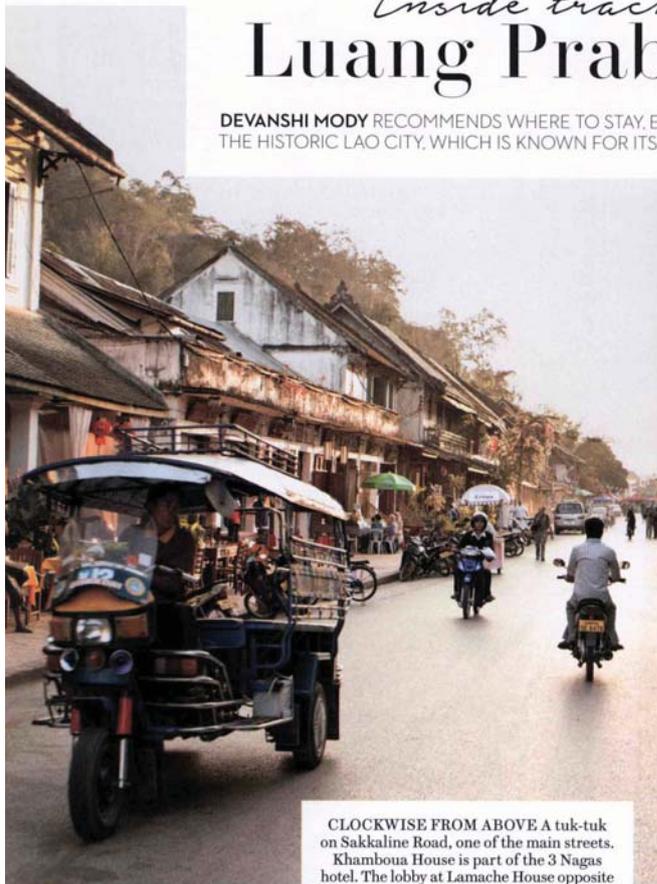
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Inside track

Luang Prabang

DEVANSHI MODY RECOMMENDS WHERE TO STAY, EAT AND EXPLORE IN THE HISTORIC LAO CITY, WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS BUDDHIST TEMPLES



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE A tuk-tuk on Sakkaline Road, one of the main streets. Khamboua House is part of the 3 Nagas hotel. The lobby at Lamache House opposite

HOTEL

Every morning at sunrise, Buddhist monks from the many temples walk through the town collecting alms - a tradition that dates back to the 14th century. Their route takes them along Sakkaline Road, where they pass **3 Nagas Luang Prabang** (3-nagas.com). Located in the Unesco-protected Old Quarter, the 15-room hotel is flanked by temples and cafés. It is just a short stroll from the site of another daily event in this small city in northern Laos - the Night Market, at 5-11pm on Sisavangvong Road, where visitors can buy local crafts and street food from more than 300 stalls.

The hotel is a collection of historic buildings. On one side of the road stands Lamache House, built in 1898 for the court of King Zakarine when Luang Prabang had its own monarchy. It now houses the executive suite with its dark wood floors and furniture. On the terrace of Lamache House, shaded by mango trees, the best cocktails in town are served - try the Lao Lao whisky muan or the tamarind margarita. Across the street, Khamboua House is an architectural jewel built in 1903 by a counsellor to Zakarine's son, King Sisavangvong. In the gardens, which stretch down to the Nam Khan River, guests can sample Lao cuisine.

While 3 Nagas offers a step back in time to a bygone age of French colonialism, guests can make use of facilities the hotel may lack - such as a large pool and spa - at its sister property, the nearby Sofitel. Ask at the front office here for a tour with Vard Vaenkham, who will take you across the river on a ferry and escort you via tuk-tuk to the Wat Phan Luang temple with its decrepit but splendid murals. Post-tour, head to the 3 Nagas' ice-cream parlour - an indulgent and unmissable treat. *Doubles from £300.*





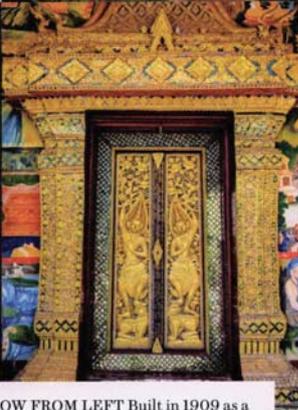
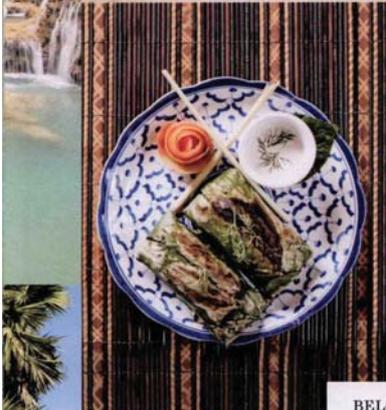
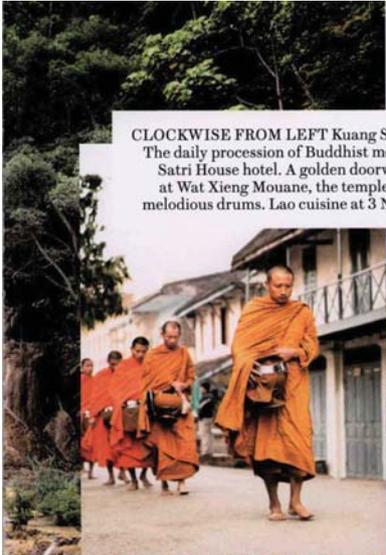
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FOOD & TRAVEL | LAOS

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Kuang Si Falls. The daily procession of Buddhist monks. Satri House hotel. A golden doorway at Wat Xieng Mouane, the temple of melodious drums. Lao cuisine at 3 Nagas



BELOW FROM LEFT Built in 1909 as a palace for King Sisavangvong, the National Museum on Ounheun Road blends Lao vernacular architecture with the French beaux arts style. The bar at Manda de Laos



RESTAURANTS

Manda de Laos (mandadelaos.com) is Luang Prabang's most romantic address, with tables surrounded by a lotus pond. The Lao menu includes organic purple sticky rice. Epicures should head to the **Satri House** hotel (satrihouse.com), where the restaurant offers a delicate interpretation of traditional Lao cuisine. The set menu costs \$25 and should be preceded by a whisky laojito from the poolside bar. For lunch, try the new cantina **Popolo** (popolo-cantina-convivial-restaurant.business.site), which is owned and run by Mao and Thibault Josse. She innovates tapas and hand-makes pizzas; he does Pondicherry spice cocktails. Don't miss a drink at the **Main Street Bar and Grill** at the **Avani**+ Luang Prabang (avanihotels.com). This hotel and restaurant was conceived by Adrian Zecha of Azerai. Main Street offers some of the best by-the-glass wines in town, including excellent Italian rosé and prosecco.

DON'T MISS

The **UXO Visitors Centre** (unexplodedordinancescentre.com) near the Chao Anouvong Monument charts the tragedy of the Secret War (1964-1973), which earned Laos its unfortunate status as the most heavily bombed nation per capita in history. Some 80 million American bombs remain unexploded throughout the country. Michael Roehrig at [Trails of Indochina](http://trailsfindochina.com) (trailsfindochina.com) can arrange a visit to this small museum as part of a bespoke itinerary. On a more cheerful note, Laos is known for its waterfalls. At the extraordinary **Kuang Si Falls**, 20 miles to the southwest of Luang Prabang, the water cascades over multiple tiers, creating a series of pools. Of an evening, head to **Wat Xieng Mouane** on Kounxoau Road - known as the temple of melodious drums - where a calming monotone chant takes place in the exquisite gold interior. And for a spot of indulgence, take a **Sunrise Breakfast Cruise** on the Mekong River. Organised by the **Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao** (belmond.com), it is an unapologetically decadent experience □