

Laos

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March 10th 2016

Basic data

Land area

236,800 sq km

Population

6.9m (2014; IMF)

Main towns

Population of the province in which a main town is situated (2012; Lao Statistics Bureau estimates):

Savannakhet: 937,907

Vientiane (capital): 797,130

Champasak: 670,122

Luang Prabang: 463,485

Climate

Tropical; rainy season, May-October; dry season, November-April

Weather in Vientiane (2006, 531 ft above sea level)

Hottest month, March, 33.4°C; coldest month, January, 17.5°C; wettest month, July, 440 mm rainfall; driest months, November, December and January, 0 mm rainfall

Main languages

Lao and others

Measures

Metric system; local measures include:

1 va = 5 sok = 10 khup = 2 metres

1 rai = 4 ngane = 1,600 sq metres

1 kang = 10 hoi = 1.2 kg

Currency

Kip (K). Average estimated exchange rate in 2015: K8,128:US\$1

Time

7 hours ahead of GMT

Fiscal year

October 1st-September 30th

Public holidays

January 1st (New Year); January 6th (Pathet Lao Day); January 20th (Army Day); February 8th (Chinese New Year); March 8th (International Women's Day); March 22nd (Day of the People's Party); April 13th-15th (Pi Mai Lao, or Lao New Year); May 1st (International Labour Day); May 20th (Vixakha Bouxa, or Buddha's Birthday); June 1st (Children's Day); December 2nd (National Day)

