

Suggested Reading List for Laos

Books

A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between (*Grant Evans*)

Chronicling the history of Laos from ancient times, through the dynastic states of the region, to the turmoil of the Vietnam War and independence from France, this comprehensive book provides a colorful and informative introduction to the history of Laos. The author presents a new perspective of Laos, challenging conventional views of the nation's intriguing history.

A History of Laos (*Martin Stuart Fox*)

Written by an Australian foreign correspondent who covered the second Indochina War, this book provides an authoritative account of modern Laos history, from its days as a French colony to its independence, involvement in the Vietnam war and the formation of the communist republic. An essential background, the book investigates the struggle for independence, the effect of foreign intervention and the challenges the nation now faces.

Ant Egg Soup (*Natacha du Pont de Bie*)

A witty and uplifting portrayal of the author's adventures in Laos as a food tourist, this book gives readers an understanding and appreciation for Lao food, with recipes and sketches. The author describes in charming detail the people she meets, the places she visits and, of course, the food she tastes. Her experiences include drinking raw turkey blood with herbs in a tribal village, cooking paradise chicken in a guest house, and sampling fried cricket during a cultural festival.

One Foot in Laos (*Dervla Murphy*)

When travel writer Dervla Murphy went to Laos in 1997, she discovered a country of kind-hearted and gentle people who were just opening themselves up to the influences of the western world. She was also confronted by the persisting problems that were caused by the nation's recent and tragic past and continued to threaten its immediate future. This book describes the author's experiences and her impressions of the country as a place of profound beauty.

Stalking the Elephant Kings (*Christopher Kremmer*)

Recounting his intrepid investigation into the fate of the last King in Laos, his wife and his son, the author takes the reader into a world of secrets, mysteries and unanswered questions that starts in the former capital of Luang Prabang and leads into remote areas of the country. The book sheds new light on the untold fate of the former Royal Family who disappeared after the Communists took control in 1975.

The Mekong: Turbulent Past, Uncertain Future (*Milton Osborne*)

A cultural history of the great river from prehistory to European exploration, colonial tensions and modern challenges. An engaging read, the book weaves an interesting narrative of the great river and its influence on the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia over two thousand years – from ancient seafaring civilizations to the French explorers who tried to navigate it.

Television and Films

The Rocket (2013)

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature and Best Actor in a Narrative Film at the Tribeca Film Festival, The Rocket is an Australian drama filmed in Lao with subtitles. The film provides an interesting insight into modern Lao culture through the story of Ahlo, a young boy whose village is displaced due to the construction of a dam which would flood their valley. The family attends a rocket festival where Ahlo decides to enter the rocket-making contest in the hopes of winning a big cash prize and prove that he is not cursed.

Websites

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/destinations/laos>

Blogs

<https://eatdrinklaos.com/>

<https://www.goatsontheroad.com/category/southern-asia/laos/>