

Basic Language for Laos

Pronunciation – Vowels

i	as in 'it'	kh	'k' as in 'kite'
ii	as in 'feet' or 'tea'	ng	as in 'sing' used as an initial consonant
in			
ai	as in 'pipe' or 'I'		Loa. Try saying sing without the si
aa	long 'a' as in 'father'	j	similar to 'j' in 'join' or more closely, the
a	half as long as 'aa' above		second 't' in 'stature' or 'literature'
ae	as in 'bat' or 'tab'		(voiceless, unaspirated)
e	as in 'hen'	s/x	as in 'soap'
eh	like 'a' in 'hate'	ny	similar to the 'ni' in 'onion' used as an
initial			
oe	as in 'rut' or 'hut' but more closed		consonant in Lao
eu	as in French 'deux' or the 'l' in 'stir'	d	as in 'dodo' or 'dig'
u	as in 'flute'	t	as the 't' in 'forty' (unaspirated, unvoiced)
uu	as in 'food'		not as in 'tea' bit like a 'd'
ao	as in 'now' or 'cow'	th	't' as in 'tea'
aw	as in 'jaw'	n	as in 'nun'
o	as in 'phone'	b	as in 'boy'
oh	as in 'toe'	p	as the 'p' in 'stopper' (unvoiced &
eua	diphthong of 'eu' and 'a'		unaspirated) not as the 'p' in 'put'
ie	'i-a' as in the French rien	ph	'p' as in 'put' (but never as in 'phone')
ua	'u-a' as in 'tour'	f	same as in 'fan'
uay	'u-a-i' as in 'dewey'	m	as in 'man'
iu	'i-u' as in 'yew'	y	same as in 'yo-yo'
iaw	a triphthong of 'i-a-w' as in 'Rio'	l	as in 'lick'
aew	'ae-w'	w	as in 'wing' (often transliterated as 'v')
ehw	'eh-w'	h	as in 'home'
ew	same as 'ehw' but shorter (not as in 'yew')		
oei	'oe-l'		
k	as the 'k' in 'skin' similar to 'g' in 'good' but unaspirated (no accompanying puff of air) and unvoiced		

Greetings & Civilities

Greetings/Hello	sábqai-dji
Goodbye (general farewell)	sábqai-dji
Goodbye (person leaving)	
Leaving first	láa kawn
Going first	pai kawn
Goodbye (person staying)	
Good luck	sohk dji
See you later	phop kạn mai
Thank you	khàwp jai
Thank you very much	khàwp jai lăi lăi
It's nothing (Never mind/don't bother)	baw pẹn nyăng
Excuse me	khăw thoht

Small talk

How are you?
I'm fine
And you?
What is your name?
My name is
Glad to know you
Where are you from?
I'm from
Australia
New Zealand

Sáɓɓai-dji baw?
sáɓɓai-dji
jão dêh?
Jão seu nyang?
kháwy seu
dji-jai thii kúu káp jão
Jão máa tae sai?
Kháwy máa tae
aw-sátêh-lía
núu síiláen

Language difficulties

Can you speak English?
A little
I can't speak Lao
Do you understand?
(I) don't understand
please speak slowly
please repeat
what do you call this in Lao?

jão pàak pháasãa ạngkít dãi baw?
náwy neung
kháwy páak pháasãa láo baw dãi
Jão khào jai baw?
baw khào jai
kálunaa wão sãa-sãa
kálunaa wão mai beng dụ
Ặn-nii pháasãa láo waa nyãng?

Getting around

Where is the
Airport
Bus station
Bus stop
Departures/flights
Taxi stand
I want to go to
May I sit here?

..... Yùu sãi?
doen bịn
sathãanii lot pájạm tháang
bawn jàwt lot pájạm tháang
thiaw
bawn jàwt lot thaek-sii
Kháwy yak pại
Nang bawn nii dãi baw?

Directions

Which Is this?
Street/road/avenue
City
Village
Province
Turn
Left
Right
Go straight ahead
How far?
Far/not far
North
South
West
East
I'd like to rent a
Car
Motorcycle
Bicycle

bawn nii Nyãng?
thanõn
méuang
muu bân
khwâeng
lîaw
sâai
khwãa
pại seu-seu
Kại thao dại?
kại/baw kại
thit nêua
thit tâi
thit tạwán tók
thit tạwán àwk
Kháwy yàak sao
lot (oh-toh)
lot ják
lot thiip

Accommodation

Hotel
Guesthouse
Air-conditioning
Bathroom
Blanket
Double room
Fan
Hot water
Soap
Toilet
Towel
Quieter

hóhng háem
hăw hap kháek
ạe yẹn
hàwng nâam
phàa hom
hàwng nawn tịang khuu
phat lóm
nâam hawn
sábuu
sùam
phàa set toh
mit-kwaa

Around Town

Where is the?
I'm looking for (the)
Bank
Hospital
Pharmacy
Post Office
I want to change
Money
Travellers cheques

..... Yùu sãi
Khàwy sàwk hăa
thanáakháan
hóhng mǎw
hân kháai yạ
pại-sá-nii (hóng sǎai)
Khàwy yàak pian
ngóen
sek dōen tháang

Telephone
International call

thóhlasáp
thóhlasáp rawaang pátthet

Shopping

Open/Closed
I'm looking for
How much (for)?
This
Per-piece
Both
Do you have something cheaper?
The price is very high
Sanitary napkins
Soap
Toilet paper
Toothbrush

poet/pít
khàwy sàwk hăa
..... Thao dại?
an-nii
an-la
thâng sǎwng
Mii thèuk-kwaa nii baw?
láakháa pháeng lǎai
phàa anáamái
sá-buu
jĩa hong nâam
pạeng thũu khàew

Health

I am not well
I have a fever
I have diarrhoea
It hurts here
I've vomited several times
I need a/an
Ambulance
Doctor

khàwy baw sáạai
pẹn khài
long thǎwng
jép yuu nii
hàak lǎai theua
Khàwng tǎwng-kạn
lot hóhng mǎw
mǎw

	Dentist	măw pɔa khàew
Accident		ú-bát-tí-hèht
Allergic (to)		phêe
Anaemia		lohk lêuat nâwy
Asthma		lohk hêut
Diabetes		lohk bəo wăan
Malaria		khài paa
Toothache		jép khàew

Emergencies

Help!	suay dae
Fire!	Fái mài
It's an emergency!	Súk soen
There's been an accident!	Míi úbátíhet
Call a Doctor!	Suai tɔam hăa măw hài dae
Call the Police!	Suay ôen tam-luat dae
Call an ambulance!	Suay ôen lot hóhng măw dae
Can you help me please?	Jəo suay khàwy dái baw
I've been robbed	khàwy thèuk khá-móhy
Stop!	Yút
Go away!	Pại dôi
Where are the toilets	hàwng sùam yuu sãi
I'm lost	khàwy long tháang