

Southern Laos is directly accessible from Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Vientiane, the capital of Laos. It can be reached by air and road.

### By Air

Pakse International Airport (PKZ): Lao Airlines ([www.laoairlines.com](http://www.laoairlines.com)) offers domestic flights (to/from Vientiane, Savannakhet, Luang Prabang) and international flights (to/from Siem Reap, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh). Visas are available on arrival at the airport (see → Visas and border checkpoints).

Alternatively, you can fly to Ubon Ratchathani Airport (UBP) in Thailand and travel by bus, taxi or public transport to Pakse (it takes about 2.5 to 3 hours). Cross the border at Chong Mek-Vang Tao (visa available on arrival).

### By Bus

There are international bus services from/to Vietnam (Da Nang, Hue), Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Siem Reap), and Thailand (Ubon Ratchathani, Bangkok).

Pakse is Southern Laos' transportation hub and from here you can find connections to many destinations. It is advisable to get tickets at your hotel, a restaurant, or at one of the travel agencies in Pakse's town centre along Route 13, or on one of its side streets. Tickets usually include transfer to the terminal or pick-up at your hotel or guesthouse, but it would be wise to confirm this when you purchase your ticket.

For tickets to smaller, or more off-the-beaten-track destinations, you will have to go to the respective bus station and purchase them directly just before travelling. Pakse has several bus stations, but the two most important are the **Northern Bus Terminal** (7km north of Pakse, on Route 13, for connections to the north) and the **Southern Bus Terminal** (8km south of Pakse, on Route 13, for connections to the south and east including the Bolaven Plateau and Attapeu).

There are several other bus terminals in central Pakse. The **King of Bus Terminal** (Thanon 11, operates VIP night buses to/from Vientiane as well as some other bus services towards the north along Route 13 including Ban Saphai.) The **Morning Market Bus Station** (Daoheuang Market, on Route 38, has songthaews heading to/from several destinations in the surroundings of Pakse, including minivans to the Thai border), and the **Evening Market Bus Station** (2km, along Route 13, has services to/from Attapeu, Salavan, Sekong.)

## Visas and Border checkpoints

All visitors entering Laos must possess a valid passport (with at least 6 months remaining validity). A **30-day visa in advance of arrival** is available at the Lao Embassy or Consulate in your country.

At international airports in Laos and at the following international borders in the South, a **30-day visa on arrival** is also available (visa fees vary between US\$30-45, depending on your country of origin), bring passport size photos:

- Laos-Thailand border (Vang Tao-Chong Mek)
- Laos-Cambodia border (Nong Nok Khian-Trapaeng Kriel)
- Laos-Vietnam borders (Phou Keua-Bo Y and Dansavanh-Lao Bao)

The Laos-Thailand and Laos-Vietnam borders usually operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the Laos-Cambodia border is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. When crossing the border after 4:30 p.m., on weekends and on official public holidays, an overtime fee of around 10,000kip will be charged.

In case of questions you can contact the Tourism Office in Pakse and visit the website of The Department of Immigration in Lao PDR, [www.immigration.gov.la](http://www.immigration.gov.la). Visa extensions for temporary visitors can be obtained at the Police office in Pakse, a fee of US\$2 per day will be charged. When leaving Lao PDR, please make sure you observe and follow the visa requirements of the respective countries. Note that there is a Vietnamese consulate in Pakse ([www.vietnamconsulate-pakse.org/en](http://www.vietnamconsulate-pakse.org/en)).