

LANGUAGE

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The national language is **Lao**, which is closely related to Thai and is spoken in many different dialects. French is still spoken by many educated members of the older generation but Thai and English are popular with younger people.

DIALECTS

Being the primary language of the Lao people, Lao is also an important second language for the multitude of ethnic groups in Laos and in Isan. Lao, like many languages in Laos, is written in the Lao script, which is an abugida script. Although there is no official standard, **the Vientiane dialect has become the standard**. There are six regions of Lao dialects: Vientiane Lao, Northern Lao, Northeastern Lao/Tai Phuan, Central Lao, Southern Lao and Western Lao.

COMMON PHRASES

✚ Hello	Sa-bai-Dee
✚ Goodbye	Sôhk Dee Deuh
✚ Thank you	Khawp Jai
✚ I (don't) understand	Khàwy Baw Khào Jai
✚ I understand	Khàwy Khào Jai
✚ Please!	Kawlunaa
✚ Yes	Maen Laeow/Doi/Eur/Jao
✚ No	Baw
✚ Do you speak English?	Jâu Wâu Pháa-Săa Ung-Kit Dai Baw?
✚ Sorry	Khăw Thôht