

# CURRENCY

## MONEY

- ✚ The official national currency in Laos is the **Lao kip (K)**.
- ✚ Lao Kip Notes come in denominations of **100, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000** and **100,000** kip. Small vendors, especially in rural areas, will struggle to change 100,000K notes. For larger transactions the dollar and the baht are favoured.
- ✚ The domestic economy in Laos still depends on the Thai baht and the US dollar; pounds and euros, less so. In fact, two-thirds of the cash in the capital Vientiane, is Thai or American. At the moment the exchange rate is **US\$ 1 = 8000 Kip**. It is best to carry US dollars bills in small denominations.
- ✚ Although only kip is legally negotiable in everyday transactions, it's worth remembering that for small purchases and transactions, prices will be quoted in kip, larger transactions, i.e for hotels or transport, it's likely the price will be quoted in dollars.



100 Kip



500 Kip



1,000 Kip



2,000 Kip



5,000 Kip



10,000 Kip



20,000 Kip



50,000 Kip



100,000 Kip



## METHOD OF PAYMENT



### Cash

This is relevant for whereabouts you are too - in larger cities Thai baht or US dollars are more in use, whereas in smaller towns and villages, kip is usually preferred. However, the majority of transactions will be carried out in cash of kip, so it's always worth having a wad in your pocket.



### Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in the more upmarket hotels and restaurants only in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. Several banks will also offer a cash advance on credit cards for a commission.



### Traveller's cheques

Travellers cheques. All major banks throughout Laos, as well as the bigger hotels in Vientiane, will change traveler's cheques for US dollars or kip.



### ATMs

Nowadays most ATMs are reliable. However there is a limit on how much you can withdraw during a day.

Vientiane has the biggest selection of ATMs in the county, especially around Th Setthathriat. Major hotels are likely to have an ATM on-site too.