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Ban Xang Kong and Ban Xieng Lek are well known villages which produce Posa paper made from mulberry bark and also a style of silk weaving which is very different from others in Laos. You can watch the villagers making Posa paper (from mulberry bark) and weaving traditional textiles. You'll see this paper around town at the markets, as menus in restaurants and a visit to Ban Xieng Lek and Ban Xang Khong gives you the opportunity to understand first-hand the way it is made.

Where are these villages? 3 kilometers to the north of Luang Prabang, across the Nam Khan river. These villages can be reached by tuk tuk (though you will need to cross by the new bridge) and by bicycle (old bridge) or even on foot (bamboo bridge). After crossing the old bridge, turn first left and follow the road as it turns north along the Mekong River. You'll see craft shops and probably the mulberry paper drying outside in the sun as you approach.

## 2. Ban Xang Hai

Ban Xang Hai was built in 1363. The elders of Ban Xang Hai believe that the first inhabitants of the village who started making pottery were Chinese. The pottery was used for keeping salt and as kitchen utensils. The pottery was later used as products for sale. According to the elders in the village, there were about 400 - 500 pottery kilns scattered in this area. It has become famous because of its pottery and is therefore called Ban Xang Hai or pottery making village.

However currently the main industry of Ban Xang Hai is liquor production and textile weaving. It is about 5 kilometers from Ban Pak Ou and Pak Ou Buddha cave. Most tourists choose to include Ban Xang Hai in their itinerary to Pak Ou. International tourists are drawn to visit the village for its traditional souvenirs, farming, fishing, weaving and Lao whiskey production. Tourists can take a walk through the village to experience its unique culture and traditions.



## MAP SYMBOLS

