

Lao Magic Carpets



Who are we and what do we do?

Carpet making is one of the oldest known crafts. Its roots lie in the heart of Central Asia where it developed and flourished before reaching its peak in quality in the 16th and 17th centuries. Lao Magic Carpet Handicrafts was set up to introduce carpet weaving into Laos, where there are already established traditions of weaving intricate textiles. Through the skillful hands of local weavers and the use of local silk, the ancient craft of carpet weaving is taking a new direction in Laos.



Lao Magic Carpet Handicrafts combines the traditional weaving skills of Lao women with the carpet weaving techniques of the Middle East and South Asia. Our carpets and kilims are created according to the highest standards of carpet weaving while incorporating authentic, original patterns inspired by traditional Lao textiles. We use mostly natural dyes, produced in Laos from local plants and insects.

Our vision is to establish a large-scale, village-based, handmade silk carpet industry in Laos. To achieve this, we have set up a training centre where weavers are taught how to design and weave carpets. When the skills are mastered, carpet making can become a good source of income for weavers and their families.



Weaving new magic into Lao silk



What can you experience?

- Visit our workshop in Vientiane to see how each carpet is meticulously made, and learn the intricate processes required to weave high quality carpets.
- When you buy a carpet you are helping us to train and employ new weavers.
- Carpets can be custom made to your specifications. A typical carpet takes between 3 to 9 months to make depending upon size and complexity – however we arrange shipping back to your home country.
- Contact your hotel or guesthouse for more information.

In the past three years, we have trained more than 100 experienced weavers in the art of carpet making, and more than 45 of these are now employed full time by us. Working closely with the Lao Women's Union and other organizations, we target women from the neediest families and in the most underdeveloped areas. Our weavers are provided with free lodging, food, medical care and an above-average monthly salary. We also plan to train many more women across Laos who can work in their own homes, using the materials and tools we supply, and with our help to market the carpets.

We hope more people in these weavers' villages will be drawn to carpet weaving and other aspects of production, to develop a sustainable cottage industry.

