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New Administrative Territorial Divisions: Laos

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Preface

This study provides information on new administrative territorial divisions in Laos. Three provinces and one municipality were added between 1983 and 1985, bringing the total number in the country to 18 provinces and one municipality. Maps are included to indicate the adjusted administrative boundaries of affected provinces.
Laos presently has 19 major administrative territorial divisions, consisting of 18 provinces and one municipality. Prior to 1982, there were 15 provinces. Three new provinces—Bokeo, Bolikhamsai and Xekong—and one municipality—Vientiane—were added between 1982 and 1985.

Bokeo's area was carved from the provinces of Louang Namtha and Oudomxai, Bolikhamsai from Khammouan, and Xekong from the provinces of Saravan, Champasak and Attapu. Vientiane Municipality, formerly part of Vientiane Province, became an independent city but remains the administrative center of Vientiane Province. The country's major territorial divisions and their administrative centers are listed below in alphabetical order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/Municipality</th>
<th>Administrative Center</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Attapu</td>
<td>Attapu</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Bokeo</td>
<td>Ban Houay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Bolikhamsai</td>
<td>Muang Pakxai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Champasak</td>
<td>Pakse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Houaphan</td>
<td>Xam Nua</td>
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<td>06 Khammouan</td>
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<td>Louang Namtha</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 Louangphrabang</td>
<td>Louangphrabang</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 Oudomxai</td>
<td>Muang Xay</td>
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<td>10 Phongsali</td>
<td>Phongsali</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Saravan</td>
<td>Saravan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Savannakhet</td>
<td>Savannakhet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Vientiane</td>
<td>Vientiane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Vientiane Municipality</td>
<td>Vientiane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 Xaignabouri  
16 Xekong  
17 Xiangkhouang

Muang Xaignabouri  
Xekong  
Xiangkhouang

Note: Vientiane Municipality occupies an area of 333,400 hectares or 33.34 square kilometers.

