

# Champasak!

Welcome to the South of Laos, to a wealth of culture, nature, adventure and relaxation, all within a day's reach.

In Champasak the mighty Mekong River is at its widest, with the tropical 4000 Island region and Southeast Asia's largest waterfall, Khone Phapheng. Enjoy the traditional river-oriented village life, kayak the labyrinthine waterways, enjoy stunning sunset boat tours or simply relax in a hammock.

Go back in time and wander around the ancient Khmer temple, Vat Phou, a UNESCO World heritage site. The outstanding architecture of the monuments, many containing great works of art, together with the stunning location on the slopes of the Phu Kao Mountain gives it a mystical atmosphere.

In Champasak you will be enchanted by nature while hiking through the jungle covered mountains scattered with thundering waterfalls. Let the adrenalin flow - zip-line over treetops, across waterfalls or raft on the Mekong.

Indulge your senses at the coffee and tea plantations while you learn about the coffee growing process from bean to final cup; enjoy the smell and taste of a freshly brewed cup of coffee.

Experience traditional village life - watch women weave silk, join in a game of football with the local children or take part in a traditional fishing trip.

Champasak province offers diversity and charm with a completely different experience every day.

Let Champasak surprise you.

6. Tad Yuang Waterfall



[www.champasaktourism.com](http://www.champasaktourism.com)



# LAOS

*Simply Beautiful*

## CHAMPASAK





### 1. Mekong

The Mekong River, locally known as the mother of waters, is one of the world's greatest river systems and its high biodiversity of flora and fauna is exceptional in South East Asia.

### 2. Pha Suam Waterfall

This U-shaped low-height fall is located in a serene natural setting. Its beauty lies in its massive wide torrent along rectangular stones.

### 3. Ban Saphai and Don Kho Island

The village on the shore of the Mekong and the island are known for silk weaving. The peaceful small island has traditional Lao-style houses. The middle of the island is a heaven of rice fields and vegetable gardens, especially in the green season from July till November.

### 4. Bolaven Plateau Coffee and Tea plantations

At an elevation ranging from 1,000 to 1,350 meters above sea level, you can explore tea gardens as well as the country's main coffee plantations and learn about the coffee production process from bean to freshly brewed cup of coffee.

### 5. Tad Fane Waterfall

A spectacular double waterfall tumbles down more than 120 meters. Tad Fane is at the edge of the Dong Hua Sao protected area and there are good walking trails to explore the forest.

### 6. Tad Yuang Waterfall

This impressive double waterfall falls 40m into a deep pool surrounded by lush vegetation. It is also the ideal place to relax or trek onwards through beautiful forest to Tad Fane.

### 7. Jungle covered highlands in Dong Hua Sao

Semi (dry)-evergreen forests dominate the steep slopes, which rise to the edge of the Bolaven Plateau, with peaks as high as 1300m. This is the place for nature and adventure lovers.

### 8. Vat Phou

This UNESCO World Heritage-listed ancient Khmer temple complex is set in a stunning natural setting, giving it a mystical atmosphere.

### 9. Don Daeng Island

Close to Vat Phou, this is the island to relax and unwind. Cycle or stroll along shaded paths around the island or on its white sandy beaches. Enjoy local life in the basket weaving village and stay overnight in the village homestay or lodge.

### 10. Elephant riding from Kiet Nong Village to Phu Asa and the Archeological site

The village of Kiet Nong is located just on the edge of one of the largest and least altered wetlands in the area. Here you can enjoy the extraordinary experience of elephant riding through the wetlands and up to the summit of the hill called Phu Asa. Intriguing ruins of an expansive archaeological site can be found on the top of Phu Asa.

### 11. 4000 islands

Si Phan Don which means 4000 Islands, is a river archipelago situated in the Mekong River near the Cambodian border. It is the place to unwind and experience traditional river-oriented village life.

### 12. Kong Island

Don Khong is the largest island of the Southern Mekong River's archipelago. A bicycle ride through a scenic hillside landscape reveals religious and historical sites while passing through fishing villages.

### 13. Khon Island and Det Island & Irrawaddy Dolphins

Idyllic Don Khon, with palm trees on its shores, French colonial buildings along its sandy roads and the stunning Li Phi waterfall, caters for the more upmarket tourist, whilst Don Det is a backpacker haven. From Don Khon one can arrange trips to see the dolphins.

### 14. Li Phi Waterfall

The word Li Phi means 'spirit trap' in Lao and local people believe that the deceased spirits of humans and animals floating down the river are trapped here. The series of falls that run through various drops in this part of the Mekong River is located in an amazing natural site at Khon Island.

### 15. Khone Phapheng Waterfall

Khone Phapheng Waterfall is considered Southeast Asia's largest waterfall by volume. Millions of liters of water fall over several sets of cascades making it one of Champasak's most spectacular sights.





## Accommodations / Hotels



**Pakse Hotel**  
**Hôtel Paksé**  
[www.hotelpakse.com](http://www.hotelpakse.com)  
[www.paksehotel.com](http://www.paksehotel.com)



**Champa Residence**  
**Boutique Hotel**  
[www.mekongparadise-resort-group.com](http://www.mekongparadise-resort-group.com)

**Mekong Paradise Resort**  
[www.mekongparadise-resort-group.com](http://www.mekongparadise-resort-group.com)



**Champasak Palace**  
**Hotel & Travel**  
[www.champasakpalacehotel.com](http://www.champasakpalacehotel.com)



**The River Resort**  
[www.TheRiverResortLaos.com](http://www.TheRiverResortLaos.com)



**Residence Sisouk Boutique**  
**Hotel**  
[www.residence-sisouk.com](http://www.residence-sisouk.com)

## Travel agencies / Tour operators



**Yingchokchai Travel**  
[www.yingchokchai-travels.com](http://www.yingchokchai-travels.com)



**Green Discovery**  
[www.greendiscoverylaos.com](http://www.greendiscoverylaos.com)



**Tree Top Explorer**  
[www.treetoplaos.com](http://www.treetoplaos.com)



**Lao Adventure Travel**  
[www.loadventuretravel.com](http://www.loadventuretravel.com)

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**Champasak Provincial Information,  
Culture and Tourism Department**

## Photograph credits

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## Weaving

The art of weaving is still very much a cottage industry in Laos. There are many weaving styles divided over four regions and pattern vary from province to province. Some of the finest silk and cotton weavers in the world can be found in the small Lao villages.



## 4.000 Islands

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Si Phan Don, which means 4.000 Islands, is a sleepy river archipelago situated in the Mekong River near the Cambodian border. Absorb the local pace of life when cycling through traditional fishing villages or put on your trekking shoes and hike through the rice paddies and explore the islands' stunning waterfalls. Kayak along the Mekong to spot the rare endangered Irrawaddy dolphins as they peek out of the river, or simply relax in a hammock while watching local fishermen edging out to clear their bamboo traps while the sun sets.

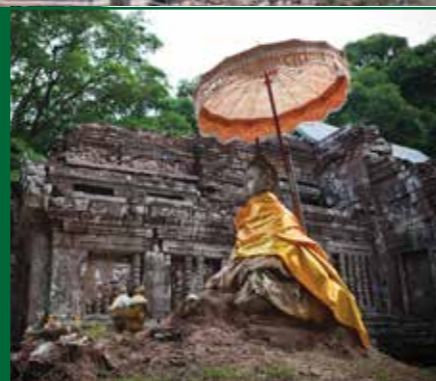




# Wat Phou

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This spectacular UNESCO World Heritage-listed ancient temple complex is an excellent example of early classical Khmer architecture. The site was originally dedicated to the Hindu religion but became later a centre of Theravada Buddhist worship. Located in a picturesque setting at the foot of Phu Kao Mountain offering terrific views over the surrounding rice paddies and Mekong River, it is a great place for peaceful contemplation. Art and history lovers will be fascinated.





# Tad Khammeut & Dong Hua Sao National Protected Area

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Zip-line across this thundering waterfall and above treetops of the Dong Hua Sao National Protected Area or hike through the spectacular jungle covered highlands and enjoy the view from the canopy walkways. This is the place for nature and adventure lovers.





# Bolaven Plateau

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The Bolaven Plateau's pristine landscape is characterized by tea and coffee plantations and dramatic waterfalls surrounded by lush vegetation. Various ethnic groups inhabit the area. Here you can immerse yourself into tribal ways of life and enjoy stunning nature.



Home to the world's finest Arabica coffee beans, the Bolaven Plateau hosts the country's main coffee plantations as well as tea gardens. Situated in the highlands at an elevation ranging from 1,000 to 1,350 meters above sea level, the cooler climate is a great relief from the heat during the hot season. Here you can explore the plantations, learn about the process of coffee production and even participate in a coffee processing and roasting workshop.





# Mekong

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The Mekong is the artery of life in Laos. Many ethnic groups can be found living along this mighty river, still largely following their traditional way of life. Explore their exceptional fishing techniques using bamboo traps or watch them cultivating their vegetable gardens along the fertile riverbanks while cruising down the Mekong River. For the ultimate relaxation just stroll along the sandy beaches of one of the islands for example on Don Daeng.