

10 Highlights of Champasak Province

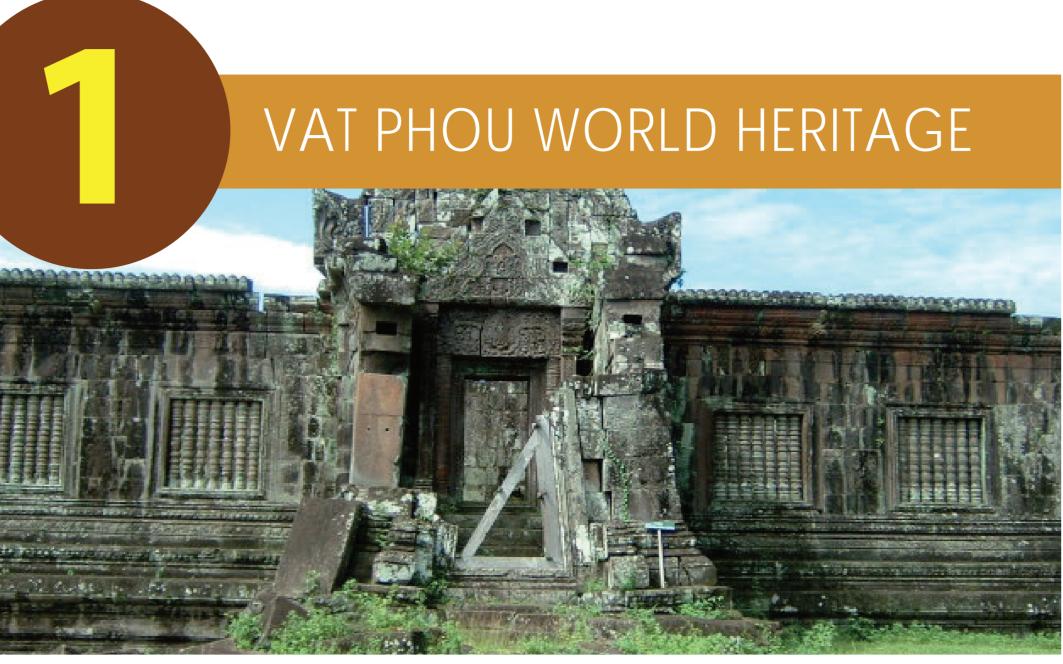
The Gateway to Southern Laos

iscover the natural, cultural, and historical highlights of Laos' Champasak Province on a multi-day tour along the Mekong and on the Bolaven Plateau. Compact Champasak Province offers quick and easy access to all its wonders, with plenty of accommodation and tourist services along the way.

Base your exploration of the ancient Vat Phou World Heritage Landscape in Champasak Town's French colonial atmosphere or on serene Don Daeng Island. Travel south to the Mekong's 4,000 islands and watch the Mekong crash through rocky channels, or head inland to climb a mountain by elephant back.

From towering waterfalls to ancient Khmer ruins, Champasak holds plenty of memorable highlights for everyone.

Champasak Province

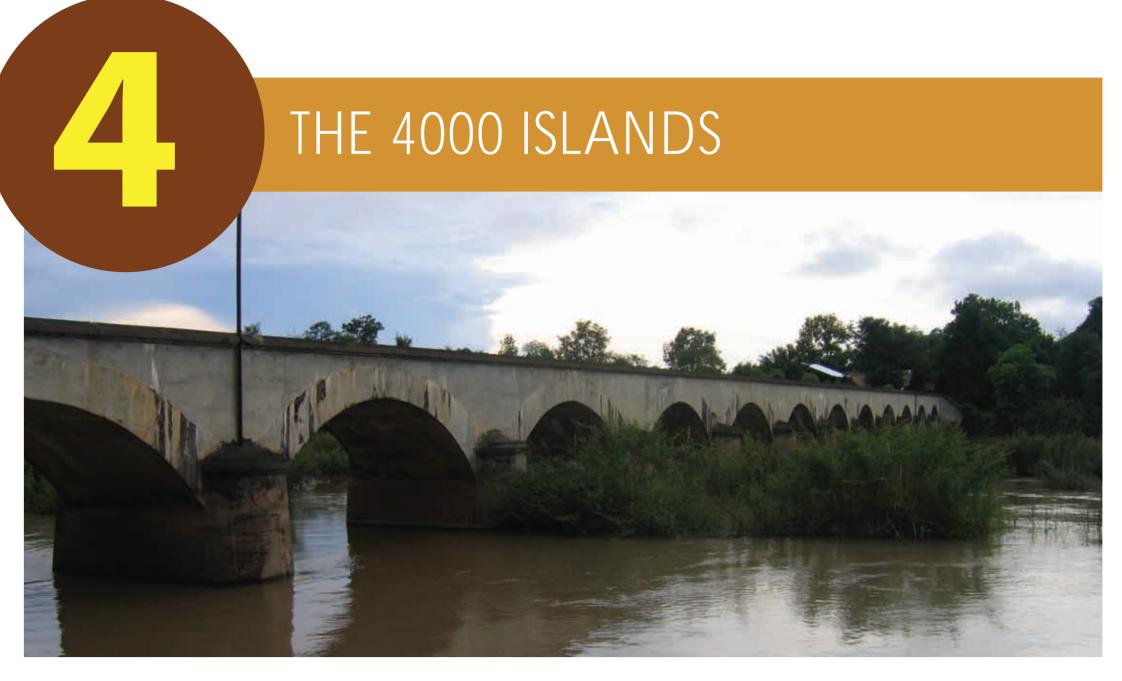


the former royal capital on the Mekong, local lodge. 37 km south of Pakse.

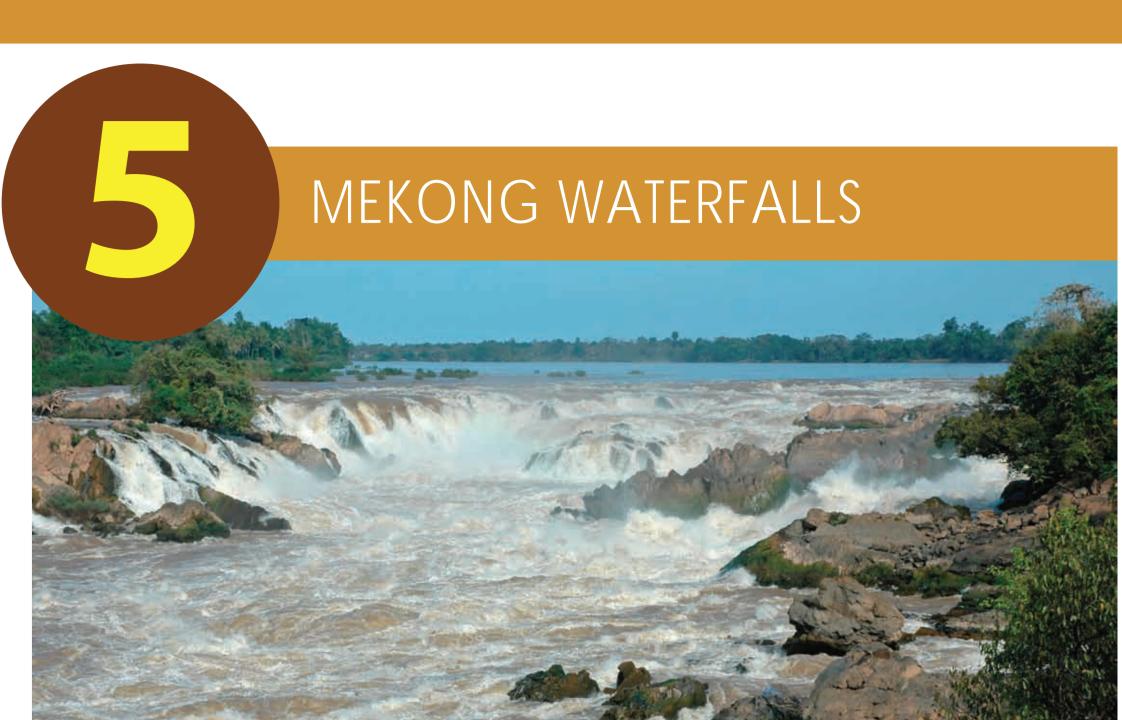




Vat Phou Temple's terraces, staircases, paths for walks and bicycle rides on this and walk or ride an elephant up Phou Khmer-era stupas and relics, visit a southern Don Khone to reach the giant manmade ponds, and pillared Mekong island inside the heritage Asa Mountain to behold views of the 14th-century temple, and watch locals thundering Somphamit (Li Phi) Waterfalls, Nandi Hall. Inspect the 5th-century walled landscape. Along the way, stop at a wetlands and ponder a legendary ring of process palm sugar. Pedal over an amazing series of rock-lined channels city of Shresthapura and marked road to sacred ancient forest stupa, sample ancient stone pillars. Overnight in a Kiet suspension bridges on Don Khone and landing in a sea of mist. Then head five km Angkor, and visit Nang Sida, Thao Tao and coconut and sugar cane juice, eat fresh Ngong Village bungalow, home stay, or Don Det to see an abandoned French south on Route 13 to Khone Pha Pheng, Tomo Temples. Base your tour, easily local fruits, visit a basket weaving village, eco-lodge, before canoeing in the covered by bicycle, in Champasak Town, and overnight at a village home stay or adjacent wetlands or trekking deeper into the NPA's forest.



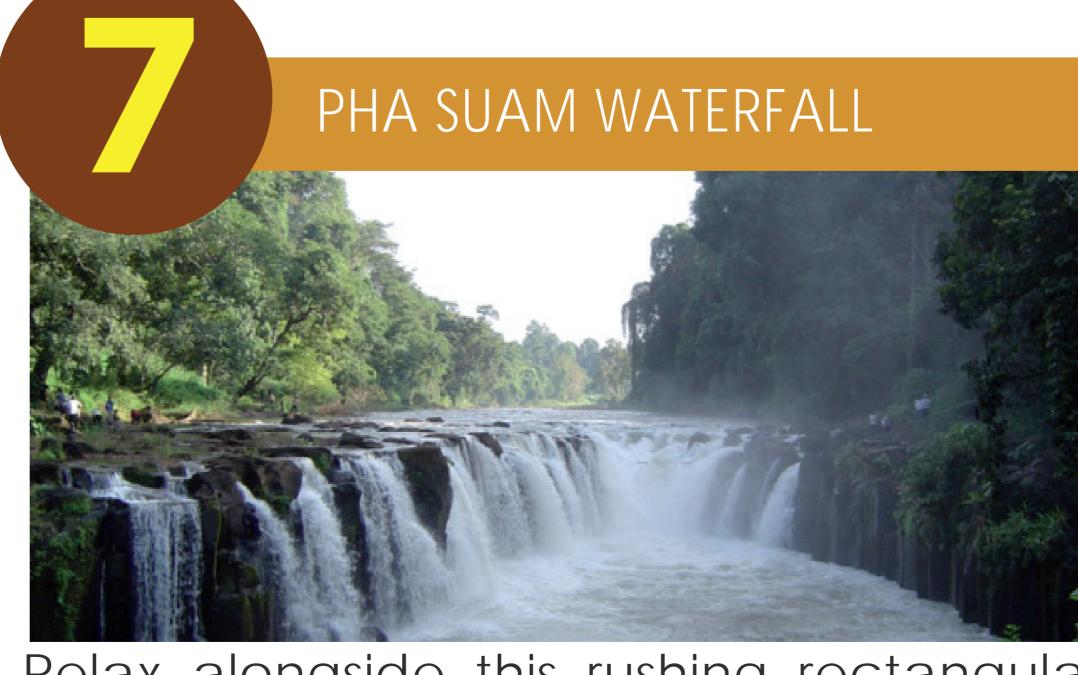
Explore the UNESCO-listed, pre-Angkor Enter a peaceful retreat with shaded Journey into Laos' southernmost NPA, Cycle around Don Khong to examine Cross a short wooden plank bridge in locomotive, provincial architecture, and Southeast Asia's largest waterfall by powerful rapids, and boat between islets volume, and watch the Mekong rush over to observe rare freshwater Irrawaddy a 15-meter-high, boulder-filled fault line.

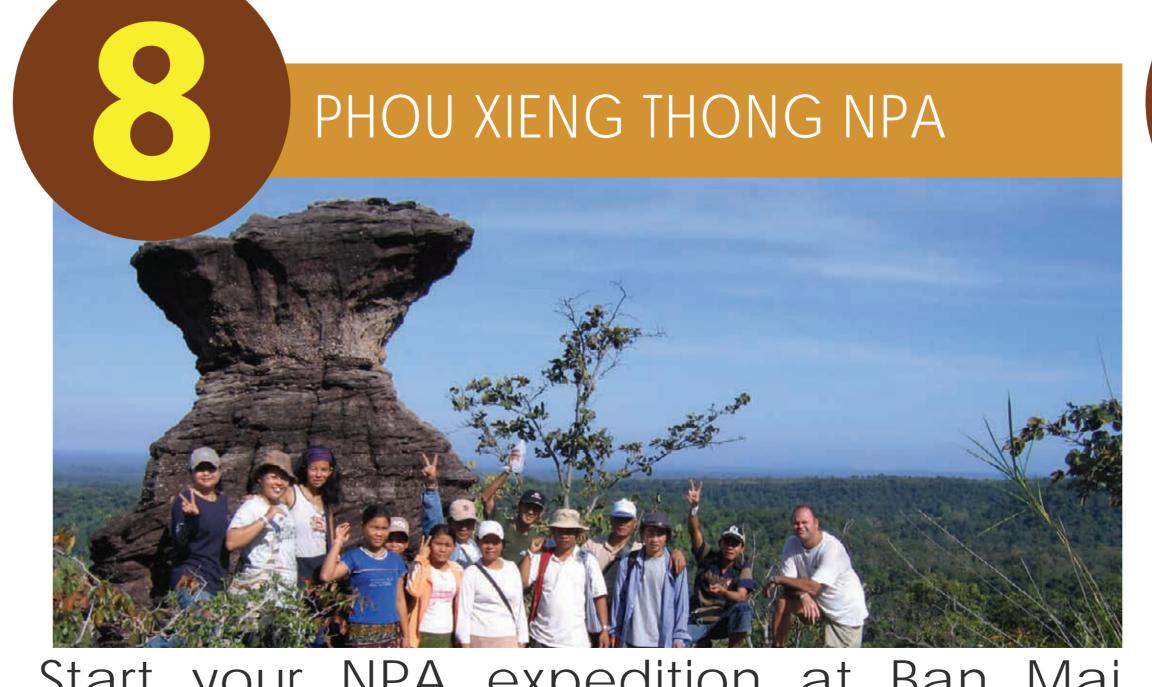






Dong Hua Sao National Protected Area. bungalows.





known for its plantations of premium falls named after its room-like (sūam) Singsamphan before hiking to Phou Kang's stupa-like stone, a 19th-century economic center and southern Laos' coffee, and admire amazing waterfalls: shape, and admire the Champy River's Khong Mountain's legend-filled, natural twin-roofed house (luuk fete), and Vat tourism hub. Visit 19th-century Vat Luang the 120-meter-high Tad Fane, Tad power as it crashes over a six-meter rock oddities: Hin Khong (Fish Basket Rock) Posay's sacred Pa Si Ho rock. Ferry to Don with hand-carved doors, Vat Phabat to Nyeuang's 42-metre drop, the broad Tad ledge on the Bolaven Plateau, just 33 km used by a giant, Dan Xang Tai (Dead Kho, Champasak's weaving hub and ponder Buddha's fossilized footprint, the Champee cluster, and the rectangular north of Pakse. Experience an ethnic Elephant Plateau) once inhabited former colonial capital, to see a dec- Old Quarter's French-style shop houses, Tad Pha Suam. Tackle the "Treetop Lavae village home stay or overnight at pachyderms that all fled, an ancient ades-old traditional home and luuk fete, the massive and elegant Champasak Explorer" zip-line adventure through the the Uttayan Bachieng Resort's treetop stone tablet engraved in Sanskrit, and Pa and ex-residence of silk-weaving expert, Palace Hotel, the Provincial Museum's Peung (Bee Cliff) known for its many hives. Mr Phillipe.

MUST-DO ACTIVITIES



For those seeking a peaceful bicycle ride through the Vat Phou World Heritage Landscape, hop on a bicycle and take a lap of the Mekong's Don Daeng Island. Along the way, you'll see an ancient brick stupa in the forest and stone Buddha images; sample sugar cane juice and fresh fruits, visit basket weaving villages and take a boat to the pre-Vat Phou Tomo Temple.

Local guides are available for the tour at Ban Hua Don Daeng Village, which also offers overnight stays in their community lodge or with local families. This program includes a family meal of Lao cuisine, which typically includes fresh Mekong fish and locally grown organic vegetables.



Mekong River Cruise

Soak in the Mekong River's picturesque nature and locals' simple lifestyle on a boat ride from Champasak Town to Don Khong Island and further to Don Khone and Don Det. Serene images greet you at every turn: wooden houses hanging over the river, kids jumping into the water, fishermen trolling for the ay's catch, women doing laundry, and riverbank gardens sprouting

ivate boat operators offer cruises for the three-four hour journey to Don Khong, the largest and northernmost of the 4,000 Islands. You can tour the island by bike and overnight in a Meuang Khong guesthouse before continuing by a smaller long-tail boat to explore Don Khone.



Elephant Ride up Phou Asa

Combine a 90-minute elephant ride with ancient ruins and a pleasant nountaintop view, and you arrive at an unforgettable experience. This achyderm adventure starts at Kiet Ngong Village, about 25 km from Champasak Town, and climbs to the rocky Phou Asa Mountain summit to the nysterious stone remains of an ancient temple and Buddha footprint, along ith a panorama of the province.

directly benefit the 30 families taking part. Kiet Ngong also offers a full-day elephant adventure through Xe Pian National Protected Area, home stays, and a lodge overlooking bird-rich wetlands.

For more information or to book these activities, contact a tourism information center in Pakse, Champasak Town, Don Khong and soon in Nakasang (near the ferry to Don Det and Don Khone).



Trekking from Tad Fane to Tad Nyeuang

Embark on a pleasant two-hour hike linking a pair of Champasak Province's most spectacular waterfalls. The trek begins at Tad Fane, where the Champy and Pak Koot Rivers plunge side-by-side off a 120-meter cliff. The walk continues along a stream and through coffee plantations in the Dong Hua Sao NPA before reaching the second cascade, Tad Nyeuang, which tumbles 42 meters over a series of rock steps. A path leads to various vantage points for photography, picnics, and to simply absorb the marvelous scene.

This guided waterfall trek takes place in the heart of the Bolaven Plateau after traveling 38 km east of Pakse on Route 23 towards Paksong.

For more information or to book this activity, contact the Tad Fane Resort (www.tadfane.com).



Travel to the 1,500-meter-high plateau, Relax alongside this rushing rectangular Start your NPA expedition at Ban Mai Head to Ban Saphai, and view Vat Saphai Stroll around Champasak's capital,



artifacts, and the Dao-Heuang Market.