

The Beauties of Southern Laos

1. Mekong - Southern Laos

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. Experience untouched ways of river life. Witness farming with buffalos, fishing with hand woven nets and vegetable cultivation along the riverbanks.

2. Wat Phu and Champasak Town - Champasak

This UNESCO World Heritage- listed pre-Angkorian Khmer temple complex is set in a stunning natural setting which gives it a mystical atmosphere. The Vat Phou temple complex is the cultural heart of a wider historical landscape on the plains of Champasak. Temples, water channels, tanks, settlement sites, and the ancient road to Angkor Wat.

3. The Bolaven Plateau: Coffee, Tea, Zip-lines and Waterfalls! - Champasak

In the green rugged highlands of Southern Laos you can explore coffee and tea plantations and learn about the coffee production process from bean till a freshly brewed cup of coffee or if you prefer a bit more action, zip-line along tree-tops and spectacular waterfalls.

4. Phou Asa and the Archeological site and Elephant riding - Champasak

The village of Kiet Nong is located just on the edge of one of the largest wetlands in the area. Here you can enjoy Elephant riding and locals can teach you how to become a Mahout. Walk up Phou Asa hill with the Elephants where you can find the ruins of an expansive archeological site.

5. The 4.000 Islands - Champasak

Si Phan Don which means 4.000 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. The three main islands are the bigger Don Kong and the two smaller twin-islands of Don Det & Don Khon. Not to miss is an attempt to see the Irrawaddy Dolphins.

6. Khone Phapheng Waterfall - Champasak

Locals often refer to Khone Phapheng Waterfall as the jewel or the pearl of the Mekong, as it is Southeast Asia's largest waterfall. Millions of litres of water descend over a set of cascades making it one of the most spectacular sites in Southern Laos.

7. Li Phi Waterfall - Champasak

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.

The Beauties of Southern Laos

8. Tad Lo and Tad Hang - Salavanh

The Tad Lo and Tad Hang waterfalls dip into the abundantly fertile Bolaven Plateau. Tad Hang is closest to the village and is a favourite swimming destination. A short walk upstream there is Tad Lo with its enormous granite wall, over which the waters spills.

9. Toumlan Weaving Trail - Salavanh

This weaving trail gives an unique opportunity to experience the village life and ethnic weaving of the Katang people. The Katang are known for their elaborate silk and cotton weaving. You will notice a variety of complex looms in different sizes used to weave intricate designs.

10. Ban Houya Houn – a Katou weaving village - Salavanh

Nestled in the coffee plantations of the Bolaven Plateau sits the village of the Katou ethnic group. Regionally Katou textiles are unique; the motifs are created by a series of beads woven in on the weft thread. The textiles are created on back strap tension looms, with the weaver sitting on the floor.

11. Ban Dakchung Ethnic Village - Sekong

In Ban Dakchung ethnic village (at 1400m), you can see fine examples of traditional thatched houses. Dakchung is known for its animism, whereby villagers placed talismans above their houses to prevent falling bombs during the Indochina War.

12. Ban Khan Don Ethnic Vilage - Sekong

Ban Khan Don is home to the Katou and Talieng ethnic group. Here you can see the traditional way of life in the community house, which displays some of their culture and artifacts. Katou families carve wooden coffins for each family member well before their deaths.

13. That Sayasetthathirath Stupa - Attapeu

This stupa dates back to the 16th century in the Lane Xang Kingdom. Local people believe to the stupa houses the remains of King Sayasetthathirath. The great age of the stupa is evidenced by the original handmade bricks containing the rice grains.

14. Russian surface-to-air missile - Attapeu

In Pa-Am village you can see the remains of a Russian surface-to-air missile and several large, exploded cluster bombs. The North Vietnamese transported the missile here in 1973 to defend the trail, which from here branched off to trails to Cambodia and South Vietnam.

15. Ban Thahine – Pottery Village - Attapeu

Discover traditional glazed pottery making at Ban Thahine village in Attapeu. Techniques have been passed down for generations, from collecting the earth to burning and glazing the vases. In the marketplace in Samakkhixay district you will find many of the local Attapeu ethnic handicrafts for sale, including Talieng ethnic cotton textiles, woven bamboo baskets, bows and arrows, pipes, and jewellery.