



What to see around

Nestled on the banks of the Mekong 35 kilometers south of Pakse in southern Laos, Champasak is best known for its pre-Angkorian and Angkorian temple of Vat Phou, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The temple complex and the nearby ancient town were a site of prime importance between the 5th and 15th centuries, as witnessed by the regular discoveries made during the various archaeological excavation campaigns. But much more than just a visit to Vat Phou, Champasak is well worth a visit and a chance to immerse yourself in its charm and peaceful atmosphere: architectural heritage and colonial buildings in the town center, unspoiled nature, crafts, encounters, authentic culture... With accommodations ranging from simple guest houses to 4* resorts, Champasak is the perfect gateway for exploring southern Laos, the Boloven Plateau, and the 4000 Islands.

Vat Phou

The Champasak cultural landscape, including the Vat Phou Temple complex, is a remarkably well-preserved planned landscape more than 1,000 years old. It was shaped to express the Hindu vision of the relationship between nature and humanity, using an axis from mountain top to river bank to lay out a geometric pattern of temples, shrines and waterworks extending over some 10 km. Two planned cities on the banks of the Mekong River are also part of the site, as well as Phou Kao Mountain. The whole represents a development ranging from the 5th to 15th centuries, mainly associated with the Khmer Empire. Vat Phou is located 10km from Champasak town and easily accessible from there. It's open daily from 8am to 6pm.

Don Daeng

Don Daeng Island lies in the middle of the Mekong opposite Champasak and offers the perfect playground for a ½ or full day trip. Just 8km long, the island is a haven of tranquility. It can be visited on foot or by bike, and the path around it offers both superb views of the Mekong and a chance to immerse yourself in nature and local life, from rice fields to hamlets. You won't find any cars here, but you'll be surprised by the kindness and hospitality of the local people. The island is accessible by boat from any of Champasak's piers.



Champasak Town

The small town is located on the western banks of the Mekong, about 30 km south of the provincial capital Pakse. It was once the seat of the Kingdom of Champasak. Along the main road, which runs for around 6 km alongside the Mekong, you'll find fine examples of traditional wooden houses, colonial buildings and Buddhist temples. The village is also dotted with local shops and restaurants that invite you to relax: Settle down on a terrace and enjoy the view over the Mekong. While tasting the local food, in particular the delicious Mekong fish, or sipping a cold beer or even a cup of coffee from the nearby Boloven plateau, you'll quickly get the feeling that time no longer exists!



Not to be missed

The shadow puppet theatre: The shadow and puppet theatre has revived an ancient and forgotten tradition, bringing together musicians, singers and puppeteers. The show is inspired by the Ramayana. During the high season, the troupe performs 4 times a week at sunset behind the Tourist Information Centre in Champasak town. A must-see on any visit to Champasak!



Getting around Champasak

There are plenty of options. All accommodation will help you contact tuk-tuk drivers to organise your travel. If you want to be more independent, many individuals and accommodation also provide motorbikes or bicycles for rent. The tourist Information Center will assist you in organising boat trips to Done Daeng Island, Tomo Temple or to enjoy the sunset on the Mekong.



Champasak Trails

The various trails, which are accessible to beginners and experienced walkers alike, allow you to discover the archaeological and architectural heritage of the surrounding area, with or without a guide. They also allow you to soak up the serenity of the area, enjoy the Mekong, Done Deng Island and the surrounding nature, get up close to the local way of life and become aware of the cultural and craft diversity of southern Laos.

Informations and details are available at:

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER
Mr Bouasone Phommaboud
Tel: +856 (0)20 94290543



Prices are based on the number of person and on the services included in the product (Vat Phou guide, local guide, boat to Vat Tomo...)

VAT PHOU MUSEUM
Mr Soubanh Kanhaphanh
Tel: + 856 (0)20 55 76 92 21
Email: information@tourismchampasak.com
Website: www.vatphou-champassak.com
www.tourismchampasak.org

Scan QR Code below for more details about Champasak Trails

Vat Phou and Champasak's Trails



How to get there ?

By air

From Vientiane (2 daily flights) and Luang Prabang (3 flights a week).



By boat

Local slow boats are available on request (contact the Tourist Information Center or ask at your accommodation for more information). The cruise on the Mekong between Pakse and Champasak takes about 2 hours.



By land

- From Ubon Ratchathani/ Thailand (via Chong Mek border crossing): approx. 160 km and 2h30 min drive.

- From Pakse airport by taxi or minivan: (approx 36 km and 45 min. drive).

- From Dao Huang market and main bus station in central Pakse: approx 30 km and 35 min. drive (departures every morning).

Pakse main bus station is an important hub for Vientiane, Savannakhet, Thakhek but also for Thailand (Bangkok Ubon Ratchathani,) and Cambodia (Siem Reap, Phnom Penh).

Where to stay?

You'll find a large choice of accommodation in Champasak, from simple guest houses to 4* resorts. There is also a homestay where you can experience local life on Done Deng Island (see map). For more information, contact the Tourist Information Center

Champasak Tourist Map



Heritage History Culture Nature Slow life

