

ແຂວງ ອັດຕະປື ATTAPEU



Attapeu is the southernmost province in Laos and shares a border with Cambodia and Viet Nam. It has a rich history dating back to the Lane Xang Kingdom in the 16th century, as evidenced by the ancient stupa, That Saysettha, which some local people believe to house the remains of King Saysetthatirath. More recently the province became known as the "Land of Heroism" for its strong role in the revolution. There is evidence of the war remaining today, mostly concentrated in the eastern part of the province along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Attapeu is well-known for its diverse population of Mon-Khmer speaking ethnic groups that still practice traditional livelihoods and swidden farming under a variety of ecological conditions. Some of the main ethnic groups are the Lavae (Brao) located in Phouvong District, the Oy found mostly at the edge of the Bolaven Plateau, the Talieng in Attapeu town, and the Alak located in the eastern parts of the province near the border with Viet Nam.



Mon-Khmer Groups

species, including the buff-cheeked gibbon, Asiatic golden cat, clouded leopard, tiger, elephants and Trong Song muntjac. Some of Attapeu's 280 bird species include the Siamese fireback, crested argus, the woolly-necked stork and rufous-winged buzzard. A remote and little-known crater-lake called Nong Fa is the largest crater-lake (and perhaps the only one) in the country and has beautiful clear waters surrounded by pine forests. Exploration of these remote and beautiful areas is possible with local guides.

The traditional art of pottery making is still practiced in Attapeu, including the production of large vases used to hold rice wine, called *lao hai*. Also unique are the crafts of the Talieng people which include weavings, bamboo baskets, bows and arrows, pipes and jewelry.

Nature abounds in Attapeu Province. There is an extensive river network which includes the Xe Kong, Xe Kaman and Xe Xou Rivers. One can travel the Xe Kong River (also known as the Xekaman) along the border of Cambodia and then up the Xe Pian River with access to Xe Pian National Protected Area (NPA). Three waterfalls along the Xe Pian River - Tad Saepha, Tad Samongphak and Tad Saeponglaican - can be reached by foot or by boat with a local guide. Tad Phapong, a waterfall on the Xe Xou River, is accessible by trekking or boating and is noted for its many colorful rocks that line the riverside. Dong Ampham NPA, located in the province's north-east quadrant, covers 1,975 km² and has elevations ranging from 120 m to 2,052 m. The area is inhabited by a variety of rare and endangered



Nong Fa Lake



Anti-Aircraft Missile - Ho Chi Minh Trail

Local food includes *mok bai hong*, a mixture of pork and vegetables wrapped in a papaya leaf and steamed, and *jaeo ee-nyuk* made from the water of soaked vegetables with seasoning, salt and chillies.

The main festivals of Attapeu belong to its many ethnic groups. Festivals of note are *Boun Gin Ard* of the Alak, Taliang and Ye groups, and *Boun Gin Aleub* of the Lavae and Oy groups, all typically held in February.



Pottery Villages

