



## Ban Kiet Ngong

Located in the Se Pian National Protected Area, Ban Kiet Ngong is a station for tourists before getting into the forest. There are several activities for tourists but most popular is to get on an elephant ride into the village, around the natural, and uphill to Phu Asa mountain. Tourists can stay overnight at a homestay in the village and do other interesting activities such as cooking, boat riding, bamboo weaving, and massage. For those who love trekking they can ask to be accompanied by local tour guide to the jungle with various programs of 6 hours or 2 hours

## Getting There & Accommodations

All local communities featured in this article can be accessed by private car or van rented from Pakse conveniently. Tourists have options to stay with local people onsite or choose to stay at a hotel in town and make day trips to each village. The recommended trip itinerary is to go for 3 days and 2 nights.

**For more information:**  
 Champasak Provincial Tourist Information Center  
 Tel: +856-31-212021  
 www.champasaktourism.com



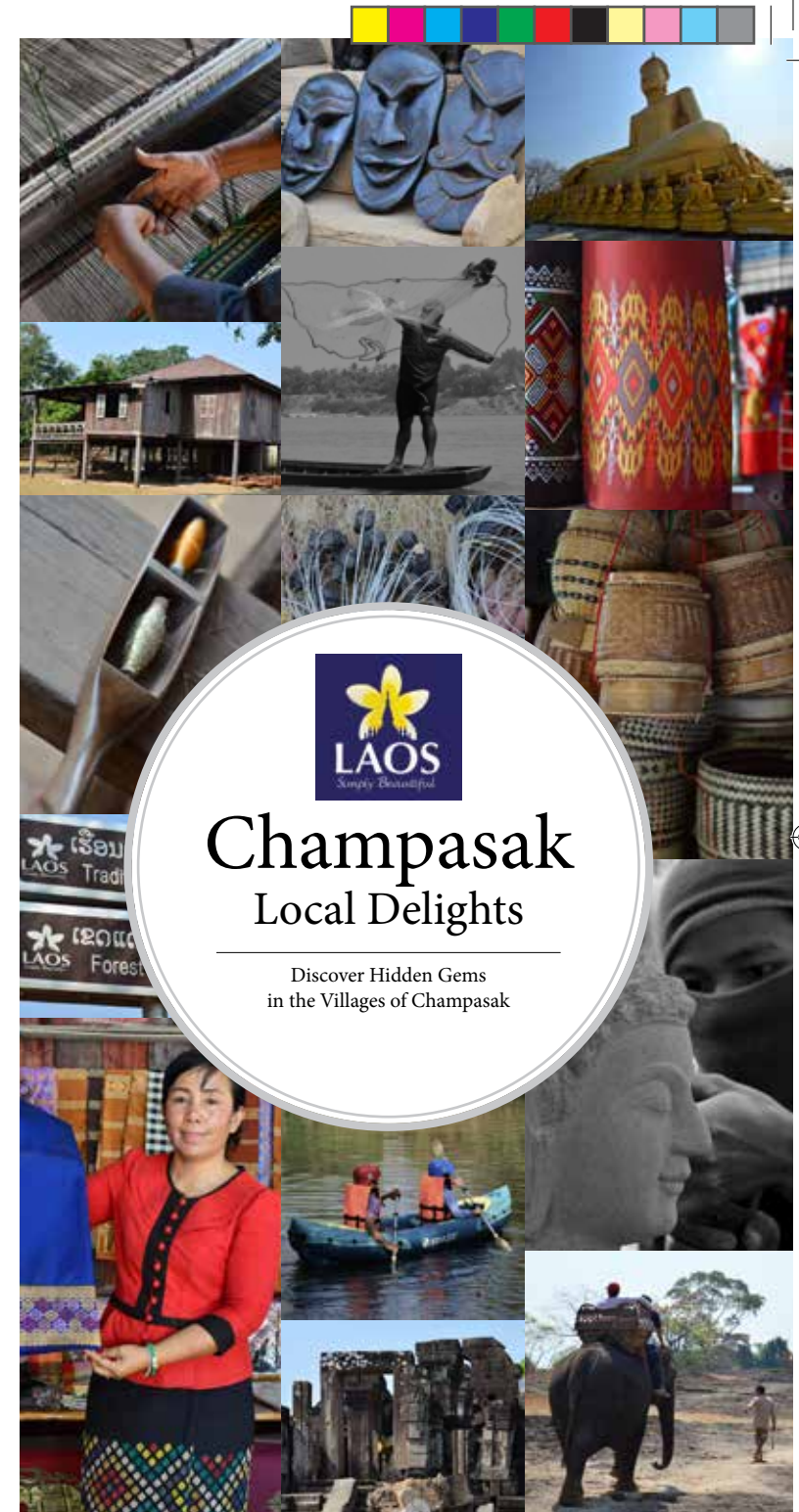
## About Laos Pilot Program (LPP)

The Laos Pilot Program (LPP) is a unique modality to pursue a tripartite cooperation among the Government of Lao PDR, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aiming to narrow the development gap toward ASEAN Integration in three fields of cooperation area; Tourism, Environment, and Agriculture. In tourism area, LPPT focuses on Community Based Tourism (CBT) that aims to strengthen tourism development in Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Champasak.

For more information about Laos Pilot Program (LPP) visit [www.laospilotprogram.com](http://www.laospilotprogram.com).



Sponsor by:



## LAOS Simply Beautiful

# Champasak Local Delights

Discover Hidden Gems  
 in the Villages of Champasak



## Ban Saphai

The first community we made a visit was Ban Saphai, located 18 km from downtown Pakse. The first spot we stopped by is the village's cultural centre, where tourists can watch a demonstration of how local textiles are being woven and can shop some finished products as souvenir with cheap price. Later we walked into the village and saw many villagers were busy with their weaving projects. The hand-woven fabric produced at Ban Saphai although has a similar design as Xiengkhouang but they are developing the design to differentiate and create their own uniqueness. Most of the finished products will be delivered to customers and some will be sent to handicraft centres in Pakse and Savannakhet for tourists.

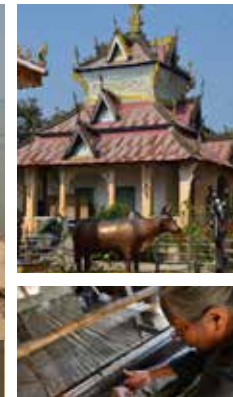


## Ban Don Khor

The village of Don Khor is located 10 km from Pakse town. The landmark of the village is the giant Buddha image with a height of 30 meters located in Wat Chomphet and being worshipped by local people. Ban Don Khor is also famous for its stone carvings that have been maintained in their traditional style of craftsmanship for several decades. Most of the stone carving products are Buddha images in a variety of sizes starting from small pieces to 3 meters high. Apart from Buddha images, they can carve out anything to order with professional skill.



## Ban Don Kho



From Ban Saphai, we used the ferry crossing the Mekong River to Ban Don Kho, which is another destination we aim to visit in Champasak. The village sits on an island in the Mekong River, so it is blessed with a beautiful landscape. Once we arrived to the village, we first visited Wat Si Phoum, an old temple in the community and noticed that there are some statues of cows in the temple, later we were fully aware that the name of the village "Kho" means cow. For more than 500 years of settlement, the locals still earn their living from rice growing, planting, fishing, and making hand-woven fabrics. Since 2008, Ban Don Kho fully opened for tourists with homestays provided and some activities to offer for tourist, such as, cooking, fishing, boat riding, picnic on the beach, or making handicrafts.



## Ban Nong Sa

Ban Nong Sa is located adjacent to Wat Phou World Heritage and has some archeological sites related to Wat Phou such as Pha Pad, the stone quarry for Wat Phou and other ancient temples nearby and Nang Sida Temple, an old temple from the same age as Wat Phou, built around mid of 10th – the beginning of 11th century located inside the city of Lingapura. Adjacent to the east side is the old royal road running from Wat Phou to the Angkor city. The temple is composed by a small entrance (gopura), a hall (mandapa) and a short corridor (antalara) leading the ceremonial rooms. In the south of the building stood a brick building that functioned as a library. At present, Nang Sida Temple is being renovated by the Lao government with funding support by Korea.



## Ban Hua Pa Khor



On the way to Wat Phou, we stopped to visit Ban Hua Pa Khor, a small village located on the new road to Champasak. The highlight of this village is the temple located on Phu Malong hilltop named Wat Phou Ngoi or Wat Phou Malong. There is a stairway up to the hill and we walked up there in ten minutes. Upon arriving at the hilltop, we were rewarded with a stunning panoramic view of the Mekong River with many fishing boats dotted on the water.



## Ban Nong Beung



Ban Nong Beung village, located 42 km from Pakse, is famous for traditional wood carvings of animals, human figures and decorative patterns with a unique and interesting style. Most of wood carving artworks represent daily life of the local ethnic people; Lao and Taoy. Besides unique handicraft, Ban Nong Beung also has Xe Hintang Rapid, a natural attraction with unspoiled surroundings where tourists can make a soft kayaking adventure or jump in the river for a swim.

