

Savannakhet Eco Guide Unit



Who are we and what do we do?

The Savannakhet Eco Guide Unit is an independent organization for trained ecotourism guides. Our goal is to manage and promote trekking trails in the protected areas of Savannakhet.

Savannakhet Province contains two National Protected Areas (NPAs) – Dong Phu Vieng and Phu Xang Hae, as well as a Provincial Protected Area (PPA) called Dong Natat. Realizing the potential for ecotourism in these protected areas, we set up a program that emphasizes community participation and the sharing of financial benefits with as many people as possible. To help achieve these goals, the Savannakhet Provincial Tourism Office set up the Savannakhet Eco Guide Unit to play a key role in expanding ecotourism, while also guarding against negative social, cultural and environmental impacts.

With assistance from the Dutch non-governmental organization, SNV, the ecotourism program in Savannakhet has

brought a number of important benefits to the province, including:

- A conservation development trust fund that provides funds for wildlife monitoring and various management activities
- A bonus paid into a village's treasury when villagers sight rare wildlife - an added incentive for conservation
- A conservation awareness program for village, district and provincial stakeholders
- Ecotourism activities designed to involve maximum numbers of villagers so that the benefits of ecotourism are distributed widely.



Local guides, managing and promoting trekking in protected areas of Savannakhet



Our activities are monitored by the Savannakhet Provincial Ecotourism Steering Committee, which is made up of representatives from the major stakeholder groups

What can you experience?

- Take one of our many eco-tours. Treks in Phu Xang Hae NPA and Dong Phu Vieng NPA operate during the dry season from November to May, while those in Dong Natat PPA are offered all year round. These are some of our treks:
 - Mountains of the Elephant Parade in Phu Xang Hae NPA (5 days)
 - Katang Trail to the Sacred Forest in Dong Phu Vieng NPA (3 days)
 - Homestay in the Spiritual Heart of Savannakhet in Dong Natat PPA (2 days)
 - The Honey Trail to Nong Lom Lake in Dong Natat PPA (1 day)
- Contact the Savannakhet Eco Guide Unit or ask your hotel or guesthouse for more information.

