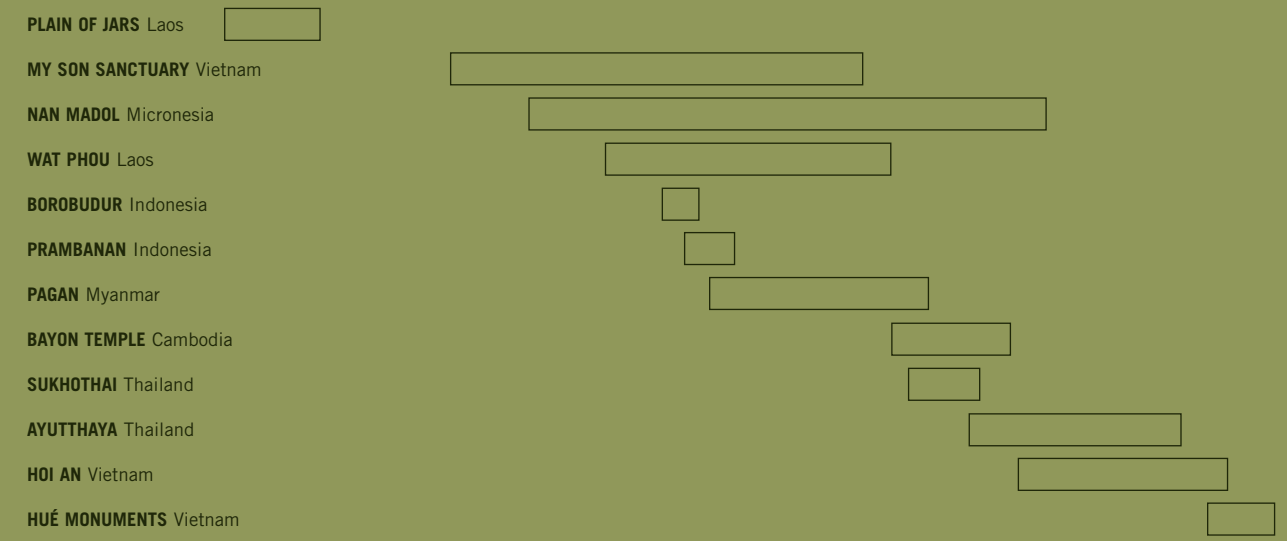




1000 BC      500 BC      AD 500      AD 1000      AD 1500      AD 2000



# SOUTH-EAST ASIA

THE CONSTRUCTION OF MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE BY EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA BEGAN RELATIVELY LATER THAN OTHER REGIONS. OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR (AD 1200) AND BANTEAY CHHMAR (AD 1200) IN CAMBODIA, BOROBUDUR AND PRAMBANAN IN INDONESIA, AND THE GHF-SUPPORTED MY SON SANCTUARY (700 BC) IN VIETNAM. A NUMBER OF WALLED AND MOATED EARLIER SITES STILL EXIST TODAY FROM A 7TH CENTURY REVOLUTION IN ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING IMPRESSIVE RUINS OF THE BURMESE KINGDOM OF PYU AND BANTAEY PREI NOKOR IN NORTH-EASTERN THAILAND. EARLIER PRE-BRONZE AGE SITES EVIDENCE A RICH CULTURE AND ORGANIZED CIVILIZATION, BUT HAVE LEFT FEW MONUMENTAL STRUCTURES THAT EXIST TODAY.

WITH THE EXPLOSION OF TOURISM AT ANGKOR WAT IN CAMBODIA OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE ENTIRE SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION IS BECOMING MORE FOCUSED ON CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES. WITH THE HELP OF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVANCIES LIKE GHF, A NUMBER OF SITES ARE BEING NOMINATED FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS, SUCH AS WAT PHOU IN LAOS IN 2001. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS HELPING RESTORE SITES SUCH AS JAPAN'S RESTORATION OF SAMBOR PREI KOK IN REMOTE NORTHERN CAMBODIA. WHILE MOST COUNTRIES ARE NOW IDENTIFYING THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL TOURISM AND ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO MANAGE GROWTH AND ENSURE LONG-TERM CONSERVATION.

21° 10' N, 94° 51' E



**PAGAN** Myanmar  
AD 849 – 1287  
Mon (Buddhist)

14° 21' N, 100° 33' E



**AYUTTHAYA** Thailand  
AD 1350 – 1767  
Ayutthaya Kingdom

13° 26' N, 103° 50' E



**BAYON TEMPLE** Cambodia  
AD 1200 – 1431  
Khmer

7° 36' S, 110° 18' E



**BOROBUDUR** Indonesia  
AD 760 – 830  
Sailendra Dynasty

7° 44' S, 110° 31' E



**PRAMBANAN** Indonesia  
AD 800 – 900  
Hindu Sanjaya

19° 27' N, 103° 10' E



**PLAIN OF JARS** Laos  
Approx. 100 BC – AD 100

17° 0' N, 99° 51' E



**SUKHOTHAI** Thailand  
AD 1238 – 1378  
Thai

16° 28' N, 107° 35' E



**HUÉ MONUMENTS** Vietnam  
AD 1802 – 1945  
Nguyen Dynasty

15° 53' N, 108° 20' E



**HOI AN** Vietnam  
AD 1450 – 1850  
Champa, Nguyen

15° 31' N, 108° 34' E



**MY SON SANCTUARY** Vietnam  
AD 350 – 1150  
Champa Kingdom

14° 44' N, 105° 42' E



**WAT PHOU** Laos  
AD 650 – 1200  
Khmer

6° 50' N, 158° 13' E



**NAN MADOL** Micronesia  
AD 500 – 1500  
Saudeleur Dynasty





### **BAYON TEMPLE** Cambodia

AD 1200 – 1431  
Khmer

Built during the reign of the King Jayavarman VII, Bayon Temple is located at the center of the magnificent Khmer city of Angkor Thom. The intricately detailed temple is decorated with hundreds of low reliefs, frescoes and sculptures, including 200 serene Lokeshvara Buddha faces that adorn the remaining towers. After the king died in 1218, the Khmer Empire gradually weakened and Thai armies attacked and sacked Angkor in 1431.

Over the years, the ruins were gradually taken over by jungle. Restoration efforts during the first half of the twentieth century made good progress at restoring the site. However, the Vietnam War and the rise to power of the Khmer Rouge caused untold damage. Today, development pressures, looting and the lack of trained local conservators have negatively impacted preservation at the site. More recently, international preservation groups have made a promising start at reclaiming these magnificent Khmer ruins.

**BOROBUDUR** Indonesia

AD 760 – 830  
Sailendra Dynasty

The Sailendra Dynasty peaked during the 7th and 8th centuries AD in Indonesia, leaving behind one of the greatest Buddhist shrines in the world: Borobudur. The Borobudur monument was built and carved out of andesite and was constructed over an existing hill, using the hill's natural shape as its own structural form. Its original height was 138 feet, but after centuries of slowly sinking into the ground under the incredible weight of its crowning stupa, the monument now reaches a height of only 103 feet. This sizeable structure originally featured 500 Buddha statues and more than 3000 square yards of walls, almost all of which are covered in narrative and decorative relief scenes. In 1948 the Republic of Indonesia, with the assistance of UNESCO, took on the arduous task of preserving Borobudur. In 1975 the actual work began and continued over the next eight years. Today some restoration still continues using traditional Javanese methods of cleaning and repairing. A large number of sculptures, particularly the headless Buddhas, still need restoring, and constant preservation is of the utmost importance to maintain the site in its newly restored splendor.



**PRAMBANAN** Indonesia

AD 800 – 900  
Hindu Sanjaya

The huge complex of 240 temples near Prambanan, Indonesia embodies a unique fusion of Hinduism and Javanese culture. The three largest — Brahma Temple in the north, Vishnu Temple in the south, and the largest, Shiva Temple, which lies between the two — are collectively known as Prambanan Temple, or locally as Lorojonggrang Temple. Prambanan is, in fact, the only Hindu complex on an island littered with Buddhist structures. It took over thirty-five years to restore the 18 standing temples at the site, but many more lie in ruins, in dire need of restoration. A number of the statues have also been sold or stolen, leaving many of the rooms in the temples empty.





### PLAIN OF JARS Laos

Approx. 100 BC – AD 100  
Civilization unknown

Are they huge funerary urns, ancient sarcophagi or the remains of a 2000-year-old party? Western scholars have been posing these and similar questions since French archaeologist Madeleine Colani first arrived in Xieng Khouang province in the 1930s to investigate the enigmatic Plain of Jars. This windy plain in northern Laos is littered with more than 300 enormous clay jars. Sizes vary, but most of the huge receptacles are approximately 3 to 8 feet high, 3 feet in diameter and up to 1 ton in weight. Colani determined that the jars were approximately 2000 years old, although continued investigation has led some scholars to date the jars to a more ancient civilization, possibly as far back as the 5th or the 10th century BC. Centuries of battles have damaged or destroyed many of the jars on the plain, and today cattle and vandals roam freely in the area.



### WAT PHOU Laos

AD 650 – 1200  
Khmer

The Temple Complex of Wat Phou dates back more than 1000 years and provides an exceptionally preserved example of early and classical Khmer architecture. Predating Cambodia's Angkor Wat, the temple complex is laid out between river and mountain to geographically reflect the Hindu relationship between nature and humanity. Located on the Champasak Plain, Wat Phou was the spiritual focal point for surrounding development, including two recently discovered buried cities on the Mekong River. The area is rich in archaeological sites that are threatened by flooding, but have remained relatively undisturbed due to a remote location and master planning efforts currently underway.

**NAN MADOL** Micronesia

AD 500 – 1500  
Saudeleur Dynasty

The remains of the lost city of Nan Madol lie a short distance from the southeast shore of Temwen Island, Micronesia. Nan Madol was the political and religious center of the Saudeleur Dynasty, which peaked in the 13th century. Today the once mighty city has been reduced to piles of rubble. The collapsed remains of walls and platforms can be glimpsed through dense growth, which also threatens to completely cover many of the islets.





### PAGAN Myanmar

AD 849 – 1287  
Mon (Buddhist)

Pagan is undoubtedly the most important architectural complex in Myanmar. The site covers more than 16 square miles and contains a staggering 2,217 religious structures. Originally this number was higher, but an earthquake in 1975 severely damaged more than half the important structures, some of them irreparably. One pagoda crumbled completely into the Irrawaddy River, the remains of which were carried off by the waters. Some of the pagodas and temples have been restored, but many more remain on the brink of collapse.

**AYUTTHAYA** Thailand

AD 1350 – 1767  
Ayutthaya Kingdom

In AD 1350, King U-Tong or Ramathibodi I established the kingdom of Ayutthaya in central Thailand. The capital city, also called Ayutthaya, contains numerous magnificent structures, including palaces, temples, and monasteries, located in and around the city island. During its height, the city was graced by hundreds of monasteries and crisscrossed with several canals and waterways serving as roads. The Grand Palace, currently called the “Ancient Palace”, served as the residential palace for all of the Ayutthaya monarchs. In 1767, the Burmese sacked and burned the city during a 15-month battle, destroying many of the structures after conquering the region.



**SUKHOTHAI** Thailand

AD 1238 – 1378  
Thai

Sukhothai (“dawn of happiness”), founded in AD 1238, was the first capital of the newly formed Thai kingdom. The monumental Buddha figures, which grace the temples of the old city, are testament to the greatness of the kingdom’s artistic achievements. Of Sukhothai’s eight kings, Ramkhamhaeng, or “Rama the Strong” (1279 – 1317) exerted the greatest influence on the kingdom, formulating the first Thai alphabet and endowing the city with its eminently Buddhist character. With the rise of Ayutthaya, Sukhothai’s power began to wane, and in approximately 1378 it became a vassal state of Ayutthaya. Preservation efforts are urgently needed — relic hunters have decapitated many of the Buddha images and treasure seekers have ravaged the remaining monuments.





#### HOI AN Vietnam

AD 1450 – 1850  
Sa Huynh, Champa, Nguyen

Hoi An, originally known as Faifo, was founded on the largest and driest of the many islands that were once located at the estuary of the Thu Bon river. Recent excavations have shown that the site of Hoi An has been inhabited since the Bronze Age, when a pre-historic culture called Sa Huynh occupied central Vietnam. Since 1991, a Japanese team has carried out restoration work on historical houses, with the ultimate intent of transferring all restoration efforts over to the Vietnamese. In 1999 Hoi An was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



### HUÉ MONUMENTS Vietnam

AD 1802 – 1945  
 Nguyen Dynasty

Although the first settlement at Hué dates back to the 3rd century AD, the city emerged as a cultural and intellectual center under the Nguyen Dynasty, from 1802 – 1945. The city was laid out to include successive fortification walls and enclosures, while a north-south axis dictated the symmetry of the buildings and their functions. The outer wall, which encompasses the Fortified City, is surrounded by moats. Inside the Fortified City is the Imperial Enclosure where official functions were carried out. Finally, inside this enclosure lies the most sacred area of the Hué, the Forbidden Purple City, which was reserved for the private use of the emperor and his immediate court. Recently many of the monuments at the site have been threatened by serious environmental factors. In 1999 the worst flood in half a century occurred, damaging fourteen monumental complexes and flooding the Imperial City.



### MY SON SANCTUARY Vietnam

Approx. AD 350 – 1150  
Champa Kingdom

The My Son Sanctuary is a large complex of more than 70 Hindu temples, red-brick towers, and stone stelae built by the Champa Kingdom over a period of eight centuries. Reflecting the introduction of Hindu architectural styles into South-East Asia, the site structures are the physical embodiment of cultural exchange. The Vietnam War destroyed or damaged many of the remaining towers and unexploded mines remain in the area. The site was inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999. Today flooding and neglect have undermined many of the monuments.