Agency offering information about Cambodia on tourism.

www.tourismcambodia.com
Dear distinguished visitors,

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to extend my heartfelt welcome to all international visitors and investors to Cambodia - Kingdom of Wonder.

As one of the fastest growing tourism destinations in Southeast Asia, Cambodia's rich heritage, cultural and natural resources offer a full range of cultural and eco-tourism sites that are both dynamic and sustainable. Highlights include Phnom Penh, the Angkor Wat and the Mekong River Dolphins, just to name a few.

The Kingdom's capital is a dynamic city where visitors are in the mood for shopping, dining, sight-seeing and more. As Cambodia's hub for commerce, politics and tourism, Phnom Penh is also home to many important institutions and monuments such as Wat Phnom, the Royal Palace and the National Museum. The magnificent Angkor Wat, Heritage of Humanity and World Wonder, is probably the most exotic tourist destination in the world and the renowned yet very rare.

The Mekong River, which runs through the country from north to south, is home to an incredible array of extraordinary sights to explore from waterfalls, river rapids, flooded rain forests, beautiful islands and, of course, the famous Irrawaddy (fresh water) dolphins. The Mekong can be experienced in a variety of adventurous ways including boat trips, cycling routes and kayaking to remote islands or day trips from the capital to visit the Silk islands to witness the silk weaving process and bask in the spectacular river views.

Through the energetic efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the brilliant and wise leadership of Samdech Akka Maha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Preah Vihear Temple has been listed and declared as a new World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This 9th-century sacred temple, perched on Dangrek Mountain, was built during the reign of King Yasovarman I and Suryavarman I & II and has become a new cultural and eco-tourism destination in Cambodia. Moreover, the recent election of Cambodia as a member of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, is a distinct honor to the people of Cambodia and that helps to promote the country's national prestige in the international arena.

Cambodia is also extremely proud to be a member of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club, awarded to the region in May 2011. Spread over the four provinces of Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot and Kep the 440 km of idyllic coastline, found in the South West of the country, is an unspoiled natural wonder of warm, clear waters and beautiful, palm-shaded pristine beaches. Full of exciting activities and vibrant nightlife, Preah Sihanouk is a favorite vacation spot for locals and foreigners alike, and the largely untouched islands that pepper the Preah Sihanouk coastline are the ideal getaway for anyone seeking a touch of adventure and the seclusion of a tropical paradise. The more tranquil coastal province of Kep provides a perfect mix of sun-soaked beaches, luxurious resorts and sumptuous seafood delights, including the mouthwateringly delicious, freshly caught crab that has become synonymous with the area. Koh Kong and Kampot are the perfect destinations for the nature lover. Explore the enchanting lush mangrove forests of these abundant natural eco-systems, home to many exotic species such as shore birds, lizards and sea-turtles and other forms of wildlife.

Given our country's great potential, safe, clean and friendly environment, accompanied by the tourism promotion campaign "Cambodia – Kingdom of Wonder" together with the competitive movement slogans "Clean City, Clean Resort and Good Service" which have been made known nationwide and internationally. I am confident that Cambodia will prove a unique and satisfying destination for cross-cultural explorers as well as for sea-tourists and leisure travelers from around the world.

I wish all of you a pleasant stay in Cambodia - Kingdom of Wonder.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Thong Khae
Minister of Tourism
ULTIMATE DESTINATIONS
IN CAMBODIA WITH PRIME LOCATIONS

SOKHA ANGKOR RESORT | SIEM REAP
SOKHA BEACH RESORT | SIHANOUKVILE
SOKHA CLUB HOTEL | PHNOM PENH
THANSUR BOKOR HIGHLAND RESORT | KAMPOT
VISITING CAMBODIA
Immerse yourself in a land of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage

BY AIR
Cambodia can be accessed through the Phnom Penh International Airport and the Siem Reap International Airport, both of which provide full services for passengers on international flights operated by many international airlines.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

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BY LAND
Tourists can enjoy traveling to Cambodia by land from neighboring Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

ACCESS FROM VIETNAM
(Through nine international border checkpoints)

Bavet (Cambodian side) and Mek Bak (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Bavet border checkpoint is located in Sva区域, province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Mek Bak international border checkpoint is located in Tay Ninh Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Saigon (Cambodian side) and Xa Mau (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Tra Nghi international border checkpoint is located in Kien Giang Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Xa Mau international border checkpoint is located in Hoi An Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Kampong Cham (Cambodian side) and Xa Mau (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Kampong Cham international border checkpoint is located in Kampong Cham Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Xa Mau international border checkpoint is located in Tay Ninh Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Kaam Som (Cambodian side) and Yen So (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Kaam Som international border checkpoint is located between Kandal and Prey Veng Provinces, and on the Vietnamese side, the Yen So international border checkpoint is located in An Giang Province. From Vietnam, tourists can get access to Cambodia through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Phnom Den (Cambodian side) and Tin Bien (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Phnom Den international border checkpoint is located in Takeo Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Tin Bien international border checkpoint is located in An Giang Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Oyadav (Cambodian side) and Lethanh (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Oyadav international border checkpoint is located in Ratanakiri Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Lethanh international border checkpoint is located in Gia Lai Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Banteay Chlrei (Cambodian side) and Dinh Ba (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Banteay Chlrei international border checkpoint is located in Prey Veng Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Dinh Ba international border checkpoint is located in Dong Thap Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.
Preak Chak (Cambodian side) and Ha Tien (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Preak Chak international border checkpoint is located in Kampot Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Ha Tien international border checkpoint is located in Kien Giang Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Viet nam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Samrong (Cambodian side) and Mi Quy Tei (Vietnamese side)
On the Cambodian side, the Samrong international border checkpoint is located in Svay Rieng Province, and on the Vietnamese side, the Mi Quy Tei international border checkpoint is located in Long An Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia from Vietnam through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

**ACCESS FROM LAOS**
On the Cambodian side, the Trapeang Kreal international border checkpoint is located in Stung Treng Province, and on the Laos side, the Nong Nokiane international border checkpoint is located in Champasak Province. Cambodia can be accessed from Laos through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

**ACCESS FROM THAILAND**
(Through six international border checkpoints)
Poipet (Cambodian side) and Ban Klong Leuk (Thai side)
On the Cambodian side, the Poipet international border checkpoint is located in Banteay Meanchey Province, and on the Thai side, the Ban Klong Leuk international border checkpoint is located in Sakat Province.

Through the gates, tourists can reach Siem Reap, Cambodia from Thailand to visit the Angkor complex. Visas on arrival and E-visas are available there. The fee is US$20 for each tourist and is US$25 for each businessman. It takes about 2 hours from the border to the Siem Reap town by National Road No 6 by taxi. A taxi driver may charge about US$15 for each passenger.

Cham Yeam (Cambodian side) and Hat Lek (Thai side)
Visitors can reach Cambodia from Trat Province, Thailand through the Cham Yeam international border checkpoint located in Koh Kong Province. From Koh Kong Province, they can continue traveling to Preah Sihanouk Province. It takes around 4 hours to reach Preah Sihanouk Province by speedboat. A one-way taxi fare between Koh Kong Province and Preah Sihanouk Province is US$15, and from there, tourists can proceed to the capital of Phnom Penh by National Road No 4. The distance between Preah Sihanouk Province and Phnom Penh Capital is 230 kilometers. It takes 3 hours and a half by taxi or by bus. The taxi fare is around US$10 per capita, and the bus fare is between US$3-4. Visas on arrival and E-visas are available at the border gates, and entry visas into Cambodia can also be granted at the Royal Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok or in other cities of Thailand.

Osmach (Cambodian side) and Chong Chorn (Thai side)
On the Cambodian side, the Osmach international border checkpoint is located in Oddar Meanchey Province, and on the Thai side, the Chong Chorn international border checkpoint is located in Surin Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Choam (Cambodian side) and Sangam (Thai side)
On the Cambodian side, the Choam international border checkpoint is located in Oddar Meanchey Province, and on the Thai side, the Sangam international border checkpoint is located in Suratthani Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Prom (Cambodian side) and Ban Pakard (Thai side)
On the Cambodian side, the Prom international border checkpoint is located in Pailin Province, and on the Thai side, the Ban Pakard international border checkpoint is located in Chamthaburi Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

Daung (Cambodian side) and Ban Lem (Thai side)
On the Cambodian side, the Daung international border checkpoint is located in Battambang Province, and on the Thai side, the Ban Lem international border checkpoint is located in Chanthaburi Province. Tourists can get access to Cambodia through the gates. Visas on arrival are available there.

**BY WATER**
Cambodia can be reached by boat from neighboring countries and the world. The Preah Sihanouk International Seaport and the Phnom Penh International Port are two main gateways to Cambodia. Visas upon arrival are available at the Phnom Penh International Port, but they are not available at the Sihanouk International Seaport.

The Sihanouk international Seaport receives international cruise ships that accommodate hundreds of visitors. It is possible to reach Phnom Penh Capital by ship along the Mekong River from Vietnam. Phnom Penh is connected by fast local boats to the Upper Mekong River close to Laos or it is linked along the Tonle Sap to Siem Reap-Angkor. By this means, visitors can enjoy the Mekong's view and discover the new growth area of Cambodia full of natural resources, cultural heritage, and life styles of the Cambodian people.

**VISAS**
All nationalities need to apply for a travel visa, except for nationals from the following countries: Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A visa on arrival, valid for a thirty-day stay, is specifically granted at Phnom Penh International Airport, Siem Reap International Airport, and International Border Checkpoints. Visas are also granted at Royal Cambodian Embassy or Consulate abroad. The visa fee for a tourist is US$20, and the visa fee for a businessman is US$25. Visas can be extended at the Immigration Department in Phnom Penh City. A free visa (K) is expressly granted to the Cambodian living overseas.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has recently approved E-visas. All you have to do is complete the online application form available at the official website (esvise.mfaic.gov.kh), pay by credit card online, and include uploading a recent passport-size photo in JPEG/PNG format. The visa will be approved within three business days, allowing you to breeze by that lengthy line and get a jump-start on your holiday.

The E-visa, valid for a thirty-day stay, is available only for a typical tourist visa for a single entry. It is currently not available for nationals from Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Arab Saud, Algeria, Sudan, and Sri Lanka. For a business visa, please apply at your nearest embassy or on arrival at all major check points.

Tourists getting such a visa online can enter and exit Cambodia through Phnom Penh International Airport, Siem Reap International Airport, Bavet International Border Checkpoint in Svay Rieng, Cham Yeam International Border Checkpoint in Koh Kong, and Poipet International Border Checkpoint in Banteay Meanchey.
Cultural Tourism

An Unparalleled Destination for the Nature Enthusiasts
The Angkor temple site in Siem Reap is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia. It contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, dating from the 9th to the 15th centuries. At the beginning of the 9th century the two states that covered the territory of modern Cambodia were united by Jayavarman II, who laid the foundations of the Khmer Empire, the major power in south-east Asia for some five centuries. One of the sites was in central Cambodia, to the north of Tonle Sap (Great Lake), where half a century later Jayavarman's son, Yasovarman, was to establish Yasodharapura (later called Angkor), the permanent capital of the Khmer Empire until the 15th century.

The first city conformed to the classic form of a typical Khmer capital bearing certain fundamental elements: a defensive fortress and a surrounding moat with a state temple at its centre, built from brick or stone and a wooden palace. There would also have been many secular buildings, constructed almost entirely of wood, in and around the encircling. The state temple at Roluos, the Bakong, and the temple built in memory of the royal ancestors, Preah Ko, were erected around 880. Another essential feature of a Khmer capital, a large reservoir, was added a decade later, with in its centre a third temple built to the north-west of Roluos, around the hill of Phnom Bakheng, now known as the Eastern Baray.

The second capital at Angkor was built by Rajendravarman in the 960s, the state temple being situated at Pre Rup. He also constructed a temple, the Eastern Mebon, on an artificial island in the centre of the Eastern Baray. It was also during his reign, that the exquisite temple of Banteay Srei was built. Rajendravarman's son, Jayavarman V, abandoned the Pre Rup site in favour of a new location with its state temple at Ta Keo, which was consecrated around 1000. Shortly afterwards he was overthrown by Suryavarman I, who was responsible for erecting the formidable fortifications around his Royal Palace and state temple, the Primeanakas, and also for the construction of the great Western Baray.

In 1050 his successor created a new and more impressive state temple, the Baphuon. The succeeding rulers left little traces in the form of monumental buildings, and it was not until the accession of Suryavarman II in 1113 that the next great phase of building began. He was responsible for the greatest of all Khmer monuments, the Angkor Wat, set within an extensive enclosure and dedicated to Vishnu.
ANGKOR THOM TEMPLE
Delight in the detail of Angkor's ancient capital

Angkor Thom, established in the late twelfth century to early thirteenth century by King Jayavarman VII, is now a very popular tourist spot. This site, some 5 sq km in extent, is situated 1.7 km north of the Angkor Wat. It was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire built by Angkor’s greatest King, Jayavarman VII (Ruled 1181-1201). Within this fortified city are several monuments from earlier eras as well as those established by Jayavarman and his successors.

Centered on Baphuon, Angkor Thom is enclosed by a square wall 8m high and 12km in length and protected by a surrounding moat 100m wide which was said to be infested with hundreds of ferocious crocodiles during that time. The city has five monumental gates, one each in the north, west and south walls and two in the east wall. In front of each gate stand giant statues of 54 gods (To the left of the causeway) and 54 demons (To the right of the causeway), a motif taken from the story of the Churning of the Ocean of Milk illustrated in the famous bas-relief at Angkor Wat. In the center of the walled enclosure are the city’s most important monuments, including the Bayon, the Baphuon, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas and the Terrace of Elephants.

The Bayon Wall Murals
The Bayon is decorated with 1.2km of extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating over 11,000 figures. The famous carvings on the outer wall of the first level depict vivid scenes of everyday life in 12th century Cambodia.

BAYON TEMPLE
A true marvel of design intricacy

The Bayon is a richly decorated Khmer temple built in the late twelfth century or early thirteenth century. Built at the centre of King Jayavarman’s capital, Angkor Thom was the last state temple to be built at Angkor, and the only Angkorian state temple to be built primarily as a Mahayana Buddhist shrine dedicated to the Buddha. Following Jayavarman’s death, it was modified and augmented by later Hindu and Theravada Buddhist kings in accordance to their religious preferences.

The Bayon’s most distinctive feature is the multitude of serene and massive stone faces on the many towers that jut from the upper terrace and cluster around its center peak. The similarity of the 216 gigantic faces to other statues of Jayavarman VII has led many scholars to the hypothesis that the faces are representations of the king himself. Others believe that the faces belong to Avalokitessvara, the bodhisattva of compassion.

This is one of the many 'must visit' temples.
INNER SANCTUARY

This site consists of three concentric rectangular enclosures constructed on an east-west axis.

A causeway takes you to the inner sanctuary, consisting of an entrance chamber and three towers, as well as two buildings conventionally referred to as libraries.

SITE OF PREAH KHAN TEMPLE

The outer wall of Preah Khan is of laterite, and bears 72 garudas holding nagas, at 50m intervals. Surrounded by a moat, it measures 600 by 700m and encloses an area of 56 hectares (138 acres). To the east of Preah Khan is a landing stage on the edge of the Jayatataka baray, which measured 3.5 by 0.9 km (1 mi).

BANTEAY SREI TEMPLE

A monument of elaborate artistic mastery

Consecrated in 967 A.D., Banteay Srei was speculated to have been known earlier as Banteay Srei, which literally means the Citadel of Victory. This was the only major temple at Angkor not built by a monarch; its construction is credited to a courtier named Yajnavaraha, who was a scholar and philanthropist and a counselor to king Rajendravarman. He was known to have helped those who suffered from illness, injustice or poverty.

Banteay Srei is built primarily in red sandstone, a medium that lends itself to the elaborate decorative wall carvings which are still observable in fine details today. Measured by the standards of Angkorian construction, the buildings themselves are miniature in scale. These factors have led to its being widely praised as a 'precious gem', or the 'jewel of Khmer art' and perhaps the temple's modern name, Banteay Srei or Citadel of Women, is probably related to the intricacy of the bas relief carvings of deities found on the walls and the tiny dimensions of the buildings themselves.

PREAH KHAN TEMPLE

A sacred sanctuary hidden deep in the jungle

Preah Khan was built on the site of Jayavarman VII's victory over the invading Chams in 1191.

In its heyday, this was the centre of a substantial organisation with almost 100,000 officials and servants. This temple is flat in design, with a basic plan of successive rectangular galleries around a Buddhist sanctuary complicated by Hindu satellite temples and numerous later additions. With numerous trees and other vegetation growing among the ruins, Preah Khan has been left largely unrestored.

Preah Khan, for the beguiler, the romancer and the artist, is an entrancing mastery deep in the jungle, soft and alluring in the twilight made by heavy verdure.
GIANT ROOTS

Giant roots from the trees growing out of the ruins are perhaps the most distinctive feature of Ta Prohm, and have prompted more writers to descriptive excess than any other feature of Angkor.

TA PROHM TEMPLE
Nature and architecture collide in awe-inspiring splendour

Ta Prohm, a Bayon style temple, is believed to be built in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. It was founded by King Jayavarman VII as a Mahayana Buddhist monastery and university. Unlike most Angkorian temples, Ta Prohm has been left in much the same condition in which it was found where the photogenic and atmospheric combination of trees growing out of the ruins and the jungle surroundings have made it one of Angkor's most popular temples with visitors.

Rajavhara (Royal temple), as it was originally known, was one of the first temples founded pursuant to a massive program of construction and public works after the king’s ascension to the throne in 1111 A.D. It was built in honor of his family. The temple’s main image, representing Prajaparamita, the personification of wisdom, was modeled on the king’s mother. The northern and southern satellite temples in the third enclosure were dedicated to the king’s guru and his elder brother respectively. As such, Ta Prohm formed a complementary pair with the temple monastery of Preah Khan, dedicated in 1191 A.D., the main image of which represented Avalokitesvara, the Bodhisattva of compassion and was modeled on the king’s father.

The site was home to more than 12,500 people (including 18 high priests and 815 dancers), with an additional 60,000 people in the surrounding villages working to provide services and supplies.

BANTEAY KDEI TEMPLE
A sprawling monastic mystery

Built in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century, during the reign of Jayavarman VII, Banteay Kdei is known only as a Buddhist temple constructed in the Bayon style. It has been occupied by monks at various times over the centuries, but the inscription stone has never been discovered as to its mystery, unknown to whom the temple is dedicated.

Its structures are contained within two successive inner cellas, and consist of two concentric galleries from which niches tower to the east by a cluster. Like all the other ruins at Angkor, the carvings are captivating.
PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE
The Sacred Site of Preah Vihear Temple: A World Heritage

The Preah Vihear Temple is a Khmer temple situated spectacularly atop Pey Tad, a 525-metre (1720 ft) cliff in the Dangrek Mountains located in the Preah Vihear Province of northern Cambodia. The temple gives its name to Cambodia’s Preah Vihear province and is 140 km from Angkor Wat, approximately 320 km from Phnom Penh.

Preah Vihear Temple has the most spectacular setting of all the temples built during the six-centuries-long Khmer Empire. The Temple is composed of a series of sanctuaries linked by a system of pavements and staircases over an 800 metre long axis and is built with a clear view of the plains from where it stands. Dedicated to Shiva, this temple is unusual among Khmer temples in being constructed along a long north-south axis rather than having the conventional rectangular plan with orientation toward the east. However, although the structure of this temple is very different from the temple ‘mountains’ found at Angkor, it is believed to have been built to serve the same purpose as a stylised representation of Mount Meru, the home of the gods.

ACCESS

Within Cambodia, the temple can be approached either via Taong Meanchey in Preah Vihear province or from Siem Reap province via Anlong Veng. The road from Siem Reap to Anlong Veng is fully paved, and most of the road from Anlong Veng to Preah Vihear has been paved as well.

Through the energetic efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the wise, brilliant leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Preah Vihear Temple has been listed and declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO on July 8, 2008.

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Excellent Services Is Our Commitment.

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E-mail: infor@younestourism.com.kh Website: younestourism.com
The Cambodian version of the epic Ramayana is known as 'Reamker.' There are references of Ramayana in Cambodian culture from the tenth century AD. The literary text of Khmer adaptation dates back to the 16th century.

Ramayana might have reached Cambodia through contact with the South Indian kingdoms. Ancient Khmer temple art provides the earliest references of Ramayana and the world famous Angkor Wat temple depicts various episodes from the epic.

In Reamker, Lord Ram is known as 'Preah Ream' and Ravana is known as 'Krông Reap.' Sita is called 'Neang Seda' and Lakshman is called 'Preah Leak.' The name of Hanuman is the same but with a slightly different pronunciation.
There are many classical dance forms in Cambodia, of which a highly stylized art form was once confined mainly to the courts of the royal palace and performed mainly by females. Known formally in Khmer as Robam Apsara, the dancers of this classical form are often referred to as Apsara dancers.

This dance form was first introduced to foreign countries and best known during the 1960s as the Khmer Royal Ballet. The first royal ballerina was Princess Norodom Bopha Devi, a daughter of King Norodom Sihanouk.

The Apsara Dance is particularly inspired by the style from around more than a thousand Apsara carvings in the Angkor temple complex. As evidenced in part by these Apsaras (celestial dancers), dance has been part of the Khmer culture for more than a millennium.

A visit to Cambodia is only complete when one has attended at least one such traditional dance performance.

COSTUME

The costumes of the apsara dancers are replicated from those worn by the devatas depicted on the bas-relief of the Angkor temples. They wear a sampot carnoba, a type of silk brocade that is intricately pleated in the front.
**COCONUT SHELL DANCE**

A ceremonial dance of love and friendship

The Coconut Shell Dance is one of the most popular and well-known of the Cambodian folk dances. The climate is tropical, Cambodia has two seasons, dry season and the rainy season. There are lots of coconut trees throughout Cambodia and their fruits are in great abundance. After the meat of the coconut is carved out, Cambodians often save the shells, polish and use them in many practical ways.

The dance grew out of a popular game that used the coconut shells. The game is played during ceremonies, but more often during weddings, engagements, and especially at the time when the groom is being escorted in a procession to the bride’s house. In its original form, this was a one-man show. In the modern-day version, an equal number of male and female dancers perform the dance, personifying friendship and courtship.

**FISHING DANCE**

An expression of joy and romance

There is a saying in Cambodia, "Where there is water, there are fish." In this dance, you see two traditional methods of catching fish, the use of braided bamboo baskets called OHINGANG and bell-shaped traps known locally as ANGRUT. Young women scoop water from the river into their Chheareang which act as strainers. As the water drains through the bamboo strips, small fish are trapped in these baskets. The men would use the ANGRUT for catching larger fish in shallow water.

Love and romance are favorite themes in Khmer stories and dances. In traditional Cambodian society, young people are carefully watched and have few opportunities to get to know one another. But the fishing quarter is one place they have a chance to meet.

At the beginning of the dance, young men come down to the river on one side and women from the other. The dance expresses their joy; how happy and excited they are when they meet each other. As they fish, they flirt with each other. The boys playfully snatch the girls’ fishing baskets and they make merry.

In the dance, the group would split leaving one young couple behind and they fall in love. At the end of the dance, the group returns to tease and congratulate them.
CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR
Bask in the celebration of new year with traditional fun and festivities

The Khmer New Year, or ‘Bon Chol Chhnam Thmei’ in the Khmer language, is commonly celebrated on 13th April each year although sometimes the holiday may fall on the 14th April in keeping with the Cambodian lunar calendar. This marks the end of the harvest season when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor and relax before the start of the rainy season. The New Year holidays last for three days.

During this time, people engage in traditional Khmer games; they play such games as the Bas Angkunh ‘seed throwing’, Chchi Chhoung ‘twisted-scarf throwing’, Leak Kanseng ‘twisted-scarf hide’, tug of war, shuttlecock kicking, etc. Throughout the country, people merrily dance the traditional Khmer forms of the Ram Vong, Ram Kneach, Saravan, and Lam Leav in the open.

THE THREE DAYS OF KHMER NEW YEAR

Maha Sangkran
The first day of New Year is known as Maha Sangkran. It marks the beginning of a fresh year and generally, people would dress themselves up and visit temples to make offerings, light candles and burn incense.

Virak Vanabat
This is the second day of the New Year and Cambodians observe this day by sharing and contributing to the less fortunate; charity for the poor and homeless people.

Thngay Leung Saka
On this, the third day of the celebration, people would ‘bathe’ their parents or the elderly at home; ceremoniously pouring perfumed water over their hands and Buddhists would ‘bathe’ statues of the Buddha.

WATER FESTIVAL, MOON FESTIVAL
A myriad of vibrant colour and excitement; the water festival is truly a wonder to behold

The Water Festival, a spectacle to behold, is probably the most exuberant festival held each year in November. It is usually celebrated for three days, i.e. the 14th and 15th day of the waxing moon and the 1st day of the waning moon in the month of Kadek. The 15th day of the waxing moon is the last full moon day.

The festival ushers in the fishing season, marks a change in the flow of the Tonle Sap and the ebbing-water season, and is seen as thanksgiving to the Mekong River for providing the country with fertile land and abundant fish.

At the height of the rainy season, the water of the Mekong River forces the Tonle Sap to reverse its current and to flow up to the Tonle Sap Lake. As the water of the Mekong River begins to subside, the swollen Tonle Sap Lake flows back to the Mekong River through the Tonle Sap and empties into the sea, which leaves behind vast quantities of fish. This, indeed, is a remarkable phenomenon of the Tonle Sap.

THREE CEREMONIES UNDERPIN THE ENTIRE WATER FESTIVAL

Loy Pratip: An evening fluvial parade, featuring beautifully-illuminated boats lighting up the waterways. Government institutions each sponsor a boat on the parade.

Samppeas Preah Khê: Salutation to the moon. The full moon is highly regarded and people give thanks to the moon on Bon Om Touk, and pray for a bountiful harvest ahead.

Auk Ambok: At midnight, celebrants gather at temples to eat ‘Ambok’ (“flattened rice”), which is basically rice fried with the husk still intact. They then pound to remove the husk, and mixed the flattened rice with banana and coconut.
ROYAL PLOUGHING CEREMONY
A traditional custom to ensure a bountiful harvest

The Royal Ploughing Ceremony, or ‘Bon Chroat Preah Nongkoal’ in the Khmer language, is solemnly celebrated at the beginning of the sowing and planting season. Every year in May, this cultural ceremony takes place at the park in front of the National Museum (next to the Royal Palace). Cambodia has a deep connection with the earth and farming. There is a deep astrological belief that royal oxen known in Khmer as Uthheak Rasch, have an instrumental role in determining the fate of the agricultural harvest each year.

Traditionally, the King Meak, representing the king of Cambodia, ploughs the field whilst the Queen, the Preah Mehuo, sows seeds from behind. The field is ceremoniously ploughed three times around. The royal servants then drive the royal oxen to seven golden trays containing rice, corn, sesame seeds, beans, grass, water, and wine to feed. The royal astrologers interpret what the oxen have eaten and predict a series of events including epidemics, floods, good harvests, and excessive rainfall. At this festival, both men and women wear brightly colored Khmer traditional costume.

BACKGROUND
Also known as Farmer’s Day, the ceremony is rooted in Brahman belief, and is held to ensure a good harvest. It marks the beginning of the rice-growing season usually held on the 4th day of the 6th lunar month’s waning moon.

HISTORY
Buffalo races have grown in popularity over the years. Villagers trained for months in preparation for the event. The buffaloes raced in pairs and the winners receive monetary awards on top of the glory.

BUFFALO RACING
An exhilarating spectacle to honour the spirits

Each year, millions of Cambodians visit Buddhist temples across the country to honor their deceased loved ones during a 15-day period commonly known as the Festival of the Dead. However, in Vihear Sur village, about 22 miles (35 km) northeast of Phnom Penh, villagers would wrap up the festival with a water buffalo race to entertain visitors and honour a pledge made centuries ago.

There was a time when many village cattle which provided rural Cambodians with muscle power to plough their fields, suddenly drop dead from an unknown disease. The villagers prayed to a spirit to help save their animals from the disease and promised to show their gratitude by holding a buffalo race each year on the last day of the “Pchum Ben” festival. Since then, the cattle have been safe and the villagers kept to their pledge.

The race draws hundreds of spectators who come to see riders and their animals charging down the field; the riders bouncing up and down on the backs of their buffalo, whose horns are draped colorfully by cloth and various auspicious ornaments.
Eco-Tourism

Koh Kong Province
Discover beauty and tranquility of this undisturbed natural paradise

Koh Kong is still very much a fresh tourist destination with tons to offer. Natural wonders include undisturbed thick jungle, spectacular waterfalls, peaceful rivers, pristine white beaches, serene islands, lush mangrove forests and an underwater paradise boasting a myriad of beautiful marine lives. In all, Koh Kong presents many brand-new opportunities for eco-tourism. PADI-licensed dive shops at Koh Kong have turned diving to become a central attraction of the region.

The Koh Yor Beach near Ba Blong Village on the ocean is a long secluded stretch of white-sand beach with a number of small shacks serving seafood and drinks. Tourists can also find several other unspoiled and completely deserted beaches with good white sand, ideal for relaxation and some snorkeling. There are many waterfalls and rapids surrounding Koh Kong; some are close to town and some farther upstream but can easily be reached by motorcycle taxi. During the wet season, many of these waterfalls literally roar. The Ta Tai Waterfalls, nearest to town, are the most visited. Others farther away include the Koh Por Falls, Tuo Kok Rapids, and when in Koh Kong, do not miss the rugged jungle gorge of Kbal Chhay Falls.
Mangrove forests provide shelter for salt water fish, shrimp and crabs to reproduce themselves and they represent natural barriers between land and sea, while protecting the coast from winds, storms, hurricanes or even tsunamis by absorbing wave energy. They protect the coasts from erosion and retain sediments. They allow for a type of micro-climate stabilization and act as a natural water filter contributing to cleaning the water.

Mangroves, a woody specialized types of trees of the tropics that live on the edge where rainforests meet oceans, collectively exudes a unique form of natural beauty that puts the observer in awe.

It is reported that there are about more than 4.25 million hectares of mangrove forests found in Southeast Asia and needless to say, Cambodia has her fair share of these wonders of nature along her coastline as well. Mangroves are spread along the coast from Kep to Koh Kong, and it covers an area of over 50,000 hectares in Koh Kong.

One of the most biologically diverse forests, mangrove forest is known as the “rainforests by the sea”. These forests are the breeding grounds for shrimps, prawns, crabs, shellfish, snails and fishes; especially the beautiful mudskippers that seems to enjoy the surface more than being in water. The mudskipper has made adaptations so it can skim across the mud during low tide when the ground is uncovered in many places, traveling from puddle to puddle.

Mangrove forests are also nesting sites for many shore birds and home to lizards, sea turtles, and many other animal species. For many species of fruit bats, like the dawn bat, mangrove blossoms and fruit make up a large part of their diet.

For the keen eco-lovers, come visit the mangrove forest of Koh Kong where you will be rewarded by hours of awesome thrills just by observing these natural wonders and the lives that evolve in their midst.

BACKGROUND

Mangrove Forests are one of the World’s threatened Major Tropical Environment; at least 35% of the area of mangrove forests globally has been lost in the past two decades.

In Koh Kong, visitors venture into an extensive mangrove forest, deep into an ecosystem you’ll never find anywhere else.
JUNGLE GIANTS

The tree above is but a small one amongst all the huge jungle trees seen in the Cambodian jungle. Some of the larger ones are in the range of approximately 3 meters or more in diameter.

THE JUNGLE

The jungles in Cambodia are a true gift of nature to be appreciated.

It is relaxing to spend time observing and appreciating jungle vegetation and jungle life. In the northeastern Cambodia frontier provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri, parts of nature in her truest sense are still preserved, the jungles of Cambodia are likening to gems of nature. Spot wild animals that are usually shunned by human presence; observe plenty of colorful butterflies found near water catchment areas, fountains and streams. The Jungle is dense and thick. Lush vegetation of a huge variety grows so dense that passing through the jungle is virtually impossible except for a few trodden paths created by the local population living inside the jungle and elephants that take tourists around the vicinity.

Up high on the mountain in Mondulkiri, a beautiful clear jungle stream flows clean, clear spring water to a catchment way down below where lush green vegetation covers all sides of the pool. From the top of the mountain, one sees an unobstructed view on the top of the Cambodian jungle canopy like a densely knitted carpet. On the grounds, huge trees some as broad as 3m or more in diameter outdo one another breaking out of the thick bushes that seem to be strangling them from all sides.
SIGHTS TO CHERISH

Monorom Falls, Boutra Falls, Coffee Plantations and traditional Cambodian villages and minority groups can all be found within the region. The deeper into the jungle you go the more remote and exciting it gets.

ELEPHANT RIDING

See the jungle from a different perspective

A ride on elephants, the gentle beasts, proves to be a great way for relaxation. The base of Phnom Bakheng is famous for elephant rides. Tourists take elephant rides up the hill. The most preferred time is late evening as one gets splendid views of sunsets from top of the hill.

Elsewhere, adventure awaits in the form of a trek through the jungles of Mondulkiri on elephant back. This method of travel gives tourists a closer interaction with the landscape, as one ventures across forest and rivers.

Elephant Trekking is available in a number of spots in Cambodia, but is one of the main Cambodian tourist attractions in Mondulkiri and where we recommend as the best place to ride these immense, intelligent creatures in their most natural habitat in and around the virgin Cambodian jungle. It is likely that any elephant guide who accompanies you on a trek will be of Phnom tribal descent, as the Phnom people have since the beginning of time used elephants to assist with travel, farming and all manner of domestic chores. They also have a huge amount of respect for these jungle veterans.

They pray to elephant gods as part of regular praying rituals and death ceremonies for a domestic elephant are as important and elaborate as for a human in the family.

JUNGLE EXPERIENCE

For a true Jungle experience one should not miss an elephant ride through the bushes. In Mondulkiri, to take an elephant on a full day tour will start at US$25 or US$50 for two sharing an elephant depending on what sights you wish to take in.

WATERFALLS

First waterfall: 4-5 meter tall and 20-25 meter wide during the dry and rainy seasons respectfully.

Second waterfall: 15-20 meter tall and 10-15 meter wide during the dry and rainy seasons respectfully.

PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK

Delve beneath the surface of this sacred site

The Kulen Mountain or Phnom Kulen is declared as a National Park. It is an isolated mountain massif located in Sisophon District and some 48km from Siem Reap. Its highest point is 487 meters.

This is widely regarded as the birthplace of the ancient Khmer Empire. During the constructional period of the ancient temples in the ninth century, sandstones were brought from this sacred mountain to Angkor. It was here at Phnom Kulen that King Jayavarman II proclaimed independence from Java in 802 A.D.

The site is known for its carvings representing fertility and its waters hold special significance to the people of Cambodia. Just a few inches under the surface of the water, over 1000 carvings of Yoni and Linga are etched into the sandstone riverbed. The waters are regarded as holy, given the sacred carvings which also include a stone representation of the Hindu god Vishnu lying on his serpent Ananta, with his wife Lakshmi at his feet. A lotus flower protrudes from Vishnu’s navel bearing the god Brahma. The river then ends with a beautiful waterfall. Phnom Kulen is regarded highly by Cambodian people as a sacred location and has developed into a great tourist destination.
KAMPOT PROVINCE

This is a charming province commonly visited as a gateway to the Bokor National Park, the beaches of Kep, the beautiful rapids of Toek Chhou and other attractions of southwestern Cambodia.

The Bokor National Park is popular for its cool mountain climate and remains a year-round favourite amongst locals and foreigners alike. The scenery from the top is captivating especially in the morning hours when one can literally touch the clouds and take in fresh mountain air. With the development of a new resort type 5-star hotel on the summit, the roads have all been newly paved.

Other attractions include the Peopokvil Waterfall where the water cascades incessantly to provide a pool at its base for a cool dip.

A short distance across the track, the Toek Chhou Rapids offers yet another popular tourist attraction.

Kampot exudes a relaxed atmosphere; it possesses a quaint, welcoming small town ambiance that is soothing to the soul.

IN SEARCH OF THE GIANT IBIS

The Giant Ibis is Cambodia's national bird and it is one of the most endangered species in the world. There has not been an official sighting of the Ibis since January 2001, when an avid bird watcher discovered a relict population of about 40-70 birds in northern Cambodia. Cambodia is probably the only country in the world to chance upon the giant Ibis again.

BIRD-WATCHING

Enjoy one of Asia's richest wildlife destinations

Cambodia is probably the best place in the region for birding activities (Bird watching). Perhaps the only site in South-east Asia to observe the highly endangered Bengal Florican are in the grassland of Kampot Thom and the grassland surrounding the great Tonle Sap Lake. The annual rise and fall of the tides in the Mekong River contributes to create the unique natural habitat that supports the breeding populations of the Bengal Florican and several other large waterbird species such as the wintering Manchurian Reed Warblers, the Greater Spotted Eagles, and Oriental Plovers.

The bird sanctuary at Prek Toal, core area of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve is known as "the single most important breeding ground in South-east Asia for globally threatened large waterbirds". The Biosphere Reserve covers 31,282 hectares at the north-west tip of the Tonle Sap Lake and plays host to species including Greater and Lesser Adjuncts, Black-headed Ibis, Painted Stork, Milky Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Grey-Headed Fish Eagle and many other species.

Besides, the Ang Trapeang Thom is another protected area with extensive wet grasslands. It is renowned for being home to the largest known flock of rare Sarus Cranes.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has also many protected areas in Cambodia, making this country one of the best in the world for bird watching.
MEKONG RIVER DOLPHINS

The Mekong River is home to some of the most unique and wonderful sea life in the world. The Mekong River dolphin (Orcaella brevirostris) population inhabits a 190km stretch of the Mekong River between Cambodia and Laos PDR. About fifteen to twenty of these rare freshwater dolphins make their home on a beautiful stretch of the Mekong River near a small set of rapids. They make upward arches, breaking the surface of the water as they swim about the area. They are not jumpers like their other sea-faring relatives and are a bit shyer as well. These animals are most active in the early morning hours (around 6 am) and the late afternoon and early evening hours.

DWMING DOLPHIN POPULATION

The population of the Mekong River Dolphin is dwindling. These dolphins are identified by a bulging forehead, a short beak, and 12-19 teeth in each jaw. The pectoral fin is broadly triangular and they each have a small dorsal fin on the posterior end of the back.
BEAUTIFUL HOME STAY
Capture the essence of life in the heartland of Cambodia

For those wishing to experience a truly authentic slice of Cambodian life, the Khmer home stay provides the perfect opportunity to interact with warm and friendly Cambodians young and old, and to witness and take part in the lifestyle of a traditional village community while helping to support the local industry and make a difference during your visit.

Located in Baray District, Kompong Thom Province, and set in a backdrop of captivating scenery and breathtaking landscapes, Khmer Homestay is ideally situated along National Road No.6, about 120km between the capital of Phnom Penh and the popular tourist destination of Siem Reap, home of the world-famous Angkor Temples.

Whether you choose a day visit, an overnight stay or a longer period of time, the amazing range of activities on offer will ensure that this unique adventure of a lifetime will be an unforgettable one. Enjoy the views with a pony cart ride through the village or explore on foot as you get the chance to meet the villagers going about their daily tasks including noodle making, weaving and wood carving. Witness the remarkable skill of the local women as they weave scarves, carve wood and print fabric; you can even have a go yourself and take home a memorable gift from your journey.

Catch a unique glimpse of how local villagers sustain themselves, by watching them carefully carve their fishing boats from trees at nearby Phum Dong. Afterwards, you can see their handy work in action, joining them on the nearby river in search of their evening meal and bask in the splendor of nature as you will be taken by ox cart to an ideal spot to watch the sun set between the palm trees over the rice paddies of Baray.

These are just some of the activities that visitors can enjoy during their time in this welcoming part of the enchanting Cambodian countryside. Remember, the longer you stay the more incredible your adventure will be.
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COASTAL AREA OF KEP

Kep is scenic in a rugged way with a nice stretch of sand leading to surrounding mangrove forests and rocky coastal areas.

Kep was once the top beach destination in Cambodia. This now quiet beach town is near the border with Vietnam. It is easy to reach Kep from Phnom Penh; a mere 4 hours from the capital, and about 45 minutes from Kampot. Kep is definitely scenic; but in a rugged way, compared to Sihanoukville, which is now Cambodia's top seaside town. While Sihanoukville boasts endless stretches of sandy beaches, Kep has a relatively shorter stretch of sand leading to surrounding mangrove forests and rocky coastal areas.

Probably the best reason to visit Kep is its seafood. The road behind the beach is clogged with seafood vendors selling everything you can imagine. Crab is plentiful offshore, and is a local specialty. It is the paltry price of the exotic seafood that leaves many travelers with mouths agape. Of course, the freshness of everything adds to the delightful gastronomic experience.

Tonsay (Rabbit) Island is a few miles from Kep. This is the place to find a quiet setting and a couple of very nice white sand beaches. Many travelers come to Tonsay Island for snorkeling.

Because of the steady resurgence of Cambodia's economy, Kep is once again becoming a popular tourist destination. Several new buildings have been built, including the luxurious Kna Bong Chett, the most plush and expensive hotel in Cambodia. There are plenty of cheaper guesthouses in and around town as well.

There are also some hiking opportunities near town. Kep Mountain offers some nice views of the sea. It is possible to drive or ride a motorcycle up the mountain where the king's abandoned palace is. The grounds are now inhabited by a troupe of friendly monkeys.

Kep may not be as crowded a beach town as Sihanoukville, but the lack of a full blown tourist industry is refreshing. There are lots to explore and plenty to eat in this friendly town.

FRESH CRABS
A small section of the beach doubles as a regular crab-trading depot and the Crab Market (Paar Kdam) on the water's edge has now matured into a popular tourist destination. Fisherman bring in baskets of crabs by the boatload, and waterfront restaurants cook them fresh, usually boiled with a few fragrant sticks of famed Kampot pepper.

GETTING TO KEP
To get to Kep, you must first get to the town of Kampot, from there you can get a taxi for the thirty minute trip on to Kep, or a recommended option is to rent a bicycle in Kampot and take a memorable two hour ride to Kep.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL
The Kep Lodge, a boutique Hotel on the coast of Cambodia. With only 10 spacious, comfortable and luxurious bungalows overlooking the Gulf of Thailand and a new beautiful swimming pool, it is the perfect place for a relaxing holiday in Cambodia. Now with online reservation.

BUTTERFLY FARM
Kep Butterfly Farm is one of the newest attractions in Kep situated just down from Jasmine Valley Eco-Resort, on the Jasmine Valley Trail. They have a netted butterfly garden, and they will be very happy to show you through the lifecycle of nature's most delicate, beautiful creatures. You can come and play with different kinds of butterfly.
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PREAH SIHANOUK PROVINCE

Recently inducted into the Most Beautiful Bays in The World Club, the beaches are lined with fine pearl-white sand along most parts of the shore around the bay.

Surrounded by white-sand beaches and relatively undeveloped tropical islands, the port city and beach resort of Sihanoukville (Preah Sihanouk), also known locally as Kompong Som, is the place to be for sea, sun and fun. Vacation activities around town are related to beaches, the ocean, fresh seafood and partying. Around town and along the beaches, there are many themed restaurants and bars owned by various nationalities from around the world.

Named in honour of the former king (father of the present king), this has become a very popular tourist destination in recent years.

The big attractions around here are the four beaches and the offshore islands ringing the headland. Scuba Diving and snorkelling are very popular here in Sihanoukville.

Daylight ends at around 6pm here, but the spirits of the resort live on. Many beach joints stay open until the last customer leaves.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

To get there, take National Highway 4: the 230km highway between Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh. This highway is in excellent condition.

Koh Rong is a relatively undisturbed tropical island where fine sandy beaches and clear waters set the scene for relaxation. The island is hailed to be among the World’s Most Gorgeous Islands by travel magazines one after another.
What to Eat

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MYTHS ABOUT CAMBODIAN CUISINE

Cambodian food is truly unique if one must really compare it to cuisines of other countries around south-east Asia.

Cambodian cuisine includes noodles, soups, grills, stir-fried, curries, snacks, desserts, lots of vegetables, tropical fruits, and, of course, rice which is the staple food for Cambodians. Cambodian cooking secrets are rarely written down; the recipes are instead handed down from mother to daughter. From an ancient origin, some a traditional cuisine of unexplored treasures, a unique blend of flavors and colors that enhance their natural ingredients used.

Cambodians perfected the art of blending a spicy paste using many ingredients like garlic, cinnamon, star anise, nutmeg, cardamom, ginger and turmeric. Adding other natural ingredients like galangal, garlic, shallots, lemongrass, cinnamon, kaffir lime leaves and tamarind to these spices to make a rather distinctive and complex spice blend known as “khmam”. Although noodles are also popular, almost every meal includes a bowl of rice. A wide range of curries, soups and stir-fried are usually served with rice. Being in a country that produces many rice varieties, tourists can enjoy the best aromatic grains and various types of glutinous rice. The latter is more commonly served with a salad or desserts with fruits.

There are two other unique ingredients that give Cambodian cuisines their fabulous typical flavour. One is a pungent fermented fish paste known as prahok and the other, the kapp, a fermented prawn paste. These require an acquired taste for most but they arebeloved by some who use them in many dishes or even taken as a dipping sauce. Collectively, these ingredients have become an important aromatic combination commonly used in Cambodian cuisines.

Typically, a Cambodian meal is served with rice and at least three other dishes. It usually includes a soup or similar, served alongside the main dishes. Each of the individual dishes will either be sweet, sour, salty or bitter; these exist side by side in harmony, sometimes even within a single dish, to offer an original melody. Chilis is usually left up to the individual to add. In this way, tourists are subtly ensured that they get a bit of every flavour to satisfy their palates.

Everyone has their own opinion on the most delicious foods and the best way to cook them, but Cambodian food is traditional.
NHOIM TROYONG CHEK

Nhoim Troyong Chek is a delicious and refreshing salad complemented by the tasty banana flower (troyong chek) accompanied by tasty chopped bits of nuts, onion, lemon and carrot.

NOM BANHCHOK

Many people enjoy eating Khmer noodle as much as they like taking an evening stroll. By the same measure, sitting down for dinner in Phnom Penh may feel as comfortable as slipping on a pair of walking shoes. Noodles are best when served fresh, and their rich history gets better with time. The Nom Ban Chok is a traditional noodle dish not to be missed.

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Home to some of the most diverse and authentic cuisines from around the globe, Cambodia is truly a food lover’s destination.

One of the things that surprises visitors most about Cambodia is the plethora of incredible, unique, and gourmet food shops with cuisine from all around the world. You will find some of the best Italian, Spanish, Middle Eastern, French, and African cooking in Cambodia! Why because there are many ex-pats who have settled in Cambodia; some of whom have opened incredible restaurants with food just like home.

Also, many Cambodians grew up after the genocide in other countries and they learned amazing cooking techniques from their host countries, and then married those international styles with their Khmer heritage to create some extremely delicious fusion styles.

Chinese restaurants are also very popular and the city sports a good number and range from budget-priced dumpling shops strung along Street 138 near Phsar Thmei to top-end restaurants such as the Yi Sang. In Cambodia, most western cuisines are well-represented - pizzerias, home-cooked British and American food, contemporary delis and cafés, fine German, Italian and especially French restaurants.

Fish sauce is an important ingredient in Cambodian cuisines. It is commonly served in soups, stir-fried cuisine, and even as a dip.

SAMLOK KORKO

Korko, the hearty traditional gravy is truly quite delightful; its base ingredient is actually toasted rice pounded and turned into a tasty paste and complimented by prahok, pork and pumpkin, which together add a delicious warmth and texture to the palate. Korko is one of those great fusions of traditional ingredients cooked to perfection.

WHERE TO TRY

Many of the restaurants are clustered into certain areas of town. Dozens of places line the riverfront and Boeng Keng Kang 1 is dotted with dining venues, especially along Street 278.
What to Do

ISL Modern Apartment & Hotel - the only most modern luxurious condominium apartment with high standards in town., is developed to offer a combination of luxury, convenience and value previously unavailable in apartment living, working and recreation.

Whether you need a large living space or a smaller room, ISL offers the finest in finishes such as room decoration and design, European kitchenware and Japanese sanitary ware.

ISL offers you an exciting selection of floorplans, amenities and facilities. With its beautiful, spacious and modern 14 story building, ISL Modern Apartment & Hotel is situated at a quiet residential area of Tuol Kork, offering a very innovative concept to make your business trip or holiday more pleasure and comfortable.

Features
- 58 units of apartments and 14 hotel rooms.
- Units ranging from 86-180 sqm.
- All rooms are fully furnished with modern equipment including European kitchenware and Japanese sanitary ware.
- 3 cafes serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Controlled apartment access.
- Swimming pool at the top.
- Fitness, steam, sauna and massage center.
- Two KTV karaoke rooms.
- A professional sound recording studio.
- Safety box and mail box for each apartment.
- Free Wi-Fi.
- Telephone and internet access.
- 24 hour security camera and security guard patrol.
- Concierge service.

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Phone: (855) 23 64 77777 | Mobile: (855) 17 79 77 77 / 89 80 7777
E-mail: info@islapartment.com | Website: www.islapartment.com
A HEAVY DUSK-TO-DAWN NIGHTLIFE IN PHNOM PENH

Phnom Penh is famous for some of the most vibrant nightlife in all of Southeast Asia; its a ‘must see’ for nightlife hawks as this is indeed a surprisingly neat little party town.

The entire vicinity around the riverfront sports the greatest number of fun places with dozens of bars and restaurants stretching along Sisowath Quay and up the side streets. Radiating off the riverfront road, both Street 104 and Street 138 host a quality collection of sports and hostess bars that open late into the night and if you enjoy bar-hopping, there’s another little huddle of hostess bars at the corner of Streets 108 and 51 to satisfy your calling.

In the evenings, well lit tourist boats chug slowly up and down the Tonle Sap some doubling as floating restaurants bringing tourists to enjoy great views of the Royal Palace, National Museum, and floating villages along the banks as they dine. These boats, of various sizes and quality can be found along the waterfront between Street 178 and Street 130 and also at the ferry terminal opposite Street 104.

As the sun sets, embark on a dinner cruise where you will watch the city lights illuminate the skyline and wrap the evening with a relaxing table at one of the many alluring riverfront bars.

BE AT THE RIVERFRONT WHEN NIGHT FALLS

At night, the fountains of the Riverfront Park spring to life illuminating the area with a delightful array of bright colours to complement the ambience of a relaxing evening in Phnom Penh.
Nightlife in Phnom Penh is pretty vibrant with lots of fun activities and a large number of bars to choose from.

The atmosphere offers a much more relaxing retail experience than a typical local market. With a festive vibe and items to please the young and old, foreigners and even the locals, the night market is indeed a promising addition to the city’s shopping scene. One definite “Plus” for the visitors; most of the goods on offer are locally made and not imported.

“Good quality, local products that are made using traditional methods are the perfect fit for a Cambodian market.” — Asia Life.
NIGHTLIFE PRECINCTS IN SIEM REAP

No matter what your tastes are for wine and dining, there are many venues to choose from for a fun filled evening in Siem Reap.

Siem Reap City, the heartland of Siem Reap province, is a popular tourist destination endowed with plenty to entertain any visitor. Nightclubs, pubs, bars and discos come alive after sunset. Downtown, an entire street is dedicated to tourists; aptly known as Pub Street, this street is closed to traffic in the evenings. Bars, pubs and eateries spill onto the street, much to the delight of the visitors.

Nightlife venues are scattered across the town of Siem Reap but many are clustered in the Old Market area, especially along the vibrant zone around the Pub Street. The bars and night clubs in the Pub Street area offer amazing early evening happy hour deals and some places stay open well into the wee hours. The party meter touches the apex often around midnight and the electrifying ambiance is hard to avoid. However, the vivacity is not limited to Pub Street. There are also the less crowded, less touristy, individual places in the Old Market and Wat Bo precinct, along the river and Sivatha Boulevard if you prefer.

Nightlife in Siem Reap can’t exclude the rocking discotheques. Restaurants are also the places of worth here: you can try the Chinese, Indian, French, Laos or Vietnamese delicacies in those Popular Restaurants in Siem Reap. So, when in Siem Reap, make it a point to feel the heat of the vibrant Nightlife after you have toured the temples.

AT NIGHT IN SIEM REAP

The city comes alive when the sun sets. Downtown is the perfect place to wind down and enjoy a sumptuous dinner. Here you will find many restaurants and eateries offering a wide variety of choices to satisfy any palate. Then burn away those calories at the night market located in one corner of the city. After you've had your fun shopping, return to Pub Street to bask in the merriments of the bars and pubs that gave this street its name.
BLISSFUL SHOPPING AT NIGHT

Explore the night markets, shop for that exotic souvenir to take home for your friends; most of the things on sale are definitely conversational pieces.

Apsara Night Market was the first night market of its kind to be established in the whole of Cambodia. The market was carefully planned to create a friendly and very localised environment for tourists to enjoy. There are no warehouses; instead tourists enjoy smoothly laid-out shacks built from natural materials and designed in typical Khmer style.

There are over 200 souvenir shops that sell traditional Cambodian handmade products from clothes, silk pieces, arts, and jewellery, wood and stone carvings amongst many other interesting items found perhaps only in this part of the world. There are cafes and pubs and even a movie mall where one can watch accounts of the genocide during the Khmer Rouge regime and other entertaining documentaries.

A place designed to give visitors a safe, secure, and enjoyable shopping and dining experience in a vibrant, contemporary ethnic environment.

The night market is a great place to spend an evening. With all the shops and hidden bars, you will be discovering something new every time you visit the market.
HORSE RIDING; FREE AND EASY
Ignite your sense of adventure and explore the paths less travelled

One may wish to get away from the more touristy areas and escape into the heart of the Cambodian countryside to take in scenic views on horseback or on a bicycle. A favourite with the more adventurous is a two hour horseback ride, passing rice fields in the local villages, and a visit to the enchanting Wat Anea in cowboy style. There are ranches that offer pure Cambodian breed, a descendant of the Mongolian wild horses, for lease to tour the vicinity of the country side which offers a refreshing side not many people have seen.

A REFRESHING WAY TO TOUR THE COUNTRYSIDE
The horses at the ranches in Cambodia are friendly and comfortable with people; not afraid of anything and the trails are like nothing you would ever see otherwise in the cities.

KHMER HOMESTAY
For a uniquely authentic slice of traditional life

Located in Baray District, Kompong Thom Province, Khmer Homestay is ideally situated along National Road No 6, about 120km between the capital of Phnom Penh and the popular tourist destination of Siem Reap, home of the world famous Angkor Temples.

www.khmerhomestaday.com | E-mail info@khmerhomestaday.com
118A, 50330, Beoung Kong Kong II, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS

Offering employment to skilled communities as well as quality and tradition to discerning tourists.

Traditional handicrafts in Cambodia flourished in Angkorian times when the finest objects were crafted for temples and the Royal Court. Handed down through generations, the skills of Cambodian craftsmen fulfilled domestic and religious needs for centuries until the dark years of the Khmer Rouge, when production literally came to a standstill.

Today, from stone or wood carving to silver and basket work, traditional handicrafts enthused by a growing tourist market, are recovering very well. Cambodian silk pieces are sought by collectors worldwide.

Siem Reap and Takeo are important weaving centres although silk is widely available at all tourist spots. There’s a good selection at the Russian market in Phnom Penh where popular items include Khmer scarves, sarongs and soft furnishings await their new owners.

Cambodian silk is named according to the type of fabric and its use, pau muang for evening dress, hol for going to the temple, piden for wall hanging, etc.

The stone carving tradition of Angkor continues until today; artists are reproducing ancient pieces to satisfy tourists. While original Angkor stones from Phnom Kulen are reserved for temple restoration, there are ample supplies of sandstone in Banteay Meanchey for other requirements. Buddha statues, Apsara dancers and bas-reliefs are all popular tourist collector items, but top of the list are replica busts of Jayavarman VII, founder of Angkor Thom.

Cambodian wood carving has its origins in ancient animist beliefs. Village homes have finely carved shrines and pillars dedicated to spirits and sometimes carved with flowers, moon or stars, to enlist protection. Objects for domestic use range from furniture to kitchen utensils, while carved boxes and ornaments of all kinds are produced for the tourist trade.

Mostly all sewn products are made with traditional Cambodian fabric in an array of beautiful colors.
TRANSPORTATION

Explore the kingdom by land, sea and air in a variety of interesting and adventurous ways

Tourists can travel to all parts of Cambodia by bus, taxi, motorbike, boat and aeroplane. Within the capital of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap Province and Preah Sihanouk Province, they can conveniently sight-see by tuk-tuk.

Boats are very popular means of transportation along the Tonie Sap, Bassac, and Mekong rivers. These boats offer spectacular scenery along the way.

Cambodia Angkor Air, the National Flag Carrier operates to and from Phnom Penh and Siem Reap daily.

In the capital of Phnom Penh and the province of Siem Reap, a Cyclo including a driver can be hired at a reasonable price.

CAMBODIAN PORTS

Cambodia has two major ports, Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, and five minor ones. Phnom Penh, located at the junction of the Bassac, the Mekong, and the Tonle Sap rivers, is the only river port capable of receiving 8,000-ton ships during the wet season and 5,000-ton ships during the dry season.
### Ministries of Cambodia

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<tr>
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### Cambodian Embassies Abroad

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<td>Royal Embassy of Cambodia</td>
<td>(61) 26 1301</td>
<td>(61) 26 1302</td>
<td><a href="mailto:embcamb@bigpond.com.au">embcamb@bigpond.com.au</a></td>
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<td>Belgium, Luxembourg</td>
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<td>(32) 214 2769</td>
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### Foreign Embassies in Cambodia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Embassy</strong></td>
<td>#193, Street 11, “St. North Safary”</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td>email@americanembassy cambodia.org</td>
<td>Website: americanembassy cambodia.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of India</strong></td>
<td>#100, Street 11, “St. North Safary”</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@india-cambodia.com">email@india-cambodia.com</a></td>
<td>Website: indiaembassy cambodia.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of Indonesia</strong></td>
<td>#1, St. 966, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-indonesia.com">email@embassy-indonesia.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-indonesia.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of Brunei</strong></td>
<td>#272, Street 11, St. 966, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-brunei.com">email@embassy-brunei.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-brunei.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of Japan</strong></td>
<td>#279-289, Pink Palace Boulevard, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-japan.com">email@embassy-japan.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-japan.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the People’s Republic of China</strong></td>
<td>#105, 6th Floor, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@chinaembassy.com">email@chinaembassy.com</a></td>
<td>Website: chinaembassy.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the Republic of Cuba</strong></td>
<td>#100, Street 11, “St. North Safary”</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-cuba.com">email@embassy-cuba.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-cuba.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the European Union</strong></td>
<td>#1, Street 1, Tonle Bassac Community, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-europa.com">email@embassy-europa.com</a></td>
<td>Website: europaembassy.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the Republic of France</strong></td>
<td>#1, Phnom Penh Boulevard, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-france.com">email@embassy-france.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-france.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of Malaysia</strong></td>
<td>#101, 1st Floor, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-malaysia.com">email@embassy-malaysia.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-malaysia.com</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the United Nations</strong></td>
<td>#104, 2nd Floor, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@unitednations.com">email@unitednations.com</a></td>
<td>Website: unitednations.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam</strong></td>
<td>#103, 3rd Floor, Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Mobile: (855) 23 21 70 13</td>
<td>Fax: (855) 23 21 70 14</td>
<td><a href="mailto:email@embassy-vietnam.com">email@embassy-vietnam.com</a></td>
<td>Website: embassy-vietnam.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Note:** For more detailed information, please visit the official websites of these embassies.
## Departments of the Ministry of Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY / PROVINCE</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHNOM PENH</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>No. 8, St. 79, Sen Sok Commune, Daun Penh District</td>
<td>Mr. Tung S. Khem</td>
<td>(055) 1261-00-00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIEM REAP</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>Boeng Keng Kang 1 District</td>
<td>Mr. Seng Sarin</td>
<td>(012) 3244-02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIEM REAP</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>Boeng Keng Kang 2 District</td>
<td>Mr. Houl Thav</td>
<td>(012) 3244-02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAMPONG THOM</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Village 1, Kandal</td>
<td>Mrs. Kim Packs</td>
<td>(089) 1234-56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAMPONG CHNANG</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Village 1, Kandal</td>
<td>Mr. Kim Packs</td>
<td>(089) 1234-56</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pursat</td>
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<td>Village 2, Pursat</td>
<td>Mr. Kim Packs</td>
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<td>BANTEAY MEANCHEN</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Phone numbers are in Cambodian format: (089) followed by 7 digits.
- Email addresses are not provided.
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Tel: (855) 63 76 75 55, Fax: (855) 63 96 55 11 Email: reservation@royalangkorresort.com, sales@royalangkorresort.com Website: www.royalangkorresort.com