

# Tourism of Cambodia

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Phnom Penh - Cambodia



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Phnom Penh



Angkor Siem Reap



Ocheuteal beach



Rattanakiri

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## Kingdom of Cambodia



Cambodia, located in the heart mainland of Southeast Asia, has so much to offer in terms of cultural heritage) particularly the world's renowned Angkor Wat whose images have attracted millions of tourists every year from all over the world. Cambodia is tremendously proud of the temples of Angkor's presence as well as its people who are genuinely friendly to all visitors.

**Land area** : 181,035 sq.km.

**Population** : 14,363,519 (2007)

**City & Provinces**: 20 provinces and 4 Cities.

**Capital** : Phnom Penh.

**Time** : GMT+7 Hours.

### Telephone:

Phone cards are widely available and can be purchased at many stands. There are also several mobile phone services. A phone call can be made in a booth along streets on a pay-per-call basis. Country code: 855

### Airport Taxes:

For international departures: US\$25 from Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

For domestic flights: US\$6 from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and vice versa.

### Religion:

The official religion is Theravada Buddhism, which is also practiced in neighboring Laos, Thailand, Burma and Sri Lanka; however, there are also Christianity and Islam in Cambodia.

### Climate:

Tropical monsoon

Rainy season: usually around May through November.

Dry season: from December to April.

### Currency:

Riel (unit of Cambodian currency) fluctuates constantly with the exchange rate of 4,100 Riel per US Dollar, which is widely used in Cambodia. Catering services usually quote foreign tourists their prices in US Dollar. Denominations are 100,000; 50,000; 20,000; 10,000; 5,000; 2,000; 1,000; 500, 200, 100 and 50 Riel. Foreign currencies can easily be exchanged at most hotels, airports or at market places.



## Country Information

### Visa:

A visa on arrival, which is valid for 30 days, is issued at Phnom Penh and Siem Reap-Angkor International Airports, and other border checkpoints ([www.cambodia-immigration.com](http://www.cambodia-immigration.com)). The visa cost is US\$20 and US\$25 for tourist and business purposes respectively. Two passport photographs are needed. Visas can be extended at Emigration Department in Phnom Penh. Visas can be also issued at Royal Cambodia Embassies in foreign countries. Tourists now can apply for an E-Visa to Cambodia on its website: [www.evisa.mfaic.gov.kh](http://www.evisa.mfaic.gov.kh)

### Airport Taxes:

For international departures: US\$25 from Phnom Penh. US\$25 from Siem Reap. For domestic flights: US\$6 from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and US\$6 from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh.



### Customs:

Every passenger must complete an immigration form and a separate customs declaration form for submission upon arrival. Any amount of foreign currency can be brought into Cambodia; however, it must not exceed 100,000 Riel per person. Tourists and residents carrying more than US\$10,000 in cash or its equivalent into the country must declare it; otherwise, they may run into problem. It is also true if they wish to take that same amount of money out of the country.



### Tips:

Although not obligatory, tipping is widely practiced in hotels and restaurants. In addition to the service charge shown on bill, most people would leave some extras on the tray.

### Airport Taxis:

A taxi (on-metered) from Siem Reap Airport into town, 8km away, costs US\$10 and will spend about 10-15 minutes. A motorbike ride costs only US\$1. For visitors who enter Cambodia through Phnom Penh International Airport, a taxi ride into the city costs US\$10 and takes approximately 15 minutes. Most hotels and better guesthouses provide airport pick-up service for guests who have made the booking.



### Transportation:

Cars, vans and mini-buses are available for touring around the temples of Angkor Archeological park, or for day trip in and around Phnom Penh. The average cost of a car plus driver is approximately US\$25 per day while a van or minibus may cost a little more.

# K I N G D O M O F





# C A M B O D I A



## DISTANCE FROM PHNOM PENH TO OTHER PROVINCES

- Phnom Penh to Angkor wat ( 321 km) No.6
- Phnom Penh to Bokor (184 km) No.3
- Phnom Penh to Kirirom (177 km) No.4
- Phnom Penh to Kompot (143 km) No.3
- Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville (230 km) No.4
- Phnom Penh to Kampong chnang (91 km) No.5
- Phnom Penh to Porsat (189 km) No.5
- Phnom Penh to Battabong (291 km) No.5
- Phnom Penh to Pailin (321 km ) No.5-10
- Phnom Penh to Banteaymeanchey (359 km ) No.5
- Phnom Penh to Siem Reap (314 km ) No.6
- Phnom Penh to Kampong Thom (168 km) No.6
- Phnom Penh to Kampong Cham (124 km) No.6-7
- Phnom Penh to Prey Veng (90 km ) No.1
- Phnom Penh to Svey Reang (122 km) No.1
- Phnom Penh to Takoe (78 km) No.2
- Phnom Penh to Kandal (11 km) No.2
- Phnom Penh to Kampong Speu (48 km) No.4
- Phnom Penh to Steung Treng (455 km) No.7,13
- Phnom Penh to Kratie (315 km) No.7,13
- Phnom Penh to Modulkiri (541 km) No.7,13,14
- Phnom Penh to Preah Vihear (294 km) No.6,64
- Phnom Penh to Rattanakiri (588 km) No.7,13
- Phnom Penh to Koh Kong (271 km) No.4,48
- Phnom Penh to Ordomeanchey (469 km) No.5



Phnom Penh City Map





**P**HNOM PENH, the capital of Cambodia  
It is situated at the confluence of three rivers, the mighty Mekong, the Bassac and the great Tonle Sap, what was once considered the 'Gem' of Indochina.

The capital city still retains a lot of its considerable charm with plenty to see. It exudes a sort of provincial charm and tranquility with French colonial mansions and tree-lined boulevards amidst monumental Angkorian architecture. There are many interesting tourist spots in the capital.



Beside the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, the National Museum and Wat Phnom, there are several market places selling (wooden/stone) carvings, paintings, silk, silver, gems and even antiques. Indeed, it is an ideal destination for a leisurely day tour and business trip.



## Phnom Penh Attractions

### National Museum

Located in the North of the Royal Palace, the National Museum is easily recognized because of its distinctive rusty-red exterior and traditional Cambodian terracotta roof. Built between 1917 and 1920, the Museum offers a charming setting for a stunning collection of ancient Khmer artifacts. There are more than 5,000 interesting items including an eight-arm statue of Vishnu (7th century), a statue of Shiva (9th century), and a statue of Buddha dating back to pre-Angkorian times.



National Museum

Visitors would also see a statue of King Jayavarman VII (1181), the Khmer king being credited with the establishment of a network of roads in Cambodia, using innovative construction techniques to raise them above the level of swamps and building sophisticated bridges. Also on display are pottery and bronze pieces dating back to the periods of Funan and Chenla (4th to 9th century). Tour guides are available. There are also books and souvenirs on sale inside the museum. No photography is allowed inside the museum, which its opening hours are between 8:00-11:00 and 14:00-17:00. The entrance fee: US\$3.00.



### The Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda

The Silver Pagoda is located within the compound of the Royal Palace. Inside the gleaming yellow walls of the Palace compound are the Throne Hall; the Chanchhaya Pavilion, especially made for performances of classical Cambodian dance; the Napoleon III Pavilion, offered to King Norodom by Queen Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III, and the royal residential quarters.



Royal Palace



## Phnom Penh attractions

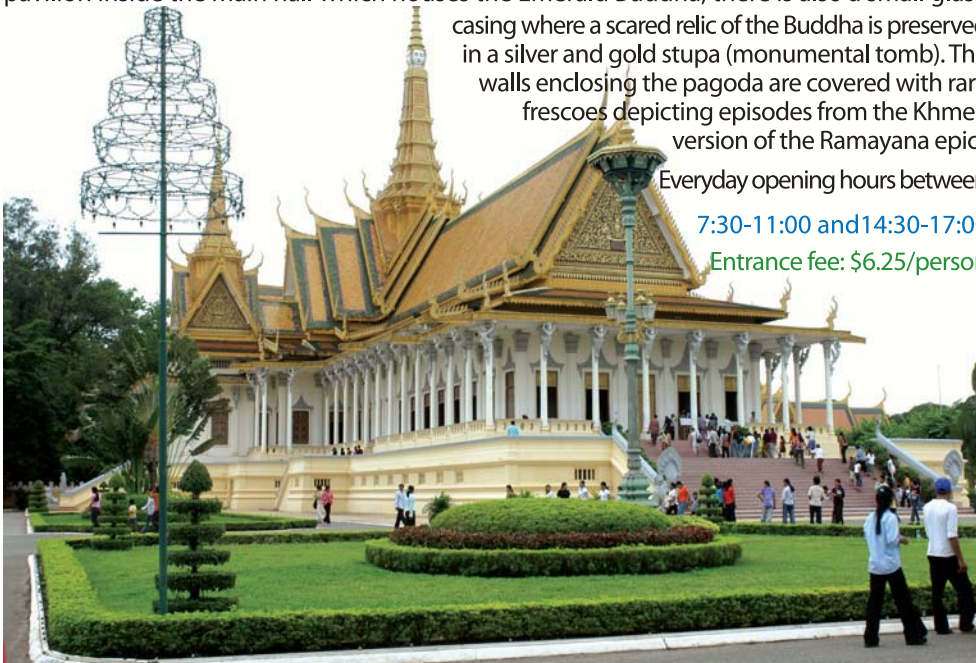
The palace was originally wooden structured and initially constructed in 1892 during the reign of King Norodom, but rebuilt late in its present grandeur by King Sihanouk in 1962. The King spared no effort to make this a true embodiment of the brilliant Khmer art with a tinge of rich ancient culture. 5,329 pieces of silver tiles, each weighing 1,125 kilo, made up the floor of the Silver Pagoda, giving its name among foreigners. The Silver floor alone weighs over six tones, known to Khmers as Preah Vihear Preah Keo Morokat (the Emerald Pagoda). The pagoda serves less as a functioning temple than a depository for cultural treasures, housing the 17th century Emerald Buddha and some 1,650 artifacts comprising of Buddhist statues made of a variety of precious metals such as gold, silver and bronze, with diamonds, sapphires, rubies and other precious stone inlays. Inside the main hall stands a statue, representing the Buddha Maitreya. This statue is made of solid gold and weighs 90 kg including the stand and parasol.

The statue is also studded with 2,086 diamonds. On its crown is a 25 karat jewel, the largest among the gems on the statue. In the pavilion inside the main hall which houses the Emerald Buddha, there is also a small glass casing where a scared relic of the Buddha is preserved in a silver and gold stupa (monumental tomb). The walls enclosing the pagoda are covered with rare frescoes depicting episodes from the Khmer version of the Ramayana epic.

Everyday opening hours between

7:30-11:00 and 14:30-17:00

Entrance fee: \$6.25/person



## Phnom Penh Attractions

### The River Front

This stretch of park-lined riverfront is about the most interesting place to come for a stroll. The beautiful view made visitors even more breath taking by the Rukha Vithei (tree-lined streets) leading up to it. Unpolluted by factory smokestacks, the skyline is often blue and people's feelings are bright.



From February to April, white, pink and red Trabek Preis (the Khmer Sakura flowers) bloom along the riverbank stretching from the Oukna Laom pagoda all the way to Phsar Chas (Old Market). Even as it reaches the end of its life cycle, the Khmer Sakura leaves a remarkable impression. After the petals drop from the trees, they carpet the pavement with colors. About fifty different plants grow along the riverbank, making this one of Asian's most photogenic waterways. Further down, facing the river from the palace gates, are two shrines.

The shrine on the left is devoted to an animist spirit called Neak Ta, and it receives many devotees mostly in the evening while the one on the right, close to the elaborate flagpole of the Royal Palace, is a Buddhist shrine where hundreds of worshipers come to; you can come to worship from dawn to dusk. Many makeshift stalls surround the shrine selling young coconuts, incense sticks, candles, flowers and even living birds for worshipers to release them for merits. Small tourist boats can be found along the riverfront, offering 1-2 hour cruise along the river whenever you want.

Price usually between US\$10-US\$20 is negotiable with the operators. Across the street, pubs, restaurants and shops line the way. Many tourists are seen along this stretch in open-air cafes, sipping beer or coffee, or shopping the local products along the river bank.

### Independence Monument

Standing tall in the city center at the intersection of Norodom and Sihanouk Boulevards, is the Independence Monument. Inaugurated in 1958 to commemorate the declaration of Cambodia's independence from foreign rule, it now serves also as a monument to Cambodia's the deaths of Cambodians in the wars. When night falls, the monument is beautifully illuminated by red, blue and white floodlights, representing the colors of the national flag. Walking in the monument is not permitted; it is best viewed from the west across the street.



## Choeung Ek Memorial (The Killing Field)

Located about 15km southwest of Phnom Penh, it was once an orchard and a Chinese cemetery before Pol Pot led the Khmer Rouge and turned the place into one of his killing fields. During the regime, it was estimated that more than 2.5 million people had perished; many of whom were brutally executed here. Choeung Ek is now a group of mass graves, with a memorial stupa housing, and thousands of skulls are witness to the terrible



genocide that took place during the regime of the Khmer Rouge. This site is usually combined with a visit to the Toul Sleng Genocide Museum.

Everyday opening hours from 8:00-12:00

Entrance fee: US\$2.00/person

## Toul Sleng Genocide Museum

Located on street 113 in the Beung Keng Kang district, this was a high school turned prison under the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975-1979. This high school was converted into the S-21 prison and interrogation facility.

Inmates were systematically tortured to extract information and confessions and then subsequently sent to the killing fields of Choeung Ek for execution. More than 14,000 prisoners processed through this prison and only nine had left the prison alive but eight of them met their death later from disease contracted during their incarceration. The building now serves as a museum and a testament to the genocidal madness of the Khmer Rouge regime.



Everyday opening hours between 14:00-17:00 and 2:00-5:00. Entrance fee: US\$2.00/person





## Phnom Penh Attractions

### Wat Phnom

Located in the intersection of street 96 and Norodom Boulevard, this is the legendary founding place of the name, Phnom Penh. Legend has narrated that in 1372, a wealthy widow named Penh fished a floating Koki tree out of the mighty Mekong River.

Inside the hole of the tree, she found five statues of the Buddha, four in bronze and one in stone. She then located an auspicious place and elevated the location to construct a shrine to house her statues. The place became the highest point in the area and came to be known by people as Wat Phnom. 'Wat' stands for temple and 'Phnom' means hill in Khmer. People began building their homes around the hill and soon a town and then a city evolved. Later, the city became known as Phnom Penh, after the hill (Phnom) and its founder (Lady Penh).



### Phsar Thmey (New Central Market)

The dark-yellow Art Deco Phsa Thmei (New Market) is also referred to as the Central Market, a reference to its location and size. It was constructed in 1935-37. The Art deco building is shaped in the form of a cross with a nice central dome.

It has four wings filled with shops selling gold and silver jewelry, antique coins, fake name-brand watches and other items. Around the main building are stalls, offering Krama (checked scarves), stationery, household items, cloth of sarongs, flowers and second hand



clothes, usually from Europe and the US. For photographers, the fresh food section affords a lot of opportunities. There are host of good food stalls on the structure's western side, which faces Monivong Blvd. Central Market is undoubtedly the best of Phnom Penh's markets for browsing. It is the cleanest and has the widest range of products for sale. Opening hours are from early morning until early evening.

## Tuol Tom Pong Market (Russian Market)

More commonly referred by foreigners as the Russian market, it is located at the corner of St. 440 and st,163, south of Mao Tse Tung Blvd. It is the best place in town for souvenir shopping, having a large range of real and fake antiques. Items for sale include miniature Buddhas, silk, silver jewelries, gems, videos, and a host of other goodies. It is well worth popping in for a browse.



## Udong (Former Capital)



About 40 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh along National Road 5, a mountain topped with the spires of stupas rears from the plain like a fairytale castle. This is Phnom Udong, at one time an ancient capital, bombed and desecrated by the Americans and then the Khmer Rouge, but still possessing an eerie beauty that no war has been able to steal from it.

As the capital, it was called Udong Meanchey, 'Udong' means noble or excellent, and Meanchey means victory. From 1618 until 1866, it was a home of a succession of kings, deposed from the former capital of Longvek by the invading of Thais.

The mountain itself runs from southeast to northeast, with a low saddle in the middle. Khmers say it has the shape of a naga, the magical multi-headed serpents, that guard the Buddha.



## Phnom Penh Attractions

### Phnom Prasith

Phnom Prasith is located in the Makak commune, Ang Snoul district and in Chhvian Commune Ponhea Leu district. To visit there is to travel through national road 5 to the north north about 11 kilometers to Prek Pnouv Market point and from there turn left and drive another 13 kilometers along a paved road. The total distance is about 24 kilometers from Takmao Provincial town. In the future, the National Road 26 will be completed and connected to Phnom Prasith and then to Phnom Udong. (Or, they could visit Udong First and Phnom Prasith later).



Phnom Prasith is composed of two hills, the east hill and the west hill. The west hill has no related stories. The east hill, however, has stories related to religion and the Khmer king. It also has a large statue of the reclining Buddha reaching nirvana.

There are not so many big trees in Phnom Prasith because of not having had any development plan yet. The site is able to attract few visitors only because of its poor organization and management. Nevertheless, this area has beautiful scenery, abundant fresh air and richness in culture and history.

About 1 kilometer from Phnom Prasith, there is a man-made cultural site called Phnom Reap or Prasat Vihear Suor. Based on the style of Angkor Wat, Phnom Reap was constructed of stones and cement between 1996 and 1998 for about 1 million US dollars. The money was raised from local and foreign sources.

Today, Phnom Reap attracts many Cambodian and foreign tourists. It is often used as the backdrop for Cambodian Videos.



# Phnom Penh Orientation

3 days 2 nights



## DAY 2: PHNOM PENH

Morning visit Toul Sleng museum of genocidal crime and Cheung Ek killing fields. Afternoon city orientation tour including, Phnom Penh municipality hall, national library, national bank, Independence monument and shopping at new central market. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

## Day 3: DEPARTURE

Free leisure time until transfer for departure flight.  
End of Service

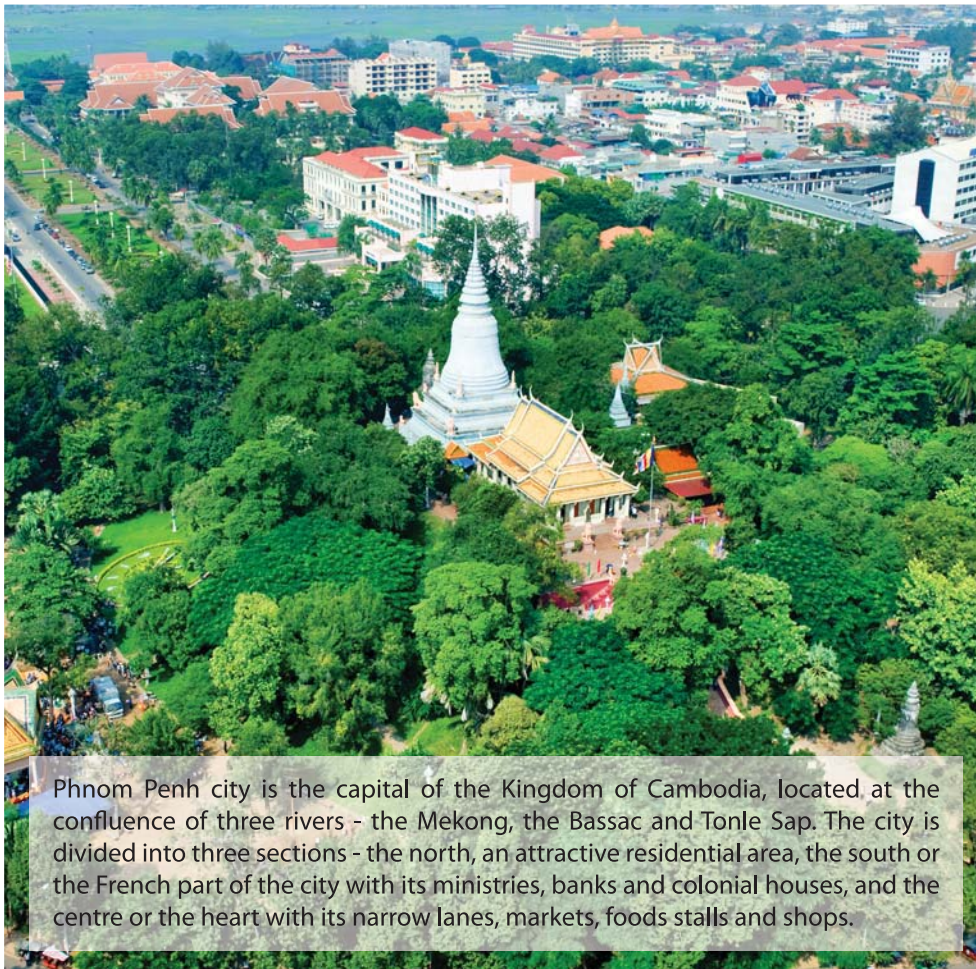
## DAY 1: ARRIVAL

Arrive in Phnom Penh around noon - Visa processing - meet with guide for transfer to the hotel. A half-day city tour in the afternoon, including national museum of Khmer arts, silver pagoda on the same ground of Royal Palace, River Front Park, renowned Wat Phnom and boat cruise along Mekong river bank. Overnight in Phnom Penh.



## Suggested Itinerary

### Cyclo Tour in Phnom Penh



Phnom Penh city is the capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia, located at the confluence of three rivers - the Mekong, the Bassac and Tonle Sap. The city is divided into three sections - the north, an attractive residential area, the south or the French part of the city with its ministries, banks and colonial houses, and the centre or the heart with its narrow lanes, markets, foods stalls and shops.

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#### Service inclusion:

- Cyclo hire
- Local English speaking guide
- All entrance fees as stated in itinerary
- 01 lunch at good local restaurant
- 01 bottle of drinking water



## Phnom Penh by Cyclo Tour

Explore Cambodia's capital in style with the old fashioned mode (Cyclo) and the manpowered workhorse of transport in Phnom Penh. You will enjoy the old-fashioned way of sightseeing the historic capital of Phnom Penh and discovering highlights such as Wat Phnom is the first pagoda was built in 1373 to house four statues of the Buddha deposited here by the Mekong river. It was discovered by a woman named Penh. Thus, the name Phnom Penh, the hill of Penh.



Royal Palace is the one of the most beautiful sample of Khmer Palace, which allows us to visit the precious Throne Hall, Prasat Khemarin, Prasat Samren Phirum, Ho Preah Khan, Chan Chhaya, and Silver Pagoda is so named because of its floor, which is made up of 5,000 silver tiles. On display inside are hundreds of Royal gifts received by the Royal family over the years. Among the treasures are a solid gold Buddha encrusted with, 9584 diamonds and weighing 90 kilos and a small 17th century emerald and baccarat crystal Buddha.

National Museum where is the collective of post Angkorian antiques and a professional art historian can be arranged to give an introduction of Khmer art and culture.

River Front is the wide expanse of water caused by the confluence of three rivers marking a large 'x' the Tonle Sap, the Mekong, and the Bassac, coupled with the wide walk way and gardens, and the gentle breeze almost makes for a seaside atmosphere.

Independence Monument is, also known at the Victory Monument, marked in Cambodia on the 9th November. The monument has a unique and peculiar style and doubles as a memorial to Cambodian patriots who died for their country. The monument is the site of celebrations and services on important public holidays such as Independence Day and Constitution Day.

The ride will take you to visit many old colonial buildings, parks and green spaces that remind one of the country's French heritage, and its people who always have a smile for you.





## History of Khmer Wedding



In Khmer wedding, it has a lot of ceremonies held in chronological orders. They show the historical roots related to the Buddha's period which existed ages ago. According to a book "Khmer Wedding Rules" of Oknha Nov, it puts that in ancient Khmer wedding laws, people perform a song describing God Vesandor Borom Pothisat arranging the marriage between his children – Chealy and Kroesna. And some other songs are about the marriage arrangement of God Ream and Seda. Oknha Nov wrote that the current wedding preparations are arranged according to the rules drawn up by King Preah Chey Chesda Thebdey.

According to the king's book, it puts that all ceremonies in Khmer wedding are related to mythical stories such as a story "Som Sla Kanseng". It is told that there were two men who went to feed their buffalos in the field would like to make friends with each other and wanted to be relative by marriage with each other because one had a son and the other had a daughter. In order to prove their words, they ask for betel nuts packed in krama from each other to show their promise that their children would marry to each other.



Another story is "the three betel flowers". It describes that there were four men who had different skills – swimming, shooting, fortune telling, and magic. After completing their study, they returned home. Along the way back near a stream, the fortune teller said that day they were going to meet a girl and become their wife. Then a big bird swooped down on a girl, Khemry, who was having a bath. Right away the shooting man took his bow and shot the bird down back to the stream. The swimmer then swam to



bring her to the ground but she was just dead. After that the magic man helped her be alive again. All four men felt in love with the lad, so they were judged by the Buddha that she would become a wife of someone who swam to help her because he was able to touch her body first. And the fortune teller, magic man, and shooting man would become the father, mother, and brother respectively. Since then in all weddings, the bride and the groom must have three betel flowers in order to show gratitude towards their parents and brothers/sisters.

Setting-the-date ceremony and the groom holding the scarf are told that Prince Thaong was married to Princess Tevtey, a daughter of the sea dragon king. After setting the date already, Tevtey had to bring him to her father at dragon world, so the sea dragon's daughter asked the prince to hold her scarf in order to dive into the dragon world. In the meanwhile, the dragon king commanded his man to kill the prince at the gate in order to test the prince's ability. But the daughter had known this; hence, she disguised herself as the prince by changing her skirt and it was put on the prince instead so that the killer was not able to kill the prince. That is why in the current Khmer wedding it was seen that there is clothes change between the groom and the bride, and the groom holding the bride's scarf in to the room, accompanied by "Phat Cheay and Neang Neak" songs, etc.

The ceremony called "Chey Haong Sousdey Haong Men Haong" in wedding ceremony performed until now is followed by an ancient story recorded in "the rules of wedding" book. It describes that Once upon a time there were two brothers – Chey and Sousdey.

## Culture & Tradition

At that time, there was no king to continue after the previous king had died in Cambodia, so the officials in the palace relied on the holy elephant and horse to find a man to be their king. Then the animals approached the brothers' house. Consequently, they knew that one of the brothers was the suitable man to be crowned. They became the king and Soudet became his assistant at the same time. When crowned, the people whooped to bless the king. They said "Chey Haong Soudet Haong Men Haong" simultaneously. The blessing is adapted to use in the wedding until now.

"Bongvil Popil" ceremony in the Khmer wedding is also written in "collective Khmer legends" book, volume 9. According to the legend, it is told that once upon a time, there was a man named Chey Sorya who had completed the magic training already from Eysa God, so he asked the God for a sacred relic as a blessing tool for the weddings of human being. Then the God gave the man a replica of his penis and a replica of his wife's vagina as the blessing tools to spread their reputation in the world. Eysa God took diamond sand from the universe to make a gold banyan leaf representing his wife's vagina and took a diamond rock from Himalaya Mountain to make a candle representing his penis and supposed them to be "two blessings". He then told the man to take the candle wrapped in the banyan leaf to



circle three times around grooms and brides in order to inhale the smoke making them powerful. The "Popil" ceremony is believed to bring harmony and joyfulness for the new couples making them successful in all challenges. Since Khmer people firmly and sincerely believe in "Popil", it is performed not only in wedding ceremony but also in other ceremonies such as housewarming, birthday, etc.

"holding a sword" tradition in the wedding progress is also told that once upon a time there was a high ranking knight in Peareansey Palace, who fell in love with a daughter of the villager and deposit a piece of gold as a dowry and promised to marry in three months' time. Three years had gone, so she was married to her neighbor villager but on the wedding day, the knight appeared and took out his sword and killed the man who was the groom. Then the chief clergyman had prayed to dismiss all bad things at the place. The clergyman had analyzed on the power of the sword. That is why people use a sword in the wedding when the bride and the groom are in pair for blessing.



## Tradition on Khmer Wedding Season

**W**edding ceremony is very meaningful for each of individual's life who follows their tradition and the laws of the country. That is why this ceremony is carefully dealt with concerning to choosing the date which is believed to bring luck and harmony for the people's lives and starting a new families. Some families do not allow their children to marry in the rain season and some delay it for two years after the engagement ceremony because of the fortune telling.

According to Mr. Nhean Phoeun, a researcher and publisher of Khmer tradition of national and international festival committee, he said that Khmer tradition allows people to marry only in a period of six months in a year but not the other six. Wedding can be carried out only in the 30-day months. Those six months could be in early May, July, October, January, and March. But for engagement ceremony and matching the natural chemistry between son and daughter, they could be performed in any month.

He continued that for the above months, there are only 7 days of each month that are good days. According to the Khmer tradition, they should not perform on their birthday, religious day, lunar or and solar eclipse, and during Khmer new years.

Actually, the reason people do not get married in the rain season is that there are a lot of rains that make it difficult for the wedding reception, procession, and other ceremonies. It is also difficult for the guests travelling to wedding party and it is when farmers are busy with their fields.



## Suggested Itinerary

# Khmer Wedding Package – 4 days 3 nights

## DAY 1 : Arrival in Siem Reap

Arrive Siem Reap around noon – visa processing - meet with guide and transfer to the hotel for check in. Your guide will inform you what to do before your wedding day. Overnight Siem Reap. {D}

DAY 2 : Morning visit South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of Leper King. Afternoon free to prepare yourself for your wedding day on the next early morning. Overnight Siem Reap. {B, L & D}

## DAY 3 : Wedding Day

### Present Performance And Dancing

Early morning, bride and bridegroom follow by bridesmaids and best men are made up by beauticians. This day bride and groom are separate to make up different houses. After making up bridegroom and three best men followed by people carrying many kind of khmer fruits (36 Kind of fruits) or offerings will be processed to the bride's house. In front of procession there are musicians, dancers playing and dancing.

Up on arrival the bride's house, the groom and all guests are welcomed by the bride's parents then sitting down on the chairs, soon after the bride come to meet a groom and wearing flowers festoons each other. Meanwhile a couple of dancers holding rattan baskets on shoulder collecting fruits from all clients, then they make shortly joke and singing traditional songs around twenty minutes. Traditional songs ended all guests will be having chicken porridge.

### Engagement Ceremony And Breakfast

After welcoming celebration ended, bride and groom are going upstairs. The clergyman will organize engagement ceremony for both of you, then you may have breakfast altogether.

### Preparation For Hair – Cutting Ritual

After engagement ceremony done, a couple of you will be sitting on an honorable chairs accompanying by both parents and family members to get both of you haircut. Well, this organization is called "Haircut celebration" in this occasion two dancers will sing traditional songs asking sacred tools from gods as comb, scissor, looking glass, a bottle of perfume and knife, all of these just unreal activities to make it symbolization of gods for wishing a new couple to get happiness and prosperity. This celebration will be taking place downstairs.



#### Sampak Phtem, Sem Chang Dai, Bangvel Po Pel And Bach Phka Sala

After Haircut celebration ended, bride and groom are going upstairs again, both of you are sitting as posture bowing head, listen to wishing and preaching from clergies or priests while those chanting, a couple of you will be getting a drop of holy potion from clergy. This celebration is called "wishing or blessing ceremony" and carrying on to the last organizing called



"Sen Chang Dai" This celebration must be very solemn a lot of participants especially both families members will be blessing areca blooming flowers to a new couple and a holy magical thread will be tied your wrist. From now on both of you become forever consorts.

#### Toung Sabay

The groom holds a bride's shawl and go into the room after her. This tradition reflects the story. Cambodian keeps the tradition of matrilineal family system from the ancient time.

#### A Cambodia Love Story

Along time ago, a daughter of Naga (God of Snake), Princess Neak, landed on an island from the bottom of the sea. The princess became a human lady and played on the beach. A prince who was expelled from his country in India fell in love with her on the beach and proposed her. She said, "I am a princess of Naga Kingdom. We need permission from my father King to get married. Please come with me", but the prince hesitated because he was a human being and could not stay longer in the water. Then she told him 'Please grab my shoulders you would be able to breath even in the water' The prince and the princess jumped into the water' The prince and the princess jumped into the water and headed for the Naga Kingdom at the bottom of the sea.



This is the story which shows the origin of Cambodian style marriage; a man goes to a woman's parents to get permission for marriage..

#### Late afternoon:

Bride and groom visit Angkor Wat for photograph with accompanying by the bridesmaids and groomsman.

#### Evening:

The Bride and groom enjoy your dinner at the hotel. Have a wonderful honeymoon in Cambodia !!! Overnight in Siem Reap. {B, L & D}

#### DAY 4 : Siem Reap – Departure

Free at your leisure. Afternoon transfer for flight departure. End of Services. {B}





## Siem Reap Province

### Land of world heritage



Visitors can travel to Siem Reap either on regular domestic flights, overland or by speedboat along the magnificent Tonle Sap to explore new culture, meeting local fishermen in their floating villages and tasting ethnic Khmer food. Angkor Wat temple, the mysterious Hindu temple built by King Suryavarman II at the height of the Khmer empire in the 12th century, is the world's largest temple complex. Angkor Wat consists of many sandstone temples, chapels, causeways, terraces and reservoirs. It is believed that the architecture, whose identity remains a mystery until today, was designed by Gods.

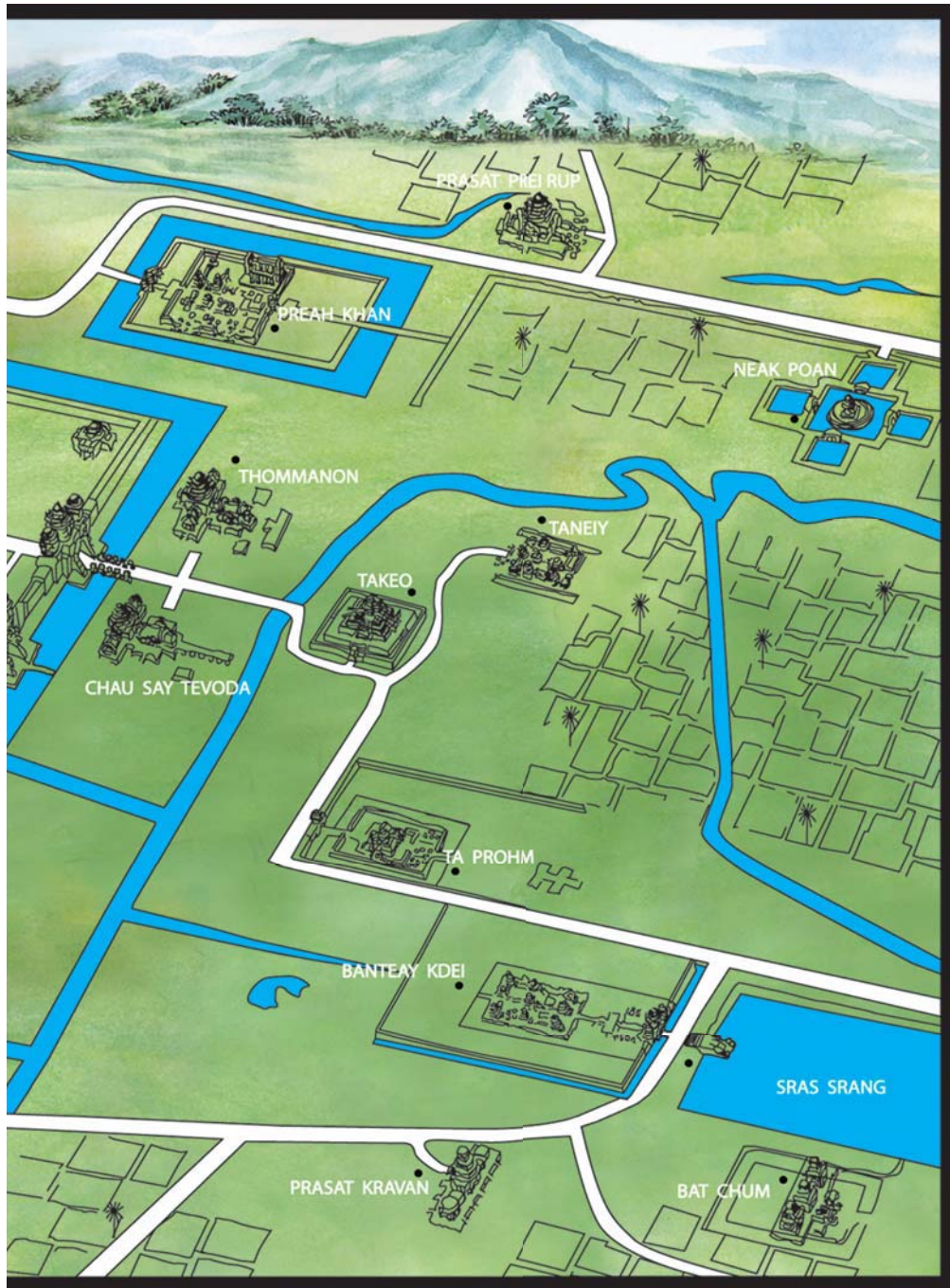
The walls of the temple are covered with thousands of carvings depicting the scenes of confrontations between the gods and demons of classical Hindu mythology. Yet some are genial-dancing ladies known as "Apsara" and royal procession with the King and other royalties riding on elephants.

Whatever it is, the carvings are clearly masterpieces in the true scenes. To fully explore and appreciated the splendors and marvels of the Angkor temple complex, one may probably need to stay for about a month in Siem Reap. However, because of the short time that most visitors have, there are several recommended ways to appreciate the magnificence of this world wonder if it is not in its entirety.









.....  
Siem Reap, Angkor



## Angkor Wat

It is the largest temple in the world and it inspired by 12 century Hinduism. Its symmetrical towers are stylized on the Cambodia flag. It took an estimated 30 years to build. The most impressive bas-relief is the Churning of the Ocean of Milk, which is located on the east wing. The best time to visit Angkor Wat is at sunset and sunrise.





## Angkor Thom



The ancient walled city of Angkor Thom, literally 'Great City', was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Dedicated in 987, it contains the Bayon temple and a three-hundred-meter terrace of the elephants, making it one of oldest temple in the region. The Bayon is viewed with Angkor Wat as the favorite monument. The architectural scale and composition of the Bayon exude grandness in every aspect. There are 200 large smiling faces carved on the 54 towers, making this temple a majestic character.



Bayon temple



..... Siem Reap, Angkor

## Ta Promh

Ta Promh is the temple that has been left largely in its natural state. Surrounded by jungle, its labyrinth of the tone hallways is overgrown with roots and limbs of massive Banyon trees, which envelop the stones like tentacles.



## Banteay Srei



It is everyone's favorite temple. This is the so called fabled pink temple of the women, because it is made of pink sandstone and considered a tribute to the beauty of women. Its Apsaras and divinities represent the most skilled craftsmanship of sandstone carvings.



## Rolous Group

The three monuments in the Roluos group, located 12 kilometers southeast of Siem Reap offer a look at the earliest definition of Khmer civilization.



## Phnom Kulen

Phnom Kulen is located in southern extension of the Dangrek mountain. The hill was served as quarry sites that were used in the construction of Angkor. It's a scenic and quiet area, with tree-covered hills stretching out into the distance and no development in sight yet. There is a nice waterfall for picnic area near the top and some temple ruins just upstream from the top of the waterfall. There are also some ancient inscription that were carved in the rocks at the top of the waterfall.



Phnom Kulen

## The Great Lake of Tonle Sap

Continuing about ten minutes beyond the hilltop temple, on the road to Phnom Krom, there are a land based fishing village and the bullet boat-landing site. Just hop for good wind when you come along because of the combination of dead fish and raw sewage from the village when passing by this area before getting in to the Tonle Sap lake.



There are small motor boats for rent and some locals can speak English and are ready to serve you. They will take you out for a tour to the floating and fishing villages (most structures are actually built on stilts). The village has its own "street" grid system and seems to have just about everything that a village should have. It's an interesting and scenic journey with plenty of photo opus on hand.



## Suggested Itinerary

### ANGKOR STOPOVER

#### 3 Days 2 Nights

##### DAY 1 : Arrival

Arrive in Siem Reap in the morning and meet with guide for transfer to the hotel. In the same morning, tour to Small Circuit including Prasat Kravan (Cardamom sanctuary), Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang (Royal Bath), Ta Promh (Jungle Temple), Takeo, Thommanon, and Chau Say Tevoda. Afternoon visit to the World Wonder of Angkor Wat until the sunset view at Phnom Bakheng Hill. Overnight in Siem Reap.

##### DAY 2 : Temple Tour

Early morning, view sunrise at Angkor Wat. Transfer to the hotel for breakfast. The same morning visit to South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphuon, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon visit to Grand Circuit including Pre Rup (self-body changing), East Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Porn, Preah Khan and Baksei Chamkrong. Dinner with Khmer Traditional Dance Show. Overnight in Siem Reap.

##### DAY 3 : Departure

Morning visit to War Museum and Les Artisans d'Angkor - Chantiers Ecole where visitors can observe students learning traditional carving and finishing techniques and visit Siem Reap Markets. Afternoon free at leisure until transfer for departure flight.





## DISCOVER KHMER HERITAGE

### 6 Days 5 Night

#### DAY 1 : Arrival

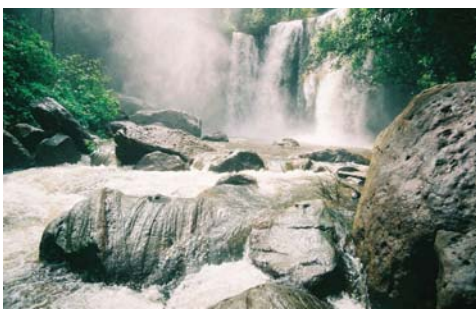
Arrive in the morning and meet with guide for transfer to the hotel. In the same morning tour to Rolous Group including Preah Ko, Bakong, and Lo Lei temples. Afternoon tour to Small Circuit including Prasat Kravan (Cardamon sanctuary), Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang (Royal Bath), Ta Promh (Jungle Temple), Takeo, Thommanon and Chau Say Tevoda. Overnight in Siem Reap.

#### DAY 2 : Temple Tour

Early morning, view sunrise at Angkor Wat. Transfer to the hotel for breakfast. The same morning, tour to South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon visit to the World Wonder of Angkor Wat and view sunset at Phnom Bakheng Hill. Overnight in Siem Reap.

#### DAY 3 : Temple Tour

Morning visit to Banteay Srei (Fortress of the women) and Kbal Spean (The river of 1000 lingas). Afternoon visit Grand Circuit including Pre Rup (self-body changing), East Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Porn, Preah Khan and Baksei Chamkrong. Overnight in Siem Reap.



#### DAY 4 : City Tour

Morning visit to War Museum and Les Artisans d'Angkor - Chantiers Ecole where visitors can observe students learning traditional carving and finishing techniques and visit Siem Reap Markets. Afternoon tour to floating village and boat trip on Tonle Sap Great Lake and view sunset at Phnom Krom. Dinner with Khmer Traditional Dance Show. Overnight in Siem Reap.

#### DAY 5 : Trekking to Kulen Mountain

Morning full day tour to Holy mountain of Phnom Kulen and Liga carving, a legacy of the God-kings who ruled Cambodia in the ninth century. It is one of the eight water sources, Sleeping Buddha, and the Waterfall of Phnom Kulen. Overnight in Siem Reap.

#### DAY 6 : Departure

Morning free at leisure until transfer for departure flight. End of service.



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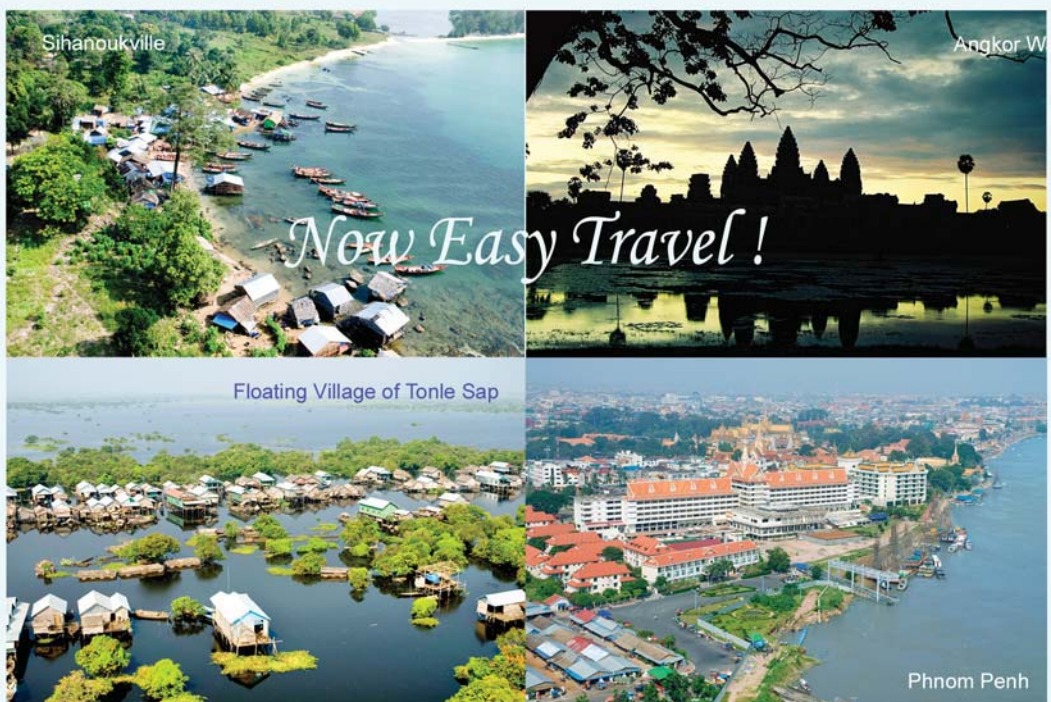
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# Kampot Province

## Bokor Hill Station

Phnom Bokor is about 12 kilometers in the west of Kampot provincial town. The mountain was discovered by a group of foreigners in 1917 and later organized by a Frenchman named Roulouse on April 13, 1922 during the reign of the King Sisowath. During colonial time, Phnom Bokor was a place of the coastal plain .



The mountain is 1,075 meters high, and the temperature at the top is often quite cool. Because of the road is poor, the even 30 km trip from the base to the top of the mountain can take up to two hours and sometimes longer, depending on transportation. Those who make the trip, however, will find a lush forest, large rocks shaped like animals and sailing junks, as well as a spectacular panoramic view of the Kampot countryside, of Sihanouk Ville and of the bright, blue sea. During Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Sangkum Reas Niyum regime, many public buildings were built there and Phnom Bokor became a small town, called Borei Bokor. Today, most of those buildings are dilapidated and no longer in use. The mountain also features a three-stage waterfall and a Popok Vil (swirling clouds), which is about 7 kilometers from Borei Bokor.





Kep is a small city. The beach, which is suitable for swimming, is only 1,000 meters long, and the sand is not as white as one in Sihanouk Ville. However, Kep is a big seafood market. The city was founded in the 1908 during the french colonial time. It was renovated into a beautiful seaside resort in 1960s during the King Norodom Sihanouk's Sangkum Reas Niyum regime. The name Kep is derived from the French words Le cap, or cape in English. A cape is a very large piece of land sticking out in the sea. Especially, it is seen from the headland significant for navigation.



## Sihanouk Ville

Sihanouk Ville, Cambodia's only maritime port, is 232 kilometers from Phnom Penh and accessible via one of the best inter-provincial roads in the country. Sihanouk Ville is not only a seaport but an famous area for its picture-postcard tropical beaches which is situated (as it is) on a headland. Visitors can choose from a range of beaches, several of which can often remain completely deserted.





..... Sihanouk ville map



## Kbal Chhay

It is located at Khan Prey Nup in seven-kilometer distance from the Sihanouk Ville town, then turning left for another nine-kilometers on a red soil road. The waterfall of Kbal Chhay has many sources from the mountain rank at the seaside.



The history of Kbal Chhay waterfall was found in 1960. Until 1963 Kbal Chhay was arranged to be the clean water source for Sihanouk Ville, but as the arrangement failed, it became a hidden place for the Khmer Rouge. In 1997, Kbal Chhay was changed into the developing zone.

In 1998, Kbal Chhay was bided by KOK AN Company for constructing road and developing the whole site as a tourist resort for local and international visitors.

Nowadays, the Royal Government of Cambodia has maintained this site for its clean-water sources supplying clean water to Sihanouk Ville.



## Mondulkiri

### Busra Waterfall

Busra Waterfall is located in Pich Chenda district about 43 kilometers northeast of Mondulkiri provincial town, called Sen Monorom. Busra is considered as the most beautiful waterfall in Mondulkiri. This waterfall is divided into three stages:



- First stage: The waterfall is 8 to 12 meters high and 15 meters wide in rainy season and 10 to 15 meters wide in dry season.
- Second stage: The waterfall is 15 to 20 meters high and 20 meters wide in rainy season and 18 to 25 meters high and 13 meters wide in dry season.
- Third stage: The speed of waterfall is faster than the second stage. This stage cannot be reached because it is in the thick forest. There are no marked paths and dangerous wildlife inhabits the area.

### Sen Monorom Waterfall

Sen Monorom waterfall is located in Sen Monorom district about 5 kilometers northeast of the provincial town. The road to the waterfall passes numerous rubber, coffee and cashew plantations. The site is very popular among local people during public holiday and national festivals because it is close to the provincial town. This waterfall also has three stages:



- First stage: The water here flows slowly because the waterfall is only 1 meter high and 2 meters wide.
- Second stage: The water flows faster here. In rainy season, the waterfall is 6 to 7 meters high and 8 meters wide, and in dry season, it is 7 to 9 meters high and 4 to 5 meters wide. There is a place to relax on the riverside.
- Third stage: The waterfall is 1.5 meters high and 1 kilometer far from the second stage.



..... Rattanakiri, Northeast of Cambodia

## Rattanakiri

Rattanakiri is a paradise for the naturalist. remnants of an ancient volcano exist in the form of a crystal-clear lake that was formed after the active volcano went dormant. There are also a few ancient lava fields that testify to the fact of the area that it was quite lively at one time.

Beautiful waterfalls and clear rivers winding through stretches of jungles, and rolling hills meet mountains near the Vietnam and Laos borders, providing a full agenda for nature lovers.



Rattanakiri is the home of Cambodia's version of the Golden Triangle. Unlike the other one of illicit drug farm, this triangle is gaining popularity for its natural beauty and self-sufficient hill tribe communities, which are untouched and not a part of the tourism industry as they are in neighboring Thailand. Non-structured, low-impact custom trips to outlying villages and natural areas can be organized (strictly by yourself or with help from a guesthouse).



## Rattanakiri, Northeast of Cambodia

**B**anlung town is the seat of the province. It has recently grown more visitors. People see Banlung as a nice quiet area for their families and try their hand at being entrepreneurs.

Yeak laom volcano lake is not far from town and great for swimming, picnic, or hike around the crater rim of the old volcano. And it has a small informative local museum. In 1995, the governor of Rattanakiri officially set aside a 5,000-hectare (12,350-acre) protected area, of which the lake is partly included and in 1996, it had received help from the International Development and Research Center of Canada and the United Nations Development Program to develop an effective resource management program.

This area represents Cambodia's finest attempt at preserving a site. Full-time rangers work to ensure the area is protected. They receive regular training and have put up signs throughout the area reminding people not to litter, wash clothes, bath or toilet in the lake.



Tompuon Minority



Yeak Laom

**T**he main swimming and picnic area features with a nice wood deck. That is great to use for a jump into the sparkling clean water. Nearby, park rangers erected a couple of examples of hill tribe construction in the form of non-politically correct bride and groom homes, where the man gets the elevated home (his status in the relationship) and the woman has the one nearer to the ground.

The Khmer Leu hill tribe people have always recognized the lake as a sacred place, home to the spirits of the land, water, and forest. Those spirits interact with human, and according to the local legend of Yeak Laom Lake, fabulous, spiritual aquatic beings reside here. The surrounding forests of the area are also said to be the home of spirits, and therefore tree cannot be cut. This helps to explain why the hill tribe people took so strongly to the idea of protecting the area. It is very easy to get there - just take 3km east of the independence monument roundabout to the hill tribe monument circle and turn right about 1.5 km to the entrance gate. The local hill tribe community connected to the lake gets to collect an entrance fee, giving them a source of income and revenue for protecting their resource. It is only a few hundred riels per person and a few hundred for a motorcycle.



## Suggested Itinerary

### DISCOVER MINORITIES OF CAMBODIA

#### 3 Days 2 Nights

##### DAY 1 : Arrival in Rattanakiri

Early morning transfer from the hotel for domestic flight to Banlung, the capital of Ratanakiri, nicknamed the "Red City" because of the omnipresent laterite. Upon arrival at the airport, meet with a guide and transfer to Terres Rouges Lodge (superb house built of precious wood, located near a lake, in the middle of a wonderful garden), then lunch at the Lodge. In the afternoon, take a small trip through rubber plantation toward the nearby waterfalls; we end up with a detour to Yak Laom lake, a beautiful and perfectly-round stretch of water, surrounded by forest, overnight at Terres Rouges lodge.



##### DAY 2 : Visit Minorities

Today, we cross bamboo forests before reaching the village of Voeune Sai, located on the left bank of Se San River. The Chinese village is located on the other side of the river. Besides, this place is nearly a Chinese enclave in Cambodian territory, most villagers, who are there in their thirties, do not even speak Khmer. Upstream of the Se San are a certain number of Tampoun villages that practice funeral statuary; if it is possible, we will rent a boat to go to the village of Ka Chaon that has superb totems. If not, we will reach it by jeep. Overnight at terres Rouges Lodge.

##### DAY 3 : Departure

Rattanakiri, Over and Out ...

Early departure for a quick shopping tour in Banlung market before flying back to Phnom Penh for connecting flight back home. End of Service.



## Cambodian New Year

It is a three-day celebration after the end of the harvest season to mark the turn of the New Year, according to the Khmer lunar calendar. Every home is seen with attractive decorations. Shrines are full of food and beverages, given as the offerings to God. Other people attend Buddhist temples where traditional games are also performing.

## Birthday of King Sihamony

During the king's birthday, a giant firework display is held close to the riverbank in front of the Royal Palace.

## Royal Ploughing Ceremony

It is culturally celebrated to alert the nation of the commencement of rainy season and to inform farmers to be ready for farming rice by starting to plough. The venue is a field at a wing of the Royal Palace, Phnom Penh. The scene is interesting as it depicts real ploughing activities where cows are given a variety of crops and liquids to eat and drink. Based on the choice of crops eaten by the sacred cows, prediction will be made for the coming year. For more information, please visit [www.tourismcambodia.com](http://www.tourismcambodia.com)



Royal Ploughing Ceremony - Phnom Penh

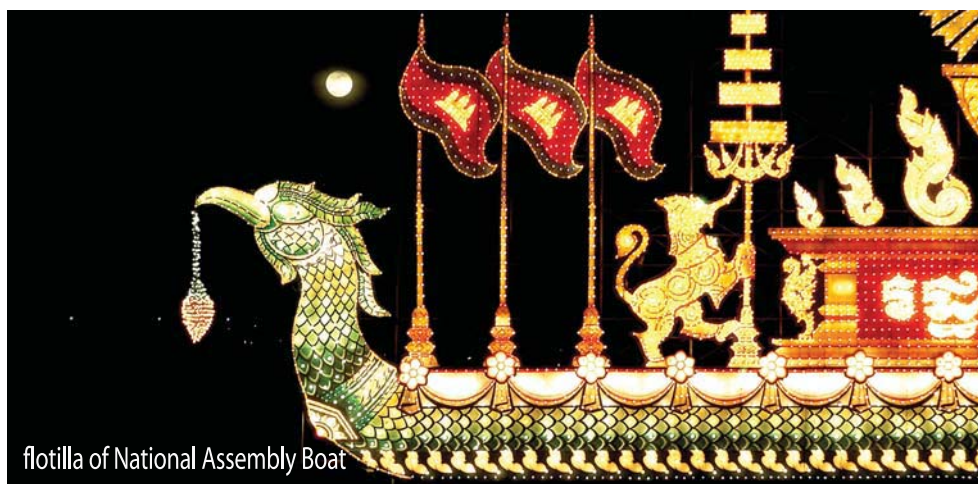
## Pchum Ben - The Soul Day

It is a religious festival to bless the souls of ancestors, relatives and friends alike who have passed away. Household members attend Buddhist temples.

## Water Festival



Not only it marks the reversing flow of Tonle Sap River but also ushers in the fishing season. The highlight of the event is boat races over three days. As night falls, fireworks start lighting up the sky and flotilla of boats sail under full moon. Some analysts say the celebration is also a thanksgiving to the Mekong River for providing the country with fertile land. A massive influx of visitors from all provinces comes together on the bank of the Mekong River for days and nights.





## Angkor Festival

This festival is a showcase of performing arts with Angkor Wat as a backdrop. Performers are from all over Asia to attend this festival, performing great epic stories from myths and legends, including the Ramayana, with their own national dance, music



and rhythmic interpretations. Former King Sihanouk often attends when he is in residence in Siem Reap and other dignitaries come to witness this wonderful spectacle.

## Angkor Half Marathon

International Half Marathon is held at the world wonder of renowned Angkor Wat. This event attracts competitors from all over the world. With thousands of spectators and the World Wonder of Angkor Wat, it is a spectacular setting.





## Cambodia Historical Tour – 10 days 9 Nights

### Day 1: ARRIVAL

Arrive Phnom Penh around noon - visa processing - meet with guide for transfer to the hotel. Afternoon half-day city tour to national museum of Khmer arts, silver pagoda on the same ground of Royal Palace, river front park and renowned Wat Phnom hill. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 2: PHNOM PENH ORIENTATION

Morning visit to Toul Sleng genocidal museum, and Cheung Ek killing field. Afternoon city orientation tour including Phnom Penh municipality hall, national library, national bank, independence monument and shopping at new central market. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

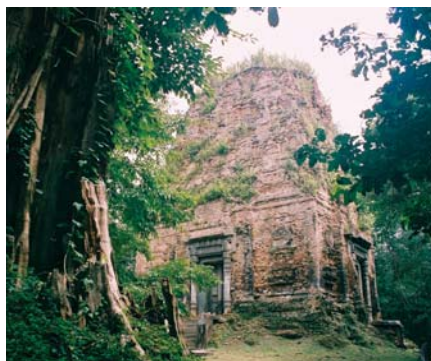


### Day 3: VISIT FUNAN CITY

Morning excursion to Takeo province. Upon arrival, depart by boat to Angkor Borei (Funan City-built in early 400 years BC) and visit the magnificent Phnom Da temple on the top of Phnom Da mountain, the first work of pre-Angkorian period and Museum. Continue the journey by ground to Phnom Chiso. On the way back, visit Ta Promh temple (Bati temple) and Yeay Pouv. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 4: FORMER CAPITAL OF OUDONG

Morning overland excursion to Ou Dong stopover in Phnom Prasat and visit the Pre-Angkorian temple (8th c) and the pagoda to view the reclining Buddha. Enjoy the beautiful view of the surrounding plains and rice-fields from the hilltop temple. Continue driving to Ou Dong where a picnic lunch will be served. Afternoon visit to various temples and the three large stupas where the ashes of three former kings are preserved. Next visit to the Vihara of 18 Cubit Buddha, until transfer back to Phnom Penh. Overnight in Phnom Penh.



### Day 5: PRE-ANGKORIAN CITY - SIEM REAP

After breakfast, depart for Kampong Thom by a private transfer. The journey will take 3 hours to cover a 165km distance. On the way, visit the Kuhear Moha Nokor Temple and Sambor Prei Kuk, a group of temples which consist of about 200 temples of the pre-Angkorian City. Continue the trip to Siem Reap by having a short break at Kampong Kday, "Angkorean" bridge. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 6: VISIT ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Morning tour to Rolous group including Preah Ko, Bakong, and Lo Lei. Afternoon tour to small circuit including Prasat Kravan (Cardamon sanctuary), Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang (Royal Bath), Ta Promh (Jungle Temple), Takeo, Thommanon, and Chau Say Tevoda. Overnight in Siem Reap.



### Day 7: SOUTH GATE AND ANGKOR WAT

Morning tour to South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of the Elephants, and Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon visit to the World Wonder of Angkor Wat and the sunset view at Phnom Bakheng hill. Dinner with Khmer traditional dance show. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 8: BANTEAY SREI AND KBAL SPEAN

Early morning, view sunrise at Angkor Wat and then transfer to the hotel for breakfast. The same morning visit to Banteay Srei (Fortress of the women) and Kbal Spean (The Rivers of 1,000 lingas). Afternoon grand circuit including Pre Rup (self-body changing), East Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Porn, Preah Khan, and Baksei Chamkrong. Overnight in Siem Reap.



### Day 9: PHNOM KULEN WATER FALL

Morning full day tour to holy mountain of Phnom Kulen, one of the eight water sources, Liga carving, a legacy of the God-kings who ruled Cambodia in the ninth century, the sleeping Buddha, and the waterfall of Phnom Kulen. Afternoon tour to the more hidden Khmer temple of Beng Mealea, built in late 11th century by King Suryavarman II. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 10: DEPARTURE

Morning visit to Mines Museum, Angkor Conservation, and Les Artisans d'Angkor - Chantiers Ecole where visitors can observe students learning traditional carving and finishing techniques and shopping at local market. Afternoon boat trip on great Tonle Sap Lake and floating villages until transfer for flight departure. End of Service.



## Cambodia Highlight – 17 Days 16 Nights

### Day 1: ARRIVAL IN PHNOM PENH

Upon arrival, meet with a guide for transfer to the hotel. Afternoon half-day city tour to National Museum of Khmer Arts, Silver pagoda on the same ground of Royal Palace, river front park and renowned Wat Phnom hill. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 2: PHNOM PENH ORIENTATION

Morning visit to Toul Sleng museum and Cheung Ek killing field. Afternoon orientation city tour including Phnom Penh municipality hall, national library, national bank, independence monument and shopping at the new central market. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 3: KAMPONG CHAM AND KRATIE FRESH WATER DOLPHINS

Morning pick up from the hotel for overland excursion to Kratie via Kampong Cham province. On the way, visit Phnom Pros (Men Hill) & Phnom Srei (Women Hill), each with its own temple. Upon arrival in Kampong Cham, short visit to a unique Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor, an 11th century Mahayana Buddhist shrine built from sandstone and laterite. Then continuing to Kratie province. Check into the hotel upon arrival. Overnight in Kratie.



### Day 4: KRATIE - KAMPONG THOM

In the morning, see freshwater dolphins at Kampi stream. Then visit the crown of Wat Phnom Sambok where you could see a good view of the rice field up to Vietnam border with a fresh air and visit the old colonial town of Kratie before driving back to Kampong Thom. Check into the hotel upon arrival. Overnight in Kampong Thom.

### Day 5: PRE-ANGKORIAN TEMPLES - SIEM REAP

Morning drive to the 7th century temple of Sambor Prei Kuk. On the way, enjoy scenes of traditional daily life of rural Cambodia. Visit the ancient capital pre-Angkorian temples - after Chenla era - with its 100 temples dating from the Pre-Angkorian period. The complex at Ishanapura is composed of four groups of temples that are among the most ancient surviving examples of Khmer architecture. Picnic lunch on site or return to town for lunch before driving to Siem Reap. Check into the hotel upon arrival. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 6: ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Morning tour to south gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphuon, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon tour to small circuit including Prasat Kravan (Cardamon sanctuary), Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang (Royal Bath), Ta Promh (jungle temple), Takeo, Thommanon and Chau Say Tevoda and view sunset at Phnom Bakheng hill. Overnight in Siem Reap.



### Day 7: ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Morning sightseeing at Ruluos Group (Preah Ko, Bakong and Lolei). Afternoon visit to the world wonder of Angkor Wat and view sunset at Phnom Bakheng hill. Dinner with Khmer traditional dance show. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 8: BANTEAY SREI AND KBAL SPEAN

In early morning, view sunrise at Angkor Wat and then transfer to the hotel for breakfast. The same morning visit to Banteay Srei (Fortress of the women) and Kbal Spean (The rivers of 1000 lingas). Afternoon visit grand circuit including Pre Rup (self-body changing), East Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Pean, Preah Khan and Baksei Chamkrong. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 9: PHNOM KULEN WATER FALL

Morning full day tour to holy mountain of Phnom Kulen, one of the eight water sources, and Liga carving, a legacy of the god-kings who ruled Cambodia in the ninth century, sleeping Buddha, and the waterfall of Phnom Kulen. Afternoon tour to the hidden Khmer temple of Beng Mealea built in late 11th century by King Suryavarman II. Overnight in Siem Reap.



### Day 10: SIEM REAP - BATTAMBANG

Morning transfer to speedboat dock to Battambang. On the way, view the floating villages and wetland forests. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. The same afternoon visit to the Provincial Museum and drive along the Sangker River to visit Wat Ek Phnom (11th century - Suryavaman I). Then, proceeding to visit Phnom Sampeau and killing field/cave. Overnight in Battambang.

### Day 11: BATTABANG - PHNOM PENH

Morning visit to Phnom Banon, with its five sandstone towers on the top of the hill and enjoying a magnificent view of the surrounding plains. Afternoon drive back to Phnom Penh. On arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh.



## Classic Tours

### Day 12: PHNOM PENH - KEP CITY

In early morning, check out from the hotel; take a trip down to the south on national road number 3 to Takeo. On the way, visit Tonle Bati temple, Ta Promh. In the afternoon, continue excursion to Kep via Kampot. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Kep.



### Day 13: BOKOR - SIHANOUK VILLE

In the morning, check out from the hotel, free at the beach, enjoy sun bathing, or visit some most highlight French Colonial Houses in provincial town at Kampot province before proceeding to Bokor National Park, where a hill station of Bokor palace was left abandoned for ages. Discovering the ruins of the former Royal Residence, the church, and the casino hotel and continuing to trek to Popok vil (swirling clouds) waterfall (around 30minutes/way). Late in the afternoon, drive to Sihanouk Ville (100km around 2.5 hours), upon arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Sihanouk Ville.

### Day 14: SIHANOUK VILLE - REAM NATIONAL PARK

In the morning, drive to Ream National Park to spend a full day boat trip to discover this beautiful park established as a protected area in 1993. The park encompasses 21,000 hectares of coastal area including sandy beaches, mangrove forests, the Preik Tek Sap, off-shore coral reefs and two islands. The area is home to a variety of water and jungle forest, rhesus monkeys and other wildlife on the shore. Relax on the pristine white beach, and picnic lunch will be provided on the site. Return back to Sihanouk Ville. Overnight in Sihanouk Ville.



### Day 15: SIHANOUK VILLE

Take boat trip to a nearby island for snorkeling, fishing or diving (Russey Island & Chanlos island along the way to Russey Island). Overnight in Sihanouk Ville.



### Day 16: SIHANOUK VILLE - PHNOM PENH

Morning overland excursion back to Phnom Penh. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Free at your leisure. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 17: DEPARTURE

Free leisure until transfer to the airport for flight departure. End of service.

## Cambodia Adventure Tours – 21 Days 20 Nights

### Day 1: ARRIVAL PHNOM PENH

Arrive in Phnom Penh around noon - visa processing - meet with guide transfer to the hotel. Afternoon half day city tour to visit National Museum of Khmer Arts, Silver Pagoda on the same ground of Royal Palace, river front park and renowned Wat Phnom hill. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 2: PHNOM PENH - KAMPONG CHAM - KRATIE (DOLPHINS)

After early breakfast, check out from the hotel and take a trip to Kampong Cham, one of Cambodia's largest towns located on the bank of the mighty Mekong river to explore the French Colonial houses in the city. On the way, visit Phnom Pros (Men Hill) & Phnom Srei (Women Hill), each with its own temple and visit the unique Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor, an 11th century Mahayana Buddhist shrine built from sandstone and laterite. After lunch, we have a city tour, and then we cross the first bridge of Mekong river to Kratie. Overnight in Kratie.

### Day 3: KRATIE - STEUNG TRENG

In the morning, visit the old colonial town of Kratie and Phnom Sambok where you could see a good view of the rice field up to Vietnam border which boast the major sights in this region. After lunch, visit the endangered freshwater dolphins of Cambodia at Kampi, about 15km north of Kratie before continuing to Steung Treng by ground. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Steung Treng.

### Day 4: STEUNG TRENG - RATTANAKIRI (ECO-TOURISM)

In the morning, city tour around this outpost town. There are not many things to see in Steung Treng apart from the countryside and few temples before driving to Banlung, the capital of Ratanakiri, because of the omnipresent laterite. Upon arrival, check into Terres Rouges Lodge (superb house built of precious wood, located near a lake, in the middle of a wonderful garden). In the afternoon, take a trip through rubber plantations toward the nearby waterfalls, and stop at Yak Laom Lake, a beautiful and perfectly-round stretch of water, surrounded by forest. Overnight in Ratanakiri.





### Day 5: THE TAMPOUN TOTEMS

To the northwest, we cross a bamboo forest before reaching the village of Voeune Sai located on the left bank of the Se San river; the view on the Chinese village on the other side of the river is quite pretty. Besides, this place is nearly a Chinese enclave in Cambodian territory, most villagers, who are there in the thirties, do not even speak Khmer. Upstream of the Se San are a certain number of Tampoun villages that practice funeral statuary; if it is possible, we will rent a boat to go to the village of Ka Choan that has superb totems. If not, we will reach there by jeep. Overnight in Rattanakiri.

### Day 6: THE KROEUNG TERRITORY

We are going full North today, heading towards Laos and the village of Taveng. We first cross Veyrum Plang around lava field in the forest; a few steps away, there is a small waterfall (in the rainy season only) surrounded by tiger caves. Later on, we stop at some nice Kroeung villages located in the forest on both sides of the road. The further we go North, the more beautiful the forest is. In some Kroeung villages, depending on the season, we might discover some quite impressive bachelor houses built on very high stilts. Let's notice that, when they have achieved their goal and when the young man has become the head of a family, these houses are destroyed before being built again by younger men on the following season. Depending on the time and the state of the dirt road, we will choose a location for a picnic before exploring the nearby villages. Overnight in Rattanakiri.



### Day 7: THE ZIRCON MINES OF THE THREE-DISTRICT AREA

Waking up early by the songs of the roosters, pigs and buffalos... we cross the river to get back to our car and drive back to Banlung before leaving for the Three-District area. The dirt track leading to the Three-District mining area is one of the impressive area of the country: 35 km of 30 to 70cm-deep ruts concealing stumps and other branches destroying bodies under the car, lower backs and fuel tanks. The vehicles that dare to take this "back-to-hell" road are, most of the time, old Russian jeeps close to their own end, their tires are often covered with chains and their overall appearance is often far from the initial design of their manufacturer... At least they usually make it in one day. That is the main thing! Through huge rubber-tree forests planted by the French in 1961 and then the Tampoun jungle, you reach the Three-District mining area, kind of tropical slum or favella populated by 3000 people lost in the middle of the Cambodian forest. This "Zircon Rush" has transformed this place into a massive Swiss cheese drilled with hundreds of 60cm-wide and 12m-deep wells. The miners go down without any safety equipment in these wells (whose sides have not even been propped up!) using candles for lighting. Accidents occur sometimes. Two kilometers away, there is the seven-tiered waterfall. It is called that way because the river is interrupted by seven rocky floors creating waterfalls where you can shower and swim with pleasure. Overnight in Rattanakiri.

#### Day 8: RATANAKIRI - MONDULKIRI

In early morning, drive to Sen Monorom, Capital of Mondulkiri, located at a high elevation, supporting unique flora and fauna among its hills. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Mondulkiri.

#### Day 9: ELEPHANT RIDING

In the morning, driving to the minority group of Phnong tribe at Putang village. From the village, taking an elephant ride through the forest to enjoy the unique scenery of this remote, windswept province and take a rest at the waterfall before returning back to the province. In the afternoon, exploring the small town of Sen Monorom, a charming little community set amid rolling hills, with a visit to a waterfall that doubles up as the local swimming pool and ending the day at Phnom Doh Krormom (Maiden breast hill) to view the nice view of Mondulkiri town and watch the sunset from the top of the hill. Overnight in Mondulkiri.



#### Day 10: BOU SRA WATERFALL

Drive 37km to the east to Bou Sra waterfall with a stop to visit minority villages along the way. Bou Sra waterfall is the most impressive place in Cambodia. There is an unusual double drop, plunging 15m then 30m into the jungle below. In the afternoon, continuing to visit the Busra weaving village before returning back to town by stopping en route to see the nice scenery of Forest Sea (Sa moth Chheu). Overnight in Mondulkiri.

#### Day 11: MONDULKIRI- KAMPONG CHAM - KAMPONG THOM

After early breakfast this morning, we drive 250km to Kampong Cham, one of Cambodia's largest towns, located on the bank of the mighty Mekong River, to explore the French Colonial houses in the city and visit the unique Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor, an 11th century Mahayana Buddhist shrine built from sandstone and laterite. Brief visit to Phnom Pros (Men Hill) & Phnom Srei (Women Hill), each with its own temple before continuing to Kampong Thom province (108km/2hrs) by stopping en route at Skun district where big spiders are available to see or taste. you could get a good photo with it before continuing to visit the 11th century of Wat Kohear Nokor temple, meeting with local monks and villagers. Overnight in Kampong Thom.



## Classic Tours

### Day 12: KAMPONG THOM - SIEM REAP

Morning drive to the 7th century temple of Sambor Prei Kuk. En route enjoy scenes of traditional daily life of rural Cambodia. Visit the ancient capital, after Chenla era, with its 100 temples dating from the Pre-Angkorian period. The complex at Ishanapura is composed of four groups of temples that are among the most ancient surviving examples of Khmer architecture. Picnic lunch on site or return to town for lunch before drive to Siem Reap (147km/2hrs). On arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 13: ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Arrive in the morning - meet with guide for transfer to the hotel. The same morning tour to Rolous Group including Preah Ko, Bakong, and Lo Lei. Afternoon tour to small circuit including Prasat Kravan (Cardamon sanctuary), Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang (Royal Bath), Ta Promh (jungle temple), Takeo, Thommanon and Chau SayTevoda. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 14: ANGKOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

In early morning, view sunrise at Angkor Wat then transfer to the hotel for breakfast. The same morning, tour to south gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphuon, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon visit to the world wonder of Angkor Wat and view sunset at Phnom Bakheng hill. Overnight in Siem Reap.



### Day 15: BANTEAY SREI AND GRAND CIRCUIT

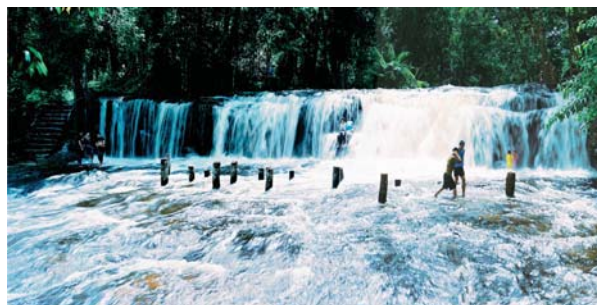
Morning visit to Banteay Srei (Fortress of the women) and Kbal Spean (the rivers of 1,000 lingas). Afternoon visit grand circuit including Pre Rup (self-body changing), East Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Pean, Preah Khan and Baksei Chamkrong. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 16: FLOATING VILLAGES

Morning visit to War Museum and Les Artisans d'Angkor - Chantiers Ecole where visitors can observe students learning traditional carving and finishing techniques and visit Siem Reap Market. Afternoon tour to floating village and boat trip on Tonle Sap Great Lake and view sunset at Phnom Krom. Dinner with Khmer traditional dance show. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 17: TREKING AT HOLY MOUNTAIN

Morning full day tour to Holy mountain of Phnom Kulen, one of the eight water sources, and Liga carving, a legacy of the God-kings who ruled Cambodia in the ninth century, sleeping Buddha, and the waterfall of Phnom Kulen. Overnight in Siem Reap.



**Day 18: SIEM REAP - BANTEAY CHHMAR - BANTEAYTOAP - BATTAMBANG**

After breakfast at the hotel, drive northwest to Banteay Mean Chey province - Sisophon (105km/2.45hrs) and continue to visit Banteay Chhmar temple (60km/1.13hrs), one of the capitals of Jayavarman II. It was rebuilt by Jayavarman VII and dedicated to his sons and four generals who were killed in battle repelling a Cham invasion in 1177. The sandstone structure, built in the 11th century and dedicated to the deity Avalokiteshvara, suffered significant damage during repeated Thai invasions; however, although many of its huge bas-reliefs, which are said to be comparable of those of the Bayon and Angkor Wat, still remain. Proceeding to Banteay Torp temple and having picnic lunch on site before returning back to Sisophon and Battambang province (120km/2.15hrs). Arrive in Battambang and check into the hotel. Overnight in Battambang.

**Day 19: WAT EK PHNOM, PHNOM SAMPEAU, KILLING FIELD - PHNOM BANON**

After breakfast at local restaurant in the same morning, we visit the Provincial Museum and drive along the picturesque Sangker river to visit Wat Ek Phnom (11th century Suryavaman I). Then proceeding to visit Phnom Sampeau and killing field/cave. Afternoon visit to Phnom Banon, with its five sandstone towers on the top of a hill and enjoy a magnificent view of the surrounding plains. Return to Battambang for a walk through the town to discover its beautiful Colonial architecture and along the Sangke river. Overnight in Battambang.

**Day 20: FORMER CAPITAL - PHNOM PRASET - PHNOM PENH**

In the morning, drive back to Phnom Penh. On the way, stopover in Ou Dong to visit the various temples and the three large stupas where the ashes of three former kings are preserved. Next visit to the Vihara of 18 Cubit Buddha and enjoying the beautiful view of the surrounding plains and rice-fields from the hilltop temple. Continue driving to Phnom Praset, visit the Pre-Angkorian temple (8th c) and the pagoda to view the reclining Buddha. Then drive back to Phnom Penh. On arrival, check into the hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

**Day 21: PHNOM PENH - DEPARTURE**

Morning free at leisure until transfer for flight departure. End of service.



# Tourism Cambodia



## **Tourist Information Center**

- Travel & Tourist information
- Province guides
- free job advertisement
- free all travel listing
- Photo gallery

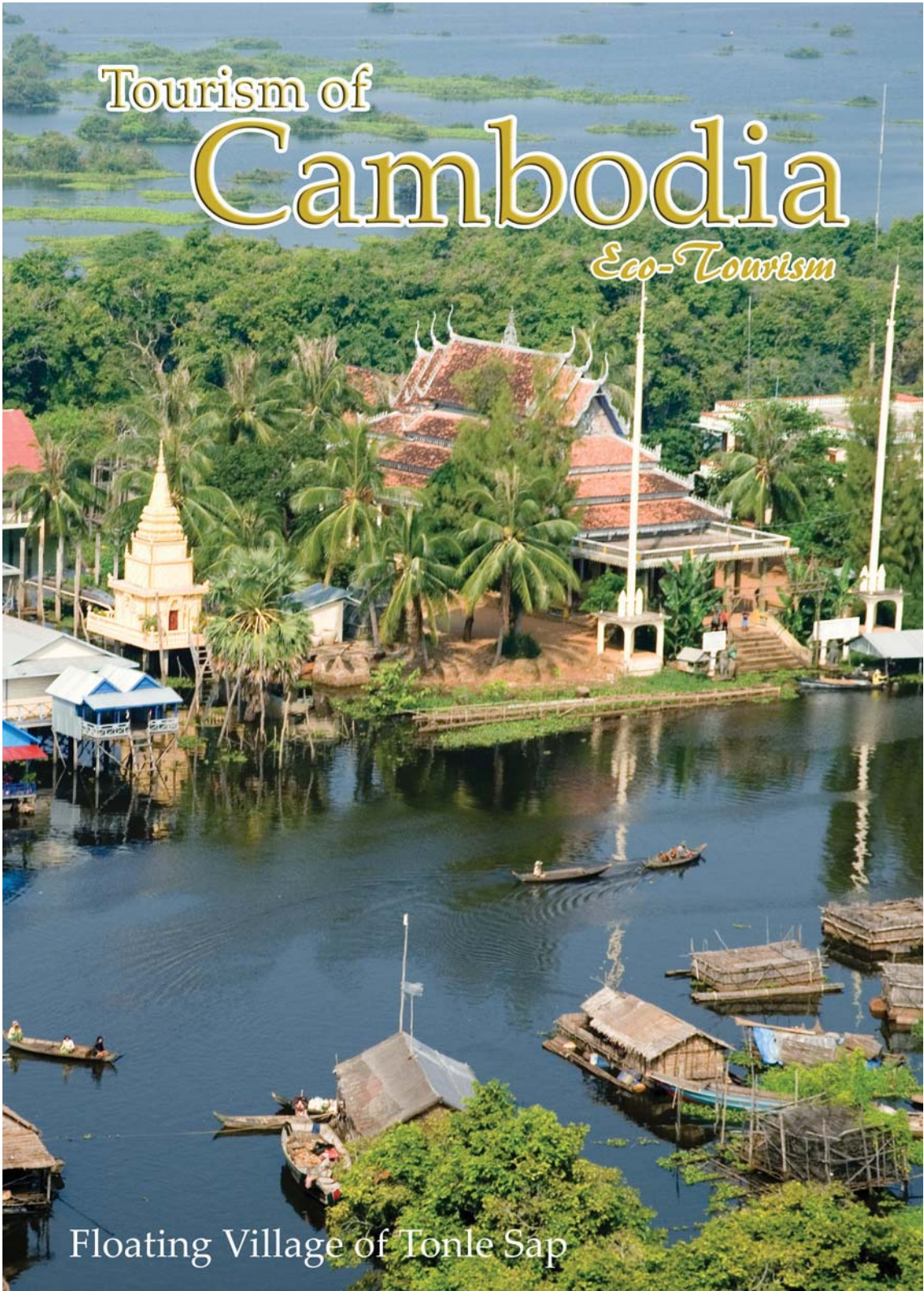
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# Tourism of Cambodia

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Floating Village of Tonle Sap