

AROUND CAMBODIA

13 days - 12 nights

TIME	PLACE	ACTIVITY	MEAL
 Day 1	Phnom Penh	Arrival in Phnom Penh. Visit Royal Palace and National Museum. Enjoy a special dinner at Romdeng, a charity restaurant housed in a restored colonial building where former street children are taught the principles of hospitality. Overnight in Phnom Penh.	L
 Day 2	Phnom Penh	Morning, visit the notorious Choeung Ek Killing Fields. Afternoon, visit Wat Phnom, the most famous buddhist temple in Phnom Penh. Then continue your visit to Russian Market and Victory Monument. Overnight at hotel in Phnom Penh.	B,L
 Day 3	Kratie	Head to Kampong Cham, soak in the scenery of rural Cambodia, drive through cashew nut plantations, rice fields, and traditional villages. Tour the town center before continuing to Wat Nokor. Afternoon, your leisure in the sleepy riverside town of Kratie. Enjoy a spectacular Mekong sunset. Overnight in Kratie.	B,L
 Day 4	Kratie	Morning, a walk to a local market, see local people trading. Set out for a countryside tour. And then board a boat to try and catch a glimpse of the endangered, freshwater Irrawaddy dolphins. Continue towards the village Sambo for a visit of Wat Sorsor Mouy Roy Pagoda. Afternoon, cross the river to the island of Koh Trong, take a horse cart or biking, see floating village and much more. Return to Kratie by boat. Overnight in Udom Sambath, Kratie.	B,L
 Day 5	Kampong Thom	Depart for Kampong Thom, see the countryside scenery and the local life during the transfer. Visit take 1000 steps climbing up to Phnom Santuk Mountain, enjoy spectacular vistas from the top. Continue by road to Kampong Thom. Afternoon, your leisure time in Kampong Thom. Overnight in Kampong Thom.	B,L

	Day 6	Siem Reap	<p>Heading out to north of town, visit Sambor Prei Kuk, a jungle-enclosed temple complex, very less touristy and worth your visit. See the melding of architecture with nature surrounding. Lunch with local food. Continue towards Siem Reap. On arrival, check-in at the hotel and leisure in the afternoon.</p> <p>Overnight in Siem Reap.</p>	B,L
	Day 7	Siem Reap	<p>Morning, visit Angkor Wat the most famous of all the temples on the plain of Angkor.</p> <p>Afternoon, visit to the antique capital of Angkor Thom. located in present day Cambodia, was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire.</p> <p>Evening, buffet dinner and enjoy Khmer Traditional Dance Show (Apsara show) at a local restaurant.</p> <p>Overnight in Siem Reap.</p>	B,L
	Day 8	Siem Reap	<p>Morning, visit to Ta Prohm, one of the most beautiful temples in Angkor and continue your visit at Preah Khan Temple.</p> <p>Afternoon, sightseeing at the Tonle Sap Lake, the “Great Lake” of Cambodia, on a traditional wooden boat.</p> <p>Overnight in Siem Reap.</p>	B,L
	Day 9	Siem Reap	<p>One hour transfer to the quiet Beng Mealea. A short walk through the dense jungle to discover the wonders of an overgrown temple, Beng Mealea, undiscovered for centuries.</p> <p>Continue your visit to the pretty temple of Banteay Srey. Afternoon, stop at a local communities and interact with locals, get intruduced about local produces, Palm Wine and Palm Sugar.</p> <p>Overnight in Siem Reap.</p>	B,L
	Day 10	Battambang	<p>Transfer from Siem Reap to Battambang. Afternoon, arrive in Battambang, home to some of the most well preserved colonial French buildings and is Cambodia’s second largest city. After checking into hotel, rest of the day is spent at your leisure.</p> <p>Overnight in Battambang.</p>	B,L
	Day 11	Battambang	<p>Exploring the city. Visit Phnom Sampeau, home to the killing caves and a small temple. Continue the tour with a ride on a bamboo train. Disembark and visit local villages and farms on the way to Wat Banan, an 11-century temple on a mountain. Climb to the top and enjoy the views over the beautiful countryside. Afternoon, visit to the many cultural villages around Battambang and many more.</p> <p>Overnight in Battambang.</p>	B,L

	Day 12	Phnom Penh	Morning, depart from Battambang and travel to Kampong Chhnang, known for its traditional pottery. Continue to Oudong, the former royal capital of Cambodia and enjoy an ox-cart ride through the city. Climb the stairs to the top of Oudong Mountain and enjoy magnificent views. Afternoon, drive to Phnom Penh, stop at Koh Chen, an island in the Tonlé Sap River. Arrival in Phnom Penh, check-in to hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh.	B,L
	Day 13	Phnom Penh	Morning, breakfast at hotel. Your leisure time for walking around and shopping in Phnom Penh until we transfer you to airport for your departure flight.	B,L

Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Phnom Penh – Arrival (D)

Upon arriving in Phnom Penh, your guide will meet and transfer you to your hotel. In the afternoon, you will explore the rich history and waterways of the capital. Visit the opulent Royal Palace, home to Cambodia's Royal family, and the National Museum, with its superb collection of Khmer art.

End the day with a delicious Khmer welcome dinner at Romdeng. Enjoy dinner at a charity restaurant housed in a restored colonial building where former street children are taught the principles of hospitality. (NOTE: Romdeng is usually closed during national holidays and for the entire month of April over the Khmer New Year holiday).

Overnight at hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 2: Phnom Penh (B,L)

Morning, visit the notorious Choeung Ek Killing Fields 15km southwest of Phnom Penh. This one is the site of brutal executions of more than 17,000 individuals, most of whom first suffered through interrogations, torture and deprivation in Toul Sleng Prison during Pol Pot regime (From 1975–1979). Continue your visit to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (S21 prison). This prison was a high school, and used as a prison by Pol Pot's security forces and became the largest center for detention and torture during the rule of the Khmer Rouge.

Afternoon, visit Wat Phnom – the most famous buddhist temple in Phnom Penh. It was built in 1373, and stands 27 metres above the ground. It is the tallest religious structure in the city. The pagoda was given the name of Wat Preah Chedey Borapaut.

Continue your visit to Russian Market (Psah Toul Tom Poug), a lively outdoor market where you will find antiques, silver and gold jewelry, gems, silk, kramas, stone and wood carvings, as well as T-Shirts, CDs and other souvenirs. Then, we end our tour at the Victory Monument. This Vann Molyvann-designed reddish-brown coloured edifice was built in 1958 to celebrate independence from the French and as a memorial to Cambodia's war dead. Back to your hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 3: Phnom Penh – Kampong Cham – Kratie (B)

Head to Kampong Cham, a former French trading post town and soak in the scenery of rural Cambodia as you drive past cashew nut plantations, rice fields, and traditional villages. Tour the town center before continuing to Wat Nokor, an evocative 11th century sandstone Buddhist shrine. Spend the afternoon at your leisure in the sleepy riverside town of Kratie. Enjoy a spectacular Mekong sunset with perhaps a cold drink this evening. The Kratie stretch of the river is particularly famed for its striking sunsets.

Overnight at hotel in Kratie.

Day 4: Kratie (B,L)

Morning, stroll through this laid-back northern town, visiting the local market where vendors sell everything from fresh fruits and meats to motorbike tires and helmets. Set out for a countryside tour and then board a boat in the afternoon to try and catch a glimpse of the endangered, freshwater Irrawaddy dolphins. Continue towards the village Sambo for a visit of Wat Sorsor Mouy Roy Pagoda with a scenic lunch served amongst the grounds.

Afternoon, cross the river to the island of Koh Trong and experience typical Cambodian village life. Upon arrival, you can decide whether you would like to take a local horse cart or pedal yourself around the island on a bicycle. Visit the island's Wat where you will take part in a tree planting project initiated by a local farmer, in order to recultivate the once densely forested island. Continue with a visit to the Vietnamese floating village on the southern tip of the island. Return to Kratie by boat this afternoon.

Overnight at hotel in Udom Sambath, Kratie

Day 5: Kratie – Kampong Thom (B)

Depart for Kampong Thom passing through lush grasslands- home to a plethora of waterbirds- and watch out for ox-carts along the road, the main form of local transportation in this region. Although there are almost 1000 steps, climbing up Phnom Santuk Mountain offers spectacular vistas of the surrounding countryside and houses a small pagoda at the top. After soaking in the view, descend the steps and continue by road to Kampong Thom. This afternoon, will be spent at your leisure.

Overnight at hotel in Kampong Thom.

Day 6: Kampong Thom – Siem Reap (B,L)

Sambor Prei Kuk, 30 kms north of town, is a jungle-enclosed temple complex that receives very few tourists due to its remote location. However, a visit to these Pre-Angkorian ruins should not be missed. As you travel through the ruins on bike and foot, you will be awe-struck at the melding of architecture and nature, as the brick structures here blend seamlessly with the nature surrounding them. You will have the chance to visit and contribute to the sustainability of the people's livelihood as the local community will prepare a simple but tasty lunch for you near the temples. Continue towards Siem Reap (3h). On arrival, check in to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Day 7: Siem Reap - Explore Angkor Wat & Angkor Thom (B,L,D)

Morning, visit Angkor Wat the most famous of all the temples on the plain of Angkor. The temple complex covers 81 hectares and is comparable in size to the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Its distinctive five towers are

emblazoned on the Cambodian flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Continue to view a wonderful sunset from the Top of Phnom Bakhen Hill.

Afternoon, visit to the antique capital of Angkor Thom (literally: "Great City"), located in present day Cambodia, was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire. Continue your visit at the South Gate with its huge statues depicting the churning of the ocean of milk, the Bayon Temple, unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara, the Phimeanakas, the Royal Enclosure, the Elephants Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King.

Evening, buffet dinner and enjoy Khmer Traditional Dance Show (Apsara show) at a local restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 8: Siem Reap – Famous Temples & Tonle Sap Lake (B,L)

Morning, visit Ta Prohm, one of the most beautiful temples in Angkor. Ta Prohm has been relatively untouched since it was discovered and retains much of its mystery. Neak Pean, a fountain built in the middle of a pool (representing the paradisiacal Himalayan mountain-lake), Ta Som, built in late 12th century C.E. the most distant temple on the grand circuit, small but classic.

Continue your visit to Preah Khan temple, built by the King Jayavarman VII. Preah Khan is, like Ta Prohm, a place of towered enclosures and shoulder hugging corridors. However, the temple of Preah Khan is in a reasonable state of preservation and ongoing restoration efforts should maintain and even improve this situation.

Afternoon, take a boat trip for sight-seeing on Tonle Sap Lake, the Great Lake of Cambodia. It is one of the largest lakes in Asia. Here, enjoy a brief cruise past floating villages complete with schools, restaurants, and hospitals.

Overnight at hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 9: Siem Reap (B,L)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the quiet Beng Mealea (1 h drive). Enjoy a short walk through the dense jungle and discover the wonders of an overgrown temple, Beng Mealea, which lay undiscovered for centuries. From here, travel to the "gem" of the Angkor area, the pretty temple of Banteay Srey. The so-called "Citadel of the Women" displays some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art. This afternoon, you will have the opportunity to stop at local communities and interact with locals, followed by an introduction into the production of rice paper before sampling some Palm Wine and Palm Sugar, both local produce.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 10: Siem Reap – Battambang (B,L)

After breakfast, we transfer you from Siem Reap to Battambang. Drive through the countryside, see the peaceful scenery and the local life of Cambodian people.

Alternative: Embark on a beautiful boat as you will be taken from Siem Reap to Battambang by the boat privately (Note: from January to June alternative transfer by road). Cruising along the Tonlé Sap Lake you will encounter a rich and diverse eco-system and stilted houses, as you absorb the tranquil rhythms of life on the river.

This afternoon, you will arrive in Battambang. Home to some of the most well preserved colonial French buildings in the country, Cambodia's second largest city had long been off limits to the tourist trail. After checking into your hotel the rest of the day is spent at your leisure.

Overnight at hotel in Battambang.

Day 11: Battambang (B,L)

Today will be spent encountering friendly locals and exploring this unique city. After breakfast you will proceed to Phnom Sampeau, home to the killing caves and a small temple, representing both serenity and inhumanity in one place. Continue the tour with a ride on a bamboo train. (Note: the train tracks from Battambang to Phnom Penh are currently being rebuilt. The long term future of the bamboo train ride cannot be guaranteed. Should the service stop we will arrange alternative sightseeing). Disembark as your guide leads you through local villages and farms on the way to Wat Banan, an 11-century temple on a mountain top situated between lush paddy fields and beautiful lotus ponds. Climb to the top and enjoy the views over the beautiful countryside and wander around the ancient temple, which is also home to scented flowering trees. This afternoon, you will be taken to some of the many cultural villages around Battambang, where you will learn how the locals produce rice paper, prahoc (typical Cambodian fish paste), grolan (sticky rice stuffed in bamboo), and other Cambodian treats. An optional visit Phare Ponleu Selpak School of Music , Visual & Performing Arts can also be arranged.

You will also visit a weaving and handicraft centre.

Overnight in Battambang.

Day 12: Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Oudong, Phnom Penh (B,L,D)

This morning you will depart from Battambang and travel to Kampong Chhnang, known for its traditional pottery. Continue to Oudong, the former royal capital of Cambodia and enjoy an ox-cart ride through the city. You will then climb the stairs to the top of Oudong Mountain and enjoy magnificent views over the plains below as your guide explains the history of the area and its buildings as well as the religious culture of the Cambodian people. This afternoon, you will drive to Phnom Penh stopping at Koh Chen, an island in the Tonlé Sap River known as the 'Silver Village' due to its production of 'silver' based crafts. From here it is not far to Phnom Penh where you will reach by mid afternoon.

For your last evening in Cambodia you will enjoy an authentic Khmer farewell dinner.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Day 13: Phnom Penh – Departure (B)

Enjoy today at leisure until it is time for your transfer to Phnom Penh International Airport for your individual departure.

End of the journey!