

ESSENTIAL CAMBODIA

10 DAYS / 09 NIGHTS

DESTINATIONS: SIEM REAP – BATTAMBANG – PHNOM PENH

ITINERARY IN DETAILS:

Day 1: Arrival – Siem Reap, Sour Sdey “Hello” CAMBODIA (Meal: Dinner)



Arrive **Siem Reap**, Siem Reap – Treasures of the Kingdom of Cambodia, special welcome all warmly to everybody, a moment of courtesy meeting then self-introduce with our Cambodian tour guide in the meeting point's Siem Reap.

We visit the most favorite place for local people that never forget when visit Siem Reap – The legend of the two sisters of **Preah Ang Chek** and **Ang Chom Shrine**, which are said to bring good luck when worshiped. Continue to **Wat Inkosei** built on the site of an ancient temple, which still remains and continue to **Wat Bo** pagoda to view its well-preserved paintings. Visit **Senteurs D'Angkor** and experience the authentic scents

and tastes of Cambodia through a range of traditional handmade products that help create jobs and incomes for impoverished rural communities. Delicatessen delights include spices, traditional teas, highland coffees and local rice liquors. There are also medical balms and natural massage oils as well as perfumed candles and incense. We also visit **Pouk Silk farm** where original making traditional clothes from the silk and evening our guide will transfer you to have dinner at local restaurant and overnight at hotel in the Siem Reap.

Day 2: Phnom Kulen & 1000 of Lingas & CNN Hero (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

After breakfast, we'll escape the heat of the city by driving 48kms North of Siem Reap to visit the holy **Kulen Mountains**, also referred to as **Phnom Kulen** (“*Mountain of the Lychees*”) by locals. The sandstone from this mountain was the main supplier of construction materials for the Angkor Kingdom. We'll stop at the sacred site of **The River of a Thousand Lingas**, which features hundreds of lingas carved in the sandstone bed of the river, which date back to the 9th century. Further downstream, large blocks of stone, also under water, are carved with Apsaras dancers and Vishnu figures. Next on the agenda is a wander around the **mountain-top pagoda** which is home to relics, statues and a large reclining Buddha.



The last mountain stop will be **Kulen Waterfall**, featuring a natural pool which is the perfect place to cool off on a hot day and a great picnic spot too, so that's what we'll do.

We'll pay a visit to the **Landmine Museum** where Mr. Aki Ra, a former child soldier in the Khmer Rouge has dedicated his life to helping others in need. After having spent most of his child years fighting for the Khmer Rouge and later the Vietnamese army, Mr. Aki Ra was trained by the United Nations to detonate land-mines; his fantastic work earned him a nomination for CNN Hero of the year in 2010.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 3: Siem Reap – Lost of temples (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Breakfast at hotel. In the morning, visit the **Roluos Group**, the monument of Roluos, which served as the capital of Indravarman I (reigned 877-89), are among the earliest large, permanent temples built by the Khmers and mark the beginning of Khmer classical art. **Preah Ko** erected by Indravarman I in the late 9th century dedicated by the king to his ancestors in 880. **Bakong** the largest and most interesting of the Roluos group temples, with his active Buddhist monastery just to the north of the east entrance. **Lolei** built on the islet in the center of a large reservoir (now rice fields) by Yasovarman I, the founder of the

first city at Angkor.

Lunch at local restaurant.

In the afternoon, continue your temple tour by seeing the unique interior brick sculptures **Prasat Kravan**, the **Srah Srang** reservoir (known as “The Royal Baths” was once used for ritual bathing), **Banteay Kdei** (surrounded by 4 concentric walls). Visit **Ta Prohm**, one of the area’s most beautiful temples. Ta Prohm has been relatively untouched since it was discovered and retains much of its mystery. **Eastern Mebon** (guarded at its corner by stone figures of harnessed elephants, some of which are still in a reasonable state of preservation) and the mountain-temple of **Pre Rup until sunset**.

Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at Siem Reap.

Day 4: Siem Reap – Lost of temples (Meal: Breakfast)

An early bird special: Transfer to the archaeological site for **sunrise at Angkor Wat** (we recommend to bring a torch). Return to hotel for breakfast.

Breakfast at hotel In the morning, visit the **South Gate** (with its huge statues depicting the churning of the ocean of milk), the ancient capital of Angkor Thom (12th century), **Bayon** temple (unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara), **Baphuon** recently re-opened after years of restoration), the **Royal Enclosure**, **Phimeanakas**, the **Elephant Terrace** and the **Terrace of the Leper King**.

Lunch at local restaurant.

After lunch, visit the most famous of all the temples on plain of Angkor: **Angkor Wat**, 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 Cambodia flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Angkor Wat’s five towers symbolize Meru’s five peaks – the enclosed wall represents the mountains at the edge of the world and the surrounding moat, the ocean beyond. **Sunset at Angkor Wat**.

Dinner at local restaurant & overnight at hotel in Siem Reap.



Day 5: Siem Reap – Lost of temples (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Breakfast at hotel. In the morning, transfer to **Banteay Srei** temple (10TH century), regarded as the jewel in the crown of classical Khmer Art. Stop at a local village to visit families who are producing **palm sugar**. Continue to **Banteay Samre**, built in the 3rd quarter of the 12th century. It consists of a central temple with four wings preceded by a hall and accompanied by two libraries, the southern example remarkably well preserved. Two concentric walls enclose the ensemble. We continue your temple visit to **Preah Khan**. Built by the king

Jayavarman VII, Preah Khan is, like Ta Prohm, a place of towered enclosures and shoulder-hugging corridors. Unlike Ta Prohm, however, the temple of Preah Khan is in a reasonable state of preservation and on going restoration efforts should maintain and even improve this situation.



In the afternoon commence your tour to visit floating and fishing villages in **TONLE SAP GREAT LAKE**, which one of the world's most productive bodies of fresh water. Each year, millions of fish come to spawn in the seasonally flooded forest surrounding the lake, Attracting myriad water birds as well as people, who have settled in villages along the shores and who live with the rhythms of the water. This ecosystem of extraordinary biological richness and balance between humans and nature was recently designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. It is this fusion

of water and forest, this dense and intertwined world of fish, birds and people which we invite you to immerse yourself in then back to town to visit "**Les Artisans D'Angkor – Chantiers Ecoles**" this center is working with young artisans; the temple creates, produce and market a unique collection of ornamental sculpture, lacquer ware, silk weaving and silk painting. The company promotes fair, sustainable development in order to provide benefits to the rural communities.

You will also observe monks making the various moldings, which adorn the pagodas, then spend time at leisure at a **local market**.

Dinner at local restaurant & overnight at hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 6: Siem Reap – Battambang (Meal: Breakfast)

After breakfast, we farewell Siem Reap and drive toward **Battambang**. Until recently Battambang was very much off the map for visitors as it was a Khmer Rouge stronghold. A riverside town and home to some of the best-preserved Colonial architecture in all Cambodia, Battambang is now making something of a comeback, with improved tourist facilities and roads allowing visitors to explore in comfort.



We drive to the **Bamboo Railway Station**. The **Bamboo Train** has been set up by the villagers to facilitate the transportation of goods and people. The train in itself is very basic – one platform on 4 wheels activated by a small motor. Sitting on the platform we travel the 8km to the next station through beautiful landscape and rice paddies.

Departure to **Phnom Sampeu Mountain**. Phnom Sampeou means 'Ship Mountain' because its peculiar shape reminds of a ship. Atop a 100-meter-high mountain stands a pagoda and three natural caves: Pkasia, Lakhaon and Aksopheak.

We will be just in time to **catch the bats!** As darkness falls, we will begin to see thousands of nocturnal bats taking flight from the surrounding caves in a massive formation of dark, black clouds. Be sure to photograph this amazing and staggering sight!

Overnight in Battambang.



Day 7: Battambang – Phnom Penh (Meal: Breakfast)

After breakfast, we depart Southeast direction to **Phnom Penh**, our first stop at **Kampong Chhnang**, taking the time to stop at a pottery village. We also visit **Phnom Udong**, the ancient Cambodian capital during the latter stages of the Khmer Empire and crowning site of

many past kings. Consisting of a series of stupas atop a large hill, there are outstanding views across the surrounding plains below. Phnom Oudong was bombed and desecrated by the Americans and then the Khmer Rouge, but still possesses a beauty that no war has been able to steal from it.

Last but not least, we stop at **Kampong Loung** to visit the village of goldsmiths along the Tonle Sap, manufacturing souvenir center stopping.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Day 8: Phnom Penh's Past & Present (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Breakfast at hotel. In the morning, visit the **Victory Monument** and the **National Museum**, also called Musee des Beaux-Arts. A French archaeologist and painter, Georges Groslier, designed it in Khmer style in 1917. The museum contains a collection of Khmer art-notably sculptures-from throughout the ages. We visit the notorious **Tuol Sleng Museum (S-21 prison)**. This former school was 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. Time at leisure at the **Russian market** (Psar Tuol Tumpong). Lunch at local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the **Independence monument** and **Wat Langka**, one of Phnom Penh's five original wats (pagodas), founded in 1422. First established as a sanctuary for the Holy Writings and a meeting place for Cambodian and Sri Langkan monks, the Wat was named in honor of these meetings. Wat Langka was used as a storehouse by the Khmer Rouge, so it is escaped total destruction. Now fully renovated, this temple still plays an important place in Cambodian Buddhism.



Visit Phnom Penh city tour by **cyclo** to discover its beautiful colonial architecture. Get an idea of Phnom Penh's architecture fusion from colonial to modern post-independence- by relaxing in a cyclo as you are transported through Phnom Penh's central districts. A time travel through the architectural periods. Enjoy a joint **Sunset Cruise** on the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers. Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 9: Phnom Penh City Tour (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Breakfast at hotel Phnom Penh city tour: you meet and greet with new guide and transport Drive to Killing Fields of **Choeung Ek** (16 km south of Phnom Penh). Between 1975 and 1978 about 17,000 men, women, children and infants (including nine westerners) detained and tortured at S-21 prison were transported to the extermination camp of Choeung Ek. They were often bludgeoned to death to avoid wasting precious bullets. Fragments of human bone and bits of cloth are scattered around the disinterred pits. Over 8,000 skulls, arranged by sex and age, are visible behind the clear glass panels of the Memorial Stupa, which was erected in 1988, then return to Phnom Penh. Time at leisure at **Central Market**, the return to the hotel.



Visit the **Royal Palace**, built by the French in 1866 on the site of the old town, and the **Silver Pagoda**. Located within the grounds of the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda is so named because of the floor, which is made up of 5,000 silver tiles. The treasures found inside include a solid gold Buddha, encrusted and weighing 90 kilograms and small 17th century emerald and baccarat crystal Buddha. End your afternoon with a visit to **Wat Phnom** Temple, Phnom Penh's namesake, from where you can enjoy views over the tree-lined avenues of the city during sunset. Founded 1373, the pagoda was built to house Buddhist relics washed ashore by the

river. Lunch at local restaurant. and in the afternoon you will enjoy visit shopping center at AEON Mall where you can enjoy with modern shopping that build with Japan Standard Market.
Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 10: Phnom Penh – Departure (Meal: Breakfast)

Transfer PHNOM PENH airport for departure to next destination. It’s time to say goodbye, we thank you for traveling with us and warmly welcome you to come again.

Check out time at 12:00

***** End of our services *****

Accommodation as below or **similar:** **double/twin shared room:**

CITY	HOTEL NAME & ROOM TYPE	# NIGHT
SIEM REAP	The Clay Dangkor Hotel (3*) – Deluxe room http://www.theclaydangkorresort.com/	5
BATTAMBANG	Classy Hotel (3*) – Superior room http://classyhotelspa.com/	1
PHNOM PENH	Town View 3 Hotel (3*) – Superior room http://www.townviewhotels.com/town3/	3

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

TOUR COST NOT INCLUDES:

- International air ticket in-out Cambodia
- Cambodia Visa stamp fee: 30\$ (Passport valid more than 6 months, enough space for visa stamp (1 free space), 1 passport photo (4X6), cash 30\$)
- 09 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast
- Meal: 8 Lunches + 9 Dinners (foods only) as mention in program (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner)
- Airport transfers & Transport by air con. vehicles as per program
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- Local [English](#) speaking guide as per program
- Boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake
- Bamboo train riding
- Complementary local Sim Card
- 24hours supporting hotline
- All government taxes
- Cold water and towel during tours

- Other meals, drink, personal expenses, tip, travel insurance, All Bank fees
- Other not mentioned in " **INCLUDES** "

[VISA TO CAMBODIA:](#)

- Passport
- Air Ticket
- **Approval letter from** Cambodia Immigration department (**take up to 2 weeks**)
- Visa Stamping fee: US\$ 30/pax (paid by guest directly at airport)

[CHILD POLICY:](#)

- ❖ Child under 6 YRS sharing room without extra bed: 40% of adult's rate
- ❖ Child under 6 YRS sharing room with extra bed: 60% of adult's rate
- ❖ Child from 6-11 YRS sharing room without extra bed: 60% of adult's rate
- ❖ Child from 6-11 YRS sharing room with extra bed: 70% of adult's rate
- ❖ Child from 11 YRS sharing room without extra bed: 70% of adult's rate
- ❖ Child from 12 years up is consider to be adult and will charge as adult rate