



Cambodia Explorer

- *Please note that this proposed itinerary is subject to availability. We will only proceed with all reservations upon receiving your written confirmation. We recommend your confirmation as early as possible.*
- *All flight times are local.*
- *Flight times and the daily order of sightseeing are subject to change.*
- *Transfer times are approximate and subject to local conditions at the time of travel.*
- *Please refer to the pre-departure guide which has been provided with this proposal.*
- *Surcharge for public holidays and compulsory meals will be applied and to be advised at time of booking*

ITINERARY



Day 01: Phnom Penh Arrival (Own tickets)

Upon arrival, transfer from the airport to the hotel. Early check-in is exclusive and subject to availability.

Later, enjoy half day city tour by Cyclo:

PHNOM PENH URBAN EXPLORATION BY CYCLO

Brace yourself for a 3-hour tour by Cyclo through the streets of Phnom Penh where you will have the opportunity to admire **the mix of Khmer and French colonial architecture**. You will also get unearh the history underlying the abandoned facades as well as explore churches or Chinese temples hidden away down narrow alleys. More than just an architecture tour, this is an **urban exploration** of the city known as the Pearl of Asia not so long ago. Through the eyes of our guide, passionate about his country's turbulent history and unique blend of so many influences, he will lead you around the capital like no one else.

NOTES

- Availability: Morning, Afternoon

- Suggested time: 09:00, 14:00
- Duration: 3 hours
- This tour will lead you through the main areas of the city taking in the Post Office, Central Market or the Public Library. But you will also venture in to more humble neighborhoods to spot hidden buildings.
- A cyclo can carry 1 person only
- Capacity: max 18 pax. Up to 18 pax base on request.

The regular check-in time is at 1400; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: None

Accommodation: Raffles Hotel Le Royal/Landmark Room Pool View

Address: 92 Rukhak Vithei Daun Penh, off Monivong Boulevard.,

Tel: (855-23) 981 888. Fax: (855-23) 981 168

www.phnompenh.affles.com

Day 02: Phnom Penh

ANCIENT, ROYAL AND RECENT HISTORY OF PHNOM PENH

Phnom Penh is a fascinating city. Once the Pearl of Asia thanks to its, Royal family, Angkorian past and a rich blend of Khmer and colonial architecture. After the Khmer Rouge, the city was left a shadow of its former self. Now, due to a strong dynamic youth and growing economy, the city is growing and changing every day. Dive into the past of **Phnom Penh** and discover the major points of interest in town.

Start your day at **Wat Phnom** and discover the legend of Lady Penh, then head to the **Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda**, two of the most striking buildings in the capital and considered as some of the finest examples of Khmer architecture. Other important buildings found within the compound include **Wat Preah Keo Morokat**, where Royal ceremonies are performed, and stupas such as **King Ang Doung Stupa** – the burial site of former King Norodom. Continue your visit to the **National Museum**, designed in Khmer style by a French archaeologist and painter in 1917. The museum houses Khmer art and sculptures from different periods of Cambodian history.

Lunch @ **Romdeng Restaurant** – a leading social enterprise and training restaurant cooking excellent creative Khmer Cuisine.

This afternoon, learn more about the turbulent Khmer Rouge years and start by visiting **Tuol Sleng**. A high school prior to 1975, it became an interrogation prison known as **S-21** during the Khmer Rouge era and today it is a **genocide museum**. It tells the sad story of the thousands of innocent Cambodian people who were tortured on its grounds. Then head to **Cheung Ek (Killing Fields)**. Situated 17km from Phnom Penh, **Cheung Ek** was made famous by the movie “The Killing Fields”. A large memorial has been built to commemorate the 17,000 victims who died here under the reign of **Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot**. This journey into Cambodia’s past will provide you with a background on the cruelty of the Khmer Rouge regime. It will also give you an appreciation of the struggle that Cambodian people have faced and their tremendous courage to move on and rebuild their nation

After this emotional afternoon, return to your hotel. We suggest you relax and go and experience one of the many restaurants, cafes, shops or bars in town.

NOTES

- Suggested time: 08:00
- Duration: 6-8 hours
- Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda are open from 08:00 to 10:30 and 14:00 to 17:00 but are subject to closure at short notice in the event of official ceremonies. If the sites are closed, the guide will make changes to the itinerary on the day.
- Women should cover their shoulders and both men and women should cover their knees.

- *A respectful and humble demeanour is requested when visiting Toul Sleng Genocide Museum & Killing Fields*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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Day 03: Phnom Penh - Battambang

Depart from **Phnom Penh** and arrive 1.5 hours later in the port city of **Kampong Chhnang** which is famous for its red pottery and **floating villages**. Continue to **Battambang**, Cambodia's second largest city. Situated on the banks of the **Stung Sangke River**, **Battambang** possesses some of the grandest and best preserved colonial architecture and scenic countryside. Transfer directly to **Bambu Hotel**, a wonderful property respectful of responsible and sustainable practices, where you will stay during your time in, **Battambang**. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon free at leisure by the swimming pool or explore the historical city centre and its heritage buildings thanks to the useful and comprehensive map that we provide you. Dinner will be on your own arrangements but check our **Battambang** recommended list for inspiration, **Jann Bai** is highly recommended.

In the evening visit the **Phare Circus** works mainly with disadvantaged young people. They learn circus skills, theater performance, music and a range of visual arts. It combines **local traditions with new creative and innovative genres**. Daring athleticism is combined with stories that speak powerfully to Cambodia's not-too-distant history; for example, escape from tyranny is depicted through tightrope walking. The dark subject of a young girl trying to deal with memories of atrocities is depicted by breathtaking acrobatics in which seemingly impossible goals are achieved. More than simply a circus, **Phare** is an amazing blend of traditional and modern theatre, music, dance, acrobatics, juggling and contortion beautifully choreographed and performed in **a story about Cambodian lives and society**. (Subject to availability).

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: La Villa Hotel/Superior

Address: No185 Pom Romchek 5, Kom Rattanak

Tel: (855) 63 730 151. Fax:

www.lavilla-battambang.net

Day 04: Battambang

This morning we drive to **Phnom Banan** and walk to the top to reach the **12th Century Prasat Banan Temple** to enjoy the breathtaking views over the surrounding plains. Return to town and stop at the **vineyard** for wine tasting; Battambang is home to the only vineyards in Cambodia. Continue with a **walk** through the village of **Wat Kor**, giving you an insight to traditional Khmer life, and visit one the Khmer houses which date back to the 1900's.

After lunch continue to the non-governmental organization (NGO), '**La Maison de Coco**'. Meet with a representative of the organization and learn more about the weaving skills that the NGO teaches to its students. Learn how **rice paper** is made when walking through the village.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: La Villa Hotel/Superior

Address: No185 Pom Romchek 5, Kom Rattanak

Tel: (855) 63 730 151. Fax:

www.lavilla-battambang.net



Day 05: Battambang – Siem Reap

We leave **Battambang** for **Siem Reap**, stopping at **Puok District** to visit the **National Silk Centre**, a fascinating way to learn about Cambodian silk. Here we can witness silk creation and the growing and harvesting of mulberries. Carry on your journey to your hotel Siem Reap for lunch.

NOTES

- Duration: 3 Days
- Phare Circus subject to availability
- Modest dress when visiting temples

The regular check-in time is at 1400; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Angkor/ Deluxe Room - Pool Side

Address: La Residence Angkor Hotel, River Road

Tel: (855-63) 963 390. Fax: (855-63) 963 391

<http://www.belmond.com/la-residence-d-angkor-siem-reap/>

Day 06: Siem Reap

WELL OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Wake up early and transfer by private vehicle to the **West Gate of Angkor Wat** from where the sunrise can be best observed. Enter the temple complex. Angkor Wat (early 12th century) is surrounded by a 190 metre wide moat 1.5 kilometres by 1.3 kilometres and is claimed to be the largest religious building in the world. It is certainly one of the wonders of the ancient world. You will be amazed by the sheer size of the temple, which took 30 years to construct & used the labours of upto 300,000 workers. **Angkor Wat** was built as the earthly representation of the universe with its' central tower symbolising Mt Meru which, Hindus believe, is at the centre of the Universe.

Return to the **West Gate** and breakfast can be enjoyed just outside of the Angkor complex at a local restaurant (own cost).

Drive to visit **Banteay Kdei** built between the 12th and 13th centuries. The ruined condition of the temple in no way detracts from the grandeur of this walled temple. Banteay means fortified monastery and refers to the double wall surrounding it. Continue to **Ta Prohm**, this beautiful temple, built in 1186 as a Buddhist temple dedicated to the mother of Jayavarman VII, is one of Angkor's jewels and is overgrown with fig trees, giving a haunting yet exotic atmosphere. The magnificent roots of the trees have merged over the centuries with the temple's huge stone blocks, creating a 'forgotten city' feeling. Pause at **Ta**

Keo, which would have been the finest temples in Angkor had it been completed. A short distance further are the twin temples of **Chau Say Tevoda** and **Thommanon**.

Return to town for a rest and relaxation at the hotel in the midafternoon.

Drive to **Angkor Thom**, not a temple, but an entire walled city of 9 sq km and served as the ancient royal **Capital of the Khmer Empire** from approx. 1181. With a probable population of 1 million, it was far bigger and grander than any city in Europe at the time. Your guide will take you to the **Terrace of the Elephants** and the **Terrace of the Leper King**. The centre piece of Jayavarman VII's Capital is the Bayon temple and, as you approach, you will notice the 216 giant, enigmatic, smiling faces looking into every direction. Return to the South gate where you will board a small, private boat out to **Prasat Chrung Temple** to watch the amazing sunset.

NOTES

- Suggested time: 04:45
- Duration: 8 hours
- Note: 4pax/boat

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Angkor/ Deluxe Room - Pool Side

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Day 07: Siem Reap

SIEM REAP FULL DAY TOUR - PHNOM KULEN AND BANTEAY SREI

A 1.5 hour drive north of **Siem Reap** will bring you to **Phnom Kulen**, which provides **Siem Reap** with water and dominates the skyline of the flat plains surrounding it. Although the highest peak of the mountain range lies at only 487 metres, **Phnom Kulen** has much to offer visitors. The Cambodian people regard the site as the **birthplace of the ancient Khmer Empire**. Visit the **eight meter long statue of a reclining Buddha** and wash your hands at the **Linga statue** to purify your mind and body. Continue on to visit the fascinating **River of One Thousand Lingas** and the magnificent waterfall close to it. Take a refreshing dip in the stream and pool of the waterfall before returning to Siem Reap. On the way back, enjoy lunch in a local restaurant near **Banteay Srei**. Afterwards, visit the jewel of the Khmer art, **Banteay Srei** temple. Its red sand-stone walls are decorated with elaborate carvings in an amazing state of preservation. The final stop of the day is at the small but intriguing **Landmine Museum of Mr. Aki Ra**. Since Cambodia's freedom from war, Mr. Aki Ra has dedicated himself to help the Cambodian people by clearing the mines which have been left behind. Any form of donation is appreciated in order to help him continue his work. (It is advised to wear sturdy shoes when visiting Phnom Kulen).

NOTES

- Suggested time: 08:00
- Duration: 8 hours
- Bring swimming gear and sun protection if you wish to swim in the waterfall
- dress modestly for temples and pagodas

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Angkor/ Deluxe Room - Pool Side

Address: La Residence Angkor Hotel, River Road

Tel: (855-63) 963 390. Fax: (855-63) 963 391

<http://www.belmond.com/la-residence-d-angkor-siem-reap/>



Day 8: Siem Reap

BENG MEALEA BY ROAD HALF DAY TOUR

Located 65 kilometres from Siem Reap, it is a pleasant 1.5 hour drive through the Cambodian countryside to reach the sprawling jungle temple of **Beng Mealea**. Constructed in a distinctly Angkor Wat style by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century, **Beng Mealea** preceded and may have served as a prototype for Angkor Wat. Contrary to Angkor, few carvings or bas-reliefs are evident. Today the temple is largely overrun by vegetation and the stone walls are crumbling which adds to its charm in a unique way. Accessibility has improved as elevated walkways have been set up throughout most of the temple, although to see all corners does require a sense of adventure as you will need to climb over stone blocks or walk through narrow passageways. Transfer back to **Siem Reap**. (It is advisable to wear sturdy, walking shoes with a decent grip)

NOTES

- Availability: Morning, Afternoon
- Suggested time: 08:00, 13:30
- Duration: 4 hours

AFTERNOON TONLE SAP LAKE CRUISE (2 hours)

In early afternoon, be ready for your transfer to **Chhong Kneas**, trading port of agricultural products on the edge of **Tonle Sap Lake**, also known as the Great Lake of Cambodia. Embark on a private local boat, and set out on a **Tonle Sap Lake adventure** to discover the floating villages and some unique wildlife along the way. Enjoy a selection of beer and soft drinks during the cruise. Find out how communities live and work on the lake; see the floating schools, markets, and police stations, among other structures and observe their daily lives. Later, head back to **Siem Reap** later in the afternoon.

NOTES

- Availability: Afternoon
- Suggested time: 13:00
- Duration: 2-3 hours

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Angkor/ Deluxe Room - Pool Side

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Tel: (855-63) 963 390. Fax: (855-63) 963 391

<http://www.belmond.com/la-residence-d-angkor-siem-reap/>

Day 9: Siem Reap - Sihanouk Ville

Transfer from your accommodation to the airport (with guide).

The regular check-in time is at 1400; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Song Saa Resort/ 1 Bedroom Jungle Villa Full Board

Address: Sihanouk Ville, Koh Ouen + Koh Bang

Tel: 855 236 860 361. Fax: 855 23 224 480

www.songsaa.com

Day 10: Sihanouk Ville

Free at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Song Saa Resort/ 1 Bedroom Jungle Villa Full Board

Address: Sihanouk Ville, Koh Ouen + Koh Bang

Tel: 855 236 860 361. Fax: 855 23 224 480

www.songsaa.com

Day 11: Sihanouk Ville

Free at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Song Saa Resort/ 1 Bedroom Jungle Villa Full Board

Address: Sihanouk Ville, Koh Ouen + Koh Bang

Tel: 855 236 860 361. Fax: 855 23 224 480

www.songsaa.com

Day 12: Sihanouk Ville

Free at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Song Saa Resort/ 1 Bedroom Jungle Villa Full Board

Address: Sihanouk Ville, Koh Ouen + Koh Bang

Tel: 855 236 860 361. Fax: 855 23 224 480

www.songsaa.com

Day 13: Sihanouk Ville – Phnom Penh – Departure

Meet at Phnom Penh airport and transfer (with guide) to your hotel in Sihanoukville.

The regular check-out time is at 1200. Late check-out is NOT included and subject to availability

Meal: Breakfast
End of services

TOUR COST

This itinerary is provided for example only.

For full details including pricing, please contact us at info@toiinternational.com.