

# *Cambodia*

THE GRANDEUR OF ANGKOR

SAMPLE ITINERARY : : AUTHENTIC ASIA



*Cambodia is home to Indochina's most magnificent site, the temples of Angkor. Ornamented by the finest artisans of its time, once redolent with incense and prayer, Angkor was once lost beneath the sands of time only to be re-discovered at the opening of the last century. Whether one be king, queen, courtier or commoner, he or she would have had a mind-transforming experience of the order and harmony of the universe, the presence of powers far greater than mortal man. We know this because it is the same as we enter Angkor today.*

## Days 1 | Phnom Penh

Upon arrival in Cambodia's capital city you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Your afternoon sightseeing tour begins with a visit to the city's namesake, Wat Phnom. Founded in 1373, the pagoda was built to house Buddhist relics washed ashore by the nearby Mekong River. The next stop will be one of Phnom Penh's landmarks, the Royal Palace, which was built in 1866 by King Norodom. The final visit for the day is the impressive Silver Pagoda. The floor of this structure is comprised of more than 5,000 silver tiles and a gold Buddha encrusted with 9,584 diamonds is housed inside the pagoda. You will then have time to stroll through the busy Russian Market before you return to the hotel. This is a lively and busy outdoor market where one can find everything ranging from silver and gold jewelry to wood carvings and t-shirts.

**Accommodations:** Raffles Hotel

*"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful,  
we must carry it with us or we find it or we find it not."*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Day 2 | Phnom Penh

Today's excursion offers an insight into Cambodia's history during the reign of the Khmer Rouge as you drive to the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek. A memorial stupa was erected at this site in 1988, which contains over 8000 skulls belonging to the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime. A total of 17,000 men, women, and children died at the Killing Fields.

After returning to Phnom Penh stop at Tuol Sleng Museum. In 1975 Tuol Svay Prey High School was taken over by Pol Pot's security forces and turned into a prison known as Security Prison 21 (S-21). It soon became the largest center of detention and torture in the country. The museum displays photographs of many of the victims' faces.

Following lunch, your tour continues with a visit to the National Museum which houses a wonderful and extensive collection of both pre- and post-Angkorian pieces.

We recommend a stop at the FCC (the Foreign Correspondent Club) for a drink as your day winds down. The FCC is located just across from the river and has a large outdoor terrace. This is the place where, during the war, the foreign correspondents from all over the world would gather for cocktails and dinner!

**Accommodations:** Raffles Hotel

### Day 3 | Kampong Thom

Journey a bit off the tourist path and drive to the village of Kampong Thom. The overland route between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap does not only offer a chance to get a feel for rural Cambodia and village life outside the cities, but you will also come across a few of the more remote temples in the area, some of them unrestored and quite beautiful. Wat Kohear Nokor for example is a magnificent 11<sup>th</sup>-century Hindu temple and Phum Prasat is a temple complex that occupies 4 ancient structures considered to be among the oldest Khmer ruins in the area.

**Accommodations:** Sambor Village Hotel

*"The world is a book and those who do  
not travel read only one page."*

*- St. Augustine*

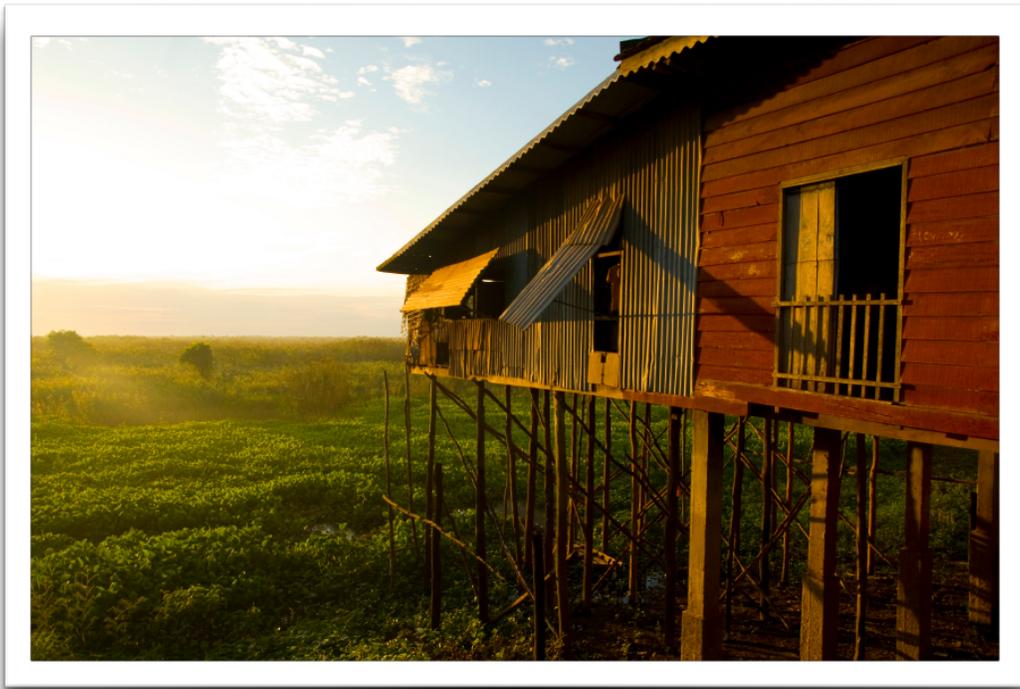
### Day 4 | Siem Reap

Continue on your way to Siem Reap crossing the historic Naga Bridge before reaching the floating village of Kompong Kleang. Fewer tourists visit this area so that it still feels genuinely untouched and peaceful. If you find yourself in Cambodia during the dry season, you will be awestruck by the forest of stilt houses rising up to 10 meters into

the air. During the wet season the waters come up to within one or two meters of the building floors. Kompong Kleang is a permanent community living within the food plains of the great Tonle Sap Lake. Fishing is the main economy of this community, which is the largest of its kind on the lake.

Arrive in Siem Reap this afternoon and transfer to the hotel.

**Accommodations:** Victoria Angkor



## Day 5 | Siem Reap

The great site of Angkor was built between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries when Khmer civilization was at the height of its extraordinary creativity. From Angkor, the kings of the mighty Khmer empire ruled over a vast territory that extended from the tip of what is now Southern Vietnam northward to Yunnan in China and from Vietnam westward to the Bay of Bengal. Angkor's hundred or so temples constitute the sacred skeleton of a spectacular administrative and religious center whose houses, public buildings, and palaces were constructed of wood – now long decayed – because the right to dwell in structures of brick or stone was reserved for the gods.

The morning starts with a visit to the Angkor National Museum where the royal historical path of this Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom is being revealed through state-of-the-art multimedia technology.

From here the tour continues on to Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple, famous for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of the Buddha, then the Terrace of Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King.

You might want to have lunch at Haven Restaurant, an oasis away from the hustle and bustle of Siem Reap. This socially and environmentally responsible eatery is committed to supporting the local social enterprises and NGOs in Cambodia ranging from training programs, English classes, and computer lessons for underprivileged young Cambodians. From the locally and organically grown rice, to locally sourced coffees and teas, to the bread purchased from the nearby bakery school, it is a priority of Haven to assist in the healthy and safe development of Cambodia.

In the afternoon return to Angkor to see Ta Prohm and Preah Khan, two very important temples before heading into town to meander through the streets of Siem Reap with its French bakeries and its buzzing markets.

**Accommodations:** [Victoria Angkor](#)



## Day 6 | Siem Reap

After breakfast depart for Beng Mealea, an amazing and atmospheric off-the-beaten-path 900-year old temple. Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of King Suryavarman II, it features the same style as Angkor Wat but is mostly unrestored, with huge blocks of stone lying in piles in its center. A truly magical site!

Lunch awaits in a small inn known as the “Secrets of Elephants” before driving back towards Siem Reap stopping en route at Banteay Srei, considered by many to be the jewel in the crown of Angkorian art. It is made entirely of pink sandstone, featuring some of the finest examples of stone carving in the world.

The day concludes at Pre Rup temple in time for sunset!

**Accommodations:** Victoria Angkor

## Day 7 | Siem Reap

This morning, visit the most famous of all the temples on the 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 Cambodian flag and the 12<sup>th</sup> century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture.

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Accommodations:** Victoria Angkor

## Day 8 | Departure

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

**End of services.**

*The above is a sample itinerary which covers the highlights and also takes you off the beaten path. We would be happy to discuss your individual travel preferences and amend the itinerary accordingly.*

*Pricing is dependent on your choice of accommodations, time of the year that you will be traveling, the final itinerary, and the number of people in your group.*

*Should you wish to discuss your individual travel plans to Cambodia please do feel free to reach to us via e-mail at [info@authenticasia.net](mailto:info@authenticasia.net) or by phone at 1. 888.586.9958.*



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