

# **CTP040 Lotos Rallye Mekong Edition**

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Intro

# Lotos Rallye 2025 - The Mekong Edition

11 January - 25 January 2025 (Fully Occopied)

Extra Edition: 8 February - 22 February

#### A once-in-a-lifetime Cambodian adventure awaits.

The echoes of the wildly successful Lotos Rallye 2024 still resonate, and we're thrilled to announce our return to Cambodia's captivating Northeast! Embark on an unforgettable odyssey unlike any other – a self-drive vintage jeep tour reserved for a select few.

Unmatched exclusivity: Experience Cambodia like privileged explorers, venturing where few tourists dare. Driving in a vintage MUTT 151 A1/A1 Jeep and go off the beaten path. Unveiling hidden gems: Witness floating villages, endangered Irrawaddy dolphins, majestic elephants, the architectural masterpiece of Angkor Wat temple, cross the Mighty Mekong River, learn about gem mining and climb the pyramide temple of Koh Ker. Timeless elegance: Immerse yourself in history by staying at a colonial customs house built in 1916.

Since 2013, the Lotos Rallye has continuously redefined exceptional travel experiences in Cambodia. For 2025, we've surpassed ourselves, crafting our most extraordinary jeep tour yet. Discover newly opened roads, captivating locations, and unique accommodations, unlike any you've seen before.

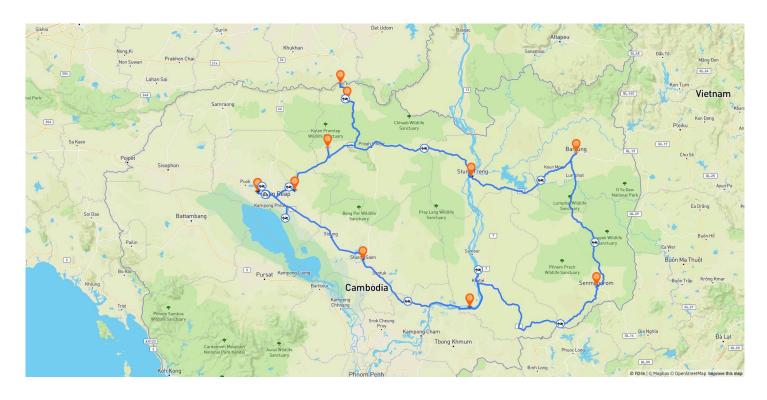


Embark on an unforgettable adventure through Cambodia in a small, exclusive group! Experience the thrill of driving vintage jeeps with 2 participants in 1 jeep, allowing you to soak in the sights and sounds at your own pace. Our intimate group size, limited to 6-10 jeeps (12-20 participants), ensures a personalized experience and fosters camaraderie among fellow adventurers.

Are you passionate about vintage cars, adventure and seeking an authentic Cambodian experience? Then this is the perfect trip for you! Explore hidden gems, navigate scenic landscapes, and connect with the local culture, all while sharing the journey with like-minded individuals.

Your adventure is in the capable hands of André and Lily, the trusted experts at Cambodian Travel Partner. They'll ensure a seamless and unforgettable experience from start to finish. Don't miss out! Register by November 15, 2024, to secure your spot.

This is more than just a tour; it's an opportunity to create lasting memories and discover a new side of Cambodia.





DAY 1:	Siem Reap Airport SAI - Siem Reap
DAY 2:	Siem Reap
DAY 3:	Siem Reap - Kampong Thom
DAY 4:	Kampong Thom - Chloung

DAY 5:	Chloung
DAY 6:	Chloung - Sen Monorom
DAY 7:	Sen Monorom
DAY 8:	Sen Monorom - Banlung
DAY 9:	Banlung
DAY 10:	Banlung - Stung Treng
DAY 11:	Stung Treng - Sra Em
DAY 12:	Sra Em - Ko Ker
DAY 13:	Ko Ker - Siem Reap
DAY 14:	Siem Reap
DAY 15:	Siem Reap - Siem Reap Airport SAI



DAY 1: Siem Reap Airport SAI - Siem Reap

# Welcome to Cambodia

Welcome to the magical land of Cambodia - the Kingdom of Wonder. Our team will meet you at the airport and transfer you directly to your hotel. Here you can check in and enjoy the facilities getting used to your new environment before you start an unforgettable journey. In the late afternoon you will have an orientation briefing (traffic rules, introduction of the staff, road explanation book, Jeep instruction, etc In the evening, visit Phare, the Cambodian Circus, which uses modern circus arts and high-energy music to tell uniquely Cambodian stories, exploring themes rooted in Cambodian traditions, ethos and spirit. The performances mix theater, music, dance, acrobatics, juggling, aerial acrobatics, fire and contortion with an explosion of virtuosity and sensitivity. During the hour-long shows, the Phare performers share their emotions and enthusiasm, sweeping the audience away with their integrity and power.

Accommodation: \*\*\*



Included meals:



Metta Residence & Spa

□ Deluxe room

Website

- Transfer Siem Reap airport to hotel
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)

- **Tickets Phare Circus**
- TukTuk transfers Phare the circus













DAY 2: Siem Reap

# **Explore mystery temples**

This morning, you will depart by jeep to the magnificent World Heritage Site UNESCO, the ancient temples of Angkor Wat. We have scouted out some back roads to the temples that still exist so you can get away from the tuk-tuks and busses for a much nicer and more relaxing drive to the temples. With a little imagination, today's trip will give you a picture of the lost temples as they have lain for thousands of years. An English-speaking guide will lead you through the historic park, where you can see majestic structures and admire the splendor of the ancient kingdom. Most of the temples date back to the 12th century and house some of the most anticipated bas-reliefs and beautiful sculptures such as Garudas and Apsara dancers. First, visit the temple of Angkor Wat, the largest of all temples that has survived the sands of time and is in excellent condition. Here you can admire its dominating towers and sheer presence while taking the time to walk around inside. Continue on to Angkor Thom with its spectacular Bayon Temple. Here, a tour of the superbly preserved temple will allow you to admire 54 intricate and visually stunning four-headed Buddha statues - truly one of the most impressive sights of the temple complex. Lunch will be taken near the man-made lake of East Baray, which was created to supply water to the temple complex. After lunch and a short rest, you will visit Ta Phrom Temple. Made famous by the hit movie "Tomb Raider" starring Angelina Jolie, the temple's iconic trees with their gigantic roots hugging the walls have slowly taken over, creating a visually stunning and unique backdrop that makes a breathtaking end to your "templing" day".

Accommodation: \*\*\*



Included meals:







Deluxe room

Metta Residence & Spa

Website

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- **Entrance Fee Angkor temples**
- English speaking Angkor guide
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 3: Siem Reap - Kampong Thom

# The floatiang village of Kampong Kleang

Today we leave Siem Reap and drive to the city of Kampong Thom. First stop is at Kampong Kleang, the largest floating village in Cambodia. In the dry season, we drive our jeep between the stilts on which the houses are built, rising up to 10 meters in the air. In the rainy season, the water level reaches its peak and can rise up to 1 or 2 meters above the houses. We will offer you a boat ride through the village and have the opportunity to meet the locals. Afterwards we continue our journey and make a short stop in Kampong Kdei. Here you will see one of the most beautiful and best preserved bridges built by the Khmer kings. This bridge dates back to the 10th century. In the late afternoon we will reach our hotel.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*



Included meals:







Glorious hotel

□ Landmark room (SGL/DBL/TWN)

Website

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Community Fee Kampong Khleang
- Boat tour Kampong Khleang
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools











# The Mighty Mekong River

After a delicious breakfast, we will drive our jeeps through the beautiful Cambodian countryside to our first stop of the day. We will stop to see some truly impressive carvings. From huge blocks of stone, sometimes up to 8 meters tall, the stonemason chisels and carves some extremely impressive sculptures. The sheer amount of detail that goes into some of his work is extraordinary and you will have plenty of time to admire his work. Not for from the mainroad we will have a break at the Santuk silkfarm. This little project gives work to women and you will learn all about silk and how they make the silk products. We continue our scenic drive to our 3th stop for the day and visit a local rubber plantation. Here you will learn more about the workings of the local rubber industry, how the latex is collected, cleaned and dried before being shipped to an outside rubber factory. After this excursion, we will take a ferry north of Stung Trong and cross the mighty Mekong River. It is the twelfth longest river in the world and flows from the heights of the Tibetan Plateau to the South China Sea, some 4,500 km from its source. It is the lifeblood of many people, and its impressive size and power can only be experienced firsthand. On the east side of the Mekong is the old French colonial town of Chloung. In this peaceful and traditional town, we will spend the night in the former governor's mansion built in 1916, where we can experience Cambodia's colonial past first hand.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*

Included meals:







Le Relais du Chhlong

□ Heritage Suite

Website

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Ferry boat crossing Mekong River
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools









# Spot the dolphins

We drive our jeeps along the banks of the Mekong River and pass some of the Muslim Cham villages. These were formed when the Cham fled the Vietnamese conquest and stayed in their new homeland, adding a new dimension to the area. At Kampi, 12 km north of Kratie, we board the boat to try to spot the Irrawaddy Dolphins. These rare, endangered freshwater dolphins live in a beautiful section of the Mekong River near a small rapids. The chance of seeing them playing in the rapids is very high, so have your camera ready. After Kampi, we will head back to Kratie where we will take a ferry to Koh Trong Island. With a local guide, you will explore this island paradise by bike and get explanations about the way of life of the inhabitants and the products that are grown there. Back on the mainland we drive back to Chloung with our jeeps.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*

(B)



Included meals:



Le Relais du Chhlong

Website

#### Included today:

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Boat tour to the dolphins
- Ferry boat Koh Trong
- Transfer on Koh Trong
- ✓ Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 6: Chloung - Sen Monorom

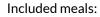
# On the way to Highlands

After Chloung, we continue our way to the breathtaking province of Mondulkiri. The landscape changes from the plains of the Mekong up to the highlands. We drive through forest and hilly landscapes and reach our destination for the next few days in the afternoon. Sen Monorom, the provincial capital of Mondulkiri, is actually an overgrown village, a charming community at the point where the hills that give the province its name meet. The village is inhabited by the indigenous

Bunong people, whose tribesmen are frequently encountered in the town. The area around Sen Monorom is dotted with minority villages and picturesque waterfalls. Many Bunong from nearby villages come here to trade: They are easily distinguished from the migrant lowlanders by the characteristic baskets they carry on their backs. Sen Monorom is located at an altitude of 800 meters, and when the wind blows, it is much cooler here than in the rest of Cambodia. After getting used to the town and new surroundings, we rest to recharge our batteries for tomorrow's adventure.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*











P Deluxe Double

Website

# Included today:

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 7: Sen Monorom

# Meet the elephant

We drive through small villages and over a mountain pass before we have the opportunity to see how the beautiful Asian elephant lives in its natural environment. There are many elephant projects in Mondulkiri, but the Elephant Community Program is one of the smaller ones working towards a sustainable future for the local community. A large portion of the trip price stays in this community, allowing the mahouts to make a living to support their families and keeping the elephants out of the hard labor of the forest. You will learn how the elephants live, what they eat, and how they have integrated into the local community. Since the focus of the program is on caring for the elephants, riding the elephants is not allowed. However, you will have the opportunity to feed them bananas or bamboo before saying goodbye to these magnificent animals. In the afternoon we will drive through minority villages and discover more of the Mondulkiri Outback. On the way back to Sen Monorom you will be accompanied by the memories of a unique and unforgettable trip.

Accommodation: \*\*\*



P Deluxe Double

Website

Included today:

Included meals:







- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- **Elephant Project**
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 8: Sen Monorom - Banlung

#### Largest waterfall in Cambodia

In the morning we drive north, 30 km outside Sen Monorom and stop at the largest waterfall in Cambodia. The Bou Sra Waterfall is a magnificent sight, tumbling through a gorge in the jungle near the Bunong town of Bou Sra. The three-tiered waterfall has an upper tier of 12 meters and a stunning lower tier with a massive drop of 20 meters, before a final drop of 4 meters makes for a beautiful sight and a rushing sound. We then continue our journey into the beautiful province of Ratanakiri with its rugged, breathtaking landscape. Until recently this was a tough, grueling drive, but now there is a good new road that makes the journey through this wonderful place much smoother. About 20 km after Lumphat, we leave the paved road and turn onto a small, windy dirt road that takes us to Banlung, the capital of Ratanakiri. This town has a bustling market teeming with products from local ethnic villages. Yeak Laom Lake outside the town is home to some of the rarest and most exotic birds in the region. It is one of the few crater lakes in Cambodia and dates back to about 4000 years ago. The lake is almost 50 meters deep and ensures that the water is very clean and clear. You can cool off on one of the wooden platforms and swim with the local people or just sit back and enjoy the peaceful and natural environment.

Accommodation:



Included meals:







Terres Rouges Lodge Ratanakiri

P Deluxe room Twn/Dbl

Website

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Entrance Fee Bousra waterfall
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 9: Banlung

## Step into the heart of Ratanakiri's hidden gem

The word "Ratanakiri" itself is a derivation from two Cambodian words that together mean the place of gems and mountains. These are the two characteristics for which this Cambodian province of Ratanakiri is best known. After a week of exploring, take a relaxing day to discover the hidden treasures of Ratanakiri. We'll embark on a morning expedition to a traditional gemstone mining field, where you'll witness the process firsthand. Gaze down a 10 to 20 meter-deep pit as a local miner descends, carefully sifting sand for precious gems like sapphires and zircons. Feel the thrill of discovery as they haul the bucket up, revealing the day's bounty. And who knows, you might even find your own gem to purchase directly from the source! In the afternoon, we'll trade dusty pits for the crystal-clear waters of Yaklom Crater Lake. Dive into this volcanic oasis, surrounded by lush greenery, and refresh yourself with a swim in its invigorating waters. As the sun sets, we'll hop back into our jeeps and cruise back to the hotel, carrying the memories (and maybe even a gem!) of this unique experience.

Accommodation: \*\*\*



Terres Rouges Lodge Ratanakiri

P Deluxe room Twn/Dbl

Website

# Included today:

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools
- **Tour Guide**

#### Included meals:



















DAY 10: Banlung - Stung Treng

# **Conquer Untamed Cambodia**

Prepare for the tour's thrilling climax: a Jeep expedition carving through Cambodia's wild heart. Three rivers stand as our gatekeepers - two we conquer by ferry, but one demands an audacious water crossing. Google Maps won't guide us here; our path is a whisper on the wind, a ribbon of dirt snaking through vast, silent landscapes. Brace yourself for bone-jarring dirt tracks, rickety wooden bridges clinging to existence (fingers crossed!), and unforeseen challenges met with resourceful improvisation. This isn't just a drive; it's a baptism by dust and determination, a test of your spirit rewarded with unparalleled adventure. Our accommodation for tonight is located on a high bank of the Mekong River. All bungalows have a balcony overlooking the river. It is a relaxing place overlooking the Mekong River. Wash away the dust, share stories of daring exploits, and let the quiet pride of pushing your boundaries settle in. This adventure, etched in your memory forever, is more than just a tour; it's a testament to your spirit's wild resilience.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*



Included meals:







Stung Treng Resort

Deluxe bungalow

Website

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Sundowner experience
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools











# Breakfast on a sandy island in the Mekong

After yesterday's thrilling jeep adventure, we're switching gears for a gentler journey. In the morning, we will take you on a relaxing boat ride over to a small island in the middle of the Mekong. Umbrellas and tables will be set up for your special breakfast on the beach. The area is home to some delightful birds which might fascinate you while you are enjoying your breakfast. Dust settles on our jeeps as we climb back in, our bodies pleasantly sore from yesterday's adventure on rugged dirt roads. Today, the smooth satisfaction of asphalt stretches before us, a welcome change. By afternoon, we'll arrive at our hotel - your chance to unwind or take a refreshing dip in the pool. Tomorrow awaits a thrilling discovery: Preah Vihear temple, a hidden gem visited by only a lucky few.

Accommodation:



Preah Vihear Boutique Hotel

Included meals:







P Deluxe Double / Twin

Website

#### Included today:

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 12: Sra Em - Ko Ker

#### The most beautifully located temple in Cambodia

The first 25 km we will drive in our jeeps and on the foot of the mountain we will change our jeep for a another transportation. A local pick-up will take you up the steep mountain. You will reach the Preah Vihear Temple. This breathtaking spectacle is a sight not many get to see. Combine the most beautifully situated temple in Cambodia with an unforgettable view and you will experience something you will remember for the rest of your life. Together with our guide we will explore the temple. The temple is a great place for beautiful photos. Then we will descend and return to the hotel. At the hotel, you can freshen up and have lunch before heading to Koh Ker. We will make a few stops along the way before we check in the hotel for tonight.







Koh Ker Temple Garden

P Deluxe Garden view

Website

# Included today:

- ✓ Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Entrance Fee Preah Vihear Temple
- English speaking Preah Vihear guide
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools







DAY 13: Ko Ker - Siem Reap

# Feel like Indiana Jones

After breakfast you will go to Koh Ker. It is a stunning and unique pyramid-shaped temple built in 931 AD. When you enter it, you almost feel like you are approaching a Central American Mayan sight like Chichen Itza. Koh Ker also has a unique political history, having been established by Jayavarman IV as a "new" capital outside the Angkor area. Its importance was short-lived, however; after the king's death, power reverted to the Angkor area around 944 AD. The arduous climb up wooden steps to the top of the pyramid is quickly forgotten when viewing the breathtaking view from the top. We continue our way and have a short drive to another amazing destination. Leaving the familiar comfort of the paved road, we embark on a thrilling detour into the unexplored. Our destination? Peung Kom Nou, a secret treasure trove of rock carvings dating back to the 11th century. Whispers say even local archaeologists haven't fully unraveled its mysteries. With cameras in hand, we'll delve into this hidden gem, marveling at the intricate carvings and soaking in the breathtaking vistas that stretch across the countryside. Refreshed by a delicious lunch amidst this ancient wonder, we'll retrace our steps, eventually rejoining the main road and cruising back to Siem Reap. After 13 days of exhilarating adventures, we're back in Siem Reap, the city where it all began. And what better way to celebrate than with a shower of bubbly? As soon as we step foot in the

hotel, the champagne corks will be popping, marking the joyous end to an unforgettable journey.

Accommodation: \*\*\*



Included meals:







Navutu Dream

☐ The Explorer Double / twin

Website

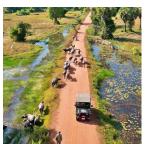
# Included today:

- Vintage jeep (Self drive with petrol)
- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Drinking water, fruit, snacks during the day
- Entrance Fee Koh Ker temple
- Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 14: Siem Reap

# Stunning Sunset and farewell party

A day off to do as much or as little as you like - a day of shopping in town, a massage, or a little local excursion. But we will end this unforgettable self-drive jeep tour with a grand bouncer. At 4pm, we will drive the jeeps into the countryside of Siem Reap for a breathtaking sunset. Explore and experience the colours, smells and magnificent views of Cambodia at its best. We will also drive through vast rice fields and as the sun sets, we will take the jeep to find a beautiful spot in the middle of the rice fields. Here we open a bottle of champagne and toast to a beautiful sunset. Later in the evening we have a farewell dinner in beautiful surroundings.

Accommodation: \*\*\*\*



Included meals:





四 The Explorer Double / twin

Website

- English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- Vintage jeep (selfdrive + petrol)
- Farewell party

✓ Support car with mechanic team and spare tools













DAY 15: Siem Reap - Siem Reap Airport SAI

# Time to say goodbye...

Helaas komt er een eind aan alle goede dingen, en de Lotus Rally van dit jaar is daarop geen uitzondering. Vandaag is het tijd om afscheid te nemen van Cambodja. Geniet van de rit naar het vliegveld en neem nog een laatste kijkje in dit prachtige land dat je de afgelopen 13 dagen hebt mogen ontdekken. We zijn er zeker van dat je een fantastisch avontuur hebt beleefd dat je nog lang zult herinneren. We hopen dat je snel terugkomt zodat we je meer van Cambodja kunnen laten zien. Bon voyage!

Als je na dit spannende jeepsavontuur nog een paar dagen wilt relaxen op een prachtig wit zandstrand met turquoise zee, kunnen we je een pakketreis aanbieden. Vraag naar de mogelijkheden!

#### Included meals:



- ✓ English/Dutch/German speaking Tourleaders (Andre and Lily)
- ✓ Transfer hotel to Siem Reap airport









#### Included in the price:

- Mentioned meals in the program.
- Named hotels in the program.
- Activities as described in the program
- 24/7 assistance

#### Not included in the price:

- Meals not mentioned
- International flights
- Cambodia visa. (\$ 30, + 1 passport photo)
- Personal expenses, drinks
- Travel insurance
- Tips for guides / drivers

#### **General Information**

- No parts of this program have been reserved yet. We will start making reservations once we receive an agreement for this. If a certain room type or accommodation is no longer available at the time of booking, we will propose an alternative.
- The price may change based on the availability of the room at the time of booking and the cost of regional flights at the time of issue.
- Land transfers from destination A to destination B are carried out by local drivers. We always try to find English-speaking drivers for our guests. However, it may happen that they do not always speak English well or only a few words.
- A description of a tour is always a standard description. Actual programs may always vary slightly, depending on the (weather) conditions. However, the intention of the tours always remains the same.
- Standard check-in time is from 2:00 PM. Standard check-out time is at 12:00 PM. Early check-in or late check-out can be booked for an additional fee.
- When making reservations, we always indicate the preference for bedding (double bed or twin beds), rooms next to each other or connected by a door. In most cases (95%) we get this, but we cannot guarantee this.