

Cambodia - 2 participants - 16 days / 15 nights

Travelling from 01 May 2020 to 16 May 2020

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**CAMBODIAN TRAVEL PARTNER** Connecting Dreams

# INTRO

We take each individual traveler and every request seriously to create a trip which suits you best. Our key is the fact that we listen. We just want to take all of this on board and tailor your itinerary to exactly what you require, rather than just try to sell you an off the shelf tour.

Our years of experience are here for you. We understand that every person has different preferences and requirements. We are here to get together with you and decide what exactly suits you the best, whether it be a particular hotel, attraction, itinerary or group profile, we can create a magical, one of a kind tailor-made experience.

Based on your interests and wishes, we will work on making an initial itinerary for you. After this, we are happy to adjust whatever you want to, creating a final itinerary that is certain not to disappoint. We just want to work closely with you at every step, making sure that your needs are taken care of completely.

Here you will find an example tour in the theme: Feeling Responsible. Let us know if we can help you to create your own dream.

# Cambodia

Cambodia is a kingdom in Southeast Asia. It is 181,035 square kilometres (69,898 square miles) in area, bordered by Thailand to the northwest, Laos to the northeast, Vietnam to the east, and the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest. Cambodia has a population of over 15 million. The official religion is Theravada Buddhism, practiced by approximately 95 percent of the population. The country's minority groups include Vietnamese, Chinese, Chams, and 30 hill tribes. The capital and largest city is Phnom Penh, the political, economic, and cultural centre of Cambodia. The kingdom is a constitutional monarchy with Norodom Sihamoni, a monarch chosen by the Royal Throne Council, as head of state. The head of government is Hun Sen, who is currently the longest serving non-royal leader in South East Asia and has ruled Cambodia for over 30 years. Cambodia has become a popular destination and the country is developing fast. The city of Siem Reap was about thirteen years ago a small place with dirt roads

and one traffic light, nowadays is the most touristic city of the country and the historical heart of Cambodia. The temples of Angkor is about seven kilometers of the city center and there are a lot of facilities to entertain the tourists from all over the world. But Cambodia is not only Angkor Wat. This fascinating, friendly country has so much more to offer. Countryside tours, floating villages, white sand beaches, tropical islands, jungle trekking, the mighty Mekong river, bicycle tours, cooking class, waterfalls, hilltribes, and much more.



# Day by Day

- DAY 1: Friday, 01 May 2020 Siem Reap airport > Siem Reap
- DAY 2: Saturday, 02 May 2020 Siem Reap > Siem Reap
- DAY 3: Sunday, 03 May 2020 Siem Reap > Siem Reap
- DAY 4: Monday, 04 May 2020 Siem Reap > Siem Reap
- DAY 5: Tuesday, 05 May 2020 Siem Reap > Banteay Chhmar
- DAY 6: Wednesday, 06 May 2020 Banteay Chhmar > Battambang
- DAY 7: Thursday, 07 May 2020 Battambang > Battambang
- DAY 8: Friday, 08 May 2020 Battambang > Battambang
- DAY 9: Saturday, 09 May 2020 Battambang > Kampong Chhnang



DAY 10: Sunday, 10 May 2020 - Kampong Chhnang > Phnom Penh

DAY 11: Monday, 11 May 2020 - Phnom Penh > Phnom Penh

DAY 12: Tuesday, 12 May 2020 - Phnom Penh > Phnom Penh

DAY 13: Wednesday, 13 May 2020 - Phnom Penh > Kep

DAY 14: Thursday, 14 May 2020 - Kep > Kep

DAY 15: Friday, 15 May 2020 - Kep > Kep

DAY 16: Saturday, 16 May 2020 - Kep > Phnom Penh airport

# 🗰 DAY 1: Friday, 01 May 2020 - Siem Reap airport > Siem Reap

### Welcome in Cambodia + monk blessing

Welcome to Cambodia! We pick you up at the airport and take you to your hotel where you will be served a welcome drink and provided information on Cambodia and your fantastic trip ahead. We understand that traveling can be exhausting, and so we let to take it easy for today. You might like to freshen up in your room or relax on the deck chairs in the palm tree garden with a view of the swimming pool. Add a cup of coffee or a refreshing cocktail and your holiday can begin. At the end of the afternoon, your tour leader will take you to a pagoda where you learn more about Buddhism and be blessed by a monk, a very unique experience.

### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

### Included today:

- $\checkmark$   $\,$  Transfer airport to hotel, meet and greet
- ✓ English speaking guide

TukTuk transfer

Pagoda - monk blessing



# **DAY 2: Saturday, 02 May 2020 - Siem Reap > Siem Reap**

# Explore Angkor Wat by Bike

Escape the crowds, busy roads and the well-worn tourist trails of Angkor as we cycle the paths less travelled. Go along back roads and forest tracks for a different side of these majestic temples with an expert cycling guide. You are going to visit Angkor Wat, Bayon, Ta Prohm and some villages.



### Accommodation:

# A 4 star hotel

# Included today:

Angkor by bicycle: english speaking guide, biycle

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# Entrance Fee Angkor



# 苗 DAY 3: Sunday, 03 May 2020 - Siem Reap > Siem Reap

### Panha Sabay, from recyling products to educational toys

After breakfast, you will visit the Cambodian Landmine Museum and Relief Facility established in 1997 by ex-child soldier Aki Ra. Taken from his family and forced into the Khmer Rouge Army when he was five, he spent his childhood and youth fighting in the wars that ravaged his country for nearly 35 years. After years of fighting, he returned to the villages where he planted thousands of mines and began removing them by hand and defusing them using homemade tools. This place tells the story of how landmines in Cambodia impacted the country's past, present and future. The Museum hosts a Relief Facility for village children who were landmine victims. The money raised by the museum supports this facility.

After lunch you will visit Panha Sabay, a small social enterprise that produces educational toys for Cambodian children. Often times, these children go to school for only a few hours a day, with basic materials taught in a fast-paced environment in their first few years of school. Panha Sabay offers students an opportunity to practice their elementary school subjects in a fun and playful manner beyond the classroom. Because the toys are self-correcting, children can work independently at their own pace and build confidence in their ability to apply what they have learned. Whenever possible, natural or recycled materials are used to create the toys which also allows the toys to be affordable and available to many more Cambodian families.

In the evening a private tuk-tuk tour to restaurants whose main goal is to invest in their teams and the local communities. By dining at these venues, you contribute to the improvement of the Cambodian people's lives. Taste for a Good Cause will take you to the Footprint Cafe Tucked away on a small side street off the river. This literary-inspired cafe donates 100% of the net profits back to the local community as educational grants. Start your evening with a locally inspired tasting platter of their signature dishes. Be sure to sample a cocktail made with Sombai, a unique artisan liqueur made in Siem Reap. HAVEN Social enterprise, on the other hand, helps underprivileged youths get on the career ladder. In September every year, HAVEN takes on a new group to train over the course of the year with on-the-job experience in the restaurant as well as English lessons, computer lessons and more. Accommodation, a monthly salary, school materials are all provided creating a safe haven for their trainees to grow and flourish. Enjoy your main course prepared and served by this year's HAVEN trainees in the beautiful surroundings of their garden restaurant. Finally, Marum, is part of TREE which is a global alliance of training restaurants. Marum aims to provide underprivileged youths with the skills they need to become employable in Siem Reap's booming hospitality industry. Finish your evening in the Marum's lovely garden and be proud to know that your evening has been well spent dining for a good cause.

### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

### Included today:

- ✓ Transfers by vintage jeep
- ✓ Entrance Fee Landmine museum
- ✓ Taste For A Good Cause

# Included meals:



- English speaking guide
- 🗸 Visit Panha Sabay



# 苗 DAY 4: Monday, 04 May 2020 - Siem Reap > Siem Reap

### The Full Day Adventure - Kulen Elephant Project

In the foothills of Kulen Mountain, lies 1100 acres of protected forest inhabited by the 14 elephants of Angkor, the Bos Thom Community Forest. For 22 years, these elephants have given rides to visitors in the temples of the world heritage site. Today, they roam free in their natural habitat and are living testimony of a changing world. Spend the entire day with the elephants from morning to sundown and relax in nature while learning how to feed and care for them. Experiencing a combination of the morning and afternoon sessions will leave you feeling completely immersed in the elephants' daily life. You will have lunch in the forest surrounded by wilderness. Upon return to base camp, you will have the chance to say goodbye to the residents before leaving for town.

### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

# Included meals:



# Included today:

Kulen Elephants Adventure Full Day session







### The unknown temple

We leave Siem Reap for Banteay Chhmar Temple, via Sissophon. All activities around the temple are run by the members of the community, i.e., homestays, local guides, etc. Built in the 12th century, the Banteay Chhmar Temple, along with nine surrounding temples, is considered to be one of the largest temple complexes of the Angkor period. Similar to the Bayon Temple, it was built with several face towers. At the homestay, you will get the chance to mingle with the family, followed by lunch and a walk through the temples. Afterwards, you will experience riding on an ox wagon on the way to the Mekong Silk Center. In the evening, we will take you to a special place near the temple for a scrumptious dinner accompanied by traditional music.

### Included meals:



# 📅 DAY 6: Wednesday, 06 May 2020 - Banteay Chhmar > Battambang

### Bantey Chhmar to Battambang Resort

Breakfast is served by the family at 7:30am. An hour later, you will be picked up for a walking tour around the Banteay Chhmar local market. We drive along rice fields to witness villagers going about their daily activities. After a picnic lunch at the temple, we say farewell to this special place and continue our trip towards Battambang, the second largest city in Cambodia. Battambang is a big city, but notably different from Phnom Penh or Siem Reap. It has a beautiful countryside and is known for the famous bamboo train. The bamboo train is a 2.5m x 4m raft-like device made of bamboo and used by the villagers to transport their good. There is only one track used for both directions, so that if you meet someone coming from the other direction, the drivers decide which train has the lighter load or fewer passengers to unload their goods and people and dismantle off the track to let the other train by. Afterwards, we bring you to your resort just outside the city. It has a beautiful palm garden and a swimming pool with Jacuzzi for your enjoyment.

### Accommodation:

# A 3 star hotel







### Phare workshop - full day of fun

Spend the day at the Phare Workshop and more. Learn to juggle with our world-famous performers in a circus workshop, spend the afternoon playing traditional Khmer music on instruments that were used in the ancient Angkor Wat, or join a relaxing painting workshop with our talented artists in the original art school established in 1994. You will be learning from gualified teachers and have a chance to interact with our students and performers. The proceeds from these workshops directly support their program costs, teachers' wages, and new equipment for the facilities. This is an opportunity to have fun while giving, a truly fantastic and memorable experience.

### Accommodation:

A 3 star hotel

### Included today:

Phare Circus full day workshop with show



TukTuk transfers



# 🛱 DAY 8: Friday, 08 May 2020 - Battambang > Battambang

### **Discover Customs & Culture**

First, we visit families in a Muslim fishing village outside of Battambang, exploring the village on foot and learning about their traditional livelihoods, family history, and ways of living. We stop for coffee and a quick rest before we ride through the countryside to a Buddhist temple for a chance to chat with a young and friendly Buddhist monk. The tour includes a Cambodian style lunch at a family home. We travel by tuk-tuk through small villages and rice fields towards Phnom Sompov Mountain. It is about 140 meters high and has a total of 800 steps to the top. Instead of climbing up the steps, we ride up on a motorbike to the first part of the mountain with the temples, shrines, and killing caves used during the Khmer Rouge period. From there, we can look over all of Battambang and enjoy the vast and beautiful scenery. We start walking down the mountain steps before sunset and pause to see the 'bat army' where thousands of bats fly out of their caves on the mountain side at dusk.

### Accommodation:

A 3 star hotel

# Included meals:



# Included today:

Half day Custom and Culture tour: walk and bike tour (join in)





# 🗰 DAY 9: Saturday, 09 May 2020 - Battambang > Kampong Chhnang

### The port of pottery

You will head south on Highway 5 towards the capital, Phnom Penh. Take in the simple yet beautiful vistas of daily life outside the main cities during the trip. You will stop by in Kampong Chhang, known as the 'Port of Pottery' about 90km outside of the capital. Although also a rich fishing and agricultural province, it was the ceramic trade that gave the province the name it is most famous for. Visit a pottery where the traditional skills to make these beautiful vases and pots have been handed down from generation to generation, providing the area with its justifiably proud history and traditions. After this fascinating experience, you will proceed to the Smiling Gecko farm in the countryside about 80 km north of Phnom Penh. Surrounded by paddy fields and rolling hills, this visit to the farm will be an opportunity to gain insight into the structures of an innovative and holistic social project, meet the families who will show you around the farm and the Smiling Gecko School.

Included meals:

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#### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

# Included today:

Private Car from Battambang - Kampong Chhnang - Phnom Penh



# 📅 DAY 10: Sunday, 10 May 2020 - Kampong Chhnang > Phnom Penh

## From Farmhouse to the bustling capital city

On your second day at the Smiling Gecko Farm, you will have a guided tour of the farm including a visit to various cluster projects. A visit to their education campus will give you a glimpse of the progress they are making in the field of education. From the guesthouse, you can take a walk into the hills to visit the local Buddhist monastery and watch the monks during their morning prayer. After lunch, we will continue our journey to Phnom Penh, the vibrant bustling capital of Cambodia. Once considered as the 'Gem of Indochina' being situated at the confluence of three rivers, the mighty Mekong, the Bassac and the great Tonle Sap, Phnom Penh exudes a sort of provincial charm and tranquility with French colonial mansions and tree-lined



boulevards amidst monumental Angkorian architecture. In the evening you will visit the Cambodian Living Arts and be entertained by a traditional dance show.

### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

# Included meals:



# Included today:

- ✓ Private Car from Battambang Kampong Chhnang Phnom Penh ✓ Cambodian Living Arts: dinner + show
- ✓ TukTuk transfers



# 苗 DAY 11: Monday, 11 May 2020 - Phnom Penh > Phnom Penh

### City tour with cyclo and tuk-tuk

In the morning, a traditional Khmer cyclo takes you to the Royal Palace to see this spectacular century-old complex of Khmer architecture. Afterwards, you visit Wat Phnom, where the name Phnom Penh was derived from. This pagoda stands on a 35-meter-high hill surrounded by trees where monkeys play in the shade. A tuk-tuk will then take you to the Genocide Museum of Tuol Sleng, before continuing to Choeung Ek or the Killing Fields where thousands of people were tortured and buried in mass graves. This may be a disturbing site to visit, but it gives an insight into the country's troubled past, enabling you to understand more about how far the wonderful people of this country have come.

# Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

# Included today:

- 🗸 Cyclo
- ✓ TukTuk treansfers





English speaking guide



Entrance Fee: Royal Palace, Wat Phnom, Killing Fields, Tuol Slen



### Tamao Zoo - Wildlife Rescue center

Observe behind the scenes at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center, where animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade are rehabilitated. The Behind-the-Scenes tours with Wildlife Alliance allow access to private staff areas - tiger dens, nursery with the baby animals, rescued macaque monkeys, the elephant enclosure for hand feeding and watching gentle-rewards-based training as Chhouk's prosthetic foot is changed, and a personalized tour complete with rescue stories of the animals. This is a fundraising tour where 100% of profits go directly to the rescue, rehabilitation, care and release of wildlife. When possible, rescued animals are released back into the wild, or if release is not possible, they are given a home at the centre for as long as needed.

#### Accommodation:

Included meals:

**(B)** 



## Included today:

✓ Tamao Zoo: Full day project



## DAY 13: Wednesday, 13 May 2020 - Phnom Penh > Kep

#### Phnom Penh - Kep

Travel to the coast of Cambodia and observe how the view slowly changes from the bustling city to the more tranquil countryside. As you get closer to the coast, the greener it gets, and hills will appear. Kep is a very small place well known for its crab market. You can see how they catch the sea food which you can sample in the local restaurants by the sea. Swimming is possible, but there are no umbrellas or sunbeds. You can hike through the National Park, take a boat trip to Rabbit Island for some snorkelling, join some fishing tours, visit the small colonial town of Kampot 20 kilometers away, or visit a pepper farm.

#### Accommodation:

A 4 star hotel

Included meals:



### Included today:

✓ Private Car from Phnom Penh to Kep





# 🗰 DAY 14: Thursday, 14 May 2020 - Kep > Kep

#### Planting mangroves

Visit the local Trapeang Sankea community and take part in their ongoing special project designed to bring the mangroves back to the coast. A boat will take you into the mangroves where you will help in returning this vital ecosystem to the area. We will give you a baby mangrove which you will plant on the Kampot coastline. You can take a short walk on a specially laid out footpath and immerse yourself in the mangroves. A drive along small roads will later take you to the beautiful Secret Lake. Here, you will have lunch surrounded by splendid mountain views. We will visit the famous Kampot Pepper plantation in the afternoon. Kampot's climate work and unique geography work in harmony to provide the perfect growing environment for the best pepper in the world. Learn everything about the red, white and black pepper. A school on the farm will give insight on how the school system in Cambodia works. You can participate in class by giving a short lesson teaching the kids a few English words or talk about where you come from. You will be rewarded with little happy smiling faces. As you travel back to your hotel, be mesmerised by the beauty of the countryside around Kep. You are back at your hotel late in the afternoon.

Accommodation:

Included meals:  $\bigcirc$ (B)

# A 4 star hotel

## Included today:

✓ Full day tour: transfer, english speaking guide, boat tour, mangroves, lunch,



# 📅 DAY 15: Friday, 15 May 2020 - Kep > Kep

#### A day of leisure in Kep

Will you take a stroll through the National Park, a trip to Rabbit Island, visit the colonial Kampot 20km away, rent a motorcycle, climb the sides of mountains, or go fishing at sea? These are just a few of the many options around Kep! You can also choose to simply rest and relax by the swimming pool.

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#### Accommodation:

### A 4 star hotel





# DAY 16: Saturday, 16 May 2020 - Kep > Phnom Penh airport

# Time to say goodbye ....

Your final journey in Cambodia will be a private transfer to the international airport of Phnom Penh to catch your flight. We truly hope that you had a wonderful time with us in our beautiful country, and that you leave with happy memories that will last a lifetime. Cambodia has so much more to offer, and we would be delighted to welcome you back anytime for more of this fantastic country and its charming people. May you have a safe trip home and we hope to see you again soon!

Included meals:

B

# Included today:

✓ Private Car from Kep to Phnom Penh airport







# **Additional info**

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

