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4

General Information

12

Siem Reap
International Airport

14

Royal Independence

22

Angkor Thom Temple

23

Elephant Terrace

24

Phimeanarkas

32

Phnom Bakheng Temple

34

Srah Srang

36

Kravan Temple

41

Thommanon
Temple

42

Apsara Dance

44

Kulen Mountain

- 12 | Siem Reap International Airport
- 14 | Royal Independence
- 15 | Preah Ang Chek Preah Ang Chorm
- 16 | Dong Steung Siem Reap
- 17 | Water And Moon Festival in Siem Reap City
- 18 | Angkor National Museum
- 19 | Angkor Eye
- Angkor Hot Air Balloon
- 20 | Temple of Angkor
- 22 | Angkor Thom Temple
- 23 | Baphuon Temple
- 24 | Phimeanarkas

- 25 | Elephant Terrace
- 26 | Ta Keo Temple
- Sour Prat Temple
- 27 | Banteay Chmar Temple
- East Mebon
- 28 | Bayon Temple
- 29 | Ta Prohm Temple
- 32 | Phnom Bakheng Temple
- 33 | Preah Khan Temple
- 34 | Srah Srang
- 35 | Bakong Temple
- Beung Mealea

15

Preah Ang Chek
Preah Ang Chorm

18

Angkor
National Museum

20

Temple of Angkor

27

Banteay Chmar
Temple

28

Bayon Temple

30

Ta Prohm Temple

38

Baksei Chamkrong
Temple

39

Banteay Kdei Temple

40

Banteay Srei Temple

48

Preah Vihear Temple

50

Sambor Prei Kuk Temple

- 36 | Kravan Temple
- 37 | Neak Pean Temple
- 38 | Baksei Chamkrong Temple
- 39 | Banteay Kdei Temple
- 40 | Banteay Srei Temple
- 41 | Thommanon Temple
- 42 | Apsara Dance
- 43 | Shbek Thom
- 44 | Kulen Mountain
- 45 | Kbal Spean

- 46 | Lakhon Khol
- 47 | Koh Ker
- 49 | Preah Vihear Temple
- 51 | Sambor Prei Kuk Temple
- 52 | Artisan'd Angkor
- 53 | The Mall Of Siem Reap
- 54 | Pub Street
- 55 | Blissful Shopping At Night
- 58 | Tonle Sap
- 59 | Wild Life (Tonle Sap)

CHUMREAP SUOR

Cambodians traditionally greet with a Sampeah, which involves pressing the palms together before and center of the chest with a slight bow and greeting with a polite ‘Chumreap Suor’. Customarily, the higher the hands are held and the lower the bow, the more respect is conveyed.

Except when meeting elderly people or government officials, between people, this custom has been partially replaced by the handshake. Women usually greet both men and women with the same traditional greeting. Although it may be considered acceptable for foreigners to shake hands with a Cambodian, it is more appropriate to respect the custom and respond with a ‘Chumreap Suor’.

CUSTOMS AND TRADITION

Cambodian culture and tradition have had a rich varied history dating back many centuries. Over the years, the people of Cambodia developed a set of unique tradition from the syncretism of indigenous Buddhism and Hinduism.

Cambodians have been raised to respect their culture and are very traditional in their way of life. Tourists will see the well mannered Cambodian expressing a friendly “Chumreap Suor” when they meet one.



ABOUT CAMBODIA

LOCATION

There are mountains to the North and East but the land is mostly flat perfect for rice cultivation. Indeed, Cambodian Jasmine Rice had won the World's Best Rice competition three times in a row. The green rice fields and trees are fed by the giant Tonle Sap Lake and famous Mekong River the 12th longest river in the world that flows through the country and the capital city, Phnom Penh. Minerals, oil and natural gas deposits were recently found beneath Cambodia's territorial waters valuable assets that will surely contribute to this burgeoning economy.

CLIMATE

Cambodia's climate is hot and sunny all year round. Like most Southeast Asian countries there are two seasons the rainy season and the dry season. The rains fall May-October and it is dry during November-April. December and January are the coolest months and April is the hottest.

The average temperature is 27-28°C. During the rainy season downpours are limited to a couple of hours a day in the late afternoon or overnight so many tourists still come during this time to enjoy the country.

POPULATION

Cambodia's total population is roughly 16.72 million people, 95.6% of which belong to the Khmer ethnic group. Many foreigners live here too and some ethnic groups have made their home in Cambodia for centuries including the Chams (Muslim Khmer), Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Thai, Kuoy, Stieng and Tamil. Chinese people have a strong influence particularly in the business sector. Khmer is the official language of Cambodia.

LANGUAGE

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia. It is one of the oldest languages in the region and is derived from the Mon-Khmer (Austro-Asiatic) language family. It is notable for its extensive alphabet with 33 consonants, 23 vowels and 12 independent vowels. Unlike other Asian languages, Khmer is not tonal and so is quite approachable for foreigners. While learning simple phrases is appreciated, English, French and Mandarin are widely spoken.

RELIGION

Theravada Buddhism is the oldest surviving form of the religion and is practiced by 90% of the Cambodian population. Cambodian Buddhism shares much with other Theravada countries but has many notable and unique qualities. Buddha statues are revered in Cambodia and visitors are kindly asked to respect the customs surrounding these items (such as not pointing your feet towards a Buddha statue and dressing respectfully in temples). Islam, Christianity and Hinduism exist harmoniously alongside the main religion.

NATIONAL FLAG

The Cambodian national flag was adopted in its current form in 1948 when Cambodia broke with the French protectorate. It was readopted in 1993 following the end of the civil war. The Angkor Wat temple represents the Buddhist religion of the country along with the dignity and heritage of the Khmer people. The blue stripes represent the king and also stand for liberty and co-operation. The red represents the people and also stands for bravery. In short, the flag sums up the slogan: "nation, religion, king."



ROMDUOL - NATIONAL FLOWER OF CAMBODIA

Romduol (*Sphaerocoryne affinis*) is the national flower of Cambodia. It is a small, pale yellow flower with a heady fragrance that can travel far and wide in the wind.

Cambodian women have often been compared to the Romduol flower and such is the regard for this pretty thing that several regions have been named after it. The Romduol plant can grow to a height of 12 metres and many have been planted in Cambodia's public parks.

VISITING CAMBODIA



Cambodia can be accessed through three international airports (Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanouk International Airport) and two international sea ports (Sihanoukville and the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port). Tourists can also enjoy traveling to Cambodia by land and water from neighboring Laos, Thailand or Vietnam. Applying for a Cambodian visa is a simple process which can be done at all international points of entry into the country. All nationalities, except for visitors from the ASEAN countries, are required to apply for a visa. Visa on arrival, which is valid for a 30-day stay is available at the above mentioned international airports, sea ports and border checkpoints. However, not all nationalities will be granted a Visa on Arrival. It is better to apply at the Royal Cambodian Embassy or Consulate abroad before visiting.

A visa application form is usually issued on the airplane or one can be had on arrival. You will need one passport photo to accompany your visa application.

A 30-day single entry E-visa, can be applied by visiting www.mfaic.gov.kh complete an online application form, upload a recent passport sized photograph in jpeg format. Allow at least three business days for processing.

Note that an E-visa is only valid for arrival at Phnom Penh or Siem Reap international airports, Cham Yeam (Koh Kong), Poi Pet (Banteay Meanchey) and Bavet (Svay Rieng).



BY LAND

Tourists can enjoy traveling to Cambodia by land from neighboring Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.



BORDER CROSSING WITH VIETNAM

- **Bavet**, Svay Rieng, Cambodia / **Moc Bai**, Vietnam
- **Kaam Samnor**, Kandal, Cambodia / **Ving Xuong**, Vietnam
- **Phnom Den**, Takeo, Cambodia / **Tinh Bien**, Vietnam
- **Trapeang Phlong**, Tbong Khmom, Cambodia / **Xa Mat**, Vietnam
- **Prek Chak**, Kampot, Cambodia / **Ha Tien**, Vietnam
- **O'Yadaw**, Ratanakiri, Cambodia / **Le Tanh**, Vietnam
- **Trapeang Srer**, Kratie, Cambodia / **Bonue**, Vietnam
- **Banteay Chakrey**, Prey Veng, Cambodia / **Vinh Ba**, Vietnam
- **Samrong**, Svay Rieng, Cambodia / **Mi Quy Tei**, Vietnam



BORDER CROSSING WITH THAILAND

- **Poipet**, Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia / **Aranyaprathet**, Thailand
- **Cham Yeam**, Koh Kong, Cambodia / **Hat Lek**, Thailand
- **O'smach**, Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia / **Chong Jom**, Thailand
- **Anlong Veng**, Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia / **Chong Sa Ngam**, Thailand
- **Prum**, Pailin, Cambodia / **Ban Pakard**, Thailand
- **Doung**, Battambang, Cambodia / **Ban Laem**, Thailand



BORDER CROSSING WITH LAOS

- **Trapaing Kreal**, Steung Treng, Cambodia / **Norg Nokbiane**, Laos

BY WATER

Cambodia can be reached by boat from neighboring countries and the world.

The Preah Sihanouk International Seaport, the Phnom Penh International Port and Kompot international Tourism Port are three main gateways to Cambodia.

The Sihanouk International Seaport receives international cruise ships that accommodate hundreds of visitors. It is possible to reach Phnom Penh Capital by ship along the Mekong River from Vietnam. Phnom Penh is connected by fast local boats to the Upper Mekong River close to Laos or it is linked along the Tonle Sap to Siem Reap Angkor.

By this means, visitors can enjoy the Mekong's view and discover the new growth area of Cambodia full of natural resources, cultural heritage, and life styles of the Cambodian people.





KHMER HISTORY

The race that produced the great Builder of Angkor developed slowly through the fusion of Mon-Khmer racial groups during the first six centuries in Southeast Asia.

Under Indian influence, two principal centers of civilization developed.

The older in the extreme south of the peninsula was called "Funan" (The name is a Chinese transliteration of the ancient Khmer form of the word "Phnom", which means "hill"), a powerful maritime empire which ruled over all the shores of the Gulf of Siam. In the mid sixth century, the Kambuja who lived in the middle Mekong (North of present day Cambodia), broke away from Funan. Within a short period, this new power known as Chenla, absorbed the Funanese Kingdom.

In the late seventh century, Chenla broke into two parts: Land Chenla (To the north) and Water Chenla (To the south along the Gulf of Thailand) dominated by the Chinese. Land Chenla was fairly stable during the 8th century, whereas Water Chenla was beset by dynastic rivalries. During this period, Java invaded and took control part of the country.

At the beginning of the ninth century, the kings set up their respective capital in the present province of Siem Reap. For nearly six centuries, the kings enriched it by building

temples one after another and each being more sumptuous than the other. Two hundred of these temples are spread all over in the Angkorian area some 400 square kilometers in the Siem Reap Province. The temples and their sanctuaries are best known for their architecture and sculptures.

The first founder of Angkor was King Jayavarman II (802-850), who built one of his residences on the plateau of the Kulen in 802. King Indravarman I (887-889), a nephew of King Jayavarman II, constructed a vast irrigation system at Lolei and then built the tower of Preah Ko in 879 and Bakong in 881. King Yasovarman (889-900), the son of King Indravarman I, dedicated the towers of Lolei to his memory in 893 and founded a new capital to the northwest which was to remain the very heart of Angkor.

He built the Eastern Baray, a 7km X 2km size artificial lake also. King Harshavarman I (900-923), the son of King Yasovarman, who took to the foot of Phnom Bakheng, consecrated the little temple of Baksei Chamkrong, and

built Prasat Kravan in 921. King Jayavarman IV (928-941), uncle of King Harshavarman I, reigned in northeastern Cambodia near the present town of Koh Ker. He erected several majestic monuments.

King Rajendravarman (944-968) returned to Angkor in 952 and built the Eastern Mebon and Prè Roup in 961. In 967, the Brahman Yajnavaraha, a high religious dignitary of royal blood, erected the temple of Banteay Srei, about 20km northeast of the capital. King Jayavarman V (968-1001) founded a new capital around Takeo Temple.

In the eleventh century, King Suryavarman I (1002-1050) seized Angkor and founded a glorious dynasty. It was at this time that the Gopura of the Royal Palace of Angkor Thom was completed with the sober pyramid of the Phimeanakas at its center. He also erected the temple of Phnom Chiso, some parts of Preah Vihear, and Preah Khan in Kampong Svay District. King Udayadityavarman II (1050-1066), son of king Suryavarman I, built the mountain temple of Baphuon and Western Baray.

King Udayadityavarman's brother, King Harshavarman III, succeeded him and ruled from 1066 to 1080 when violent strife led to the fall of the dynasty. King Jayavarman VI (1080-1113) continued to build Preah Vihear Mount in Vat Po and Phimai.

King Suryavarman II (1113-1150) extended his power from the coast of the China Sea to the

Indian Ocean and built the temples of Angkor Wat, Thommanon, Chau Say Tevoda, Preah Palilay, Preah Pithu and Banteay Samrè. After these dazzling achievements, the Khmer civilization began to decline due to internal strife and an attack by the Chams.

King Jayavarman VII (1181-1220) was the most fascinating personality in Khmer history. He re-established his rule over all of southern Indochina and is best known for his huge building program. He built Ta Prohm (1186) and Preah Khan (1191) to dedicate to his parents. Then he erected Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang, the Terrace of the Leper King, the Terrace of the Elephants, Neak Pean, Ta Saom, Ta Nei, and a few monuments in other parts of the country. It was he who founded his great capital, Angkor Thom and in the center of which, he built the Bayon temple with its two hundred stone faces.

It is understandable that the country was exhausted after these enormous efforts. The decline of the Angkorera began after the death of King Jayavarman VII in the early thirteenth century. Due to Siamese invasion and the limitations of the irrigation system, Khmer power declined so drastically that the king was finally obliged to move to the vicinity of Phnom Penh in 1431. Then, resulting from a series of Siamese and Cham invasions, the country was placed as a French protectorate in 1863.



After regaining Independence in 1953, the country resumed several names:

1. The Kingdom of Cambodia (Under the Reachia Niyum Regime from 1953 to 1970)
2. The Khmer Republic (Under the Lon Nol Regime from 1970 to 1975)
3. Democratic Kampuchea (Under the Pol Pot Genocidal Regime from 1975 to 1979)
4. The People's Republic of Kampuchea (1979-1989)
5. The State of Cambodia (1989-1993)
6. The Kingdom of Cambodia (1993 until now).



SIEM REAP INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Siem Reap International Airport boasts a contemporary presence. It maintains a touch of Khmer tradition with displays of traditional ornaments all over the terminal building yet looking very modern in all aspects. The airport occupies a land area of 195ha including 13,000 square meters of buildings from hangars to service blocks and the terminal complex. Located a mere 8 km

from the city center, the airport is one of the country's busiest airport, in terms of passenger traffic since Siem Reap, the popular tourist destination, is also home to the magnificent Angkor Wat, which is only about 3km away. Currently, the airport serves more than 16 global airlines, handling international flights in and out of Cambodia via Siem Reap.

VISA ON ARRIVAL

Visa on arrival is available for selected country and the counters are located with in the arrival halls of all international cheek points You will need to check on the application requirements from your nearest Royal Embassy of Cambodia for the specific visa on arrival requirement.

DUTY FREE

Besides the Duty Free Shop in the airport there is also CDF (Cambodia Duty Free) located in Samdech Tehno Park and Naga City Walk (underground) explore the first underground retail gallery.

In partnership with China Duty Free Group, they offer over 200 luxury brands from all over the world and authentic souvenirs from Cambodia - Kingdom of Wonder. A full assortment of genuine luxury products including perfumes, cosmetics fashionwear, handbags, luggage, accessories, jeweleries, sunglasses, watches, liquor, tobacco, travel accessories and confectioneries with the best duty free prices in Asia are available in the stores.

PURCHASING

A PHONE NUMBER /SIMCARD

You can purchase a SIM card and telephone number outside the arrival terminal at the Phnom Penh International Airport or from any of the many phone shops scattered across the country. It can be purchased for as little as \$1.50; sometimes free. Valid passport identification card and visa are required.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Cambodian riel (KHR) is the official currency. However, the US dollars are in common use. Most businesses in the country, especially hotels, restaurants, airlines, markets and souvenir shops actually set their prices in US dollars. Change of less than one dollar is given in riel.

Do inspect the bills when accepting money. Marred riel is acceptable tender, but the tiniest tear in a large US note renders it unusable in Cambodia.

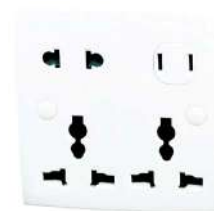
Electricity

Voltage: 230 V

Frequency: 50 Hz

Pictures - Power sockets

The standard voltage in Cambodia is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. See pictures for the types of power sockets and corresponding plugs.





ROYAL INDEPENDENCE

A 15-minute stroll north from the Old Market, along the shady west bank of the Siem Reap River, with its ornate stone street lamps and hotch potch of animal and religious sculptures, leads you to The Royal Gardens, the Siem Reap city centre's only open public green space. It is an area that provides visitors with a restful

antidote to the dusty streets of downtown, with collection of stone Lions statue, lotus ponds and frangipani tree.

The peaceful Royal Gardens consists of The River Garden and the rather grandiose sounding Royal Crusade for Independence Gardens.





PRAEH ANG CHEK PRAEH ANG CHORM

Importance to the local is the small shrine in front of the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor. Containing two standing Buddhas of the name Preah Ang Chek and Preah Ang Chorm. They are surrounded by stories of power and indestructibility. Visitors are welcome to make offerings and take photos. The reverence of local pilgrimage to palpable.





The River Bank Walkway of Siem Reap

DONG STEUNG SIEM REAP



Activities along the Dong Steung Siem Reap



WATER AND MOON FESTIVAL IN SIEM REAP CITY

Water and Moon Festival in Siem Reap celebrating along the Dong Steung and famed riverbank for the locals and tourists to relax.





ANGKOR NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Angkor temples were revered with many fascinating and priceless artifacts when they were discovered more than a century ago.

Thousands were plundered by unscrupulous individuals and the Cambodian government

has been working tirelessly over the past decade to recover them. Today, thousands are displayed in the Angkor National Museum where visitors may view and trace the Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom through state of the art multimedia appliances and displays.





ANGKOR EYE

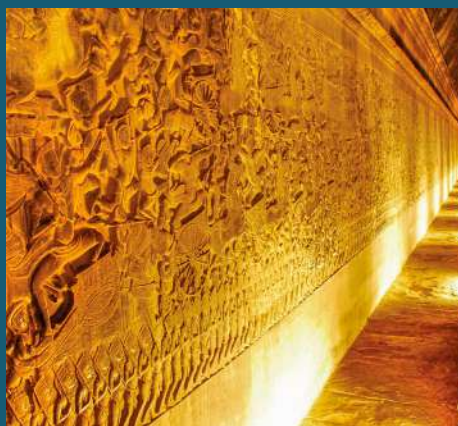
Angkor Eye is the highest Ferris wheel in Cambodia, which was designed and manufactured by Japanese engineering. From the height of 85 meters, the 48 enclosed with air condition cabins accommodating 192

passengers at one time, duration of rotation 18 minutes, will offer you a great experience to discover Siem Reap's countryside, the famed temples of Angkor Wat, contemplate the city with breath taking and a fabulous panoramic view.



ANGKOR HOT AIR BALLOON

Just 800 meters from Angkor Wat! A 10-minute flight at 120 meters for a large bowl of fresh air and a stunning 360° view on the surroundings Angkor Wat, Phnom Bakheng, West Baray, Tonle Sap Lake, Phnom Khrom, Phnom Bok, Kulen Mountains and this characteristic of the Kingdom of Wonder's countryside landscape with its rice fields and sugar palm trees.





TEMPLE OF ANGKOR

Angkor Wat, Heritage of Humanity and World Wonder

UNESCO considers Angkor Wat to be “one of the most important archaeological sites in Southeast Asia” and to many who have had the opportunity to visit the treasured discovery, it is simply awesome and indeed one of the seven wonders of the world.

The largest religious monument in the Angkor complex, Angkor Wat is an architectural masterpiece. Originally built in the first half of the 12th century (1113-1150) by King Suryavarman II as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple. Its perfect composition, balance, proportions, reliefs and sculpture make it one of the finest monuments in the world.

With its orientation towards the west, experts have induced that it was a funeral temple for King Suryavarman II, because it faces the setting sun and death. The bas reliefs, designed for viewing from left to right in the order of Hindu funeral ritual, support this function.





ANGKOR THOM TEMPLE

Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire, was a fortified city built by King Jayavarman VII in the late twelfth century.

Once a great Khmer city, it is the site of many temples and monuments of historical interest. There are a number of entry towers each with a

causeway flanked by 54 stone figures on either side demons to the right and gods to the left, totalling the magical number of 108 deities guarding the city. Inside the city are important monuments such as the Bayon temple, the Baphuon, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas and the Terrace of Elephants.





BAPHUON TEMPLE

Northwest of the Bayon is Baphuon Temple. Built in the mid 11th century as the state temple of Udayadityavarman II, the three-tiered is dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva. The temple adjoins the southern enclosure of the royal palace

and measures 120 meters east-west by 100 meters north south at its base and stands 34 meters tall without its tower, which would have made it roughly 50 metres tall.





PHIMEANARKAS

Phimeanakas (or ‘Celestial Palace’), is located inside the enclosure of the Royal Palace of Angkor Thom north of Baphuon, was used by King Jayavarman VII as his private temple. A small, laterite Hindu temple in the shape of a three-stepped pyramid (Khleang style), it was built at the end of the 10th century during

the reign of Rajendravarman (from 941-968), and completed by Suryavarman.

A tower used to sit on the top of the pyramid, while galleries are on the edge of top platform. Phimeanakas can be reached on foot either from Prah Palilay or from the Terrace of the Elephants.



ELEPHANT TERRACE

The terrace of the elephants is part of the walled city of Angkor Thom. It was used by Angkor's king Jayavarman VII as a platform to view his victorious returning army. Once attached to the palace of Phimeanakas,

the original structure was made of organic material and has long since disappeared. Most of what remains are the foundation platforms of the complex. The terrace was named for the carvings of Elephants on its eastern face.





TA KEO TEMPLE

Ta Keo Temple is one of the tallest monuments of Angkor. Built by Jayavarman V, it has five sanctuaries towers are placed on top of a 22 metre high five tier pyramid, from where there are good views of the surrounding area. The pyramid shaped temple was built to represent

Mount Meru, the mountain that is the centre of the world in Hindu mythology.

The massive sandstone monument dedicated to Shiva was left unfinished at the start of the 11th century. The reason why work was stopped is not known.

SOUR PRAT TEMPLE

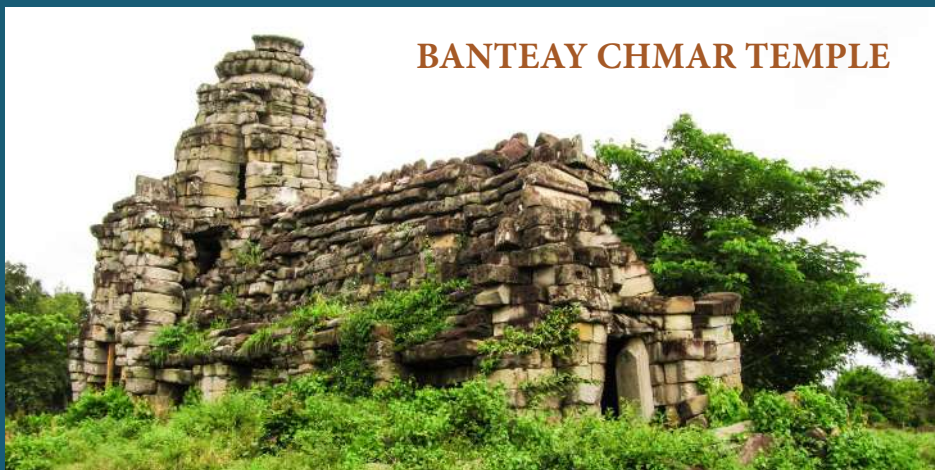


Likely built during the reign of Indravarman II, Suor Prat temple is a series of twelve towers spanning north to south lining the eastern side of royal square in Angkor Thom.

Made from rugged laterite and sandstone, the towers are located right in front of Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King, flanking the start of the road leading east to the Victory Gate, on either side of which they are symmetrically arranged.

The current tower's name in Khmer means "The towers of the tight-rope dancers", a romantic name derived from local belief assuming that they were used to support a high wire stretched between them for acrobatic performance during royal festivals.

BANTEAY CHMAR TEMPLE



Banteay Chhmor Temple is one of the more important yet least understood temples from the Angkorian period.

The complex, moat, baray (reservoir) and largely unspoilt environment constitute a

unique archaeological site and an important link to the country's cultural heritage.

Commissioned in the late 12th to early 13th century by King Jayavarman VII, this temple complex consists of a total of nine satellite temples.



EAST MEBON

Built during the reign of King Rajendravarmā in the 10th century, East Mebon stands on what was an artificial island at the centre of the now dry East Baray reservoir.

The temple was dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and honours the parents of the king. Its

location reflects the Khmer architects' concern with orientation and cardinal directions. It was built on a north-south axis with Rajendravarmā's state temple, Pre Rup, located about 1,200 meters to the south just outside the baray.



BAYON TEMPLE

This is one of the many 'must visit' temples

The Bayon is a richly decorated Khmer temple built in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. Constructed at the centre of King Jayavarman's capital, Angkor Thom, this was the last state temple to be built at Angkor. The Bayon Temple, the only Angkorian state temple, was built primarily as a Mahayana Buddhist shrine dedicated to the Buddha.

Following Jayavarman's death, it was modified and augmented by later Hindu and Theravada Buddhist Kings in accordance to their religious preferences. The Bayon's most distinctive feature is the multitude of serene and massive stone faces on the many towers that jut from the upper terrace and cluster around its center peak. The similarity of the 216 gigantic faces to other statues of Jayavarman VII has led many scholars to the hypothesis that the faces are representations of the King himself. Others believe that the faces belong to Avalokitesvara, the bodhisattva of compassion.







TA PROHM TEMPLE

Nature and architecture collide in awe-inspiring splendour

Built similar in style to the Bayon during the late twelfth century, this was originally a Mahayana Buddhist monastery and university. It is a very popular attraction for visitors to Angkor because it has been left much the same as it was discovered with giant roots snaking through doorways and trees overhanging grey stone.

Ta Prohm was originally named “Rajavihara” which means “Monastery of the King.” Different aspects are dedicated to important figures in the king’s life such as his mother, guru and

elder brother. As such, this temple forms a complementary pair with the temple monastery of Preah Khan which was modeled on the king’s father.

When it was new and thriving, the site hosted more than 12,500 people (including 18 high priests and 615 dancers) and a further 800,000 people in surrounding villages made their living working there. Expansions and additions to the temple continued through into the rule of Srindevravarman at the end of the 15th century.

PHNOM BAKHENG TEMPLE



Located atop the hill, Phnom Bakheng is the most popular tourist spot for sunset views of the Angkor Wat temple, which lies amidst the jungle about 1.5 km to the southeast.

Originally built in the form of a mountain temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, historians believe it was the principal temple of the Angkor region in its heyday, and the architectural centrepiece of a new capital when Yasovarman moved his court from the capital Hariharalaya in the Roluos area to the southeast.





PREAH KHAN TEMPLE

In its heyday, this was the centre of a substantial organisation with almost 100,000 officials and servants.

This temple is flat in design, with a basic plan of successive rectangular galleries around a Buddhist sanctuary complicated by Hindu satellite temples and numerous later additions. With numerous trees and other vegetation growing among the ruins, Preah Khan has been left largely unrestored.

For the beguiler, the romancer and the artist, Preah Khan is an entrancing mastery deep in the jungle, soft and alluring in the twilight made by heavy verdure.



SRAH SRANG

Srah Srang was a reservoir (Baray), measuring 700m by 350m that is still partially flooded. Located south of the East Baray and east of Banteay Kdei (opposite the entrance) this is a popular site for watching the sunrise. It was dug in the mid 10th century by Rajendravarman II and was later modified around the year 1200 by Jayavarman VII. The steps that lead to the water are flanked by two guardian lions.





BAKONG TEMPLE

Bakong is the first temple mountain of sandstone constructed by the rulers of the Khmer empire at Angkor near modern Siem Reap in Cambodia. In the final decades

of the 9th century AD, it served as the official state temple of King Indravarman I in the ancient city of Hariharalaya, located in an area that is now called Roluos today.



BEUNG MEALEA

Beung Mealea is about 68km northeast of Siem Reap. This is probably one of the most mysterious temples at Angkor having been badly run in by nature. Built to the same floorplan as Angkor Wat in the 12th century under Suryavarman II, the temple is also enclosed by a massive moat measuring 1.2km by 900m.

It used to be utterly consumed by jungle, but

some of the dense foliage has been cleaned up in recent years. Piles of finely chiselled sandstone blocks and long dark chambers with hanging vines in between may at first discourage, but this temple is actually a place worth spending the time exploring. The rewards include several impressive carvings besides a well preserved library in the north eastern quadrant and much more.



KRAVAN TEMPLE

Prasat Kravan is almost an afterthought on the map, but it sure looks great at sunrise. The key features here are the huge carvings within each of the towers, which are a pleasant surprise at this otherwise lonely site.





NEAK PEAN TEMPLE

Neak Pean is one of the temples that make one dream of the olden days of luxury and beauty. It was worthwhile to the overpowering temples of Siva that men and armies repaired but it was at the tiny temple of Neak Pean that eager princesses laid their lovely offerings of wrought gold and pungent perfumes. Neak Pean, “the entwined snakes” is a small temple located on an island in the centre of the now dry Jayatataka Baray, a water reservoir 3,500 metres long and 900 metres wide. Initially dedicated to the Buddha, the temple was rededicated to Lokeshvara, the Bodhisattva of compassion. Much of the temple area is flooded during the rainy season. A wooden walkway over the water leads to the central sanctuary, which is fenced off to protect it from further decay.



BANTEAY SAMRE TEMPLE

Banteay Samre Temple was built in the early 12th century during the reigns of under Suryavarman II and Yasovarman II. Dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu, its architecture is similar to that of Angkor Wat Temple.



BAKSEI CHAMKRONG TEMPLE

Baksei Chamkrong temple is the first temple mountain at Angkor built entirely of brick, laterite and sandstone durable materials. Located 150 metres north of Bakheng mountain and 80 metres from the road leading to the south gate of Angkor Thom, it was built in middle of the tenth century (947), perhaps begun by Harshavarman I and completed by Rajendravarman II.

The temple was dedicated to Siva (Hindu) and may have been a funerary temple for the parents of the king following the transition between Bakheng and Koh Ker.



BANTEAY KDEI TEMPLE

Banteay Kdei means “Citadel of Chambers” with the chambers referring to monk’s abodes. It was built by Jayavarman VII in the same Bayon architectural style, similar to Ta Prohm and Preah Khan. Banteay Kdei was used by monks throughout the ages up until the 1960s. The structures are contained within two successive enclosure walls and two concentric galleries pointed with tall towers. Many original carvings remain.



PRE RUP TEMPLE

Built by Yasovarman I (889-910), Pre Rup Temple was dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. The temple’s name is a comparatively modern one meaning “turn the body”, which reflects the common belief among Cambodians that funerals were conducted at the temple, with the ashes of the body being ritually rotated in different directions as the service progressed.

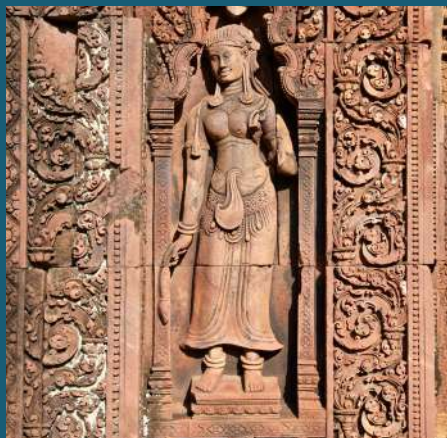


BANTEAY SREI TEMPLE

A monument of elaborate artistic mastery

Banteay Srei (or 'Citadel of Women'), is a 10th century temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, is the only major temple of Angkor not built by a monarch. Instead, credit went to a courtier, Yajnavaraha a famous scholar and philanthropist. Banteay Srei is constructed from red sandstone and many of its elements appear in comparatively miniature form making

it unique among the Angkorian temples. Almost every surface has been hacked into beautiful shapes and depictions that can still be admired today. Motifs include fierce monsters, multiarmed protectors, goddesses and false doors. Indeed, the 'near perfect ornamental technique' is praised by every visitor to the temple.





THOMMANON TEMPLE

Thommanon is one of a pair of Hindu temples built during the reign of Suryavarman II (from 1113–1150) at Angkor, Cambodia. This small and elegant temple is located east of the Gate of Victory of Angkor Thom and north of Chau Say Tevoda. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed by UNESCO in 1992 titled Angkor. The temple is dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu.



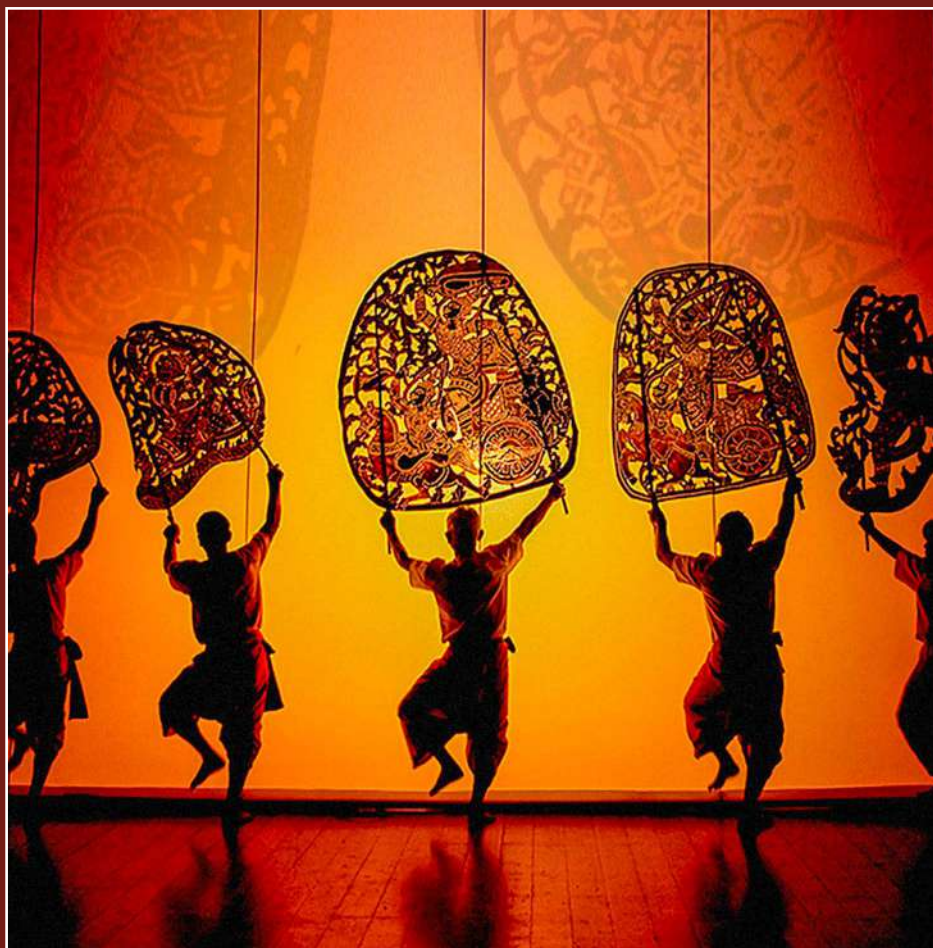
APSARA DANCE

The Royal Ballet of Cambodia is a form of performing arts established in the royal courts of Cambodia for the purpose of entertainment as well as ceremonial propitiation.

It is performed during public occasions and ceremonies in Cambodia as well as among Cambodians in other countries. Performances entail elaborately dressed dancers performing a slow and figurative set of gestures and poses meant to enthrall the viewer.

The repertoire includes dances of tribute or invocation and the enactment of traditional stories and epic poems such as the Ramayana.

The Royal Ballet of Cambodia listed into The World Heritage Property as Intangible Culture by UNESCO on 7th November 2003.



SBÈK THOM

The Khmer Shadow Theater comes into two forms: *Sbèk Thom* (big puppets that are actually panels depicting certain characters from the story) and *Sbèk Toch* (small articulated puppets).

The black leather puppets are held in front of a light source, either in front of or behind a screen, creating a shadow or silhouette effect. *Sbèk Thom* is the more unique feature,

restricting itself to stories from the *Reamker*. The performance is accompanied by a *Pinpeat* orchestra and by narration, and the puppeteers move the panels like a dance.

Sbèk Toch, having a far lighter feel, presents popular stories of heroes, adventures, love and battles, with or without orchestra and with the puppeteers often doing the narration.

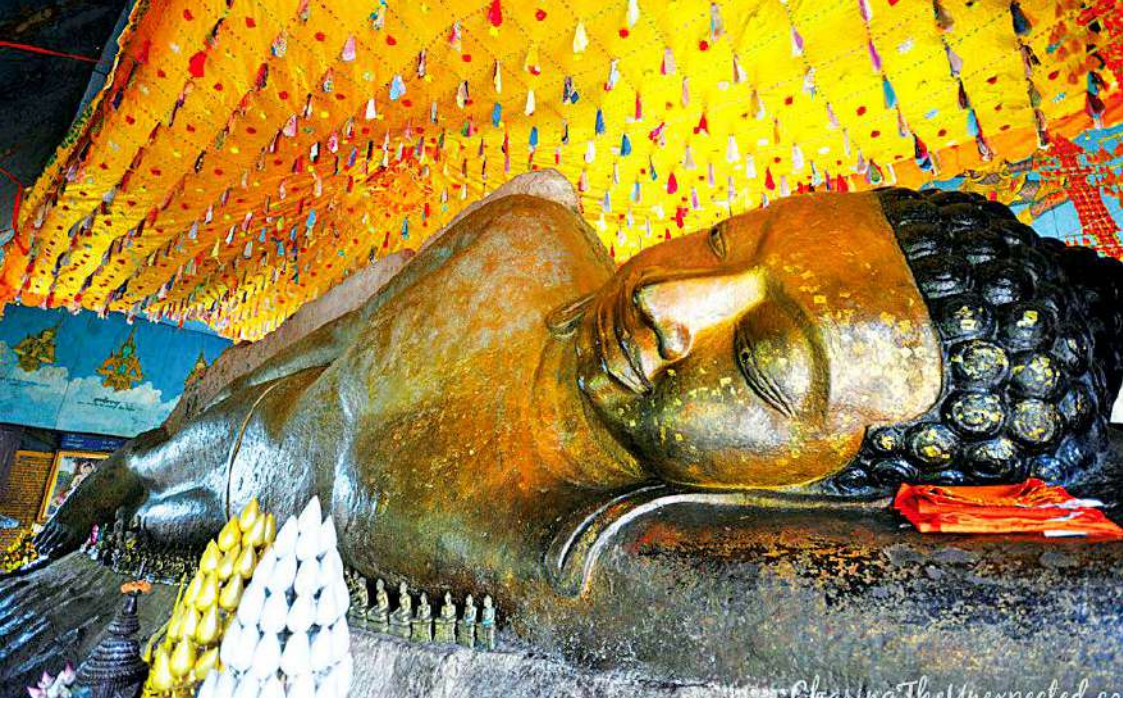


KULEN MOUNTAIN

About 30 km northwards from Angkor Wat lies the Cambodia's most sacred mountain, Kulen Mountain or "Mountain of Lychees". Formed of sandstone and standing 487 metres tall at its highest point, it is widely regarded as the birthplace of the ancient Khmer Empire. During the constructional period of the ancient tem-

ples in the ninth century, sandstones were brought from this sacred mountain to Angkor. It was here at Phnom Kulen that king Jayavarman II proclaimed independence from Java in 802 A.D. This mountain plateau served as the capital of the first Khmer Empire for more than half a century before it moved to Roluos.





KBAL SPEAN

Kbal Spean (Bridge Head) is an Angkorian archaeological site on the southwestern slopes of the Kulen Hills to the northeast of Angkor. Situated along a 150 metre stretch of the Stung Kbal Spean River, 25 kilometres (16 miles) from the main Angkor group of monuments, the site consists of a series of stone rock relief carvings of lingams

(phallic symbol of the Hindu god Shiva) in sandstone formation of the riverbed and banks and is commonly known as 'The Valley of a 1000 Lingas' or 'The River of a Thousand Lingas'. Besides the myriads of lingams, the motifs include depictions of the gods Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma, Lakshmi, Rama and Hanuman, as well as animals (cows and frogs).





LAKHON KHOL

On 28th November 2018, in the 13th meeting of the Intergovernmental committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO in Port Louis, the capital of majorities inscribed the traditional Cambodia dance drama genes Lakhon Khol Wat Svay Andet on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the Decision 13.com.10.a.3.





KOH KER

Abandoned to the forests of the north, Koh Ker, capital of the Angkorian empire from 928 to 944 CE, is within day trip distance of Siem Reap.

Most visitors start at Prasat Krahom, where impressive stone carvings grace lintels,

doorposts, and slender window columns. The principal monument is Mayan looking Prasat Thom, a 55m wide, 40m high sandstone faced pyramid, whose seven tiers offer spectacular views across the forest. Koh Ker is 127km northeast of Siem Reap.



PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE

The Sacred Site of Preah Vihear Temple; A World Heritage

The Preah Vihear Temple is a Khmer temple situated spectacularly atop Poy Tadi, a 525-metres (1720 ft) cliff in the Dangrek Mountains located in the Preah Vihear Province of northern Cambodia.



Dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and built during the Khmer Empire, the Preah Vihear Temple sits spectacularly atop Poy Tadi, a 525-metre (1720 ft) cliff in the Dangrek Mountains of Preah Vihear Province. With its prime location, it enjoys the best

setting of any other Angkorian temple with views extending many miles in all directions. As a key centre of religious life in Cambodia and considered an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture, the temple was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008.



SAMBOR PREI KUK TEMPLE

3rd Unesco Heritage Site Located in Kompong Thom

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1977, Sambo Prei Kuk is an archaeological site located in Kampong Thom Province and 176 km east of the Angkor area. The now ruined complex dates back to the Pre Angkorian Chenla Kingdom (late 6th to 9th century). It was established by King Isanavarman I in

the early 7th century as a central royal sanctuary and capital, known then as “Isanapura”. Sambor Prei Kuk was an important religious centre for the worship of Shiva and there are more than over 200 temples built of solid brick, laterite, and sandstone on site.



ARTISAN'D ANGKOR

Artisan'd Angkor is a social business enterprise that helps young artisans in their home villages practise and revive traditional craft skills such as stone carving, wood carving, lacquering, gilding and silk processing. The hand made items such as wood and stone statues, lacquered sculptures, tableware and panels, ceramic home furnishings, jewellery silk clothing and scarves are displayed and sold in the main showroom located in the heart of Siem Reap.

Artisan'd Angkor also owns the Angkor Silk farm located in Pouk District about 16 km, or a 20-minute drive from Siem Reap downtown, where visitors may go on a free tour for an insight into the cultivation and production of silk fabrics and accessories.



THE SILK FARM

The Angkor Silk farm, located in Pouk District about 16km or a 20-minute drive from Siem Reap downtown, offers free guided tours of the process from the mulberry bushes cultivation to the production of silk fabrics and accessories. As the Silk Farm covers an area of 8 hectares, of which 5 are used for the

mulberry trees plantation, you will enjoy the beautiful setting while learning about the fascinating process of silk making.

The Angkor Silk Farm also features a large showroom where you can buy high quality silk products that were made in the workshops you just visited.



THE MALL OF SIEM REAP



The Heritage Walk



Angkor Trade Center



The Theam Gallery



Cambodia Market



Lucky Supermarket



ANM Khmer market



PUB STREET

The street is so named because it is lined end to end on both side by pubs, restaurants, and shops. In the evening, the entire street is closed to traffic, allowing pedestrians to stroll about freely, Pub Street comes alive when the bars crank up the music and join the restaurants to spill their seats out on the curbs. One can find bars and restaurants serving drinks and foods for almost all cultures and flavors here. There are also a few fine galleries where original Khmer art pieces can be had for a song





BLISSFUL SHOPPING AT NIGHT

Explore the night markets, shop for that exotic souvenir to take home for your friends; most of the things on sales are definitely conversational pieces.



Angkor Night Market was the first night market of its kind to be established in the whole of Cambodia.

The market was carefully planned to create a friendly and very localised environment for tourists to enjoy. There are no warehouses; instead tourists enjoy smoothly laid out shacks built from natural materials and designed in typical Khmer style. There are over 200 souvenir

shops that sell traditional Cambodian handmade products from clothes, silk pieces, arts, and jewellery, wood and stone carvings amongst many other interesting items found perhaps only in this part of the world.

There are cafes and pubs and even a movie mall where one can watch accounts of the genocide during the Khmer Rouge regime and other entertaining documentaries.



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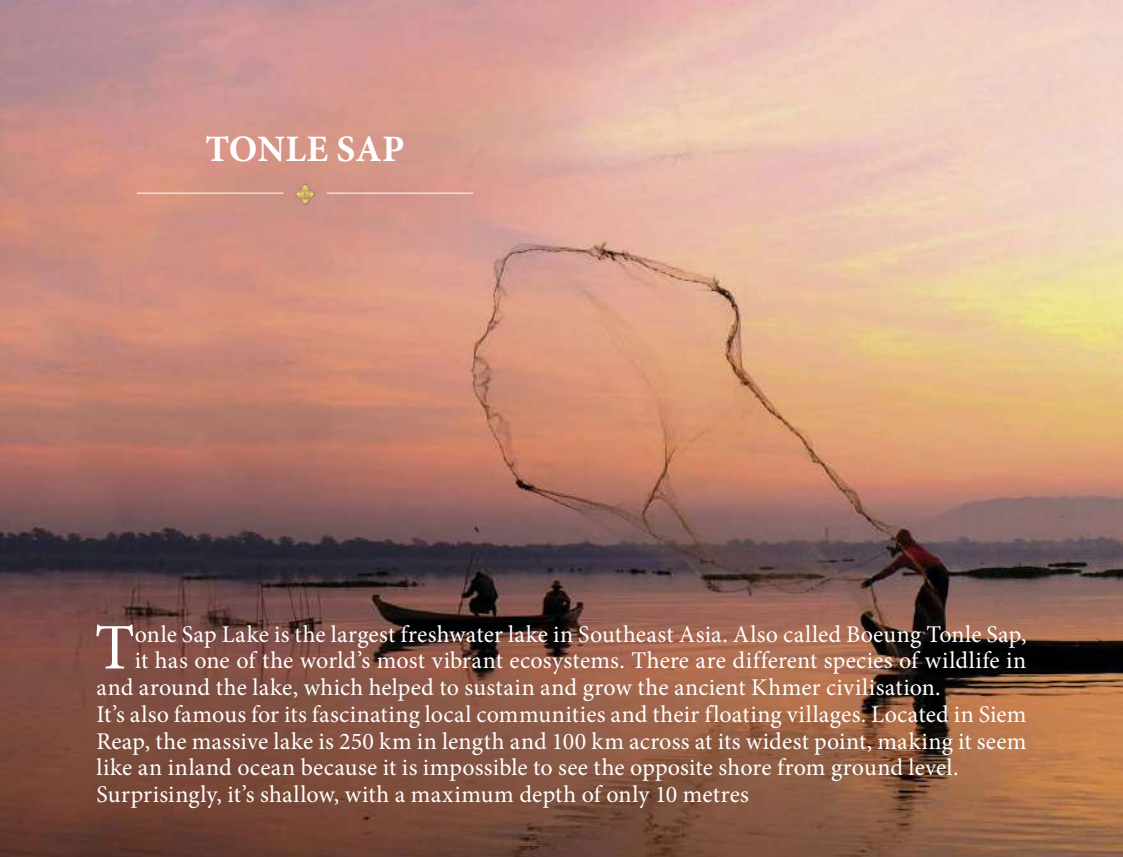
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TONLE SAP



Tonle Sap Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. Also called Boeung Tonle Sap, it has one of the world's most vibrant ecosystems. There are different species of wildlife in and around the lake, which helped to sustain and grow the ancient Khmer civilisation. It's also famous for its fascinating local communities and their floating villages. Located in Siem Reap, the massive lake is 250 km in length and 100 km across at its widest point, making it seem like an inland ocean because it is impossible to see the opposite shore from ground level. Surprisingly, it's shallow, with a maximum depth of only 10 metres





WILD LIFE (TONLE SAP)



There are several so called floating villages in and around Tonle Sap Lake and they are all somewhat different. Naturally, many of these villages depend on the lake for the natural resources it provides.

You can book a tour of the area, which usually

includes roundtrip transport, lunch and plenty of opportunities to interact with the locals. Floating villages in Tonle Sap Lake such as Chong Khneas, Kampong Khleang, Kampong Phluk, and Prek Toal.





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