

Cambodia Explorer Tour 10 Days 9 nights

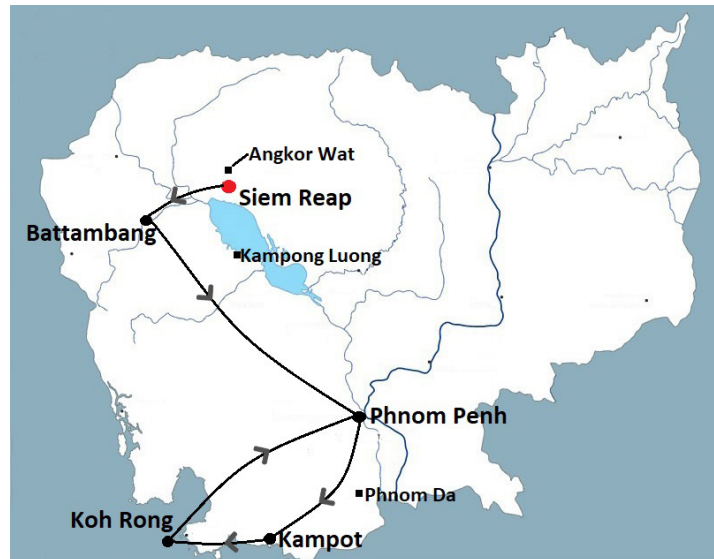


Overview

Travel deeper into the past and present and experience the best of Cambodia on a comprehensive journey to the heart of the country and get to know the people, landscape, customs and cuisine that make Cambodia so incredible.

Tour highlights include:

- Angkor Wat complex
- Visit one of the largest community floating on Tonle Sap Lake
- Ride on the famous Bamboo Train
- See elegant French colonial architecture
- Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda
- Learn about the country's tragic pass with visit to Toul Sleng & Killing Field
- Visit site of pre-Angkorian city
- Relax on the beach of Koh Rong Island



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Angkor Thom complex – Angkor Wat complex – Apsara dancing performance

Starting at 8am, your tour will begin by visiting **Angkor Thom**, the capital of the vast and powerful Khmer Empire during range of King Jayavarman VII (AD 1181 - 1220). The tour guide will lead you through the **South Gate** of Angkor Thom, famous for its huge statues depicting the churning of the ocean of milk. Spend the morning exploring the many sites within this great walled city, including **Baphuon**, the **Royal Enclosure**, **Phimeanakas**, the **Elephants Terrace** and the **Terrace of the Leper King**. The highlight of Angkor Thom is the **Bayon** temple, which has 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces.

A Khmer lunch will be served in the area within the Angkor Park.

In the afternoon, visit the iconic **Angkor Wat**, one of the largest temple complexes within the Angkor area. Your tour guide will lead you around the galleries and explain the many forms of symbolism within the five-towered temple, pointing out many outstanding features of the classical Khmer architecture.

The first day exploring the temples concludes at Prasat Chrung to see spectacular sunset views.

Dinner will be served at Apsara Theater accompanied with **Apsara** traditional dance performance.

Day 2: Banteay Srey – Ta Prohm – Preah Khan – Neak Pean – night market

The second day we ventures further afield to the **Banteay Srey** temple, 30km from Siem Reap. This 10th century temple is regarded as the jewel in the crown of classical Khmer Art. As you return to town, your guide will stop at a local village, allowing you to visit families who are producing palm sugar.

After lunch, visit **Ta Prohm**, the 'Indiana Jones' temple which has been largely overgrown by the jungle. This beautiful area remains relatively untouched and features many impressive trees which have grown throughout the ruins. During your remaining time among the temples, choose to visit additional sites around the ancient city of Angkor Thom, such as **Preah Khan** and **Neak Poan**.

In the evening, be guided to the **night market**. You might choose to hang around the Pub Street area and back to hotel on your own.

Day 3: Siem Reap to Battambang overland

Depart for two hour drive to Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city. Afternoon enjoy a half-day bike trip through the beautiful surrounding countryside of Battambang. Stop along the way to discover the local rural way of life, discovering small cottage industries producing sticky rice, noodles, and fish paste. End the day with a ride on unique Bamboo Train and enjoy sunset over rice fields.

Day 4: Battambang to Phnom Penh overland

Morning is spent seeing local market and this pretty riverside town of French elegance and beautifully preserved colonial architecture. Then we depart for Phnom Penh Capital. Along the way we make some stops to see handicraft workshops, enjoy some scenery of the countryside and visit the authentic and rarely visit floating community of Kampong Luong which is one of the largest floating community on Tonle Sap Lake. A boat ride through the village offers the opportunity to visitors to discover the everyday life of Cambodian families on the Tonle Sap lake. The families live in floating houses with a constant movement of boats that brings people and goods to the village. Just like community on land, you will find almost everything on floating house like gas station, phone shop, **restaurant**, homestay... Arrive in Phnom Penh in late evening and rest.

Day 5: Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, Tuol Sleng and Killing Fields

Visit to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, two of the finest examples of Khmer architecture in the capital. The grounds of the palace are also home to the Silver Pagoda, which received its name because its floor is made up of 5,329 silver tiles. Next to the Royal Palace is National Museum which houses Khmer art and sculptures from different periods of Cambodian history. Afternoon learn more about these turbulent years when visiting the infamous Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Killing Fields. Evening enjoy walking tour along the Mekong riverside. Your guide might drop you off at one of the bars or back at hotel.

Day 6: Phnom Penh – Phnom Da – Kampot

Journey overland to Kampot, Located halfway between capital and southern coast, Kampot is Cambodia's capital of riverside relaxation. Along the way we visit pre-Angkorian city of Angkor Borei and Phnom Da. Arrive at Angkor Borei we first visit Angkor Borei Museum to learn about pre-angkorian artifacts discover at the sites around the former city. Continue for short drive to the pre-Angkorian hilltop temple of Phnom Da where upon arrival you climb the hill and admire the 11th century temple built on top. Continue trip to Kampot. Free and relax in Kampot.

Day 7: Kampot Countryside Tour

Today Visit the Educultural Kampot Pepper Project and learn how Kampot pepper has been acknowledged by international chefs to be among the world's best. Visit salt fields if weather allows. Free afternoon for your own activities in this attractive town.

Day 8: Kampot – Sihanoukville and shuttle boat to Koh Rong Island

Continue overland journey to Sihanoukville. The route passes stunning scenery with the Damrei (Elephant) Mountains as a constant backdrop. Arrive in Sihanoukville we take a shuttle boat for two hours to Koh Rong Island.

Day 9: Koh Rong

Free day for your own relaxation on the island.

Day 10: Sihanoukville – Phnom Penh Capital

Overland journey back to Phnom Penh where you will board your international flight for your next destination or overnight in Phnom Penh before boarding the flight. End of trip.