



FAST FACTS

Official Name

Kingdom of Cambodia

Capital City

Phnom Penh

Currency

Riel (US Dollar accepted)

Official Language

Khmer

Population

15,2 million

Total Area

181,035 km²

Boundaries:

Laos, Thailand and Vietnam



CAMBODIA DESTINATION INFORMATION

Sousadeay and welcome to Cambodia!

Cambodia has many different faces and is certainly offering something special for any traveler to whom traveling is more than staying at a beach resort (although that's possible as well). It is a country with a very rich culture, unspoiled nature and, to some visitors' surprise; it's also a country with a genuine friendly population who very much want to be in contact with foreign visitors. People are open-minded, easy-going and interested to learn more about anything.

GEOGRAPHY

A low central plain and surrounding uplands and low mountains are, combined with the Tonle Sap (the Great Lake) and the Mekong River delta, the true characteristics of Cambodia. Also included in Cambodian geography are transitional plains, which are thinly forested and rise to elevations of about 200m above sea level. In northern Cambodia you can find a sandstone escarpment. The escarpment forms a cliff of more than 320km from west to east and rises to heights of 180 to 550m. This cliff is the defining mark for the southern limit of the Dangrek Mountains.

Defining the eastern regions is the Mekong River, which is flowing south. Transitional plains that gradually merge with the eastern highlands, forested mountains and high plateaus extending into Vietnam and Laos are to be found east of the Mekong.

Much of the land area between Tonle Sap and the Gulf of Thailand is covered by another highland region, including the Damrei and the Kravanh Mountains. This area, Phnom Aural, is largely uninhabited.

Also sparsely populated is the southern coastal region, which is bordering the Gulf of Thailand. This area, a narrow lowland strip, is heavily wooded and isolated from the central plain by the southwestern highlands.

Most defining for Cambodia's geography is the flood of the Tonle Sap, which measures about 2,590 km² during dry season and 24,605 km² during rainy season. This heartland of Cambodia is a densely populated plain devoted to wet rice cultivation.

Cambodia's climate is dominated by monsoons, known as tropical wet and dry because of distinctly marked seasonal differences. The temperature ranges from 21 °C to 35 °C, or, but not very often, even 40 °C. The country has two distinct seasons: rainy season (May to October) with temperatures that can drop to 21 °C and generally high humidity, and dry season (November to April) with temperatures that can rise up to 40 °C.

PEOPLE

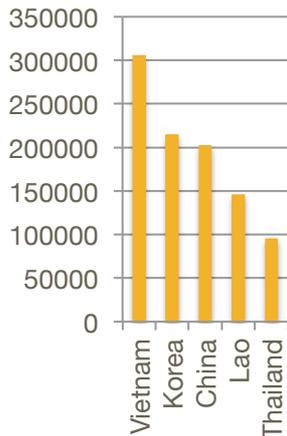
The Khmer are a tolerant population and may choose not to point out improper behavior to its foreign guests, but you should dress and act with the utmost respect when visiting wats (pagodas) or other religious sites (including the temples of Angkor). This is of the highest importance to Cambodians; proper etiquette in pagodas is mostly a matter of common sense. Unlike Thailand, a woman may accept something from a monk, but she should be careful not to touch him.

The Khmer Rouge

attempted to restart history by declaring 1975 'Year Zero'



Top 5 Source Markets in 2012



We would also like to provide you with a few other temple visiting tips:

- ✓ Do not wear shorts or tank tops, have your shoulders covered
- ✓ Remove your hat when entering the ground of the wats
- ✓ Remove your shoes before going into the vihara (sanctuary)
- ✓ If you sit down in front of the dais (the platform on which the Buddhas are placed), sit with your feet to the side rather than in the lotus position
- ✓ Never point your finger or the sole of your feet towards a person or a figure of the Buddha

CAMBODIA DESTINATIONS

It would be our pleasure to provide you with information of the entire country, but that would make enough for a whole book. Therefore, we stuck to the most important and developed destinations in the country.

If you wish to receive details on one of the other beautiful destinations in the country, please contact our office in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap.

Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh is, next to Siem Reap, (by air) one of the two most common points of entry for visitors to Cambodia. The usual length of stay in this capital city is two nights, as you can see most of the sites in Phnom Penh in a one-day tour. However, we have plenty of other tips for great tours for exploring Phnom Penh and its surroundings, and some of our clients choose to stay for three nights or longer. Popular day tours in Phnom Penh are tours to the Royal Palace, to the National Museum, to Wat Phnom, Tuol Sleng and to the Killing Fields. There is more than enough to see in the beautiful area of Phnom Penh. You could also choose for a Sunset Cruise on the Tonlesap River in the pleasant Cambodian evenings. Also, you could go on a cycling tour and explore the countryside and the islands of the great Mekong. Furthermore, Khiri offers day tours to visit the old capital at Oudong Mountain (by bike or car) or, for the animal fans, the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center.

Phnom Penh also offers a variety of things to do on your own. If you'd like to go shopping, you can visit the Russian Market, the Central Market or the Suriya Mall. In the evenings the riverside is a true hotspot for tourists as well as locals. There are many restaurants and bars to find here. There is also a night market, which is only open in the weekends (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). The restaurants in Phnom Penh offer a great variety of delicious restaurants, from traditional Khmer food to food from all over the world. If your feeling like relaxing, you can also visit a Spa & Massage facility in Phnom Penh.

We also have some tips for diversification. The Phnom Penh highlights, but done differently: join one of our themed Phnom Penh City tours and the highlights of Cambodia's

INSIDER'S PICK

*“Visit one of the community development projects. In cooperation with Khiri Reach, a home-stay project was established half way between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. **The Sambor Prei Kuk Conservation and Development Community** was founded to promote tourism activities with the overall goal to reduce poverty in the commune. The nearby ruins of Sambor Prei Kuk are the main attraction of Sambor district but not the only one. The project is a great opportunity to combine exploring daily local life with a visit to the ancient ruins of Sambor Prei Kuk.”*

capital will be shown to you from another perspective, such as “A Mouthwatering Walking Tour”, “Unique Khmer Architecture” and a trip to the famed “Apsara Arts

Association”. You can also choose to go cycling around the countryside and Mekong islands and ending your tour at a local beer brewery.

Siem Reap

Siem Reap is by far the most visited location in Cambodia, because of the nearby ancient Khmer temple complex of Angkor Wat. The usual length of stay is minimum three nights, but many clients stay longer to explore the rural temples further away from Siem Reap. Popular day tours include tours to the great temples of Angkor Wat, to Bayon, to Baphoun, Phimean Akas, The Royal Enclosure, Terrace of Elephants & Leper King and to Ta Phrom. Visitors can also go for tours to temples a bit further away from Siem Reap such as Banteay Srey and Beng Mealea. Other popular day tours in Siem Reap include visiting the floating villages on the Tonlesap Lake, for example Kampong Khlaeng of Mechrey Village, and tours to communities in the countryside with visits to NGO’s that work on community development projects.

Siem Reap also offers a very lively night market, where you can for example find handicrafts, souvenirs and silks. Shopping by night is a great way to avoid tropical languor, plus there is the Island Bar at the back of the market for some drinks in an open-air, ambient setting. Also, Les Artisans D’Angkor is a great place to visit on your shopping spree. It offers you a deep insight into the remarkable skilled workmanship of traditional handicrafts in Cambodia.

If you are looking for night out, Pub Street is your spot. After the sun goes down, the focus shifts to this street, which is the place to go for a night out in Siem Reap.

Both Siem Reap and Phnom Penh attract many visitors to Cambodia. Next to these two cities, Cambodia has much more to offer.

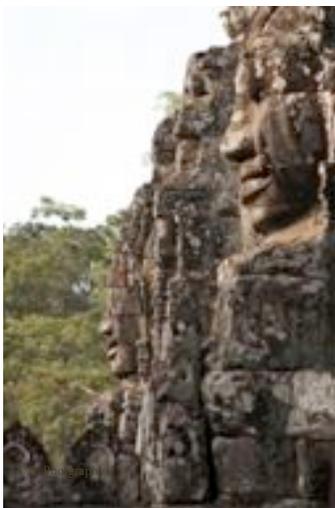
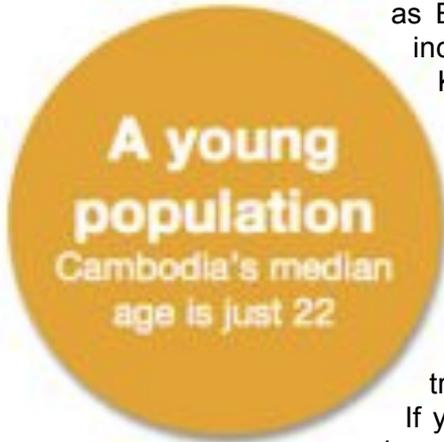
Visiting Tourists

(by Tourism Cambodia, 2012)

Number of Visiting Tourists



International Tourist Arrivals to Cambodia per Quarter





KHIRI PREFERRED HOTELS

1. Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh
2. La Residence, Siem Reap
3. Sokha Hotel, Sihanoukville
4. The Governor's House, Phnom Penh
5. Knai Bang Chatt, Kep



Sihanoukville

Sihanoukville is 'the' beach destination in Cambodia and a good spot to spend some relaxing days after exploring Phnom Penh or the temples of Angkor Wat. Swimming, diving or just relaxing on the beaches or at the pools are the main reasons for tourists to come here.

A popular day tour in Sihanoukville is the boat trip to Ream National Park. The Ream National Park is home to a number of rare birds and animals, which makes it truly a treat for the nature lovers. Other popular day tours include a boat trip to Koh Rong Samloem, which is the first protected beach in Cambodia, and a visit to the 3 Islands (Bamboo Island, Chalus Island and Ta Kiev Island). Visitors could also go on fishing trips with local fishermen.

A great recommendation is Song Saa Private Island where you can find a high end resort, only a 35 minutes boat ride away from Sihanoukville: A great place for ultimate relaxation.

Kampot & Kep

Kampot is a bit of a hidden gem, overshadowed by more prominent destinations in Cambodia. It is however one of the most naturally beautiful provinces and offers a scenic coastline, offshore islands, mountains, a national park, and a picturesque main town of the same name. Close to Kampot you'll find the small resort town of Kep; a seaside destination surrounded by tree-covered hills and famous for its delicious seafood.

Popular day tours in the areas of Kampot and Kep are a visit to Kep's famous Crab Mark-et and boat trip to Koh Tongsay (Rabbit Island), a visit to Bokor National Park, Bokor Mountain and its colonial past, and a day tour to the Phnom Kampong Trach Cave in the east of Kampot town. You can also rent a bike and explore the coastline yourself.

When you are visiting Kampot and Kep, you should definitely try some seafood. Kampot and especially Kep are famous for the delicious seafood.

Chi Phat

Chi Phat is mainland South East Asia's largest remaining tract of rainforest situated directly in the heart of the Cardamom Mountains (Koh Kong Province). The Chi Phat Ecotourism Site was established in 2007 by an environmental NGO. The Chi Phat Commune is made up of 2,500 people (around 550 families). Popular day tours around this area include a boat trip and bird watching on the Stoeng Prat River, biking to Ancient Jar site with visits to caves and waterfalls, and exploring Pre Chi Phat by kayak.

Battambang

Battambang is home to some spectacular rural scenery and a range of tourist sites including Angkor-period temples, mountain viewpoints, wetlands and typical day-to-day rural scenery. Despite the wealth of attractions, Battambang province makes it onto the itinerary of relatively few travelers, making it a fabulous off-the-beaten-track destination.

There are some great day tours that visitors can join in Battambang. Visitors can ride the bamboo train and visit Wat Bannan, bike the trails of Battambang, or go on a road trip through the countryside with visits of temples and the Killing Caves

Kratie & Stung Treng

The river towns of Kratie & Stung Treng are situated along the Mekong River in the Northeast of Cambodia. Visitors coming from or going to Southern Laos by road will pass the cities on their way to Phnom Penh. While Stung Treng is only 56 km from the Lao Cambodian border, Kratie is located 145 km further south.

In Kratie, visitors can go on a day tour visiting Koh Phdao and the 100 Pillar Pagoda and watch the Irrawaddy dolphins. Visitors could go on a bicycle tour in Kratie and explore the island of Koh Trong, which is an

The
Cambodian
flag

is the only flag
in the world that
features a building



almighty sand bar in the middle of the river, and see the floating villages. Visitors can also visit Stung Treng Town and the ancient ruins of Thala Barivat.

Mondulkiri & Ratanakiri

These two provinces are paradises for nature lovers and can be found in the east of Cambodia. The provinces of Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri offer places of natural beauty, with thickly forested hill and lots of waterfalls. Add to that the communities of hill tribe people and you have an area that is very attractive to every adventure traveler. In Mondulkiri, visitors can join the Elephant Jungle Trekking. In Ratanakiri, popular day tours include discovering the Gem Mountains by boat or car, and visiting the ethnic villages and the Tampuan Cemetery. Also, in both areas there are great trekking tours that visitors can join.



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