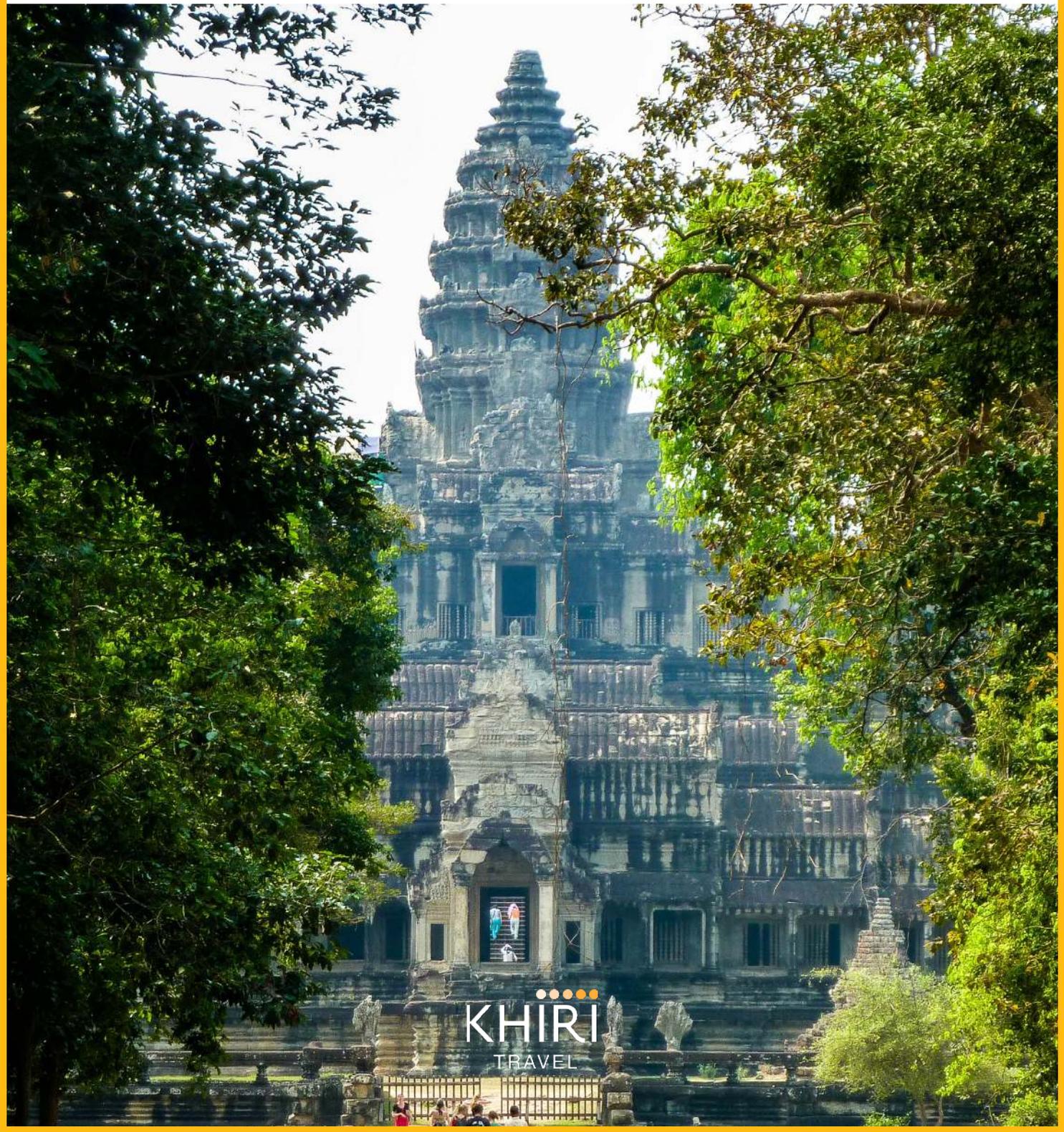


CAMBODIA

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to provide you with some useful tips and practical information here on traveling in Cambodia.



KHIRI
TRAVEL

FAST FACTS

OFFICIAL NAME

Kingdom of Cambodia

CAPITAL CITY

Phnom Penh

TOTAL AREA

181,035 km²

BOUNDARIES

Thailand, Laos and Vietnam

CURRENCY

Riel

LANGUAGE

Khmer

POPULATION

16.25 million

PEOPLE

Khmer (90%), Vietnamese (5%), Chinese (1%) and other (4%)

RELIGION

Buddhism

TIME ZONE

GMT +7

INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE

+885

ELECTRICITY

230V AC 50 Hz

DRIVING

Right hand side



BORDER CROSSINGS

Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are the two most common points of entry for visitors arriving to Cambodia by air. Arrival/departure procedures at Phnom Penh International Airport are in general easy and quite fast. Travelers can get a Visa On Arrival for 30 USD, valid for 30 days: one passport picture and a passport valid not less than six months is required. Khiri Travel offers 'fast track' visa services for an additional cost.

THAILAND

Poipet – Aranyaprathet

This is the common entry point when traveling between Siem Reap and Bangkok. Visa On Arrival is available, or travelers can show an e-Visa to reduce waiting time.

Cham Yeam – Hat Lek

When traveling between Koh Kong or the beaches of Sihanoukville and Koh Chang we often use this border. Visa On Arrival is available, or travelers can show an e-Visa to reduce waiting time.

O Smach – Chong Jom

This border point is the gateway between Thailand's Isaan region and the Angkor temples of Siem Reap. The border is easily accessed from Surin on the Thai side, however, once across the border it's a fairly bumpy ride to Siem Reap.

Anlong Veng – Chong Sa Ngam

This is another border with Thailand's Isaan region, traveling between Si Saket and Siem Reap via Preah Vihear temple and the house of Ta Mok, who was a key leader of the Khmer Rouge.

Ban Pakhard – Phsar Prum

This is the first border crossing en route between Pailin in Cambodia and Chanthaburi in Thailand.

Ban Laem – Daung Lem

This is the second border crossing en route between Pailin in Cambodia and Chanthaburi in Thailand.

LAOS

Trapaing Kriel – Nong Nokkhien

This is a perfect border crossing for travelers visiting both Laos and Cambodia. The border connects Laos' Si Phan Don region with places of interest in northern Cambodia, such as Stung Treng, Kratie, Mondulhiri and Ratanakiri.

VIETNAM

Kaam Samnor – Ving Xuong

This border connects Phnom Penh and Chau Doc by river.

Bavet – Moc Bai

The most commonly used border between Phnom Penh and Saigon. Visa On Arrival and e-Visas are available to use to cross this checkpoint.

Phnom Den – Tinh Bien

When coming from Kampot and Takeo in Southern Cambodia and traveling to Saigon in Vietnam, this border marks the shortest route.

Prek Chak – Xa Xia

This is the border crossing for those traveling between Kep and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

Le Thanh – O Yadao

This is the border crossing for those traveling between Ban Lung, Ratanakiri and Pleiku in Vietnam. Very few tourists cross this border.

Snoul – Loc Ninh

This is the border crossing for those traveling from Kratie or Mondulkiri to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Very few tourists use this border.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

A passport with at least six months validity is necessary. A visa is required for most nationalities and is available upon arrival at both Phnom Penh and Siem Reap international airports. A tourist visa costs USD 35 and a business visa costs USD 45. Two passport photographs should be submitted with the visa application form. A tourist visa can be extended from one month to three and a business visa can be extended indefinitely. Cambodia also enforces a departure tax to be paid on domestic and international flights, which is included in the price of the flight ticket (Domestic: USD 6 and International: USD 25).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Khiri Travel will do everything possible to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable trip. However, certain risks are involved and should be recognized by participants. Thus, we require all guests to purchase travel insurance prior to their trip. Travel insurance is a cost-effective way of protecting yourself and your equipment in the event of problems due to cancelled trips, delays, medical emergencies and baggage loss or damage.



MONEY

The official currency is the Khmer Riel, however, American Dollars are widely accepted in Cambodia and even preferred in larger stores and supermarkets. Make sure you also have small Dollar and Riel notes, since these are more practical and economical for day-to-day items.

ATMs that also dispense US Dollars are widely available in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Sihanoukville and in larger towns. However, in some isolated regions you may have trouble finding an ATM, so make sure you are carrying enough cash. In rural areas it's best to carry small denominations; otherwise you may have difficulty getting change.

Allow about USD 8-20 for each additional meal not included in your tour price. You may also want to carry some extra cash to try out food and buy other things at local markets.

HEALTH

A few months before traveling to Cambodia and other destinations in Southeast Asia, you should consult your doctor on whether you need to take any vaccinations before you travel. These will vary depending on where you are planning on visiting. Bear in mind that there is a risk of malaria in some parts of rural Cambodia.

In general, most visitors to Cambodia will require the following vaccinations:

- Hepatitis A and B
- Tetanus
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Diphtheria

CLIMATE

The country has two distinct seasons: rainy season (May to October) with temperatures that can drop to 22 °C and generally high humidity, and dry season (November to April) with temperatures that can rise up to 40 °C. However, there are four periods of change throughout the year:

November – February
Cool and dry

March – April
Hot and dry

May – August
Hot and wet

September – October
Cool and wet

TIPPING & TAXES

Tipping is a personal matter and travelers are encouraged to tip any amount they find appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a tipping guide below; but please note that these amounts are merely suggestions.

We encourage our travelers to reward guides based on their performance:

- Meals (restaurants): average amount is USD 1 to USD 2
- Bellboy: average amount is USD 1 to USD 2
- Chambermaid: average amount is USD 1 per day
- Tips for guides are completely at your discretion, but here are some guidelines: USD 1.50 to USD 3 per day per person for guides (depending on group size), USD 1 per day per person for drivers

DONATIONS & GIFT-GIVING

Although there is a great amount of poverty in certain areas of Cambodia, please be careful when it comes to donations and gift-giving.

Do not give to begging children as it reinforces in these children that begging is an acceptable way to make a living. However, in many places it is considered acceptable to give to the elderly or disabled, as there is no welfare system that takes care of these people if they are unable to earn money.

Giving money and goods away to random individuals can result in the local communities acting like beggars. It draws attention to the unequal relationship between locals and visitors, with tourists seen as purely 'money givers'. We do not want to encourage a society that equates every human action as a potential money-making scheme – for example, paying someone to take their photograph.

Do not give sweets to children in villages that we visit. Local people often have no access to dentists, nor can they afford them and again there is the issue of turning children into beggars. Pens, toothbrushes, clothing or other 'worthwhile' items are best distributed via a local charity, schoolteacher or community leader.

Avoid feeling that you necessarily have to give 'material' things. The best giving can be sometimes shared interactions: a smile, a joke, a singsong, dance or playing a game. Giving something of your friendship, time and interest through interacting with locals, can be the best gift of all.

COMMUNICATION

Mail is now routed by air through Bangkok, which makes Cambodia a much more reliable place from which to send postcards, letters and parcels. Telephone connections to the rest of the world are also widely available, however, they aren't cheap. Numbers starting with 010, 011, 012, 015, 016, 017, 088, 089, 097, 098 or 099 are mobile phone numbers. Internet access is available in all major tourist destinations.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Experiencing cultural differences is one of the joys of traveling, and it is important that these differences are encouraged and respected. Things in Asia are done differently compared to the rest of the world and we ask you to please accept these differences and respect the cultural rules of the areas we travel to.

SAVING FACE & MANNERS

Getting angry and showing it by shouting or becoming abusive is extremely impolite and a poor reflection on you. It will not achieve anything constructive and could even land you in trouble.

GENERAL POINTS OF ETIQUETTE

- As in Thailand, it is improper to pat children on the head.
- If you would like someone to come over to you, motion with your whole hand, held palm downward. Beckoning someone in the western fashion may be interpreted as aggressive or sexually suggestive behavior.
- When using a toothpick, it is considered impolite to show your open mouth. Instead, hold the toothpick in one hand and cover your mouth with the other.
- When handing things to other people, use both hands or your right hand only, never your left hand, as it is reserved for toilet ablutions!
- Public displays of affection are considered offensive in Cambodia – definitely no kissing! It is also extremely rare to see couples holding hands. However, it is quite common to see friends of the same sex holding hands.
- When entering a temple, shrine or a private home it is important to remember to remove your shoes. If you are not sure of the etiquette, check for shoes at the entrance!



VISITING TEMPLES

- Do not wear shorts or tank tops and make sure your shoulders are not bare
- Remove your hat when entering temple grounds, including those at Angkor Archaeological Park
- Remove your shoes before going into the vihara (sanctuary), or prayer hall
- If you sit down in front of the dais – the platform on which the Buddha statue is placed – sit with your feet to one side rather than in the lotus position
- Never point – or use your feet to point – at a Buddha statue or image, or at a person

SAFETY

Cambodia is a hard place to get into trouble, but you should always take some precautions to protect your belongings and also yourself. Although the crime rate is low, we recommend that you watch out for pickpockets and bag snatchers. Hotspots for these types of crime include Phnom Penh's riverfront and the busy Central and Orussey markets. Beaches and tourist areas in Sihanoukville are also hotspots, so keep a close eye on your valuables in these areas.



LANGUAGE

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia, a member of the Mon-Khmer family of Austroasiatic languages, and is spoken by 90 percent of Cambodia's population. A few of Cambodia's older generation still speak French, the language of former French Indochina, but English is now taught and spoken more widely. However, some schools and universities in Cambodia are funded by the French government and use French as a language of instruction. A Cambodian French dialect is sometimes used in government, particularly in courts or law.

BANK DETAILS

Bank account details - EURO

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC Bank)
65 Chulia Street, OCBC Centre, SINGAPORE 049513
Account number (EURO): 503157885201
In name of: KHIRI TRAVEL LIMITED
Swift code: OCBCSGSG

Bank account details - USD

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC Bank)
65 Chulia Street, OCBC Centre, SINGAPORE 049513
Account number (USD): 503157000301
In name of: KHIRI TRAVEL LIMITED
Swift code: OCBCSGSG

LINKS & READING

There are several websites and books that are useful sources of information, if you want to learn more about Cambodia before your visit.

WEBSITE

- We recommend this website because it includes all sorts of interesting information about the country, including news, events, travel tips and much more: www.asialifemagazine.com/cambodia
- For everything you need to know on what is hot and happening in Cambodia, especially in terms of events, bars, resorts, culture and music, check out: www.wuppmag.com
- This is a great website for travelers' tips, reviews and more: www.khmer440.com

READING

- *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Luong Ung. A survivor of the Pol Pot regime, this is a personal account of the author's experiences during the Khmer Rouge years. A striking and intense story of political oppression in Cambodia told from the perspective of a five-year-old child – the age of the author when the Khmer Rouge first came to power.
- *The Cambodian Book of the Dead* by Tom Vater. This is a fictional account about a private eye and former war reporter, Maier, who is sent to Cambodia to track down the missing heir to a Hamburg coffee empire. His search leads him into the darkest corners of the country's history, through the Killing Fields of the communist revolution to the 'White Spider', a Nazi war criminal who reigns over an ancient Khmer temple deep in the jungle. This story takes you into the heart of Cambodia and opens your eyes to the culture, history and tragedy of its people after the Khmer Rouge.
- *Cambodia's Curse: The Modern History of a Troubled Land* by Joel Brinkley, covers the gruesome history of the Khmer Rouge and helps you to understand why Cambodia is the way it is today.
- *Culture Shock! Cambodia* by Peter North covers the cultural differences, with practical, accurate and enjoyable information that will help you survive and thrive in the country.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

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Phnom Penh Office

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