**Angkor Wat** ([Khmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_language): អង្គរវត្ត or "Capital Temple") is a temple complex in [Cambodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia) and the largest religious monument in the world, with the site measuring 162.6 hectares (1,626,000 sq meters). It was originally constructed as a [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism) temple for the [Khmer Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Empire), gradually transforming into a [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) temple toward the end of the 12th century. It was built by the [Khmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_people) King [Suryavarman II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suryavarman_II" \o "Suryavarman II) in the early 12th century in [Yaśodharapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ya%C5%9Bodharapura" \o "Yaśodharapura) ([Khmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_language): យសោធរបុរៈ, present-day [Angkor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angkor)), the capital of the [Khmer Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Empire), as his state temple and eventual mausoleum. Breaking from the [Shaiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaivism) tradition of previous kings, Angkor Wat was instead dedicated to [Vishnu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishnu). As the best-preserved temple at the site, it is the only one to have remained a significant religious center since its foundation. The temple is at the top of the high classical style of [Khmer architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_architecture). It has become a symbol of [Cambodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia), appearing on [its national flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Cambodia), and it is the country's prime attraction for visitors.

Angkor Wat combines two basic plans of Khmer temple architecture: the [temple-mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_architecture#Temple_mountain) and the later [galleried temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_architecture#Gallery). It is designed to represent [Mount Meru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Meru), home of the [devas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deva_(Hinduism)) in [Hindu mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_mythology): within a [moat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moat) and an outer wall 3.6 kilometres (2.2 mi) long are three rectangular galleries, each raised above the next. At the centre of the temple stands a [quincunx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quincunx) of towers. Unlike most Angkorian temples, Angkor Wat is oriented to the west; scholars are divided as to the significance of this. The temple is admired for the grandeur and harmony of the architecture, its extensive [bas-reliefs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relief#Bas-relief_or_low_relief), and for the numerous [devatas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devata" \o "Devata) adorning its walls.

The modern name, Angkor Wat, means "Temple City" or "City of Temples" in [Khmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_language); *Angkor*, meaning "city" or "capital city", is a vernacular form of the word *nokor* (នគរ), which comes from the [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit) word *nagara* ([Devanāgarī](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devan%C4%81gar%C4%AB" \o "Devanāgarī): नगर). [*Wat*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wat) is the [Khmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_language) word for "temple grounds", also derived from [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit) *vāṭa* ([Devanāgarī](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devan%C4%81gar%C4%AB" \o "Devanāgarī): वाट), meaning "enclosure".