

## CAMBODIA EXPRESS

### 07 DAYS / 06 NIGHTS

#### **Destinations: Phnom Penh – Battambang – Siem Reap**

Cambodia is a country full of ancient and modern history, saturated with beautiful religious monuments, teeming with wildlife, and lush with rice fields, grasslands, and rivers. Let's discover with us on Inside Cambodia 7days. The tour starts in the capital of Phnom Penh, where the former grandeur of French Indochina shines through in glimpses amongst the modern and continue to Battambang – a riverside town and home to some of the best-preserved Colonial architecture in all Cambodia and end tours at Siem Reap – land of temple.

#### **Tour Type: Classic & Culture Tour**

#### **Highlights:**

- Tread lightly upon the 5000 silver floor tiles at the [Silver Pagoda](#), in the Royal Palace
- Step back in time at the [National Museum](#), home to the world's finest collection of Angkorian sculpture
- Check out the Art Deco masterpiece that [Psar Thmei](#), Phnom Penh's central market
- [Wat Phnom](#) – on a leafy hill, Wat Phnom affords a view that has changed little in a half century
- Soak up the city by night, with a happy hour cocktail, a fine meal and crawl through the [city's bars](#)
- [Mekong Boat trips](#) – Cruise the river as the sun sinks behind the spires of the Royal Palace
- [Battambang](#) – Laid-back town boasting character colonial architecture, a lazy riverside and fledgling Western bar scene
- Click and clack on the [bamboo train](#), is one of the world's all-time classic rail journeys
- [Wat Banon](#) – Well-preserved ancient hilltop pagoda near Battambang, with superb views from summit
- Stare in awe at the mother of all temples, [Angkor Wat](#)
- Succumb to the enigmatic smiles of the 216 giant faces of the [Bayon](#), Angkor's strangest temple
- Experience nature running riot at the mysterious ruin of [Ta Prohm](#), the original [Tomb Raider](#) temple
- Marvel at the exquisite carvings adorning the tiny temple of [Banteay Srei](#), the finest seen at Angkor
- [Cycling](#) along the roads less travelled which undiscovered by mass tourist
- Discover the secrets of [Bar street](#), Siem Reap's quaffing capital where the action goes on all night and [Angkor Night Market](#)
- Relax with a [massage](#) or [spa](#), the perfect medicine for weary bodies
- [Tonle Sap Lake](#) – Get a glimpse of the distinctive way of life led in the floating villages on Southeast Asia's largest fresh water lake

#### **Itinerary in brief:**

DAY	DESTINATION	MEAL
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Day 1	Arrival – Phnom Penh	Lunch
Day 2	Phnom Penh's Past & Present	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 3	Phnom Penh – Battambang	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 4	Battambang Life Style – Siem Reap	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 5	Siem Reap Tours & Tonle Sap Lake	Breakfast + Dinner
Day 6	Angkor Thom & Ta Prohm & Angkor Wat	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 7	Siem Reap – Departure	Breakfast

### Itinerary in details:

#### Day 1: Phnom Penh – Arrival, **CAMBODIA** (Meal: Lunch)

Fly into **Phnom Penh**, the city that retains its traditional Khmer and colonial charm. French villas along tree-lined boulevards remind the visitor that the city was once considered the 'pearl' of Southeast Asia. Recent political changes have triggered an economic boom, with new hotels, restaurants, bars and nightclubs springing up across the city.

We take **Cyclo ride** (3 wheels vehicle), we pass through the River Front park whose scenery is much worth shooting, and continue to the only one hill in town with sacred sites called Wat Phnom before walking along Mekong River bank to see the lovely Phnom Penh city at night with breathtaking view along the river. Enjoy a **sunset cruise** at the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers.

#### Day 2: Phnom Penh's Past & Present (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)

Visit to the **Royal Palace compound** build in 1866 by the Predecessors of King Norodom, is the most conspicuous feature and also one of impressive colorful Khmer-style Palaces. Nearside the Royal Palace is **Silver Pagoda** (The Emerald Buddha temple), display plenty of Buddha Statues that were decorated and made by diamond, emerald, gold and silver, continuing visit to **National Museum**, the distinctive red building with a beautiful Khmer architecture was build since 1917 and contains more than 5000 art objects made of sandstone, bronze, silver, copper, wood and others. Travelers will proceed to visit **Independence Monument**, which was constructed in 1954 after Cambodian took their country back from French colony.

This afternoon, we will learn about the dark side of Cambodia – Its more recent turbulent and harrowing history. Initially you visit the **Toul Sleng Genocide Museum** (also known as S21), ironically a former school, located in a quiet Phnom Penh suburb, this was the infamous Khmer Rouge prison / torture centre. Once you have gained an initial insight of the brutality of the Khmer Rouge regime you will be driven 15km from Phnom Penh to visit the **'Killing Fields'**. This is where Toul Sleng prisoners were forcibly marched and then executed; it is now a memorial site located in a beautiful tranquil setting.

#### Day 3: Phnom Penh – Battambang (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)

Morning departure in a north-west direction to **Battambang**, first stop at **Kompong Loung** to visit the village of goldsmiths along the Tonle Sap, manufacturing souvenir center stopping, and stop at **Phnom Udong**, the ancient Cambodian capital during the latter stages of the Khmer Empire and crowning site of many past kings. Consisting of a series of stupas atop a large hill, there are outstanding views across the surrounding plains below. Phnom Udong was bombed and desecrated by the Americans and then the Khmer Rouge, but still possesses a beauty that no war has been able to steal from it. Having had time to explore, continue to **Kompong Chhnang**, taking the time to stop at a pottery village before

continuing further north to Pursat Province, famous for its marble stone carvings. Then we drive to **Kampong Loeung** Floating Village. This is a large floating village on the south side of the Tonle Sap and is beautifully situated between the rice fields and wetlands. Most residents are of Vietnamese origin. The boat ride of about 1 hour going through a network of floating houses, shops, petrol stations and schools.

We continue towards Battambang. Until recently Battambang was very much off the map for visitors as it was a Khmer Rouge stronghold. A riverside town and home to some of the best-preserved Colonial architecture in all Cambodia, Battambang is now making something of a comeback, with improved tourist facilities and roads allowing visitors to explore in comfort.

Stay overnight in Battambang.

#### **Day 4: Battambang Life Style – Siem Reap (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

After breakfast, we discover the city of **Battambang**, a charming big city where you can watch the elegant houses in the French colonial style along the river. We pass through traditional villages along the route where you can attend the manufacture of family rice cakes and contacting people about their daily lives. We travel to **Wat Koh district** to visit a local village and learn about rural life in Cambodia. We learn about the rice harvest, fruit farming and how the sugar palm is used. We travel further south you arrive at the well preserved 11th century mountaintop Angkorian temple of **Phnom Banan**. After climbing the 350+ steps you are treated to a wonderfully peaceful setting with superb views across the surrounding countryside, with small villages dotting the endless rice paddies, punctuated with the characteristic sugar palm trees a wonderful sunset location.

Drive through the countryside to visit cottage industries like rice paper production, weaving centers and even a fish paste factory. We drive to the **Bamboo Railway Station**. The Bamboo Train has been set up by the villagers to facilitate the transportation of goods and people. The train in itself is very basic – one platform on 4 wheels activated by a small motor. Sitting on the platform we travel the 8km to the next station through beautiful landscape and rice paddies.

We leave Battambang and drive towards **Siem Reap**. Stopping at **Puok District** to visit the National Silk Centre, a fascinating way to learn about Cambodian silk. Here we will spend some time and witness start-to-finish silk creation, growing and harvesting mulberry and the breeding process and the life cycle of the silk worm.

#### **Day 5: Siem Reap Tours & Tonle Sap Lake (Meal: Breakfast, Dinner)**

Breakfast at hotel, morning visit **Wat Thmei (Killing Field)** contains a unique glass-walled stupa containing the bones of victims of the Khmer Rouge. Some of the bones were recovered from a nearby well while others are the remains of soldiers who died on a nearby battlefield. Visiting the **"Les Artisans d'Angkor – Chantiers Ecole"** the Finest Authentic Khmer Arts and Crafts. We continue to one of the city's lively open markets, Psar Chars, also called the "Old Market", where anything and everything is for sale.

We will enjoy a **boat ride on the Tonle Sap Lake**. This is the largest permanent fresh-water lake in South East Asia and flows into Tonle Sap River, joining the Mekong in Phnom Penh. We will see a fishermen's "floating village" with floating schools, floating police station, etc. It is same as a big village floating on the lake, and the "village" move from place to place following water levels and current.

[Dinner with Apsara Dance show at local restaurant.](#)

*For those travelers thirsting for cultural highlights of Cambodia, No visit to Cambodia is complete without attending at least one traditional Khmer dance performance, often referred to as 'Apsara Dance' after one of the most popular Classical dance pieces. Traditional Khmer dance better described as 'dance-drama' in that the dances are not merely dance but also meant to convey a story or message.*

**Day 6: Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

Enjoy breakfast at hotel.

We drive to **Angkor Thom** that was the masterpiece of King Jayavarman VII. Following the occupation of Angkor by the Chams from 1177 to 1181, the new king decided to build an impregnable fortress at the heart of his empire. The scale is simply staggering and we are immediately overwhelmed by the audacity of Jayavarman on arrival at the city's gates.

We begin to visit **Bayon Temple**. At the exact centre of Angkor Thom, this is an eccentric expression of the creative genius and inflated ego of Cambodia's most celebrated king. Its 54 towers are each topped off with the four faces of Avalokitesvara (Buddha of Compassion), which bear more than a passing resemblance to the king himself. These colossal heads stare down from every side, exuding power and control with a hint of compassion, just the mix required to keep a hold on such a vast empire.

We continue to visit **Terrace of the Leper King**. This intricately carved platform was the royal crematorium and the statue that was originally thought to be the leper king is now believed to be Yama, the god of death. We continue along the **Terrace of Elephants**, originally used as a viewing gallery for the king to preside over parades, performances and traditional sports. At the southern end lies the **Baphuon**, once of the most beautiful temples at Angkor, dating from the reign of Udayavarmān I in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It has undergone a massive renovation by the French and is now once again open for viewing.

We continue to **Ta Prohm "Tomb Raider"** fame. Ta Prohm has been abandoned to the elements, a reminder that while empires rise and fall, the riotous power of nature marches on, oblivious to the dramas of human history. Left as it was 'discovered' by French explorer Henri Mouhot in 1860, the tentacle-like tree roots here are slowly strangling the surviving stones, man first conquering nature to create, nature later conquering man to destroy.

We journey out to the Mother of all temples, **Angkor Wat**. Believed to be the world's largest religious building, this temple is the perfect fusion of symbolism and symmetry and a source of pride and strength to all Khmers. Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by King Suryavarman II, this is most famous temple at Angkor. We venture into Angkor Wat to enjoy its magnificence in peace and quiet. We begin by unraveling the mysteries of the bas-reliefs that tell of tales from Hindu mythology and of the glories of the Khmer empire.

**Day 7: Siem Reap – Departure (Meal: Breakfast)**

Transfer to Siem Reap airport for departure to next destination. It's time to say goodbye, we thank you for traveling with us and warmly welcome you to come again.

**\*\*\* End of our services \*\*\***

Accommodation as below or **similar**: **double/twin shared room**:

OPTION	CITY	HOTEL NAME & ROOM TYPE	# NIGHT
<b>Hotel 3 Star</b>	<b>PHNOM PENH</b>	Asia Tune Hotel (3*) – Standard room <a href="http://www.asiatunehotel.com">www.asiatunehotel.com</a>	2
	<b>BATTAMBANG</b>	Classy Hotel (3*) – Superior room <a href="http://www.classyhotelspa.com">www.classyhotelspa.com</a>	1
	<b>SIEM REAP</b>	Frangipani Villa Siem Reap Hotel (3*) – Superior <a href="http://www.frangipanivillahotel.com">www.frangipanivillahotel.com</a>	2
<b>Hotel 4 Star</b>	<b>PHNOM PENH</b>	The Quay Hotel (4*) – Panoramic room <a href="http://www.thequayhotel.com">www.thequayhotel.com</a>	2
	<b>BATTAMBANG</b>	Maisons Watkor (3*) – Frangipani room <a href="http://www.maisonswatkor.com">www.maisonswatkor.com</a>	1
	<b>SIEM REAP</b>	The Clay Dangkor Hotel (4*) – Deluxe <a href="http://www.theclaydangkor.com/">http://www.theclaydangkor.com/</a>	2
<b>Hotel 5 Star</b>	<b>PHNOM PENH</b>	Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel (5*) – Deluxe room <a href="http://www.sokhahotels.com/phnompenh/">http://www.sokhahotels.com/phnompenh/</a>	2
	<b>BATTAMBANG</b>	Maisons Watkor (3*) – Frangipani room <a href="http://www.maisonswatkor.com">www.maisonswatkor.com</a>	1
	<b>SIEM REAP</b>	Sokha Siem Reap Hotel (5*) – Deluxe Pool View <a href="http://www.sokhahotels.com/siemreap/">http://www.sokhahotels.com/siemreap/</a>	2

### TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation with daily breakfast
- Meal: Half board at local restaurant as mention in program (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner)
- Airport transfers & Transport by air con. vehicles as per program
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- Local **English** speaking guide as per program
- All boat trip as mentioned in program
- Cold water and towel during tours

### TOUR COST NOT INCLUDES:

- Visa fee: 30\$
- International air ticket in-out Cambodia
- Other meal, drink, personal expenses, tip, Travel insurance, Bank fees
- Other thing not mentioned in **included**

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PRIVATE PACKAGE TOUR RATE – US Dollars – Non commissionable							
The net price per person sharing in twin/double room – Booking code: ET-EXP07							
Option / Pax	1 pax	2 pax	3-6 pax	7-10 pax	11-15 pax	16-20 pax	Sup. Single
<b>Validity: 01 October 2016 – 31 January 2017 (Except 24 &amp; 31 December 2016)</b>							
Hotel 3 Star	1236	692	594	463	404	390	131
Hotel 4 Star	1410	779	682	550	492	483	218
Hotel 5 Star	1536	841	744	613	554	550	281
Compulsory Gala dinner		24 December 2016			31 December 2016		
Frangipnai Villa		Not compulsory			Not compulsory		
The Clay Dangkor Hotel		Not compulsory			Not compulsory		
Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel		TBA			125\$ per pax.		
Sokha Siem Reap Hotel		75\$ per pax.			95\$ per pax.		
<b>Validity: 01 February 2017 – 30 April 2017</b>							
Hotel 3 Star	1255	710	613	482	423	410	131
Hotel 4 Star	1429	797	700	569	510	503	218
Hotel 5 Star	1554	860	763	631	573	570	281
<b>Validity: 01 May 2017 – 30 September 2017</b>							
Hotel 3 Star	1215	691	593	462	403	389	111
Hotel 4 Star	1352	759	661	530	472	462	179
Hotel 5 Star	1554	860	763	631	573	570	281

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