

## CAMBODIA SOFT ADVENTURE

### 09 DAYS / 08 NIGHTS

**Destinations:** Phnom Penh – Kampong Cham – Kampong Thom – Preah Vihear – Beng Mealea – Koh Ker – Kulen – Siem Reap

#### 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](#)
- Soak up the charms of [Kampong Chhnang](#), a bustling town on the Mekong and gateway to historic temple, lush countryside and friendly locals
- Explore Southeast Asia's first temple city, the impressive pre-Angkorian ruins of [Sambor Prei Kuk](#)
- Live the ultimate adventure in an overland pilgrimage to the majestic mountaintop temple of [Prasat Preah Vihear](#)
- Journey to the 10<sup>th</sup>-century capital of [Koh Ker](#), its massive temples for gotten in the forests for a thousand years
- Venture to [Beng Mealea](#), Angkor-sized but swallowed by jungle
- Float through the flooded forest of [Kompong Phluk](#), an incredible village of Bamboo skyscrapers
- 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

#### Itinerary in brief:

DAY	DESTINATION	MEAL
Day 1	Arrival – Phnom Penh	
Day 2	Phnom Penh's Past & Present	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 3	Phnom Penh – Kampong Thom	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 4	Kampong Thom – Preah Vihear	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 5	Preah Vihear – Siem Reap	Breakfast + Lunch

Day 6	Ta Prohm & Banteay Srei	Breakfast + Dinner
Day 7	Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 8	Discover The Lost City At Kulen Mountain	Breakfast + Lunch
Day 9	Siem Reap – Departure	Breakfast

### Itinerary in Details:

#### Day 1: Phnom Penh – Arrival, **CAMBODIA**

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 enjoy our **cyclo ride** along the riverside. This laidback tour gives us a different perspective of the streets and sights of the city. We will enjoy a **cruise for view sunset** on the **Mekong and Tonle Sap River** (1 hour). Situated at the "**Four Arms**" where the Mekong meets the Tonle Sap River before splitting into two branches, Phnom Penh offers the ideal location to discover the mighty Mekong. Board a nicely restored wooden boat for a day cruise, enjoy the unspoiled landscapes along each bank and visit the traditional villages with their old pagodas on the islands.

This afternoon we will try **food adventure tours in Phnom Penh**. A fun way to explore the local market and learn about **Khmer cuisine**. Not as well-known as the neighboring countries Cambodia has a great variety of national dishes and there are many stories to be told by your guide. Step out with me to a local market, try some tropical fruits, interesting desserts and maybe even some creepy crawlies. We then head to a delicious, traditional Khmer BBQ where we will eat dinner as the locals eat, washed down with the national beverage – beer!

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

#### 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.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

**Day 3: Phnom Penh – Kampong Thom (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

Today you travel by road from Phnom Penh to **Kampong Thom**. On route you will have a chance to stop on the way to take photo and witness the everyday lives of Cambodians as you pass through interesting provincial towns, bucolic villages, and delightful scenery. This is no 'freeway dash' as you will often slow down to let cows and water buffalo wander across the road, pass horse drawn carriages, and school kids walking and cycling to/from school. We may choose to stop at **Skoun**, also known as '**Spider vile**' due to the deep fried tarantula that is the local delicacy, are you adventurous enough to try one?

Arrive in **Kampong Cham** we visit **Wat Nokor** also called **Nokor Bachey Pagoda** is an 11th century Mahayana Buddhist shrine made of sandstone and laterite with a large reclining Buddha and numerous alcoves containing Buddha images. We continue to **Phnom Pros** ("Man Hill") and **Phnom Srei** ("Woman Hill"). According to local tradition, two teams of men and women competed to build a stupa on the summit of each hill before dawn. After being tricked into thinking that daybreak had already come, the men lost the competition and, as a result, forever after had to be the ones to approach the women for their hands in marriage.

We continue to visit **Sambor Prei Kuk**, which is dotted with hundred Pre-Angkor styled temples. The site, part of the **Chenla Kingdom**, includes an area of nearly 1000 acres enclosed by double walls, and hundreds temples and towers; its construction predates Angkor Wat by several centuries.

Overnight in Kampong Thom.

**Day 4: Kampong Thom – Preah Vihear (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

We continue to **Preah Vihear**, which sits at the top of the Dangrek Mountains. Preah Vihear is known as the Temple Mountain which was built at the beginning of the 10th century as a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple had further works added to it by the following three kings. The temple today is still a Hindu site, but Buddhist Monks pray at the temple to the Gods. The temple area consists of three stories surrounded by two galleries.

Overnight in Preah Vihear.

**Day 5: Preah Vihear – Koh Ker – Beng Mealea – Siem Reap (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

We continue our trip to **Siem Reap**. Our first stop at **Koh Ker group** is a group of many temples in the forest, about 150km from Siem Reap. These were built when Cambodia was ruled by two kings (uncle and nephew), and Koh Ker was briefly one of the two capital cities, during the 1st half of the 10th century. Some of the temples are still covered with jungle.

We arrive **Svay Leu Village** and start trekking into the bamboo forest from the village to **Peuung Komnu**, is a series of Angkorian reliefs carved into the southern cliff of Phnom Kulen, the quality of the work and their preservation is remarkable and the danger of inevitable of the site makes them all the more precious. It is undiscovered tourist site in Angkor areas.

We also visit **Beng Mealea** is an overgrown ruin 90mn away from Siem Reap. It is huge, but little known and largely untouched. Besides this temple, we see a small quarry where sandstone was cut to build the

temple. The technique used to cut the stones will be explained there. We may take more than an hour to visit the entire Temple.

Overnight at Siem Reap.

#### **Day 6: Ta Prohm & Banteay Srei & Landmine (Meal: Breakfast, Dinner)**

After breakfast, we continue to visit **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 Mouhout 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 head further out through rural countryside to the small but beautiful temple of **Banteay Srei**. This temple is largely built of pink sandstone, a harder rock that can be more elaborately carved and better survives the rigors of time. This is an opportunity to capture some good photographs of the clear and detailed carvings. We visit **Landmine Museum of Mr. Akira**. Mr. Ra is dedicated to clearing the Cambodian countryside of landmines laid during the years of conflict and relies entirely on visitors' donation to fund his work. Not be missed is **Banteay Samre**: Its rose-colored sandstone walls are decorated with carvings and bas-reliefs, which are among the most accomplished Angkor has to offer.

For the later afternoon we head back into main Angkor Park and journey to **Tasom**. Tasom offers some beautiful photo spots, especially the rear entrance where tree roots adorn the gateway. We finish by experiencing sunset over the rice fields from the royal crematorium of **Pre Rup**, a classic view of the Cambodian countryside.

#### **Day 7: Bike tour to Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

We hop on our **bike** to world heritage areas of Angkor. Ride among the jungle passing local village and local shop. It's a very special and acting day as you will explore some of Angkor's most beautiful temples.

- The ancient capital of **Angkor Thom** (12th century)
- See the **South Gate, Bayon Temple** – unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara
- **Baphuon temple** lying just to the north of Bayon a pyramidal representation of mythical Mont Meru
- We step to see our old palace as **Phimeankas** temple in huge complex that was used for our king in the past time.
- Then **Elephant terrace** is platform for king and officer viewed show and people meeting.
- **Preah Palilay** was is older than Angkor Thom was nearby, deeply in forest and on path back You see monk sprinkle water to people.

We continue to the famous temple: **Angkor Wat**. Angkor Wat is a World Heritage Site since 1992, famous for its beauty and splendor. Angkor Wat features the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which runs along the outer gallery walls and narrates stories from Hindu mythology.

#### **Day 8: Discover The Lost City At Kulen Mountain (Meal: Breakfast, Lunch)**

Early start this morning at 7am to depart your hotel in Siem Reap for the drive to **Phnom Kulen**, considered the most sacred mountain in Cambodia. It was here that Jayavarman II declared himself a 'god-king' and gave birth to the Khmer Empire in AD 802.

Arrive at the Kulen Mountain near the **Preah Ang Thom pagoda**. Meet your motodup (motorbike) driver who will take you for the next few hours around the mountain. You will ride as a passenger along bumpy or slippery country roads and tracks, over volcanic rocks and occasionally through shallow streams.

The first stop is at **Poeng Tbal** where a riverbed reveals a well preserved stone with details of Shiva and Vishnu and the rocks carvings of Ganesh and wise men.

A short ride on leads to one of the most important sites in all of Cambodia: a small pedestal that is set on top of three tiered pyramid temple called **Prasat Rong Chen**. Whilst there is little to see today the significance is huge: it is at this point that Jayavarman II declared himself the absolute monarch of the Cambodian Kingdom and announced independence from Java. The linga has been stolen from the pedestal but as you stand here take a few moments to contemplate that the Khmer Empire began at this very spot. Whilst the sites on the mountain have been known for many years to the Khmer people and those living on the mountain, it has only recently confirmed that Phnom Kulen was the location of Mahendraparvata. It was only discovered in mid-2012 as a result of Australian archaeologists using laser mapping equipment flying overhead. Mahendraparvata served as a huge service city for Angkor, a completely unrivalled urban landscape in the pre-industrial world.

Head across more paths to a modern temple with colorful statues and a scenic view. Enjoy a simple, packed lunch at the temple dining room.

Continue after a short break to a **Bat Cave**, which with the help of torches you can enter for a few hundred meters and see a modern shrine. Both the cave and the temple attract many pilgrims to the area.

A short distance on is **Srah Damrei (or Elephant Pond)**. The life size stone elephant served as a guardian for the mountain. The smaller statues of lions, a cow and a frog will also impress.

Head on to back to the starting point with some more stone carvings to be seen at **Damrei Khrap (Kneeling Elephant)**. The motodup adventure then finishes at Preah Ang Thom.

Two more stops are made before your return – the first one is a short visit to see the **River of a Thousand Lingas** – hundreds of the linga carvings can be seen on a stretch of the river. After visit Kulen Waterfall where you can take a refreshing bath.

It is then time to drive back to Siem Reap.

Enjoy foot massage 1 hour & walking at busy pub street where you can find many bars for cool drink or shopping at Angkor Night Market.

#### **Day 9: Siem Reap – Departure (Meal: Breakfast)**

We depart for the **Tonlé Sap**, driving down the eastern side of the lake. Arrive at **Kampong Phluk**; a 'flooded forest'. Accessible only during high water, you'll pass through the tree tops whilst seated in your boat. Nearby is a fishing village where you will can also learn more about the traditional methods used for generations. Returning to the mainland, meet your driver and return to Siem Reap.

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>KAMPONG THOM</b>	Sambor Village (3*) – Deluxe Room <a href="http://www.samborvillage.com">www.samborvillage.com</a>	1
	<b>PRAEH VIHEAR</b>	Preah Vihear Hotel (3*) – Deluxe <a href="http://www.preahvihearhotels.com">www.preahvihearhotels.com</a>	1
	<b>SIEM REAP</b>	Frangipani Villa Siem Reap Hotel (3*) – Superior <a href="http://www.frangipanivillahotel.com">www.frangipanivillahotel.com</a>	4
<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>KAMPONG THOM</b>	Sambor Village (3*) – Deluxe Room <a href="http://www.samborvillage.com">www.samborvillage.com</a>	1
	<b>PRAEH VIHEAR</b>	Preah Vihear Hotel (3*) – Deluxe <a href="http://www.preahvihearhotels.com">www.preahvihearhotels.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>KAMPONG THOM</b>	Sambor Village (3*) – Deluxe Room <a href="http://www.samborvillage.com">www.samborvillage.com</a>	1
	<b>PRAEH VIHEAR</b>	Preah Vihear Hotel (3*) – Deluxe <a href="http://www.preahvihearhotels.com">www.preahvihearhotels.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>	4

### TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- 08nights accommodation with daily breakfast
- Meal: 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
- Bike, 1 foot massage
- All boat trip as mentioned in program
- Cold water and towel during tours

### TOUR COST NOT INCLUDES:

- Visa fee to Cambodia: 30\$
- International air ticket in-out Cambodia
- Other meals, drink, personal expenses, tip, Travel insurance, bank charge
- Other not mentioned in “ **INCLUDES** “



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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-AMZ07							
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	2038	1172	1021	825	730	706	213
Hotel 4 Star	2169	1238	1086	891	795	776	278
Hotel 5 Star	2354	1330	1179	983	888	875	371
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	2060	1194	1042	847	751	730	213
Hotel 4 Star	2191	1259	1108	913	817	799	278
Hotel 5 Star	2376	1352	1200	1005	909	898	371
<b>Validity: 01 May 2017 – 30 September 2017</b>							
Hotel 3 Star	1986	1157	1005	810	714	690	175
Hotel 4 Star	2082	1205	1053	858	762	741	223
Hotel 5 Star	2376	1352	1200	1005	909	898	371

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