

Cambodia

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Khmer (official), French, English

Population: 16,926,984

Currency: Cambodian Riel (KHR)

Area: 181,035

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Angkor Wat', 'writeup': 'A massive 12th-century temple complex in Siem Reap, Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world and a symbol of Cambodia.'}
- {'name': 'Royal Palace, Phnom Penh', 'writeup': 'The official residence of the King of Cambodia, featuring classic Khmer architecture and beautiful gardens.'}
- {'name': 'Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum', 'writeup': 'A former high school turned prison during the Khmer Rouge regime, now a museum documenting the atrocities.'}
- {'name': 'Koh Ker', 'writeup': 'An ancient temple complex in northern Cambodia, known for its remote location and unique pyramid-shaped temple.'}
- {'name': 'Tonle Sap Lake', 'writeup': 'Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake, vital for Cambodia's fishing industry and biodiversity.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Norodom Sihamoni

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Khmer New Year', 'writeup': 'Celebrated in April, marking the traditional solar new year with games, dances, and religious ceremonies.'}
- {'name': 'Pchum Ben', 'writeup': 'A 15-day religious festival honoring deceased ancestors with offerings at pagodas.'}
- {'name': 'Water Festival (Bon Om Touk)', 'writeup': 'A November festival celebrating the end of the rainy season with boat races and illuminated floats.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Cambodian cuisine features a balance of sweet, sour, salty, and bitter flavors, with staples like rice, freshwater fish, and herbs. Popular dishes include Amok (steamed fish curry) and Kuy Teav (noodle soup).

Brief History:

Cambodia has a rich history dating back to the Khmer Empire (9th-15th centuries), known for its architectural achievements. It experienced French colonial rule from the 19th century until 1953. The country suffered under the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979), which caused massive loss of life. Cambodia has since been rebuilding and developing as a constitutional monarchy.

Important People:

- Norodom Sihanouk - Former King and influential political figure
- Pol Pot - Leader of the Khmer Rouge

- Hun Sen - Long-serving Prime Minister
- Norodom Sihamoni - Current King
- Loung Ung - Human rights activist and author

Current Conflicts:

Cambodia currently experiences no active armed conflicts but faces political tensions related to governance, human rights, and land disputes.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Cambodia: Angkor Wat and Beyond
- A Day in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Cambodian Culture and Traditions Explained
- History of the Khmer Empire and Angkor Wat
- Cambodian Cuisine: Traditional Dishes to Try