

Cambodia Explorer 20 DAYS / 19 NIGHTS

SIEM REAP - KAMPONG THOM - KRATIE - RATANAKIRI - MUNDOLKIRI - KAMPONG CHAM - PHNOM PENH -
SIHANOUKVILLE - KOH RONG ISLAND - SIHANOKVILLE - PHNOM PENH



I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the World Heritage Site Angkor Wat.
- Experiences a local homestay nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site Sambor Preikuk
- Discover Rural life on the Small Island “Koh Trong”
- Learn about the Elephant Valley Project in Mundolkiri
- A Peaceful beach Holiday on Koh Rong Island

II. ITINERARY

DAY 1

SIEM REAP ARRIVAL

Upon arrival in Siem Reap, you will be picked up by your guide and transferred to your hotel. The remaining day is free at leisure.

(-)
Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 2

SIEM REAP

Sightseeing Angkor area by Tuk Tuk and enjoy relaxing boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake. After breakfast at your hotel you'll be picked up by a Tuk Tuk, Cambodia's truly unique form of local transportation, to have a first overview of the Angkor area (no visit anywhere).

In the afternoon you'll enjoy a Tuk Tuk ride through the picturesque countryside. Board a wooden boat and enjoy a cool and relaxing boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake. Here we will visit one of the floating villages with its houses standing on stilts and board a pirogue to discover the seasonally flooded forest. Return to Siem Reap for overnight.

(B)
Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 3

SIEM REAP

Full day cycling tour in Angkor area: We begin the second day by bicycle to visit the awe-inspiring Angkor Thom or 'Great City'. This will include many of the finest Temples of King Jayavarman VII, who ruled from 1181-1220. At the southern gate of Angkor Thom, you will marvel at the imposing 23-metre high stone faces of Avalokiteshvara, which featured in the Tomb Raider movie. At the centre of this citadel lies the state temple of Bayon, which we will also visit. This temple-mountain, built at the end of the 12th century, is adorned with hundreds of gigantic stone faces. This tour also includes the Terrace of Elephants, the Terrace of the Leper King and the 12 identical towers of Prasat Suor Prat.

Later in the day you will discover the most famous temples from the 11th century: Baphuon, Phimeanakas, North Khleang and South Khleang. In the afternoon we will begin our explorations of magnificent Angkor Wat, built under Suryavarman II, and the Ta Prohm complex, which dates back to Jayavarman VII's reign (1181-1220). The second day concludes with panoramic views of the sunset and Angkor Wat from temple mountain Phnom Bakhaeng. (REMARK: Bakheng mountain temple's limitation is only 300paxs per time per day.)

(B)
Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 4

SIEM REAP

Excursion to Kulen Mountain and Banteay Srei.: Kulen Mountain is known for its carvings representing fertility and its waters, which hold special significance to Hindus. Just 5 cm under the water's surface over 1000 small carvings are etched into the sandstone riverbed.

Proceed to Bantrey Srei, which dates back to 967 AD. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and is famed for the intricate friezes carved into its red sandstone walls. On the way back, we will visit Banteay Samre, which was built during Suryarvaman II's rule in the middle of the 12th century. Next on the itinerary are three impressive temples from the 10th century – Eastern Mebon, Pre Rup and Prasat Kravan. Explore the intricate and ingenious designs. Back to Siem Reap for overnight.

(B)
Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 5

SIEM REAP – KAMPONG THOM

Overland trip to Kompong Thom to experience local life: After breakfast, drive to Kampong Thom to see the Sambor Prei Kuk Temples. Founded by King Isanavarman I during the seventh century, Sambor Prei Kuk was once the capital of Chenla known as Isanapura, and was a religious center dedicated to the worship of Shiva. Collectively, the complex consists of more than a hundred temples built of solid bricks, laterite and sandstone and from the remains. It is understood that several successions of kings have maintained this site as their capital, each time adding more temples and monuments to the capital city.

In the afternoon enjoy the daily life with the local people in the Isanborei Community.

(B/L/D)
Overnight in Kampong Thom

DAY 6

KAMPONG THOM – KRATIE

Overland travel to Kratie. Early departure to Kratie, a small colonial style town. Visit Wat Phnom Sambok to see the Buddhist monasteries and to enjoy the magnificent views of the surrounding countryside from the hilltop.

On the way back to Kratie stop at the best riverside vantage point from which to view the rare Irrawaddy River Dolphins.

Take a small ferry boat to the island of Koh Trong situated in the middle of the Mekong River opposite Kratie town.

Overnight in Koh Trong.

(B)
Overnight in Kratie

DAY 7

KRATIE – RATANAKIRI

Horse cart ride tour on the island and continue to Cambodia's Northeast.

After breakfast, start the trip with a 9 km loop around the island. Cycle through traditional Khmer villages, fruits orchards and rice fields while observing the daily rituals and routines of the traditional village life.

Take a ferry ride back to Kratie and continue by car to Ratanakiri. Overnight in Banlung

(B)
Overnight in Ratanakiri

DAY 8

RATANAKIRI

Explore culture of minority ethnic groups with local guide and transportation.

After breakfast head per 4WD car towards the Lao border to Veun Sai. After exploring the small village Veun Sai and its local market, continue per wooden boat upstream to Kopirk, a small local village on the Tonle San River with a particularly impressive cemetery. Have a glance into people's local life and visit the impressive cemetery. (Donations are required in Kopork village and can be given directly to the chief of the village, supporting the local people in need.)

On the way back, stop at the nearby Lao and Chinese village, to see people's local lifestyle. Back to Banlung for overnight.

(B)
Overnight in Ratanakiri

DAY 9

RATANAKIRI

Explore culture and lifestyle of the ethnic minority and visit Yeak Loam Lake, a volcanic crater.

After breakfast drive per 4WD north, direction Lao border to Ta Veng District, home to many different minority groups. We then visit various pleasant Kroeung villages that line the road throughout the forest. (Donations are required in each village and can be given directly to the chief of the village, supporting the local people in need.)

Continue to visit the Yeak Loam Lake situated 5 km southeast of Banlung town. The Yeak Loam Lake, a volcanic crater, is the most beautiful, unspoilt lake of Ratanakiri, formed by a volcanic eruption almost thousands of years ago. The lake has up to 50 meters deep, clean water and has an 800 meter diameter. Around the lake is a very easy walking path of about 2,500 m that takes around 1 hour walk. Back to Banlung for overnight.

(B)
Overnight in Ratanakiri

DAY 10

RATANAKIRI – MUNDOLKIRI

Transfer to Mondul Kiri province in the Northeastern part of Cambodia.

Early morning, we leave Banlung city to reach Mondul Kiri. You will arrive Mondul Kiri around 16:00. After check in the hotel, by 4WD and a local guide, you will transfer to enjoy the sunset view at Phnom Dos Kramom and Tree Ocean.

There are more than 2,092 families living in the Phnom Dos Kramom area of over 100 ha, whose main occupations are farming. Its main point of interest is the mountain covered by grass from its foot to its top, where big trees hardly grow on except near valleys and streams. The mountaintop overlooks the beautiful landscape of the provincial town of Mondul Kiri and majestic natural mountainous forest. Tree Ocean lookout is a nice place for a great view over the hills and forests of Mondul Kiri. That's why called Ocean Tree? It is not full of water, but it is full of trees. When we view from the top of the hill, the tree seems waving like ocean water.

(B)
Overnight in Mondul Kiri

DAY 11

MUNDOLKIRI

Experience a half day with the elephant at the elephant valley project: Surrounded by protected forest and grassland dedicated to the conservation and welfare of the elephants of Mondul Kiri the elephant valley project is ideal for the rehabilitation of the elephants, and is certainly unique to Cambodia and is one of only a handful of elephant sanctuaries in the world. The Elephant Valley Project is a wonderful place to see and spend time with these amazing, gentle giants, in the environment they belong to. Get to know more about Bob and Onion, two heavily abused elephants who finally found peace and their normal life back in the protected valley. Or watch Ning Wan, Milot and Ruby three girlfriends while taking a bath, playing around in the mud and chatting with each other. It will be an unforgettable day.

In the afternoon transfer to the famous Bousra Waterfall, one of the most interesting in Mondul Kiri. On the way visit some minority villages and coffee plantation.

(B)
Overnight in Mondul Kiri

DAY 12

MUNDOLKIRI - KAMPONG CHAM

Overland trip to Kampong Cham. First visit a local market in Mondul Kiri, before continuing to drive to Kampong Cham (approximately 4hours) upon arrival in Kampong Cham, check in at your hotel. In the afternoon we'll travel to the countryside to visit Phom Pros (Man Hill) and Phnom Srei (Woman Hill).

(B)
Overnight in Kampong Cham

DAY 13

KAMPONG CHAM – PHNOM PENH

Continue to reach the capital city of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. Transfer to Phnom Penh.

On the way, along the way visit the 11th century Wat Nokor temple near Kampong Cham city. And a quick stop in Skun to visit the infamous Spider Market

(B)
Overnight in Kampong Cham

DAY 14

PHNOM PENH

Full day city tour with visiting Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, National Museum, Wat Phnom, local market, and Tuol Sleng genocide museum.

After breakfast you will begin to discover why the Cambodia's capital city was once called the jewel of Southeast Asia. Your city explorations begin with a visit to the National Museum and see some of the wonderful antiquities from the Khmer civilization. This will be followed by trips to the remarkable Silver Pagoda, as well as a tour of the Royal Palace with its ornate grandeur. Visit the Wat Phnom pagoda and a fascinating crafts centre nearby, followed by shopping in the world art deco-era Central Market and/or the Russian Market. You will learn more of the painful suffering of the Khmer people during Pol Pot's regime when you visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Back to hotel for overnight

(B)
Overnight in Phnom Penh

DAY 15

PHNOM PENH – SIHANOUKVILLE – KOH RONG ISLAND

Today overland transfer to Sihanoukville, during arrival continue by speedboat to Island for your beach holiday

(B)
Overnight on Island

DAY 16 – 19

KOH RONG ISLAND

Enjoy your beach holidays on the beautiful sandy beach of Cambodia

(B)
Overnight on Island

DAY 20

KOH RONG ISLAND – SIHANOUKVILLE – PHNOM PENH

By speedboat transfer back to Sihanoukville, and continue overland to Phnom Penh for departure without guide

(B)

— END OF SERVICES —

*Program is subjected to change without prior notice due to unexpected weather phenomenon or changes by the airlines for their schedule or flight cancellations.

**When visiting temples, like Angkor Wat and others, visitors are asked to dress more modestly.