



Highlights:

- Explore the infamous World Heritage site of Angkor, the "City of Temples" built to replicate the heavens on earth and adventure to its beautiful surroundings including Kbal Spean Hill, Floating villages on Tonle Sap Lake and jungle Beng Mealea temple.
- Discover the French colonial cities of Phnom Penh & Battambang and about the depredations of the Khmer Rouge.
- Experience off-the-beaten-track adventure through jungle and elephant caring in Mondulkiri and discover the tranquilly quiet beach towns of Kep and Kampot.

Destination(s): Siem Reap, Battambang, Phnom Penh, Mondulkiri, Kep/Kampot

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrive into Siem Reap

Arrive in Siem Reap and privately transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Day 2: Siem Reap (B/L/D)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Start your Angkor adventure by exploring the ancient fortified city of Angkor Thom. From Angkor Thom's southern gateway, continue to visit Bayon temple "The Giant Smiling Faces temple". Then visit the nearby Baphuon, Terrace of the Elephant and Terrace of the Leper King to view their detailed stone carvings, then move to Preah Khan Temple. After lunch, explore Shras Srang "Royal Bath", the mysterious Ta Prohm "Kingdom of the Trees" or "Tomb Raider Temple", Neak Pean temple and finally catch sunset from Pre Rup temple. This evening enjoy your delicious dinner with Traditional Khmer Dance "Apsara Dance" performance at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Day 3: Siem Reap (B/D)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today rise early to catch the spectacular sunrise over the the world's largest religious ruins of Angkor Wat and discover this mighty temple at dawn, regarded by many as the quintessential Angkor experience. After exploring the ruins in details led by your professional tour guide, return to hotel for late leisurely breakfast. The rest of this morning is free at leisure. At 12.00 pm, drive to Kbal Spean to join a guided tour around the ACCB (Angkor Centre For Conservation of Biodiversity), a recusing and caring wildlife center.

Afterwards, enjoy a moderate 3-km trek up Kbal Spean Hill through dense jungle to "River of 1000 lingas" on the top; with its amazing Hindu stone carvings of Hindu gods, animals and phallic symbols in the river bed. Conclude your day with the pink temple of Banteay Srei temple "the Citadel of Women" and Cambodian Landmine museum. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Day 4: Siem Reap (B/L)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

This morning, at 9.00 am, commence your private Khmer traditional kitchen lesson. Start with a short walking to Siem Reap market (Old Market) where the colors and aromas of fresh, vibrant ingredients will thrill your senses led by one of kitchen brigade with a shopping list for today's menu as your guide. A full three courses Khmer menu will be prepared by you, all under professional guidance by the skilled Cambodian chefs. Enjoy your self-made lunch. After lunch, visit the ancient Roluos Group of Temples. Then head to Kampong Khleang, another dwelling and the largest community on the fringes of the magnificent Tonlé Sap Lake. Take a boat trip to see its glory as you pass through the village where the fisherman and their families live in stilted houses that dot the landscape.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Day 5: Siem Reap / Battambang (B/D)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer by overland to Battambang (3 hours), an artsy city blessed with early 20th-century French colonial architecture. Enroute detour to visit Angkor Silk Farm and witness the entire processes in making silk. At 4.30 pm, discover Wat Ek Phnom, a part-ruined 11th-century temple, watch rice and coconut delectable being produced and wander among ancient houses and stroll around the city tour followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Battambang

Day 6: Battambang (B/L)

After breakfast at hotel, depart to climb the 358 stone steps leading to the five towers of Phnom Banan – a 1000-year-old Khmer temple sporting superb carvings, reputedly the inspiration for Angkor Wat – from where you'll drink in sweeping views. On the way back visit the local grape yards and winery (tasting is complimentary). Rest of the day take a chance to experience the thrilling Bamboo train with your tour guide and enjoy sunset from Sampov Mountain.

Overnight in Battambang**Day 7: Battambang / Phnom Penh (B/L)**

Enjoy early breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Phnom Penh, Cambodian capital since French colonial. Make few stops enroute to visit Silver Smith Village of Kampong Luong and a traditional pottery community in Kampong Chhnang. Balance of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight in Phnom Penh**Day 8: Phnom Penh (B/L)**

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning enjoy a moderate 3 Km walking tour of Phnom Penh to visit Wat Lanka, Independent Monument, the glittering Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, admiring the over 5,000 silver tiles covering the floor and the collection of shiny golden Buddhas, and the National Museum, home to the country's most important collection of ancient Cambodian artefacts. After lunch at Friend Restaurant visit the harrowing S-21 Security Prison and the Choeung Ek Killing Fields Memorial. Phnom Penh became a ghost town during the brutal Khmer Rouge regime that terrorized the nation in the 1970s and led to the deaths of over 2 million citizens.

Overnight in Phnom Penh**Day 9: Phnom Penh – Mondulkiri (B/L)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you are taken on a long overland journey to Mondulkiri (6 hours) including enroute stop for lunch.

Overnight at Mayura Resort**Day 10: Mondulkiri (B/L)**

Enjoy breakfast at hotel. Start your adventure to visit to Pulung village – home to the Phnong indigenous community. Continue with a moderate 8km trekking through the valley and up and down small hills to reach a pretty waterfall before following the trail to the main road and catch a drive to Bou Sra Waterfall, a particularly scenic two-tier waterfall and the largest in Cambodia. Enjoy a simple local lunch on picnic mats with views of the waterfall. After lunch drive back towards Sen Monorom and stop at a coffee plantation. Enjoy a cup of fresh coffee and walk through the plantation. The final stop is a hilltop known for its view of the 'Sea Forest'. Enjoy sunset from the hill before returning to your hotel.

Overnight in Mondulkiri**Day 11: Mondulkiri – Elephant Valley Project (B/L)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. You will spend the entire day at the Elephant Valley Project or "ELIE", an ecotourism project that provides an alternative approach to elephant care, rehabilitation and conservation. After an introductory briefing descend to the valley and find the elephants grazing or bathing and being themselves.

Note: a visit to the ELIE project is only possible Mon-Fri. At the weekend the elephants head off to a distant site to relax, eat bamboo and no visits are possible.)

Overnight in Mondulkiri**Day 12: Mondulkiri – Kep (B/L)**

After breakfast depart for Phnom Penh. You will make some stops along the way to see Michelin's old rubber plantation and Wat Nokor, an 11th-century Mahayana Buddhist shrine of sandstone and laterite. After lunch at a local restaurant in Kampong Cham town, continue on your journey to Kep and enroute stop at Skun "the Spider Village", where fried tarantula vending as a snack. The spiders are caught in the soft ground of the surrounding countryside and dug out of their burrows. It's good for photo taking, testing is not compulsory. You will arrive Kep in early evening.

Overnight in Kep**Day 13: Kep (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Free day at leisure.

Overnight at Veranda Natural Resort / Deluxe Room**Day 14: Kep – Kampot (B/L)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Today begins with a visit to Kep's teeming crab market and then you taken on an impressive countryside tour to visit the caves of Phnom Chhnork known for their Pre-Angkorian carvings and a well-preserved 7th century shrine to Shiva, Salt Farms and local Pepper Plantations Or take a boat trip to Rabbit Island. Finally visit the quiet river town of Kampot.

Overnight at Veranda Natural Resort / Deluxe Room**Day 15: Kep – Phnom Penh (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Late this morning transfer back to Phnom Penh. Balance of the day visit local markets.

Overnight in Phnom Penh**Day 16: Phnom Penh - Departure (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Free at leisure until transfer to Phnom Penh Airport for your flight home or next destination (#Flight to be advised).

*** END OF SERVICES ***