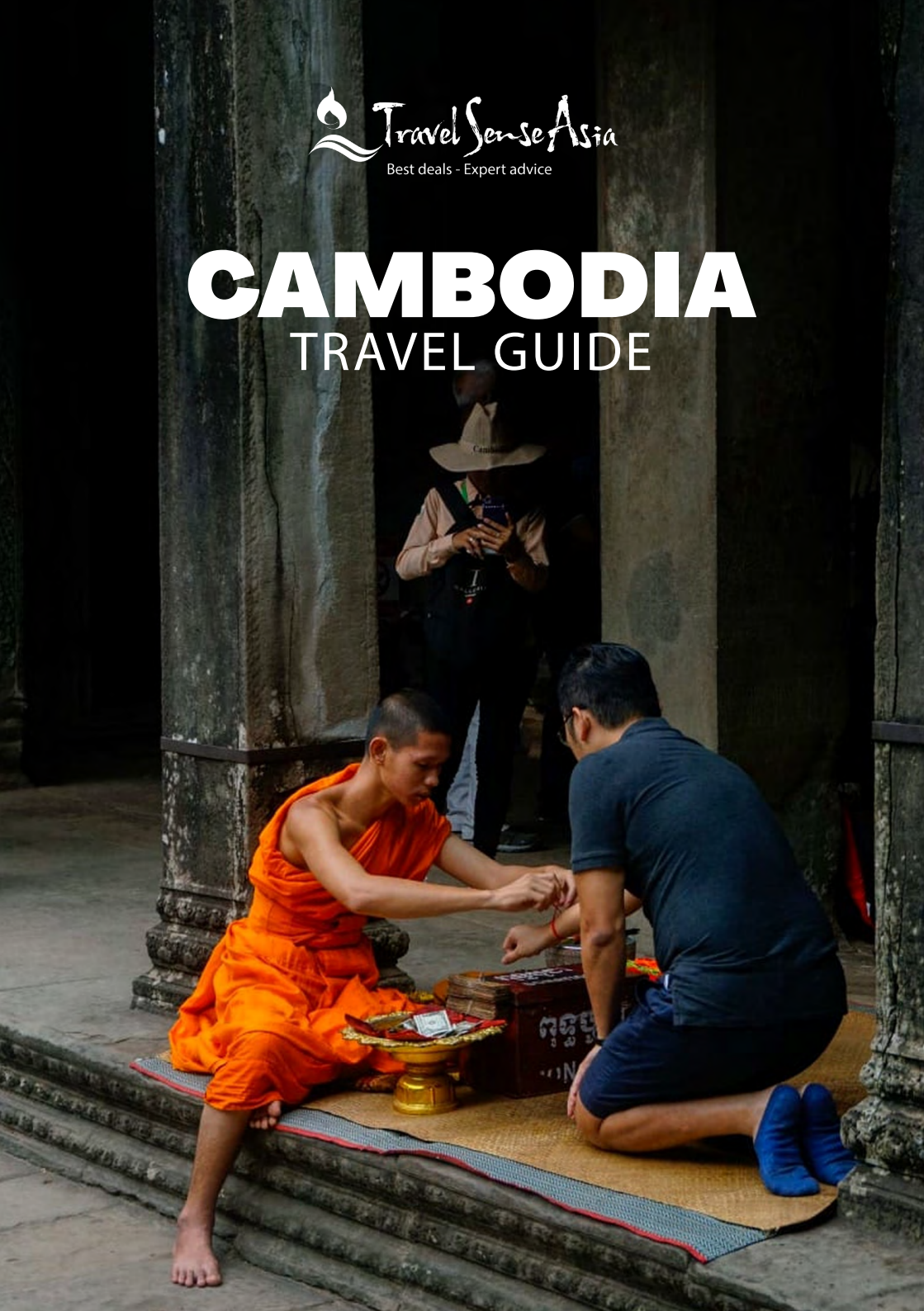


CAMBODIA

TRAVEL GUIDE





CAMBODIA

Visitors are enchanted by the mystique that surrounds the endearing but perplexing kingdom of Cambodia. Travelers who have an adventure in this majestic country will be inspired to contemplate what occurs when the ancient and contemporary worlds collide.

After enduring years of slaughter, poverty, and political unrest, the Khmers have gone to hell and back. Yet they are fighting to prevail, due to their indomitable heart and irresistible optimism. No traveler leaves this mysterious nation without having certain admiration and affection towards its inhabitants.





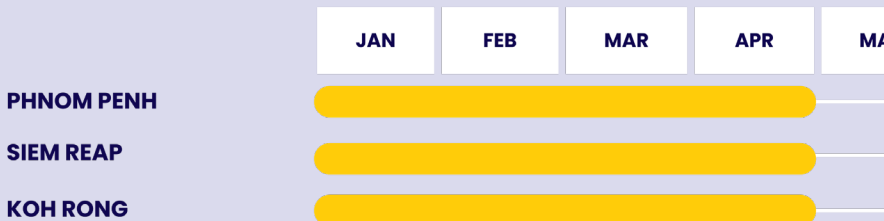
CLIMATE AND WEATHER AVERAGES

BEST TIME TO VISIT CAMBODIA

As Cambodia is a tropical country sitting just on top of the equator, it's usually hot and humid. Cambodia has two primary seasons, wet and dry, with a gradient of temperatures within those two. Dry season stretches from November until the end of April, and wet season begins in May and lasts through September. It's hottest between March and June and tends to be coolest between October and December.

During the dry season, the weather in popular tourism spots such as Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Koh Rong is at its tropical best – temperatures range from 25°C – 40°C in the sun, with no clouds and low humidity.

Wet season can be a fun time to visit, as there are fewer tourists, and the countryside blooms into healthy hues of green. In the heart of the monsoon swells, typically in September and October, travel to more remote parts of the country can be challenging or impossible because of dangerous road conditions.





MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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FESTIVALS

LIVE THE INTERWINED CULTURE





KHMER NEW YEAR

Khmer New Year, also known as Bon Chol Chhnam Thmei, is a three-day event that is always observed on April 13 or 14. It is the most significant festival in Cambodia and historically signifies the end of the harvest season. For the Khmer New Year, the cities are closed for a week as Cambodians head back to their villages to celebrate, spend time with their relatives, and visit the neighborhood pagoda.



PREAH REACH PITHI BONN CHROT PREAH NEANG KOL

This is an important ancient royal ceremonial that commemorates the start of the rice-growing season, when preparations for farming operations begin. This was once begun by the Khmer monarch and since then it has been honored yearly. The King of Cambodia hosts the customary celebration. A representative of Cambodia's King begins the event by plowing with royal oxen, signaling the start of a fruitful harvest season.



FESTIVALS

LIVE THE INTERWINED CULTURE





PCHUM BEN (ANCESTOR'S DAY)

A 15-day holiday that normally takes place between the end of September and the middle of October. The ghosts of deceased ancestors are said to be very active at Pchum Ben, and they may even return to Earth. At this time, Cambodians wear white and deliver food offerings to monks at pagodas; some think that these gifts provide merit that benefits the departed ancestors indirectly, while others believe that these food offerings are transported directly to the dead. Cambodians spend a lot of time visiting the pagodas on this festival giving offerings and praying for their ancestors.



BON OM TOUK (WATER FESTIVAL)

Every November, the Tonle Sap changes course, and Cambodians assemble in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh to celebrate the Water Festival, Bon Om Touk. The Cambodia Water Festival dates back to the 12th century Angkor era, when the Navy Forces fought to secure Cambodia. It is a sign of respect for these Navy Forces. It is celebrated throughout the day and night, with all Cambodian citizens, peasants, and international visitors congregating in the capital. During the festival, a boat racing event is held, which was once a battle training undertaken by the naval troops.



BOOKING FLIGHT TICKETS

ESSENTIAL ADVICES FOR TRAVELLERS

How to find **cheap flights?**

- **The airfare may change depending on the availability.**

The earlier you book, the better rate you may get. Booking 5-6 months in advance for the best deal, especially during off-travel seasons.

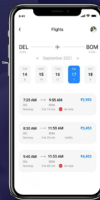
- **Avoid booking flights during weekend.**

While Sunday may be the best day to book a trip, choosing Wednesday as your departure date can cut your travel costs considerably.

- **Morning flights are usually more expensive than at noon.**

- **Check between several departure airports.**

It may be cheaper from one airport than others.



Flights are often the most expensive part of a trip – and no one wants to pay more than they should for plane tickets. To help fellow travelers get the best deals on airline tickets, we are sharing our top tips on booking flights.

Notes on booking **budget airlines**

- **Check the location of the airport.**

Many low-cost carriers use alternate hubs. These alternate airports may also be smaller and have fewer personnel and amenities. Perhaps more frustrating, there are only limited check-in, security and customs systems in place.

- **Pay attention to restrictions on weight, height and number of bags allowed.**

Ensure the airfare you pay is inclusive of checked luggage.

- **Know about the airline you are choosing.**

There are typically a dizzying number of options. Thus, it can be helpful to look up some information in advance to avoid headaches.





ENTRY VISA

THE KEY TO LIVE FULLY IN CAMBODIA

1. VISA EXEMPTIONS (Single entry only)

Visitors from these countries may enter visa-free, and stay for the indicated number of days.



2. VISA APPLICATION

Electronic Visa (E-visa)

- Validity: 90 days
- Length of stay: 30 days
- Processing time: 3 business days
- Single-entry visit

HOW TO APPLY:

Step 1: Access <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/> and go to 'Application'.

Step 2: Fill out the required fields on the form completely. Submit your form.

Step 3: Pay securely using your **Visa card, Mastercard, Unionpay, Alipay,** or **WeChat: USD 30 + USD 6** of processing charge. Applicants should note that the eVisa Fee is **non-refundable**.

Step 4: Check application status and resubmit payment if payment failed. Download the eVisa certificate from your email or eVisa '**Check & Change**'.

Step 5: Present your passport and eVisa Approval Letter to the Immigration officer at the Cambodian Airports.

Get the final Immigration approval and enter Cambodia

Step 6: Download and print the e-Visa.

"TIP: Travellers with an e-Visa can go directly to immigration counters at their point of entry and do not need to queue at Visa on Arrival counters."



14 DAYS

BRUNEI, MYANMAR, THAILAND

21 DAYS

THE PHILIPPINES

30 DAYS

INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA,
SINGAPORE, VIETNAM

Visa on Arrival (for Tourist)

- Length of stay: 30 days
- Enabling 3rd party support
- Longer queue on arrival
- Single entry visit

HOW TO APPLY:

Tourists and business travelers may purchase a Cambodian visa at the airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and at the borders. Requirement:

- **Passport valid for at least six (6) months** from the expiry date.
- **01 recent passport-sized photo.**
- **Departure tax** is charged on all domestic and international flights.
- Visa fee: **USD 30.**

You can also get a valid Letter of Approval from a trusted service online. Then, bring the letter together with an application form and your documents to the Visa on Arrival counter at the arrival airport.

"NOTE: Some nationalities are required to get a visa in advance at the Embassy of Cambodia in their country: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan."



BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

 Vietnam Airlines

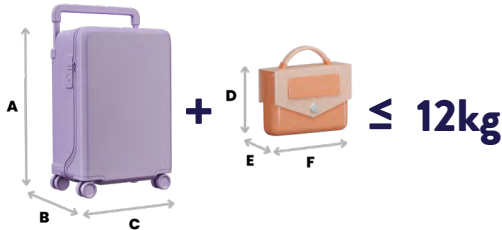
1. BAGGAGE SIZE

You are offered baggage allowance free of charge for Economy Class as follows:

- Hand baggage includes one hand baggage item and one accessory:

$$56(A) + 23(B) + 36(C)\text{cm} < 115\text{cm}$$

$$30(D) + 15(E) + 40(F)\text{cm} < 85\text{cm}$$



- Checked baggage includes one baggage item: $(A) + (B) + (C) < 158\text{ cm}$



2. PERSONAL ITEMS TAKEN ON BOARD

- A pocketbook or a lady's purse.
- An umbrella or a walking stick (except ones with a sharp metallic pointed end).
- A reasonable number of reading materials for in-flight usage.
- A laptop computer, a small camera and/or binoculars.
- An overcoat, a wrap or blanket.
- A pair of crutches and/or braces or other prosthetic devices.
- A baby carrier basket or a bassinet.



3. PROHIBITED ITEMS ON CHECKED & HAND BAGGAGE

Explosives	Grenades, Dynamite, Gunpowder, Flares, Fireworks And Lookalike Items etc.
Radioactive, Infectious, Toxic Substances, Corrosives	Chlorine, Bleacher, Oxidizers, Mercury, Contagious Hazards, Radioactive Materials etc.
Gases, Flammable Items	Matches, Lighters, Flammable Liquid, Beverages Containing 70% Or More Alcohol By Volume etc.
Other Dangerous Items	Fire Extinguishers, Dry Ice (over 2.5 kg), Lithium Battery For Electronic Equipments (>160 Wh or >8g lithium) etc.

4. PROHIBITED ITEMS ON HAND BAGGAGE

Sharp Objects, Weapons	Knife, Sword, Box Cutter, Dart, Scissors etc.
Firearms and Lookalike Items	All types of firearms, parts of firearms, ammunition, stun guns, imitation firearms, toy guns or toys/items that look alike real weapons etc.
Dangerous Items	Crowbar, Shovels, Drills/Screwdrivers, Blow Torch, Blades or Shafts Longer Than 6 cm, Wrenches, Spanners, And

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE



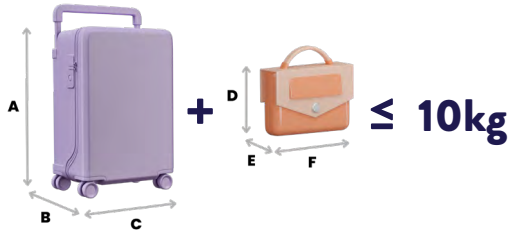
1. BAGGAGE SIZE

You are offered baggage allowance free of charge for Economy Class as follows:

- Hand baggage includes one 7kg hand baggage item and one 3kg accessory:

$$56(A) + 23(B) + 36(C) \text{ cm} < 115 \text{ cm}$$

$$30(D) + 10(E) + 40(F) \text{ cm} < 85 \text{ cm}$$



- Checked baggage includes one baggage item: $(A) + (B) + (C) < 158 \text{ cm}$



20kg for Southeast Asian and domestic routes

\leq **20-30kg** for East Asian routes

45kg for European/Australian routes

2. PERSONAL ITEMS TAKEN ON BOARD

- A pocketbook or a lady's purse.
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BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

CAMBODIA ANGKOR AIR

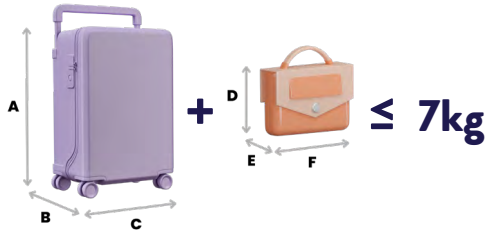
1. BAGGAGE SIZE

You are offered baggage allowance free of charge for Economy Class as follows:

- Hand baggage includes one hand baggage item and one accessory:

$$56(A) + 23(B) + 36(C)\text{cm} < 115\text{cm}$$

$$30(D) + 10(E) + 40(F)\text{cm} < 80\text{cm}$$



- Checked baggage includes one baggage item: $(A) + (B) + (C) < 158\text{ cm}$



2. OVERSIZED BAGGAGE

The baggage considered as oversized baggage will have these features:

- Its dimension exceeds 119cm
- Its weight is less than 32kg

	Domestic routing	International routing
Oversize fee	80 USD/Piece	100 USD/Piece



3. PROHIBITED ITEMS ON CHECKED & HAND BAGGAGE

Explosives	Grenades, Dynamite, Gunpowder, Flares, Fireworks And Lookalike Items etc.
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AIRPORTS INFORMATION

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ARRIVAL



1. PHNOM PENH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Location: Phnom Penh

Code: PNH

Distance to city center: 10 km

Lost and Found Service:

- Email: pnhllxh@cambodia-airports.aero
- Hotline: (+855) 23 890 424
(+855) 81 222 175

Have you ever had airport anxiety when you arrive in a new destination? Maybe the airport is unfamiliar to you or you're traveling alone.

Whatever the case may be, **confidence is key**. This useful information will bring you confidence when you land at any airports in Cambodia.



2. SIEM REAP ANGKOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Location: Siem Riep

Code: SAI

Distance to city center: 45 km

Lost and Found Service:

- Email: yaca_baggage@sai-airport.com
- Hotline: (+855) 63 900 790



FLEET PARTNERSHIP

1

Hyundai Starex 7 seats



Group size: 1-5 passengers

2

SsangYong Istana 15 seats



Group size: 6 passengers

In Cambodia, Travel Sense Asia cooperates with numbers of reputable transportation providers across the country. The variety of vehicles will meet the needs of the number of passengers and the type of travel.

3

Hyundai County 25 seats



Group size: 7-15 passengers

6

Hyundai Universe 45 seats



Group size: 16 passengers and more



TRANSPORTATION

VARIETY OF WAYS TO GET AROUND

When you have a need to visit freely, the following means of transport are highly recommended to facilitate travel.



REMARK (TUK-TUK)

Remork has become quite popular in Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Remork offers a quieter, more pleasant ride. Remork for hire gathers in popular tourist areas such as the riverfront and at tourist hotels.

Prices vary depending on the number of passengers and where you pick up the Remork.

\$1-\$2 for short trips

\$10-\$15 for the whole day



TAXI

Global Taxi, Choice Taxi, Taxi Rouge and GreatWall Taxi offer 24/7 taxi service.

Price: **Hiring a taxi** for a day costs **\$25-\$35**.

Short jaunts around town run a minimum of **\$4-\$5**.

Choice Taxi

Phnom Penh: 023 923 923 / 010 888 010

Siem Reap: 070 888 070



Global Taxi

011 311 888

092 889 962



Taxi Rouge

096 606 0601

096 606 0602



Great Wall Taxi

096 606 0601

096 606 0602



RIDE-SOURCING

Grab, Tada and PassApp are 3 main taxi booking apps in Cambodia, all available in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. They offer on-demand car taxi and tuk-tuk booking service. Cars are preferred to ensure safety for newcomers.



"TIP: You can place a food order from a restaurant on ride-sourcing apps. They will assign a delivery partner to pick up the order to bring it to you."



MONEY MATTERS

THE LOCAL CURRENCY & PAYMENT SYSTEMS

1. CURRENCY

The **Riel** (Code: KHR) is the currency of Cambodia. **US dollars** are as commonly used as the Cambodian Riel and even **Thai Baht** is acceptable in many places.

Riel notes come in **100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000, 50,000 and 100,000** denominations.



Most hotels and many restaurants and shops set their prices in dollars.

Small transactions are usually done in Riel. Always carry some small Riel for motorcycle taxis, snacks, beggars and other small purchases.

"TIP: To quickly convert from KHR to USD, just remove three zeros and divide by 4."

For example: 1 USD ≈ 4,000 VND



2. MONEY EXCHANGE

The amount of Cambodia money needed ultimately depends on the quality of food, accommodation and transportation, according to your plan. Upon arriving in Cambodia, you'll want to have some cash in the local currency. Money can be exchanged in airports, banks and ATM.



Airport



Bank



ATM

3. TRAVEL MONEY OPTION

	PROS	CONS
CASH	Greater payment flexibility. Convenience. Accepted by big shops, hotels and restaurants.	More difficult to manage expenses. Higher risk of theft.
DEBIT CARD	Used to shop over the counter, online and to withdraw money from ATM. Protected by PIN & chip. Avoid interest charges.	International ATM withdrawal fees and additional currency conversion fees may apply. Not a credit product. No emergency funds available.
CREDIT CARD	Used for big purchases. Accepted worldwide. Protected by PIN & chip. Emergency card replacement.	Interest fees. Can be not accepted in small cities or far-flung destination.



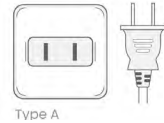
TRAVEL REMINDERS

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR CONVENIENCE

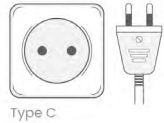
1. ELECTRICITY

Cambodia operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. There are three associated plug types: types A, C and G.

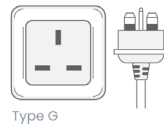
- Plug type A is the plug which has two flat parallel pins.



- Plug type C is the plug with two round pins.



- Plug type G is the plug with three rectangular pins, in a triangular pattern.



Due to different standard voltages and plug types among countries, adapters and converters are recommended to ensure the safety and sustainability of your electronic devices.







2. TIPPINGS

Tipping isn't expected in Cambodia, but it is always appreciated. Tipping encourages excellent service in the future. Many service workers in Cambodia earn a low wage, so if you

are happy with the services provided by waiters, drivers, guides or others, leaving a small tip depending on the service is a good way to show your appreciation.



Cambodian locals are a very humble people, so if you do wish to leave a tip, please do so in a discreet manner. Carrying small notes of local currency will make

tipping easier. It is best to avoid tipping with coins, very small denomination notes, or dirty and ripped notes, as this can be regarded as an insult.

RECOMMENDATION

UPMARKET RESTAURANTS & HOTELS

Service Charges

7–10% / travelers' bills

SACRED PLACES

Upkeep Donation

~5000 KHR





3. OTHER ADVICES

SAFETY ISSUES



Taking a hotel/ hostel business card from the reception desk. Handing it to the taxi driver will help you return to your hotel easier.



Be careful in crowded areas such as local festivals and tourist sites to **avoid gambles and pickpocketing.**



Leaving crucial documents such as your passport and visa **in the safety box** at your hotel.

OUTFITS



Wearing formal clothes that cover your knees and shoulders **when visiting spiritual/ cultural sites.**



Bringing plastic boots and light rain coats along in case of bad weather. **Bringing sport shoes and clothes** along for the trekking activities in mountainous areas.

TOILETRIES & MEDICATIONS



Many medicines are accessible in Indochina without prescriptions, but they **may be out-of-date or of poor quality.**



While imported beauty products are available in major cities, **it is best to pack toiletries** such as sunscreen, contact lens solution, tampons and mosquito repellent.

SHOPPING & SHIPPING



Bargaining is necessary when shopping in Cambodia. It is recommended that you check the prices of the same items in the neighborhood before reaching a deal.



You should get a shipping insurance and check the policy's details if you choose to have the items shipped to your house. Store owners are not responsible for any damages incurred en route.



WHAT TO EAT?

TASTE THE AUTHENTIC CUISINE



AMOK

This is the national dish of Cambodia, which is often likened to a curry stew. Amok is traditionally cooked in a palm or banana leaf and can be served with or without sticky rice.



KUY TEAV

It is usually made from rice vermicelli and beef or pork bones. The broth is flavoured with fried shallots, green onion, garlic and bean sprouts. Pork or beef balls are then added just before serving.



SNGOR CHRUAK SACH TREI

The 'sngor' soups are designed to showcase the main ingredient of the broth, in the case of the sour fish soup, the fish from the Tonlé Sap Lake.



KAMPOT PEPPER CRAB

Commonly sold in the seaside town of Kep, these pepper crabs are a local speciality. The pepper used is grown in the nearby town Kampot. This gives the dish a hot and fiery taste.



NOM BANH CHOK

These Khmer noodles are a hugely popular breakfast dish. You will most likely see them being served by ladies on the street who usually carry baskets of fresh ingredients.

The thin noodles are made from rice which is topped with green fish curry, beansprouts, cucumber, banana flowers and mint leaves. In Siem Reap, these noodles are served with tuk paem, a sweet sauce made from peanuts and palm sugar.



MEKONG LOWLANDS

The Mekong Lowlands include much of southern Cambodia stretching to the Vietnamese border. Encompassing nine provinces, the region is relatively sprawling. Its marshy plains have been fruitful for Cambodians, creating a region interesting for history and agriculture. Travellers may explore the capital and linger in the area's more remote villages for a change of pace.





PHNOM PENH

THE HEART OF CAMBODIA

The glimmering spires of the Royal Palace, the fluttering saffron of the monks' robes and the luscious location on the banks of the mighty Mekong – Phnom Penh is the Asia many daydream about from afar.





Once the 'Pearl of Asia', Phnom Penh's shine was tarnished by the impact of war and revolution. But the city has since risen from the ashes to take its place among the hip capitals of the region, with an alluring cafe culture, bustling bars and a world-class food scene.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



ROYAL PALACE

It is the official residence of King Sihamoni. With its classic Khmer roofs and ornate gilding, the Royal Palace once dominated the skyline of Phnom Penh.



SILVER PAGODA

Within the Royal Palace compound is this extravagant temple, which is covered with 5 tonnes of gleaming silver. Inside is a series of lavish Buddha statues made of precious metals.



TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM

Once the largest centre of detention and torture in the country, Security Prison 21 has been turned into the Tuol Sleng museum, which serves as a testament to the crimes of the Khmer Rouge.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CAMBODIA

The museum is home to the world's finest collection of Khmer sculpture: a millennium's worth and more of masterful Khmer design.



KILLING FIELDS OF CHOEUING EK

Between 1975 and 1978, under the dictatorship of Khmer Rouge, about 20,000 men, women, children and infants who had been detained and tortured at S-21 prison were transported to the extermination camp of Choeung Ek.

It is a peaceful place today, where visitors can learn of the horrors that unfolded here decades ago. More than 8000 skulls, arranged by sex and age, are visible behind the clear glass panels of the Memorial Stupa, which was erected in 1988.



SOUTHWEST REGION

In southwestern Cambodia two distinct upland blocks, the Krâvanh Mountains and the Dâmrei Mountains, form a highland region that covers much of the land area between the Tonle Sap and the Gulf of Thailand. Spanning across 8 provinces, the two mountain ranges are suitable for landscape conservation with the intact and species-rich extent of rain forests. The elephant population is thought to be one of the largest in Indochina. There are also other wide-ranging mammals and bird species in the area.





KAMPOT

LAND OF KAMPOT PEPPERS

Situated only a mile or so from the ocean, Kampot is a relaxing riverside retreat surrounded by a mesmerizing mix of mist-covered mountains, fertile fields, forests, and all kinds of fruit farms and plantations.



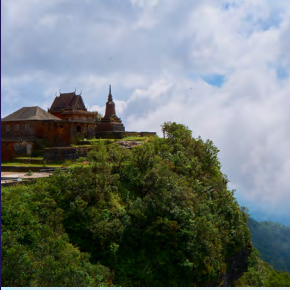


This town, with streets rimmed by dilapidated shophouse architecture, has a dreamy quality; as if someone pressed the snooze button a few years back and the entire town forgot to wake up. Visiting a laidback town amidst the hassle of a renowned country is a good call to make. Surrounded with less crowd and more of the lush green nature, one gets to enjoy several activities and get the best of the relaxed vibes of the place.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



WAT SAMPOV PRAM

The highest Buddha pagodas in Cambodia, situated on the top of the Bokor Mountain, offers every tourist not only marvelous natural scenery but also amazing relics.



BOKOR HILL STATION

The station refers to a collection of French colonial buildings constructed as a temperate mountain luxury resort and retreat for colonial residents in the early 1920s atop Bokor Mountain.



PHNOM CHHNORK

From the bottom, a 203-step staircase leads up the hillside and down into a cavern as graceful as a Gothic cathedral.



RABBIT ISLAND

Rabbit Island is a peaceful and serene beach island scattered with Cambodian-style wooden huts, hammocks swinging from palm trees, and a sparse scattering of sun loungers.



PHNOM KAMPONG TRACH CAVE

Phnom Kampot Trach Cave is simply just a short tunnel through the exotic limestone rock formation that connects the outside with the actual circular hole then leads to the sky.

Inside the cave, you will meet a huge reclining Buddha statue dating back to almost 800 years and similar smaller statues around that you can make some wishes for blessings. Another striking characteristic inside the cave drawing visitors' attention best is a cool small lake that sometimes can provide you with swimming opportunities.



KOH RONG ISLAND

SWEETHEART OF THE GULF

The island remains far removed from mass tourism and over-development. With its mountainous range culminating at 316-meter high, the island's landscape is diverse, mostly graced with native floral and ideal for beach time.





Koh Rong is definitely a paradise with the Gulf of Thailand because of its rainforest-covered hills, unspoiled mangrove areas and white beach sands stretching on 43 of 61km coastline. This small island of paradise is ideal if you want to escape the bustle of big Asian cities and are looking for idyllic beaches.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



COCONUT BEACH

The beach is a pleasant little strip of sand with plenty of space to sunbathe and chill out amongst the palms. Especially, at certain times of the month, there are glowing plankton around this area. You should go on a boat tour (leaving at 4am) to see these dazzling creatures so you are able to catch the majestic sunrise when returning.



DAEM THKOV VILLAGE

Koh Rong Island has three fishing villages worth visiting. The most authentic village is Daem Thkov which is a short walk to the north of Coconut Beach on the southeastern side of the island. Visitors can join with local fishermen in fishing activities. From that, you may fully understand the hardworking job that feeds the whole people of the island.



SOK SAN BEACH

On the west side of the island is Koh Rong's finest beach, a 7km, almost empty stretch of drop-dead-gorgeous white sand. Sok San village at the northern end has a cluster of local eating spots and simple guesthouses.

For sea lovers, Sok San is the most suitable destination with a variety of exciting water activities such as diving, snorkeling, canoeing, sunbathing and beach sports. At night, thousands of glowing plankton appear under the sea. Just a wave of your hand into the water, countless small blue lights will sparkle under the sea.



NORTHWEST REGION

Cambodia's northwestern extends from the plains around Phnom Penh to the Thai border and is dominated by the great lake of Tonlé Sap. Ancient temples hidden in the jungle, crumbling ruins on mountain tops, colorful lakeside villages, vibrant floating markets, exotic wildlife in untouched national parks – northwest region has a lot to offer beyond Siem Reap.





BATTAMBANG

THE RICE BOWL OF CAMBODIA

The laid-back city of Battambang in Cambodia's northwest may have a sleepy ambience distinct from the more upbeat hot spots, but travellers who venture here will find plenty of excuses to linger.





Battambang is the perfect blend of relatively urban modernity and small-town friendliness. A walkable centre, bags of old architectural charm, day trips to temples and traditional villages – plus the chance to ride on a bamboo train – are just a few reasons to include this city on your Cambodia itinerary.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



WAT EK PHNOM

Hidden behind a colorful modern pagoda and a gargantuan Buddha statue is this atmospheric, partly collapsed 11th-century temple.



PRASAT BARSAET

It's a large and grandiose temple complex centring on a large central temple surrounded by six small temples with two libraries. The temple was built in the 11th century.



WAT PHNOM SAMPOV

Every day at dusk millions of bats take to the skies from the caves of Phnom Sampov on their hunt for food. It's a truly awe inspiring experience.



WAT SAMRONG KNONG

It was built in the 19th century on the site of a pre-Angkorian temple complex. The Khmer Rouge used the temple grounds as a prison and around 10,000 people were executed here.



PHARE PONLEU SELPAK CIRCUS

More than just a circus, Phare performers use theater, music, dance and modern circus arts to tell uniquely Cambodian stories; historical, folk and modern.

The association was formed by 9 young men coming home from a refugee camp after the Khmer Rouge regime. They were greatly helped during that time by an art teacher using drawing classes as therapy and wanted to share this new skill among the poor, socially deprived and troubled youngsters in Battambang.



SIEM REAP

TOWN OF TEMPLES

Gateway for the temples of Angkor, Siem Reap was always destined for great things. Visitors come here to see the temples, of course, but there is plenty to do in and around the city when you're templed out.





Siem Reap has reinvented itself as the epicentre of chic Cambodia, with everything from backpacker party pads to hip hotels, world-class wining and dining across a range of cuisines, sumptuous spas, great shopping, local tours to suit both foodies and adventurers, and a creative cultural scene that includes Cambodia's leading contemporary circus.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



ANGKOR WAT

Built by Suryavarman II (r 1112–52) and surrounded by a vast moat, Angkor Wat is one of the most inspired monuments ever conceived by the human mind.



BAKONG TEMPLE

Bakong is the largest and most interesting of the Roluos group of temples. Built and dedicated to Shiva by Indravarman I, it served as the city's central temple.



CAMBODIA LANDMINE MUSEUM

The collection includes mines, mortars, guns and weaponry, and there is a mock minefield where visitors can attempt to locate the deactivated mines.



TONLE SAP LAKE

It is the largest freshwater lake in Asia and largest freshwater floodplain in the world. As many as 170 floating villages can be found on the lake with houses resting on long stilts.



ANGKOR THOM

It is a 3km x 3km walled and moated royal city and was the last capital of the Angkorian empire. Five grand entrances allowed access to the capital city – five towering face gates – one for each cardinal point, and the **Victory Gate** leading to the **Royal Palace** area. Each gate is crowned with 4 giant faces and framed by elephants wading amongst lotus flowers. Most modern visitors and tourists first enter Angkor Thom by the **South Gate**.



EAST REGION

Bounded by Laos to the North and Vietnam to the east, Eastern Cambodia is the land of rugged hills, ethnic diversity and authentic experiences separated from the rest of Cambodia by the Mekong River. The people in the region are incredibly friendly, as well as eager for travellers to visit their hometown.





MONDULKIRI

THE UNTOUCHED PART OF CAMBODIA

Mondulkiri means 'Meeting of the Hills', an apt sobriquet for a land of rolling hills. It is the most sparsely populated province in the country, with just four people per square kilometre.





Home to the hardy Bunong people and their noble elephants, this upland area is a seductive mix of grassy hills, pine groves and rainforests of jade green. Wild animals, such as bears, leopards and especially elephants, are more numerous here than elsewhere, although sightings are usually limited to birds, monkeys and the occasional wild pig.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



BOUSRA WATERFALL

Plunging into the dense jungle below, this is one of Cambodia's most impressive falls. Famous throughout the country, this double-drop waterfall has an upper tier of some 10m and a spectacular lower tier with a thundering 25m drop.

Getting here involves a 33km, one-hour journey east of **Sen Monorom** on a mostly sealed road. The sprawling **Bousra Ecopark** at the falls is home to a cultural village, craft stands and some simple eateries. This is also the location of the thrilling **Mayura Zipline**, which now manages the site.

KEO SEIMA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The 3000-sq-km Keo Seima (formerly called Seima Protected Forest) hosts the country's greatest treasure trove of mammalian wildlife. Besides unprecedented numbers of black-shanked doucs and southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbons, an estimated 115 wild elephants – accounting for around a quarter of Cambodia's total population – roam the park, along with bears and cats.



KRATIE

THE HABITAT OF IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS

The supremely mellow riverside town of Kratie has an expansive riverfront and some of the best Mekong sunsets in Cambodia.





It is the most popular place in the country to see Irrawaddy dolphins, which live in the Mekong River in ever-diminishing numbers. There is French-era architecture here, as it was spared the wartime bombing that destroyed so many other provincial centers.



WHERE TO GO?

EXPLORE THE AUTHENTIC SITES



WAT ROKAR KANDAL

This beautiful little temple dating from the 19th century is one of the oldest in the region. The restored interior now houses a small handicraft centre with infrequent hours.



WAT KRONG KRACHEH

Located in central Kratie and fronted by the beautiful Mekong river, this contemporary monastery is beautifully surrounded by several grand stupas.



WAT SORSOR MOI ROI

Held up by 108 columns and covered in vibrant murals, it was constructed on the site of a 19th-century wooden temple, a few pillars of which are still located at the back of the compound.



CHHLONG

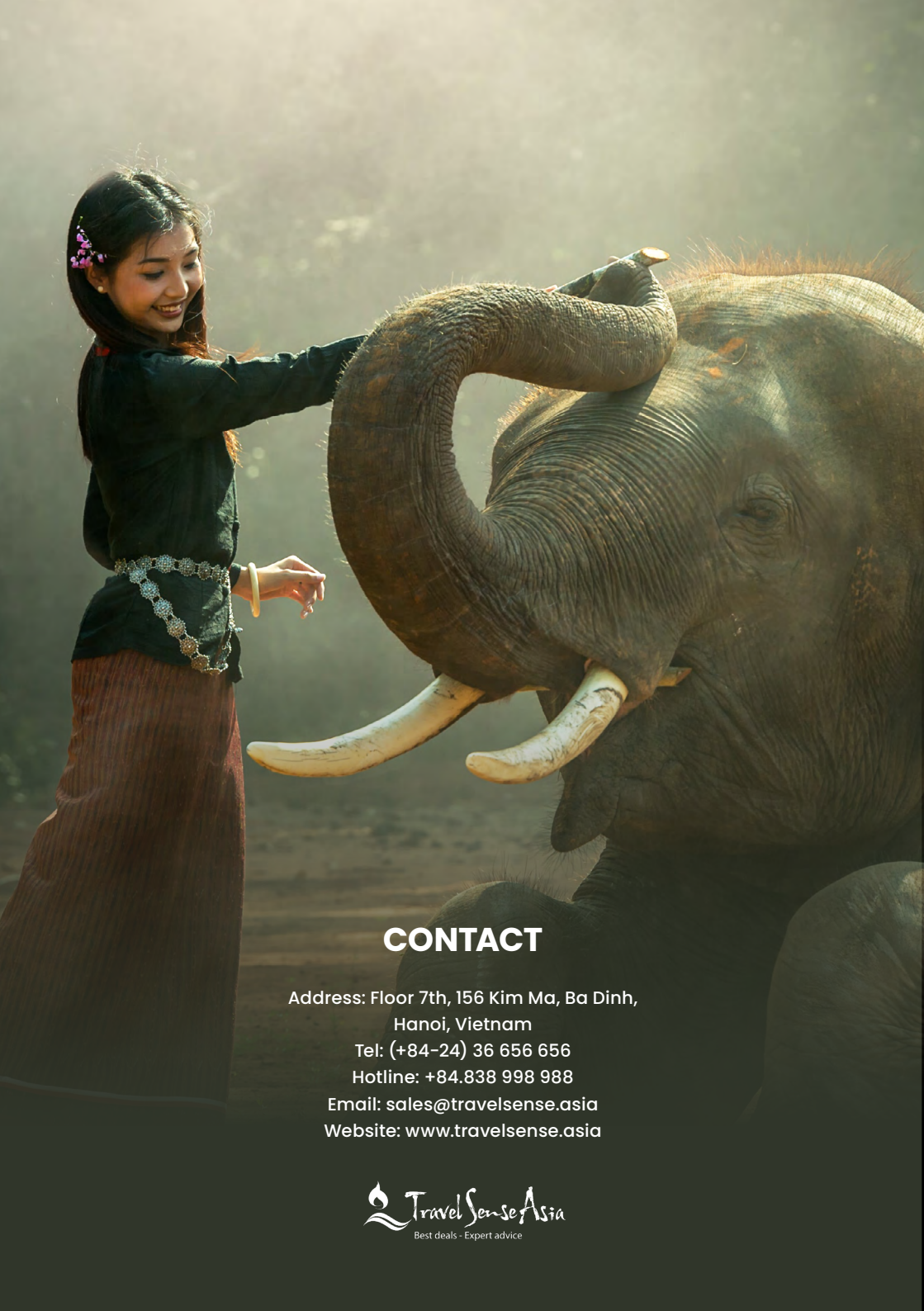
It is the old governor's residence, a gorgeous yellow-and-white French colonial mansion near the river. It's now a top-end boutique hotel, Le Relais de Chhlong.



MEKONG TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE

Established by Conservation International, it is home to the rare Cantor's giant softshell turtle, which was only rediscovered along this stretch of the Mekong in 2007.

One of the largest freshwater turtles, it can grow to nearly 2m in length. Hatchlings are nurtured here for 10 months before being released in the wild. Tourists can participate in the release on select weeks, usually in May or June.



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