



The South East Asia Specialists



Travel Group

## **Cambodia – ‘Cambodia Overland’** 13 days/12 nights – Phnom Penh to Phnom Penh

**Cambodia Overland: an exciting round trip, combining the famous temples of Angkor and best known sites, with some of the more off the beaten track ones, in a road and river adventure through this fascinating yet little known country. From the hectic yet charming riverside capital Phnom Penh, overland through picturesque landscapes to the mysterious and dramatic, jungle-clad temples of Angkor, then across the scenic Tonle Sap Lake and down river to Battambang before returning to Phnom Penh via the photogenic ‘floating town’ of Kompong Chnang.**



**Day 1 Departure from London.**

**Day 2 Arrival in Phnom Penh and check-in to a small, comfortable, downtown hotel close to the historic riverbank quarter. Time to relax before stretching your legs with an introductory walking tour to give you a first-hand feel for the bustling streetlife before finishing on the riverfront and perhaps sundowners at the famous Foreign Correspondents Club? (D)**



**Day 3** Day tour of some of the sites of Cambodia's fascinating capital city: the infamous Killing Fields site and the highly moving Khmer Rouge Genocide Museum at Tuol Sleng help to explain the country's recent tragic history, the picturesque Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda will provide plenty of photo opportunities whilst the Russian Market offers some 'retail therapy' and a chance for a local style lunch. (B, L)

**Day 4** In the morning we'll visit Wat Phnom and the old French Quarter including a detour to Psa Chas – the 'Old market' – and one of central Phnom Penh's most bustling before heading off in the afternoon to nearby Koh Dach, or Silk 'Island'. Lying just a short ride from the city it's nonetheless a world away and will allow you to experience local village life as well as an opportunity to discover the traditional silk weaving methods still employed on this picturesque Mekong River island. (B, L)



**Day 5** Up country through Cambodia's scenic countryside to the small provincial town of Siem Reap in Western Cambodia – our base for the next few days and jumping off point for the nearby Angkor Temple complex. Stops on the way include the famous 'spider village' of Skuon, (tasting not compulsory), the rarely visited but well preserved 10th century temple of Kuhananokor & lunch by a scenic lake. A dusk visit to the atmospheric ruins of Banteay Kdei completes our day. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** Angkor – an unforgettable two-day tour of this fabulous site – its vast jungle clad temples and mysterious stone carvings. Our programme begins with dawn at Angkor Wat followed by a comprehensive morning tour of the temple itself. Then late morning return to Siem Reap to escape the midday heat and for some lunch, siesta or relaxation time before an afternoon walking tour of Angkor Tom: Leper King Terrace, Preah Palilay, Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, Elephant

Terrace, Baphuon & last but not least, (we'll wait until the crowds have gone!), the dramatic Bayon Temple with its famous 'faces'. (B)



**Day 7** We'll begin with a forest hike up Bahkeng Hill to visit the spectacular Phnom Bahkeng Temple and check out the views before moving on to the huge jungle-clad ruin of Preah Khan. Dense jungle, enormous roots and trees and screeching parakeets make this atmospheric temple one of everyone's favourites.

After a midday break in Siem Reap Town- the afternoon programme continues with a short jungle walk to Ta Keo via the remote and rarely visited Ta Nei Temple. A visit to the famous Ta Prom ruins - the famous 'Tomb Raider' Temple continues our jungle theme and concludes our day's visit. (B)

**Day 8** Morning trip to one of the remoter, less visited temple sites, the truly spectacular Beng Melea. A huge, partially ruined temple complex, overgrown by jungle, lying to the west of Siem Reap this is one of the most impressive Angkor monuments. Return to Siem Reap with an afternoon at leisure to relax by the pool, visit the National Museum, explore the markets or even take a Khmer cookery lesson? (B)



**Day 9** Spectacular boat journey across the Tonle Sap Lake, past the 'flooded forest' and Prek Toal bird sanctuary and on down the Sangkar River and its

floating and stilt-house fishing villages to the town of Battambang. Stop off on the way to visit the Prek Toal community water hyacinth weaving project. Time of arrival will depend upon water levels. (B, L, D)

**Day 10** Morning ride through the paddy-fields on Battambang's famous 'bamboo train', (we'll explain later!), followed by some leisure time to explore the friendly provincial town or just chill-out in one of the many coffee shops. After lunch we'll head out to the surrounding villages to check out the area's traditional cottage industries and handicrafts either by bicycle or tuk-tuk for the less energetic. (B)

**Day 11** Morning departure across country for the fascinating river port of Kompong Chnang. Tour of the bustling and picturesque town and market on foot - (half the town is actually floating on the Tonle Sap River!) In the afternoon we'll continue, via the hilltop pagodas of former capital Udong - south to Phnom Penh. (B, L, D)



**Day 12** At leisure with an afternoon transfer to Phnom Penh airport for a return flight to London. (B)

**Day 13** Arrival in London

**Accommodation:** hotel. (Hilary Boutique Hotel Phnom Penh, Angkoriana Hotel Siem Reap, King Fy Hotel Battambang, or similar.)

**Transport:** minibus, boat, tuk-tuk.

**Fitness:** easy - maximum hiking 3-4 hrs per day during the Angkor visit.

**Dates and Costs:** 21 May - 2 June 2016    £950.00  
Single Supplement £250.00    Flights from £900.00

12 Nov. - 24 Nov. 2016    £950.00  
Single Supplement £250.00    Flights from £1000.00

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