



Eastern Cambodia

POP 6.25 MILLION / AREA 68,472 SQ KM

Includes ➔

Kompong Cham	272
Kratie	277
Stung Treng	282
Ban Lung	286
Sen Monorom	295
Seima Protected Forest	301
Koh Nhek	302

Best Wildlife Experiences

- ➔ Gibbons (p286)
- ➔ Doucs (p301)
- ➔ Dolphin-spotting around Kratie (p279)
- ➔ Birdwatching in Seima Protected Forest (p301)
- ➔ Elephant Valley Project (p298)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Tree Top Ec lodge (p289)
- ➔ Terres Rouges Lodge (p289)
- ➔ Koh Trong Community Homestay I (p281)
- ➔ Mayura Hill Hotel & Resort (p299)
- ➔ Nature Lodge (p297)

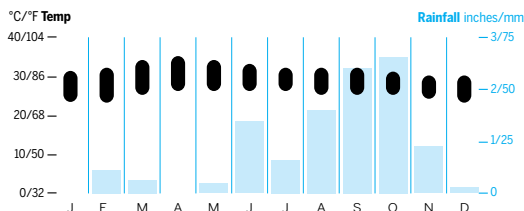
Why Go?

Home to diverse landscapes and peoples, the 'Wild East' shatters the illusion that Cambodia is all paddy fields and sugar palms. There are plenty of those in the lowland provinces, but in the northeast they yield to the mountains of Mondulakiri and Ratanakiri Provinces, where ecotourism is playing a major role in the effort to save dwindling forests from the twin ravages of illegal logging and land concessions.

Rare forest elephants and vocal primates are found in the northeast, and endangered freshwater Irrawaddy dolphins can be seen year-round near Kratie and Stung Treng. Thundering waterfalls, crater lakes and meandering rivers characterise the landscape, and trekking, biking, kayaking, ziplining and elephant experiences are all taking off. The rolling hills and lush forests also provide a home to many ethnic minority groups, known collectively as Khmer Leu (Upper Khmer) or *chunchiet* (ethnic minorities).

When to Go

Kratie



Sep & Oct
Mondulakiri is particularly beautiful as blooming wildflowers colour the landscape.

Mar & Apr Low water levels make for great dolphin-watching and kayaking.

May & Jun The Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri highlands offer escape from the heat of the lowlands.



Eastern Cambodia Highlights

- 1 Kayaking with rare freshwater Mekong Irrawaddy dolphins near **Kratie** (p279) or **Stung Treng** (p284).
- 2 Diving into the crystal-clear waters of the crater lake of **Boeng Yeak Lom** (p286) in Ratanakiri.
- 3 Walking with elephants in their element at the **Elephant Valley Project** (p298).
- 4 Soaking up the charms of relaxing **Kompong Cham** (p272), gateway to historic temples, lush countryside and friendly locals.
- 5 Spotting black-shanked doucs and gibbons in Mondul Kiri's **Seima Protected Forest** (p301).