



South Coast

AREA 27,817 SQ KM / POP 2 MILLION

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Best Nature & Adventure

- ➔ CBET Treks (p182)
- ➔ Climodia (p211)
- ➔ Ream National Park (p200)
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- ➔ SUP Asia (p211)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Rikitikitavi (p213)
- ➔ Rainbow Lodge (p179)
- ➔ Mushroom Point (p192)
- ➔ Green House (p214)
- ➔ Cita Resort (p208)

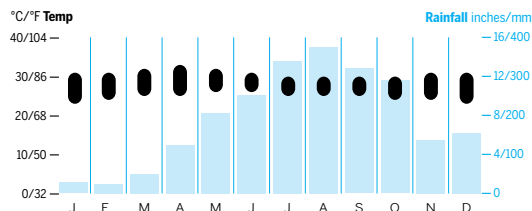
Why Go?

Cambodia's South Coast (ឆ្នេរខាងត្បូង) provides the antidote to temple-hopping tick lists. The beaches draw most folk here, but stick around and you'll see this region is more than its sandy bits.

The Koh Kong Conservation Corridor's emerald-green vistas offer trekking potential that is only now being tapped into, providing both day-hikers and intrepid types with a host of nature-filled adventures. Down south travellers can dig into history, admiring Kampot's preserved architecture, then dig into plates piled with crab in Kep, before exploring the surrounding countryside, patch-worked with rice fields and studded with caves.

Here to answer the call of the beach? The South Coast doesn't disappoint. While brash Sihanoukville isn't everyone's cup of tea, the islands offshore have something for everyone from die-hard partiers to those seeking solitude. Pick your beach, sprawl on the sand, make friends with your hammock. There's a reason many visitors decide to never leave.

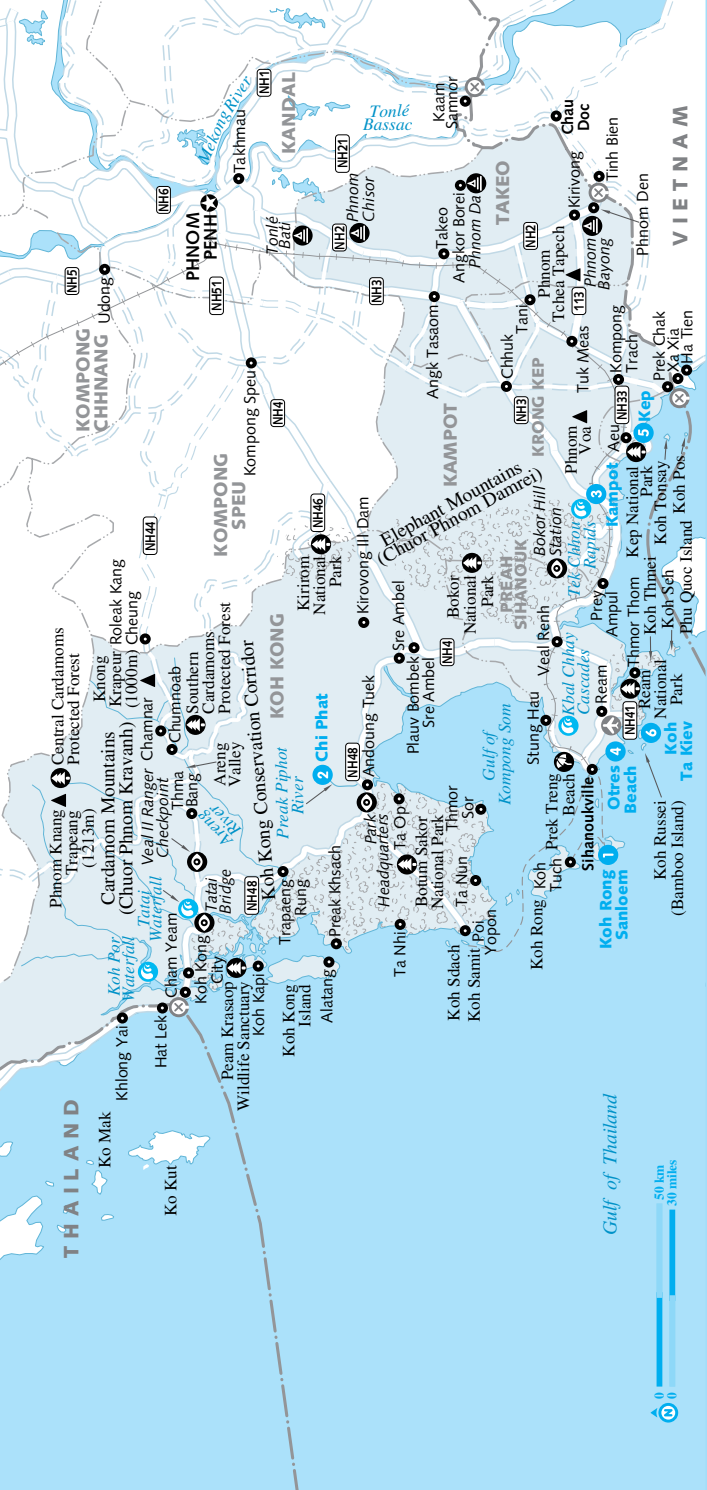
When to Go Sihanoukville



Nov–Jan Prime hiking time. Hit the Cardamoms while comfortable temperatures reign.

Feb Peak season finishes on the islands. The crowds fizzle out but the weather's still glorious.

Jun–Oct Hotel prices nosedive across the coast with bargains a-hoy, but pack an umbrella.



South Coast Highlights

- De-stressing upon the photogenic white sands of Saracen Bay on **Koh Rong Sanloem** (p202).
- Exploring the forest with local guides and bedding down for the night in a friendly homestay at Cambodia's most successful ecotourism project in **Chi Phat** (p181).
- Ambling the alleys of Cambodia's best-preserved old town in **Kampot** (p210), then heading out for river and cave adventures in the surrounding countryside.
- Topping-up your tan by day and downing cocktails by night on the meandering sands of Sihanoukville's mellow **Otres Beach** (p185).
- Feasting on the famous Kampot pepper crab of **Kep** (p223), then working off the calories in Kep National Park.
- Tuning out on **Koh Ta Kiev** (p201) where hammock-time is a way of life.