

Temples of Angkor

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Best Temples for Sunrise or Sunset

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Best Temples for Film Buffs

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Why Go?

Welcome to heaven on earth. Angkor (ប្រាសាទអង្គរ) is the earthly representation of Mt Meru, the Mt Olympus of the Hindu faith and the abode of ancient gods. The temples are the perfect fusion of creative ambition and spiritual devotion. The Cambodian 'god-kings' of old each strove to better their ancestors in size, scale and symmetry, culminating in the world's largest religious building, Angkor Wat.

The temples of Angkor are a source of inspiration and national pride to all Khmers as they struggle to rebuild their lives after the years of terror and trauma. Today, the temples are a point of pilgrimage for all Cambodians, and no traveller to the region will want to miss their extravagant beauty. Angkor is one of the world's foremost ancient sites, with the epic proportions of the Great Wall of China, the detail and intricacy of the Taj Mahal, and the symbolism and symmetry of the pyramids, all rolled into one.

Don't Miss

- ➔ Seeing the sun rise over the holiest of holies, Angkor Wat (p144), the world's largest religious building.
- ➔ Contemplating the serenity and splendour of Bayon (p149), its 216 enigmatic faces staring out into the jungle.
- ➔ Witnessing nature reclaiming the stones at the mysterious ruin of Ta Prohm (p158), the *Tomb Raider* temple.
- ➔ Staring in wonder at the delicate carvings adorning Banteay Srei (p165), the finest seen at Angkor.
- ➔ Trekking deep into the jungle to discover the River of a Thousand Lingas at Kbal Spean (p166).
- ➔ Exploring the tangled vines, crumbling corridors and jumbled sandstone blocks of Beng Mealea (p168).

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