



Cambodia

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Best Temples

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Best Places for Cultural Connections

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Why Go?

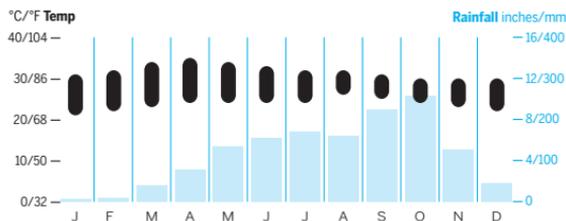
Ascend to the realm of the gods at Angkor Wat, a spectacular fusion of spirituality, symbolism and symmetry. Descend into the darkness of Tuol Sleng to witness the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. This is Cambodia, a country with a history both inspiring and depressing, a captivating destination that casts a spell on all those who visit.

Fringed by beautiful beaches and tropical islands, sustained by the mother waters of the Mekong River and cloaked in some of the region's few remaining emerald wildernesses, Cambodia is an adventure as much as a holiday. This is the warm heart of Southeast Asia, with everything the region has to offer packed into one bite-sized chunk.

Despite the headline attractions, Cambodia's greatest treasure is its people. The Khmers have been to hell and back, but thanks to an unbreakable spirit and infectious optimism they have prevailed with their smiles and spirits largely intact.

When to Go

Phnom Penh



Nov–Feb The so-called windy season is the best all-round time to explore the country.

Apr–May Khmer New Year falls in mid-April and the mercury regularly hits 40°C.

Jul–Sep Green season, when rice paddies shimmer and downpours bring relief from the humidity.

Don't Miss

Cambodia's nightlife is the stuff of legend. While other cities in the region tuck themselves into bed for the night, thanks to curfews and closing times, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap rumble on from dusk till dawn.

Phnom Penh has a vibrant bar and club culture. The riverfront area is a good hunting ground for bars, but as the night wears on it is time to try other haunts such as popular St 278 or buzzin' St 51, home to **Pontoon** and the **Heart of Darkness**.

Up in sublime Siem Reap, one street boasts so many bars that it has earned itself the moniker 'Pub St'. There is no easier place for a crawl in the region and draft beer is almost a giveaway at US\$0.50 a glass. Try alternative backpacker bars **Angkor What?** or the **Warehouse**, or try something a little more refined such as **Miss Wong**.

Oh yes, Cambodia rocks.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Soak up the sights, sounds and smells of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's dynamic and fast-changing capital. Travel by road to Siem Reap, gateway to the majestic temples of Angkor, passing by the pre-Angkorian temples of Sambor Prei Kuk or taking a longer detour via the charming colonial-era city of Battambang. Explore Angkor in depth, as nowhere does temples quite like Cambodia.

Two Weeks

Explore the ancient abode of the god kings, the incredible temples of Angkor, including a side trip to the water world of the Tonlé Sap Lake. Travel down to Phnom Penh to savour the dining and drinking scene. Head south to Cambodia's up-and-coming coastline, including the silvery sands of Sihanoukville. Finish up with the languid charms of Kampot and Kep if heading overland to Vietnam, or with the adrenalin adventures on offer around Krong Koh Kong if continuing to Thailand.

Essential Adventures

- » **Elephant Valley Project** Experience 'walking with the herd' in the remote jungles of Monduliri Province.
- » **Prasat Preah Vihear** Venture overland to the king of the mountain temples, Cambodia's other Unesco World Heritage Site.
- » **Koh Rong** Beachcomb the deserted sands and shores of Koh Rong, a tropical island off the coast of Sihanoukville.
- » **Chi Phat** Experience a local homestay in the jungle community of Chi Phat in the heart of the Cardamom Mountains.
- » **Virachey National Park** Disappear for a week into the remote jungles of Ratanakiri Province.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Riel
- » **Language** Khmer
- » **Money** ATMs common in major cities
- » **Visas** Available on arrival for most nationalities
- » **Mobile Phones** Prepay SIM cards are cheap, but passport needed to register

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 181,035 sq km
- » **Capital** Phnom Penh
- » **Country Code** 855
- » **Emergency** Police 117

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	4195r
Euro zone	€1	5305r
Thailand	1b	130r
UK	£1	6360r
US	US\$1	4005r
Vietnam	1000d	190r

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget guesthouse room** US\$3–15
- » **Local restaurant meal** US\$1.50–3
- » **Beer in backpacker bar** US\$0.50–2
- » **Moto ride** US\$0.50–1

Entering the Country

- » **Phnom Penh Airport** Taxi to centre, US\$9, 30 minutes.
- » **Siem Reap Airport** Taxi to centre, US\$7, 15 minutes.
- » **Land borders** With Laos, Thailand and Vietnam; visa on arrival.