



# Cambodia

## Includes »

Phnom Penh.....	182
Siem Reap .....	198
Temples of Angkor .....	208
Battambang Province.....	220
Kratie Province.....	234
Monduliri Province.....	242
Koh Kong Province.....	244
Sihanoukville.....	249
Kampot Province & Kep .....	256
Understand Cambodia	263
Directory A-Z .....	269
Getting There & Away ..	276
Getting Around.....	276

## Best Places to Eat

- » Friends (p191)
- » Sugar Palm (p203)
- » Blue Pumpkin (p203)
- » Chez Claude (p253)
- » Kimly (p261)

## Best Places to Stay

- » La Résidence d'Angkor (p202)
- » Blue Lime (p185)
- » Mushroom Point (p253)
- » Terres Rouges Lodge (p239)
- » Elephant Valley Project (p244)

## Why Go?

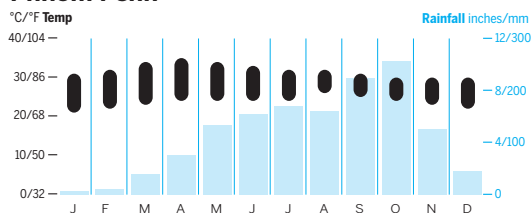
Ascend to the realm of the gods at Angkor Wat, a spectacular fusion of spirituality, symbolism and symmetry. Descend into the darkness of Tuol Sleng to witness the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. This is Cambodia, a country with a history both inspiring and depressing, a captivating destination that casts 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 windy season, with Mediterranean-like temperatures; the best all-round time to explore.

**Apr–May** Khmer New Year is in mid-April, the hottest time of the year, when the mercury hits 40°C.

**Jul–Sep** Green season; rice paddies glisten; thunderous downpours bring relief from the humidity.

## Connections

**Phnom Penh Airport** (p182) Taxi to centre US\$9, around 30 minutes.

**Siem Reap Airport** (p276) Taxi to centre US\$7, 15 minutes.

## 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 a longer detour via the charming colonial-era city of **Battambang**. Explore Angkor in depth, as no one 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 the adrenalin adventures on offer around **Koh Kong** if continuing to Thailand.

## Internet Resources

» **Andy's Cambodia** ([blog.andybrouwer.co.uk](http://blog.andybrouwer.co.uk)) A great gateway to all things Cambodian; includes comprehensive links and daily Cambodia musings.

» **Cambodia Tribunal Monitor** ([www.cambodiatribunal.org](http://www.cambodiatribunal.org)) Detailed coverage of the Khmer Rouge trials, including up-to-date information on the trials of Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan.

» **Heritage Watch** ([www.heritagewatch.org](http://www.heritagewatch.org)) Works to safeguard Cambodia's architectural heritage and promotes 'heritage-friendly' tourism.

» **Phnom Penh Post** ([www.phnompenhpost.com](http://www.phnompenhpost.com)) The online version of Cambodia's newspaper of record.

» **Tales of Asia** ([www.talesofasia.com](http://www.talesofasia.com)) Comprehensive overland travel information.

## NEED TO KNOW

» **Currency** Riel (r)

» **Language** Khmer

» **Money** ATMs are common in major cities

» **Visas** Available on arrival for most countries

» **Mobile phones** Prepay SIM cards are cheap but need passport to register

## Fast Facts

» **Area** 181,035 sq km

» **Capital** Phnom Penh

» **Country Code** 855

» **Population** 15 million

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	4100r
Canada	C\$1	4000r
Europe	€1	5600r
Japan	¥100	5200r
New Zealand	NZ\$1	3200r
UK	£1	6400r
USA	US\$1	4100r

## Set Your Budget

» **Budget hotel room** US\$5–20

» **Decent restaurant meal** US\$5–10

» **Beer in bar** US\$1–3

» **Short moto ride** US\$0.50