

ANGKOR WAT, CAMBODIA

4 Days, 3 Nights

ITINERARY

Angkor is unique, a superb collection of fabulous temples, comprising the sacred skeleton of what was once the most powerful empire in South-east Asia. Between the 9th and 13th centuries the Khmer kings, who ruled from Angkor, used their vast wealth and huge labour force to create impressive temples to glorify both the kings and their capitals – many were built close to Siem Reap. At its peak, around 1200 AD, the population of the city of Angkor Thom reached 1 million, before declining as the vast irrigation network slowly silted up and the invasion of Angkor by the Siamese in 1431 AD.

The "lost city" of Angkor was re-discovered by the West after the 1860s publication of "Le tour du monde" by French naturalist Henry Mouhot. Excavation of the city and temples from the smothering jungle began in 1908 and was interrupted in the 1970's by the war. The towering temples and exquisite bas-reliefs are being gradually restored to something approaching their original grandeur.



DAY 1: ARRIVAL SIEM REAP (D)

Upon arrival at Siem Reap Airport, you will be met by your English speaking tour guide, then transferred to the hotel. Dinner & Overnight at Hotel

Somadevi Angkor Hotel 4 stars (or similar)

Sivatha Road, Mondol 2 Village, Siem Reap town

Ph (855-63) 967 666 www.somadeviangkor.com

Facilities: Café, pub, spa & health club, swimming pool, poolside bar, wireless internet, laundry service

Features: 4 star hotel conveniently located in the heart of town, within walking distance of markets and restaurants

DAY 2: SIEM REAP (B, L, D)

We arise early to view the spectacular sunrise with temples silhouetted, then return to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, visit the South Gate (with its huge statues depicting the churning of the ocean of milk), the ancient capital of Angkor Thom (12th century), Bayon Temple (unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara), the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King & Ta Prohm.

After lunch we will visit one of the great wonders of the world, symbol of the heart and soul of Cambodia, Angkor Wat. Our spectacular day will end with a view of the setting sun from Phnom Bakheng Hill, one of two hills dominating the plain of Angkor; there will be superb views of the Western Baray and Angkor Wat.

Dinner with Khmer Dance Show. O/N at hotel
Somadevi Angkor Hotel

DAY 3: SIEM REAP (B, L, D)

We start the day with a trip to Banteay Srei, a red sandstone temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. On the way back visit the Temple of Banteay Samre. In the afternoon we explore the magnificent temple complex of Angkor Wat, the largest temple complex in the world. Enjoy the sunset from the mountain temple of Phnom Bakhaeng. Lunch & Dinner at local restaurant.

Somadevi Angkor Hotel

DAY 4: SIEM REAP - DEPARTURE (B)

We cycle to Tonle Sap Lake, the "Great Lake" of Cambodia, one of the largest in Asia, 15km south of Siem Reap. Here we take a cruise past floating villages complete with schools, restaurants, and hospitals.

There will be time for shopping prior to transfer to Siem Reap Airport for departure.

We hope you thoroughly enjoyed this brief tour and look forward to seeing you again

Included

- A/C vehicle
- Accommodation, twin share, at 4 star hotel
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Boat trip at Tonle Sap Lake
- Haft day cycling + bike rental
- Meals: Full board (Note: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Cold mineral water (330ml) 2-3 bottles daily

Exclude:

- Visa fee on arrival (US\$20 per person – please bring 2 x passport-sized photos)
- International return air ticket * We can assist with reservations to/from Vietnam
- Drinks or meals not on the above mentioned itinerary
- Personal expenses/ Tips/ Travel insurance

** We recommend that you do not convert your money into the local Cambodian currency (riel) but use US dollars instead, which are very widely accepted.