Ancient Temples, Coastal Retreat & Capital Culture – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Private	USD 715 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore Cambodia's rich history and stunning natural beauty on a 7-day adventure, from the ancient wonders of Angkor Wat to the tranquil beaches of Sihanoukville and the vibrant capital of Phnom Penh.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Siem Reap → Sihanoukville → Phnom Penh

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Cambodian Adventure

Embark on a captivating 7-day journey through Cambodia, where ancient history meets serene coastlines and a vibrant capital. This meticulously crafted tour takes you from the awe-inspiring temples of Siem Reap, including the iconic Angkor Wat, to the pristine beaches of Sihanoukville for relaxation, concluding in the historically rich city of Phnom Penh. Experience the cultural depth, stunning architecture, and poignant history that define this incredible nation.

Key Experiences & Destinations

Your exploration begins in Siem Reap, the gateway to the Angkor Archaeological Park. Spend multiple days discovering the intricate carvings of Banteay Srei, the serene faces of Bayon Temple, and the jungle-embraced Ta Prohm. A highlight includes witnessing the sunrise over Angkor Wat and a traditional Apsara dance performance. From Siem Reap, a domestic flight transports you to Sihanoukville, offering a chance to unwind on its beautiful beaches and explore nearby islands like Koh Russei by boat, perfect for swimming and snorkeling. The final leg of your journey leads to Phnom Penh, where you will delve into Cambodia's royal heritage at the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, alongside poignant visits to historical sites like Tuol Sleng Prison and Choeung Ek.

Who Is This Tour For?

This tour is designed for all travelers seeking a comprehensive Cambodian experience. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a culture seeker, or simply looking for a blend of exploration and relaxation, this itinerary offers a balanced perspective. Families, couples, and solo adventurers will find the pace and activities engaging, with opportunities for both guided discovery and personal leisure.

Practical Travel Information

Throughout your trip, comfortable air-conditioned vehicles will provide transfers between locations. A domestic flight connects Siem Reap to Sihanoukville, minimizing travel time. Local English-speaking guides will accompany you for sightseeing, offering valuable insights into Cambodia’s heritage. Accommodations include a selection of 3, 4, or 5-star hotels, ensuring comfort after each day's adventures. Meals are primarily full board at local restaurants, allowing you to savor authentic Cambodian cuisine.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Witness sunrise over the majestic Angkor Wat complex.
* Explore intricate carvings at Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre temples.
* Cycle through local villages to less-visited Angkor Thom gates.
* Experience an Apsara Dance performance with a traditional Cambodian dinner.

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* Relax on the pristine beaches and islands near Sihanoukville.
* Discover the historical grandeur of Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda.
* Gain insights into Cambodia's past at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Choeung Ek.
* Enjoy a scenic boat trip to Koh Russei (Bamboo Island) for swimming and snorkeling.
* Ascend Bakheng Hill for panoramic sunset views over the Angkor region.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Siem Reap Arrival & Eastern Temples Exploration

Meals: D | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3), The Aviary Hotel (4*), Angkor Village Hotel (5*) (Siem Reap) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle*

Upon your arrival at Siem Reap airport, a warm Cambodian welcome awaits as you meet your local guide. After a brief introduction, your cultural journey begins with a visit to the Eastern Mebon temple. This impressive structure once stood amidst the waters of the vast Oriental Baray, now transformed into rice fields. Next, explore Neak Poan, an island temple believed to symbolize the universe, offering a serene architectural experience. The day continues with a visit to Preah Khan, a grand temple complex built in 1191, commemorating a significant victory against the Cham.
As evening approaches, immerse yourself in Cambodian culture with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. The highlight of the evening is a traditional Apsara Dance show, a captivating performance of classical Khmer dance-drama that tells stories through intricate movements and elaborate costumes. This artistic display provides a perfect introduction to the rich cultural heritage of Cambodia.

Activities: Receive airport welcome and meet local guide.
Explore Eastern Mebon temple.
Visit Neak Poan, the 'symbol of the Universe' temple.
Discover the historical Preah Khan temple.
Enjoy a welcome dinner with an Apsara Dance show.

Day 2 Sunrise at Angkor & Northern Temples Tour

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3), The Aviary Hotel (4*), Angkor Village Hotel (5*) (Siem Reap) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle*

Begin your day before dawn to witness a breathtaking sunrise over the ancient Angkor area, a truly iconic experience. After capturing this magical moment, return to your hotel for a hearty breakfast. The morning continues with an exploration of Banteay Srei, often considered a favorite due to its compact size, remarkable preservation, and exquisitely detailed decorative carvings in rose-colored sandstone. Next, visit Banteay Samre, another temple renowned for its beautiful bas-reliefs, which are among the finest examples of Angkorian artistry.
The afternoon delves into more fascinating sites, starting with the iconic Ta Prohm temple, famously embraced by the massive roots of fig trees and gigantic creepers, creating a mystical atmosphere. Continue to Prasat Kravan, notable for its unique brick

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sculptures, and Srah Srang, known as 'The Royal Baths,' once used for ritual bathing. Your temple circuit also includes Banteay Kdei, surrounded by four concentric walls, and the twin temples of Thommanon and Chaosay Tevorda, showcasing classic Khmer architecture. This day offers a deep dive into the artistic and spiritual heart of the Angkor complex.

Activities: Witness sunrise over the Angkor area.
Visit Banteay Srei temple.
Explore Banteay Samre with its detailed carvings.
Discover Ta Prohm, the 'jungle temple.'
See Prasat Kravan and its brick sculptures.
Visit Srah Srang, the Royal Baths.
Explore Banteay Kdei, Thommanon, and Chaosay Tevorda temples.

Day 3 Cycling Through Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat Grandeur

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3), The Aviary Hotel (4*), Angkor Village Hotel (5*) (Siem Reap) | Transport: Bicycle, air-conditioned vehicle, elephant ride*

Today offers a unique perspective of the Angkor World Heritage areas, starting with a 45-minute bicycle ride along less-traveled roads. Cycle through lush jungle paths, past local villages, and charming shops, providing an authentic glimpse into rural Cambodian life. This active exploration leads you to some of Angkor's most stunning temples, beginning with the West Gate of Angkor Thom, a less-frequented entrance.

Inside the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, founded in the 12th century, you'll visit the iconic South Gate before proceeding to the Bayon Temple. This magnificent structure is famous for its 54 towers, each adorned with over 200 serene, smiling faces of Avolokitesvara. Continue to Baphuon temple, a pyramidal representation of the mythical Mount Meru, and explore the Royal Enclosure, including Phimeanakas. Marvel at the intricate bas-reliefs of the Elephant Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King.

The tour culminates with a visit to the renowned Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its architectural beauty and grandeur. Angkor Wat features the world's longest continuous bas-reliefs, depicting stories from Hindu mythology. As the day draws to a close, experience an elephant ride up Bakheng Hill to visit Bakheng Temple, where you'll enjoy a romantic sunset vista over the vast Angkor complex. In the evening, explore the lively Pub Street for drinks or browse the Angkor Night Market for souvenirs.

Activities: Cycle to Angkor World Heritage areas (45 minutes).
Visit the West Gate of Angkor Thom.
Explore Angkor Thom, including the South Gate.
Discover Bayon Temple with its smiling faces.
Visit Baphuon temple, the Royal Enclosure, and Phimeanakas.
See the Elephant Terrace and Terrace of the Leper King.
Explore the magnificent Angkor Wat temple.
Enjoy an elephant ride up Bakheng Hill and visit Bakheng Temple.
Watch the sunset from Bakheng Hill.
Walk along Pub Street or shop at Angkor Night Market.

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Day 4 Flight to Sihanoukville & Coastal Leisure

Meals: B | Stay: La Reserve Hotel (3), Independence Hotel (4*), Sokha Beach Resort (5*) (Sihanoukville) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle, domestic flight*

This morning, you will be transferred to Siem Reap airport for a domestic flight to Sihanoukville, Cambodia's premier coastal city. Upon arrival at Sihanoukville Airport, a driver will meet you and provide a direct transfer to your hotel. There is no guide for this transfer, allowing for a smooth and independent journey to your accommodation.

After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to unwind and enjoy. Sihanoukville boasts some of Southeast Asia's most beautiful and relatively unspoiled beaches, despite its growing popularity as a tourist destination. With approximately 10 kilometers of coastline stretching along the town and numerous small islands easily accessible by boat, it offers an ideal tropical escape. Spend your free time soaking up the sun, swimming in the clear waters, or simply relaxing on the sandy shores. This day is dedicated to leisure, providing ample opportunities to enjoy the tranquil seaside atmosphere at your own pace.

Activities: Transfer to Siem Reap airport.
Domestic flight to Sihanoukville.
Transfer to Sihanoukville hotel.
Free time for swimming, sunbathing, and beach relaxation.

Day 5 Island Hopping & Snorkeling Adventure

Meals: B,L | Stay: La Reserve Hotel (3), Independence Hotel (4*), Sokha Beach Resort (5*) (Sihanoukville) | Transport: Boat*

Today, embark on an exciting boat trip to explore some of the picturesque islands scattered off the coast of Sihanoukville. Your destination is Koh Russei, also known as Bamboo Island, approximately an hour's transfer by boat. Upon arrival, enjoy a short hike through the island's lush forest before reaching the pristine northern beach. This secluded stretch of sand, lined with Casuarina trees, offers a peaceful escape from crowds.

The day is dedicated to leisure activities on the island. You'll have ample time for sunbathing on the soft sands, swimming in the inviting turquoise waters, or snorkeling to discover the vibrant marine life beneath the surface. With few other visitors, this experience provides a truly tranquil and unspoiled tropical island getaway. Enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of Koh Russei before returning to Sihanoukville in the afternoon.

Activities: Take a morning boat trip to Koh Russei (Bamboo Island).
Hike through the island's forest.
Relax and sunbathe on the pristine beach.
Swim and snorkel in the clear waters.

Day 6 Journey to Phnom Penh & Royal Heritage Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Katari Hotel (3), Baitong Hotel & Resort (4*), Palace Gate Hotel & Resort (5*) (Phnom Penh) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle*

In the morning, depart from Sihanoukville for Phnom Penh. This transfer will be conducted without a guide. Your exploration of

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the capital begins with a visit to the magnificent Royal Palace compound, established in 1866 by King Norodom's predecessors. This complex stands as a prominent example of colorful Khmer-style architecture. Adjacent to the Royal Palace is the revered Silver Pagoda, also known as the Emerald Buddha Temple, housing numerous Buddha statues adorned with diamonds, emeralds, gold, and silver.

Continue your city tour to the Independence Monument, a significant structure built in 1954 to commemorate Cambodia's liberation from French colonial rule. Next, visit the National Museum, a distinctive red building constructed in 1917. This architectural gem houses over 5,000 art objects crafted from sandstone, bronze, silver, copper, wood, and other materials, offering a profound insight into Cambodia's artistic heritage. This day provides a comprehensive overview of Phnom Penh's historical and cultural landmarks.

Activities: Depart Sihanoukville for Phnom Penh.
Visit the Royal Palace compound.
Explore the Silver Pagoda (Emerald Buddha Temple).
See the Independence Monument.
Tour the National Museum.

Day 7 Historical Reflection, Local Markets & Departure

Meals: B,L | Stay: Katari Hotel (3), Baitong Hotel & Resort (4*), Palace Gate Hotel & Resort (5*) (Phnom Penh) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle*

Your final day in Cambodia begins with a poignant visit to Tuol Sleng Prison, now the Genocide Museum. This site, formerly Security Office 21 (S-21), served as a secret interrogation and extermination center during the Khmer Rouge regime, offering a stark reminder of Cambodia's tragic past. Continue to the Choeung Ek museum, one of the infamous 'Killing Fields,' where between 1975 and 1978, approximately 17,000 individuals detained at S-21 were brought for execution. These visits provide crucial historical context and honor the victims of the genocide.

Following these solemn reflections, experience the vibrant daily life of Phnom Penh at Toul Tompong Market, commonly known as the Russian Market. This bustling marketplace, named for the prevalence of Eastern Bloc goods in earlier times, is now a treasure trove for tourists, offering a wide array of local specialties, crafts, and souvenirs. It's an excellent place to observe Cambodian character through its people and products. Finally, you will be transferred to Phnom Penh airport for your onward departure, concluding your memorable Cambodian journey. Bid farewell to your Cambodian guide and driver, taking with you a deeper understanding of this resilient nation.

Activities: Visit Tuol Sleng Prison (Genocide Museum).
Explore Choeung Ek museum (Killing Fields).
Shop at Toul Tompong Market (Russian Market).
Transfer to Phnom Penh airport for departure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED

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- v Six nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
- v Full board meals at local restaurants as per itinerary
- v Airport transfers and transport by air-conditioned vehicles
- v All specified sightseeing and entrance fees
- v Boat trip as mentioned in the program
- v Local English-speaking guide as per program
- v Bike usage for cycling activity
- v One-hour foot massage
- v One-way elephant ride up Bakheng Hill
- v Cold water and towel during tours

- x Cambodia visa fee (approximately $25)
- x International airfare to and from Cambodia
- x International airport tax (approximately $25)
- x Additional meals, drinks, and personal expenses
- x Gratuities for guides and drivers
- x Domestic airfare for Siem Reap to Phnom Penh route (approximately US$92 for economy ticket)

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Six nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
- v Full board meals at local restaurants as per itinerary
- v Airport transfers and transport by air-conditioned vehicles
- v All specified sightseeing and entrance fees
- v Boat trip as mentioned in the program
- v Local English-speaking guide as per program
- v Bike usage for cycling activity
- v One-hour foot massage
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-FDCDF93D497D