Angkor Temples, Kulen Mountain & Koh Rong Beaches – 8 Days

8D / 7N	Easy	Private	USD 976 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

An 8-day Cambodian adventure combining the historical wonders of Siem Reap, including the majestic Angkor Complex and a unique elephant forest experience on Kulen Mountain, with tranquil relaxation on the pristine beaches of Koh Rong Island.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Siem Reap → Sihanoukville

TOUR OVERVIEW

This 8-day Cambodian journey offers a compelling blend of cultural discovery and tropical relaxation. Begin in Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent Angkor archaeological sites, where you will spend four days delving into ancient history and local traditions. Explore elaborate temples, witness rural life on Tonle Sap Lake, and engage with rescued elephants in a natural forest setting.

The second half of your trip transports you to the serene shores of Koh Rong Island. Here, three full days are dedicated to unwinding on white sandy beaches, swimming in clear waters, and soaking up the tranquil island atmosphere, providing a perfect contrast to the historical exploration.

Tour Highlights

Discover the stilt houses and unique ecosystem of Kampong Phluk floating village on Tonle Sap Lake.

Admire the intricate pink sandstone carvings at Banteay Srei, a jewel of Khmer art.

Witness a captivating Apsara dance performance alongside a traditional Cambodian dinner.

Explore the vast city of Angkor Thom, including Bayon Temple's enigmatic smiling faces.

Marvel at the architectural grandeur and spiritual significance of Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Engage with rescued elephants at Kulen Mountain and swim in refreshing waterfalls.

Relax on the pristine white sands and clear waters of Koh Rong Island's beautiful beaches.

Route Overview

Your Cambodian adventure commences with four days in Siem Reap, focusing on the Angkor region's historical and cultural treasures. You'll visit the floating village of Kampong Phluk, explore remote temples like Banteay Srei, and spend significant time at the iconic Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat. A special day is dedicated to Kulen Mountain for an elephant interaction and waterfall visit. Following this, a domestic flight takes you to Sihanoukville, from where an express boat transfers you to the idyllic Koh Rong Island for three days of beachside leisure before your departure.

Who Is This Tour For?

This itinerary is designed for all travelers seeking a balanced experience of Cambodia. It appeals to history enthusiasts eager to explore ancient civilizations, nature lovers interested in unique ecosystems and wildlife encounters, and those looking for a peaceful beach escape in a beautiful tropical setting.

Practical Information

The tour includes comfortable hotel accommodations, most meals as specified, and all necessary ground and boat transfers. An English-speaking guide will accompany you in Siem Reap, enhancing your understanding of the rich history and culture. Entrance fees to all listed sites are covered, ensuring a seamless experience as you journey through Cambodia's highlights.

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* Relax on the pristine white sands and clear waters of Koh Rong Island's beautiful beaches.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Siem Reap Arrival & Kampong Phluk Exploration

Meals: D | Stay: Siem Reap hotel | Transport: Private transfer, Tuk Tuk

Upon your arrival at Siem Reap International Airport, you will complete immigration procedures and collect your luggage. A local representative will be waiting at the exit gate to greet you and facilitate your transfer to the city, a journey of approximately 20 minutes. Hotel check-in is typically available from 2:00 PM, allowing you time to settle in before your afternoon adventure. Later, board a traditional tuk-tuk for a captivating ride to Tonle Sap Lake. Here, you will visit Kampong Phluk, a remarkable floating village situated about 20 kilometers east of Siem Reap. This community is uniquely built on stilts, adapting to the seasonal water levels of the Tonle Sap. During the rainy season (June-October), residents primarily engage in fishing, while the dry season (November-April) sees many supplementing their income through agriculture as the lake waters recede.
Your excursion offers a fascinating glimpse into the daily lives and trading practices of the villagers. You'll observe their unique way of life, navigating the waterways and interacting within their stilted homes. Conclude your visit with dinner served within the village, providing an authentic local experience. Afterwards, you will return to your hotel in Siem Reap for the night.

Activities: Complete airport arrival procedures
Transfer to Siem Reap city and check into hotel
Take a tuk-tuk ride to Tonle Sap Lake
Explore Kampong Phluk floating village
Observe local life and trading activities
Enjoy dinner in the village

Day 2 Banteay Srei & Angkor's Grand Circuit Temples

Meals: B,D | Stay: Siem Reap hotel | Transport: Private car

Today's journey takes you beyond the city, venturing through picturesque rural landscapes to the exquisite Banteay Srei temple. This smaller, yet exceptionally beautiful, temple is renowned for its construction primarily from pink sandstone. This

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harder rock allowed for more intricate and detailed carvings, which have remarkably withstood the test of time, offering superb photographic opportunities of its clear and elaborate artwork.
Continuing your exploration, you will visit Banteay Samre. Its rose-colored sandstone walls are adorned with carvings and bas-reliefs that rank among the most accomplished examples of Angkorian artistry. Next, discover Eastern Mebon, a temple that once stood amidst the expansive waters of the Oriental Baray, now transformed into verdant rice fields. You will also see Neak Poan, believed to be a symbolic representation of the Universe, and Preah Khan, a temple built in 1191 on the site where King Jayavarman VII reportedly fought a pivotal battle against the Cham invaders.
As evening approaches, prepare for a cultural highlight of Cambodia: a traditional Khmer dance performance, commonly known as 'Apsara Dance.' This captivating 'dance-drama' conveys stories and messages through elegant movements and elaborate costumes. You will enjoy this mesmerizing show alongside a delicious dinner at a local restaurant, providing a perfect end to a day of historical and artistic discovery.

Activities: Drive to Banteay Srei temple and admire its carvings
Visit Banteay Samre and its detailed bas-reliefs
Explore Eastern Mebon and learn about its history
See Neak Poan, the symbol of the Universe
Discover Preah Khan temple
Enjoy dinner with a traditional Apsara Dance show

Day 3 Angkor Thom, Bayon & Angkor Wat Wonders

Meals: B,L | Stay: Siem Reap hotel | Transport: Private car, walking

After meeting your tour guide, you will drive to Angkor Thom, a colossal fortified city that represents the architectural pinnacle of King Jayavarman VII. Following the Cham occupation of Angkor between 1177 and 1181, the new king embarked on building this impregnable fortress as the heart of his empire. Your first stop within Angkor Thom is Bayon Temple, situated at its exact center. This temple is an eccentric yet brilliant expression of the king's creative genius, famous for its numerous serene, smiling faces carved into its towers.
From Bayon, a walk leads you to Baphuon, an 11th-century temple from the reign of Uditayavarman I, often considered one of Angkor's most beautiful structures. Continue your exploration to the Terrace of the Leper King, an intricately carved platform that served as the royal crematorium. The statue originally believed to be the leper king is now thought to represent Yama, the god of death. Adjacent to this, you will stroll along the Terrace of Elephants, which was historically used as a viewing gallery for the king to observe parades, performances, and traditional sports.
The highlight of the day is a journey to Angkor Wat, often referred to as the 'Mother of all temples.' Widely considered the world's largest religious building, Angkor Wat is a perfect blend of profound symbolism and architectural symmetry, standing as a powerful symbol of pride and strength for all Khmers. In the evening, you have the opportunity to explore the lively Pub Street, known for its array of bars and cool drinks, or browse for souvenirs at the bustling Angkor Night Market.

Activities: Explore Angkor Thom, the ancient fortified city
Visit Bayon Temple and its famous smiling faces
Walk to Baphuon temple
Discover the Terrace of the Leper King

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Stroll along the Terrace of Elephants
Marvel at the architectural masterpiece of Angkor Wat
Enjoy free time at Pub Street or Angkor Night Market

Day 4 Kulen Mountain Elephant Forest & Waterfall

Meals: B,L | Stay: Siem Reap hotel | Transport: Private car

Today begins with a meaningful morning dedicated to ethical elephant encounters. You will take a scenic one-hour drive from downtown Siem Reap to reach the tranquil Kulen Elephant Forest. Upon arrival, an introductory briefing will provide insights into the sanctuary's mission and the elephants you are about to meet.
Following the briefing, you'll have the opportunity to meet and greet the rescued elephants, learning about their individual stories. This is followed by an engaging observation trek, approximately 2 kilometers in length, allowing you to witness these magnificent creatures in their naturalized habitat. You'll gain a deeper understanding of their behavior and the conservation efforts in place.
A special part of the experience involves participating in making enrichment items for the elephants, contributing directly to their well-being. Afterwards, watch the elephants joyfully play by the pond, a truly heartwarming sight. The experience culminates with a delicious Khmer-style lunch, accompanied by refreshing cocktails. After a fulfilling day, you will return to Siem Reap, with the remainder of the afternoon and evening at your leisure.

Activities: Drive to Kulen Elephant Forest
Attend an introductory briefing
Meet and greet rescued elephants
Participate in an observation trek (2km)
Make enrichment items for elephants
Watch elephants play by the pond
Enjoy a Khmer-style lunch with cocktails

Day 5 Siem Reap to Koh Rong Island Transfer

Meals: B | Stay: Koh Rong Island resort | Transport: Private transfer, flight, express boat

Enjoy your morning at leisure in Siem Reap, perhaps revisiting a favorite spot or simply relaxing at your hotel. At the appropriate time, you will be transferred to Siem Reap International Airport to catch your domestic flight to Sihanoukville. This flight connects you from the historical heartland to Cambodia's southern coast, setting the stage for your island escape.
Upon landing at Sihanoukville airport, a private car will be waiting to transfer you directly to the boat dock. From there, you will board an express boat, embarking on a scenic journey across the Gulf of Thailand to the stunning Koh Rong Island. The boat ride offers picturesque views of the coastline and open waters, building anticipation for your tropical destination.
Once you arrive on Koh Rong Island, you will be transferred to your chosen hotel. After checking in, the rest of your day is completely free. You can choose to relax on the beach, take a refreshing swim in the clear waters, or simply unwind and soak in the serene island atmosphere, preparing for the days of relaxation ahead.

Activities: Enjoy free time in Siem Reap

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Transfer to Siem Reap airport
Take a domestic flight to Sihanoukville
Transfer from Sihanoukville airport to the boat dock
Board an express boat to Koh Rong Island
Check into your Koh Rong hotel
Enjoy leisure time on the island

Day 6 Koh Rong Island Leisure

Meals: B | Stay: Koh Rong Island resort

Today is dedicated entirely to relaxation and enjoyment on Koh Rong Island, celebrated as one of the world's most beautiful beach destinations. The island offers a tranquil escape with its pristine white sands and crystal-clear turquoise waters, inviting you to unwind in paradise.

You have the freedom to spend the day as you wish. Lounge on the soft sands, bask in the warm tropical sun, or take refreshing dips in the inviting ocean. The calm waters are perfect for swimming, and the serene environment provides an ideal setting for simply unwinding and enjoying the natural beauty around you.

Whether you choose to read a book under the shade of a palm tree, stroll along the shoreline, or simply enjoy the peace and quiet, this day is designed for pure relaxation. Indulge in the idyllic charm of Koh Rong and let the gentle island breeze rejuvenate your senses.

Activities: Relax on the beautiful beaches of Koh Rong Island
Swim in the clear turquoise waters
Sunbathe and enjoy the tropical climate
Stroll along the pristine shoreline
Enjoy leisure time at your own pace

Day 7 Koh Rong Island Relaxation

Meals: B | Stay: Koh Rong Island resort

Another full day is yours to savor the breathtaking beauty and laid-back ambiance of Koh Rong Island. With its reputation as one of Asia's most stunning islands, you'll find ample opportunities to enjoy its natural splendor and peaceful atmosphere. Continue to explore the various pristine beaches, each offering its unique charm and a perfect spot for sunbathing or swimming. You might consider trying some optional water activities available on the island, such as snorkeling, kayaking, or paddleboarding, to experience the vibrant marine life and coastal scenery from a different perspective.

Alternatively, simply embrace the tranquility of your surroundings. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, find a secluded spot to relax, or take a gentle walk to discover more of the island's hidden gems. This day provides another chance to fully immerse yourself in the tropical paradise before your departure.

Activities: Continue relaxing on Koh Rong Island's beaches
Explore different parts of the island
Partake in optional water activities (e.g., snorkeling, kayaking)
Enjoy the tranquil tropical atmosphere

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Leisure time for personal enjoyment

Day 8 Koh Rong Island Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Speed boat, optional flight/bus/car

Your island retreat concludes this morning. At 9:00 AM, you will board a speed boat for your transfer back to the boat dock in Sihanoukville. Enjoy the final views of Koh Rong Island as you cruise across the water, reflecting on your memorable beach escape.

Upon arrival at the Sihanoukville boat dock, your tour officially comes to an end. From here, you have several options for your onward journey. You can proceed directly to Sihanoukville airport for your departure flights, connecting to your next destination. Alternatively, for those planning to continue their Cambodian exploration, transfers by bus or private car to Phnom Penh are available. The journey to the capital typically takes approximately three hours, offering a convenient connection for further travel within the country.

Activities: Take a morning speed boat transfer to Sihanoukville boat dock
Depart from Sihanoukville
Optional transfer to Sihanoukville airport for onward flights
Optional bus/car transfer to Phnom Penh

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Hotels as mentioned (Double/Twin Sharing)
- v Meals as mentioned in the program (B; breakfast, L; Lunch, D; Dinner)
- v English speaking tour guide in Siem Reap
- v Private car transfer
- v Entrance fee
- v Speed boat tickets Sihanouk Ville - Koh Rong 2 ways
- v Boat trip in Tonle Sap Lake
- v Apsara Show

NOT INCLUDED

- x Flight tickets Siem Reap - Sihanouk Ville (on request)
- x Personal expenses
- x Drinks
- x Tips and gratuities
- x Transfer from Sihanouk Ville to Phnom Penh
- x Others not mentioned

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Hotels as mentioned (Double/Twin Sharing)
- v Meals as mentioned in the program (B; breakfast, L; Lunch, D; Dinner)
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- v Private car transfer
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-3DE26C32D87A