# Cambodia's Cultural Heartbeat: Phnom Penh, Angkor, & Battambang – 8 Days

| 8D / 7N | Easy | Private | USD 768 / pax |
|---|---|---|---|
| Duration | Difficulty | Tour Type | Starting From |

*Explore Cambodia's rich heritage on an 8-day journey through its key cities. Witness the historical depth of Phnom Penh, marvel at the ancient wonders of Angkor in Siem Reap, and experience the colonial allure of Battambang, connecting with local traditions and vibrant culture.*

## DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

**Phnom Penh → Siem Reap → Battambang**

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

This 8-day Cambodian adventure provides a comprehensive exploration of the nation’s most significant cultural and historical sites. Beginning in the capital city of Phnom Penh, travelers will uncover royal legacies and poignant history before flying north to Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent Angkor temple complex. The journey continues to Battambang, a city renowned for its French colonial architecture and unique rural experiences, including the famous Bamboo Train. The tour culminates with a return to Phnom Penh, offering a deeper understanding of Cambodia's diverse landscapes and enduring traditions.

Tour Highlights

Explore the grandeur of Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda.
Wander through the historic National Museum and bustling Central Market.
Witness the sunset over the Mekong River on a relaxing boat cruise.
Discover the ancient city of Angkor Thom and its iconic Bayon Temple.
Marvel at the intricate carvings and scale of Angkor Wat, a Khmer masterpiece.
Experience the unique floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake by boat.
Ride the traditional Bamboo Train through Battambang's scenic countryside.
Observe thousands of bats emerging from Phnom Sampeu caves at dusk.
Participate in a traditional water blessing ceremony in Siem Reap.
Enjoy a quad bike adventure through rural landscapes at sunset.

Route Summary

The tour commences in Phnom Penh, where guests will spend two days immersing themselves in the capital's history and modern life. On day three, a domestic flight transports you to Siem Reap, providing three full days to discover the legendary Angkor Archaeological Park, the vast Tonle Sap Lake, and engage in adventurous activities. Day six involves a scenic overland transfer to Battambang for a taste of its distinctive charm and rural attractions. The journey concludes with a return overland transfer to Phnom Penh on day seven, allowing for a final night in the capital before departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This itinerary is ideal for all travelers interested in a balanced blend of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and soft adventure. It appeals to those eager to learn about Cambodia's ancient civilizations, witness its vibrant contemporary culture, and appreciate its natural beauty. The pace allows for in-depth visits to major sites while also providing opportunities for unique local experiences.

Practical Information

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This 8-day, 7-night tour combines various modes of transport, including private air-conditioned vehicles, a domestic flight, and local boat trips. The activity level is generally moderate, involving walking at historical sites and optional adventurous excursions. Accommodations range from 3-star to 5-star hotels, depending on your selected package.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Experience the unique floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake by boat.
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## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1 — Phnom Penh Arrival and Leisure

*Transport: Private transfer*

Upon landing at Phnom Penh International Airport, travelers will proceed through immigration procedures. Visa on arrival is available, or can be obtained in advance online. After collecting luggage, a local guide will be waiting at the exit gate to provide a warm welcome. You will then be transferred directly to your centrally located hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day is free for personal leisure, allowing time to relax and settle in after your journey.
This initial period offers an opportunity to acclimate to the local environment, perhaps taking a gentle stroll around the immediate vicinity of your accommodation or simply unwinding before the exploration begins. Your guide will ensure a smooth transition from the airport to the comfort of your hotel, setting a relaxed tone for the start of your Cambodian adventure.

**Activities:** Airport reception
Hotel check-in
Free time at leisure

### Day 2 — Phnom Penh's Royal Heritage and Urban Life

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Transport: Private vehicle, boat*

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After breakfast at your hotel, begin a comprehensive exploration of Phnom Penh's historical and cultural landmarks. The first stop is the Royal Palace compound, a magnificent complex established in 1866 by King Norodom's predecessors. Adjacent to the palace, visit the Silver Pagoda, also known as the Emerald Buddha Temple, which houses numerous Buddha statues adorned with precious materials like diamonds, emeralds, gold, and silver.
Continue to the National Museum, a striking red building dating back to 1917, showcasing traditional Khmer architecture. Inside, discover a vast collection of over 5,000 art objects crafted from sandstone, bronze, silver, copper, and wood. Next, pay respects at the Independence Monument, erected in 1954 to commemorate Cambodia's liberation from French colonial rule.
Around noon, experience the vibrant atmosphere of Phsar Thmey, the Central Market. This iconic domed structure, built in 1937, features four wings bustling with countless stalls selling everything from jewelry and antiques to fresh produce, textiles, and souvenirs.
In the afternoon, ascend to Wat Phnom, the

**Activities:** Visit Royal Palace
Explore Silver Pagoda
Discover National Museum
See Independence Monument
Browse Phsar Thmey (Central Market)
Visit Wat Phnom
Enjoy a Mekong River sunset cruise

## Day 3 Flight to Siem Reap and City Exploration

*Meals: Breakfast | Transport: Private transfer, domestic flight*

Enjoy a relaxed morning at your Phnom Penh hotel. You will have free time to enjoy breakfast at your leisure or perhaps do some last-minute souvenir shopping. In the afternoon, a private transfer will take you to Phnom Penh International Airport for your domestic flight to Siem Reap.
Upon arrival at Siem Reap Airport, a local tour guide will greet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel. After checking in, the rest of the afternoon is yours to explore Siem Reap at your own pace. You might choose to wander through the town, visit local markets, or simply relax by the hotel pool, preparing for the extensive temple explorations scheduled for the following days.

**Activities:** Free time in Phnom Penh
Transfer to airport
Domestic flight to Siem Reap
Airport reception in Siem Reap
Hotel check-in
Free afternoon in Siem Reap

## Day 4 Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat Exploration

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Transport: Private vehicle*

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Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a journey to the ancient city of Angkor Thom, a monumental masterpiece commissioned by King Jayavarman VII. This fortified city was constructed after the Cham occupation (1177-1181) to serve as an impregnable heart of the Khmer empire. Your exploration starts at the Bayon Temple, situated at the exact center of Angkor Thom, renowned for its enigmatic smiling faces carved into its towers, reflecting the king's creative genius. Continue with a photo stop at the Terrace of the Leper King, followed by a walk along the Terrace of Elephants, which historically served as a royal viewing gallery for parades and performances. At the southern end, admire the Baphuon, an 11th-century temple that was once among Angkor's most beautiful structures. The journey then leads to the picturesque Ta Prohm temple, famously left in its overgrown state, with colossal tree roots intertwining with the stone blocks, creating an oddly haunting and exotic atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression.

The highlight of the day is a visit to Angkor Wat, considered the world's largest religious edifice and a symbol of Khmer pride and strength. This temple represents a perfect blend of symbolism and symmetrical design. After a day of extensive exploration, you will return to Siem Reap for dinner, followed by an enchanting Apsara Show, showcasing traditional Khmer dance and culture.

**Activities:** Explore Angkor Thom
Visit Bayon Temple
Photo stop at Terrace of the Leper King
Walk along Terrace of Elephants
See Baphuon Temple
Visit Ta Prohm
Explore Angkor Wat
Dinner in Siem Reap
Attend Apsara Show

## Day 5 Tonle Sap Floating Villages and Countryside Quad Biking

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Transport: Boat, private transfer, quad bike*

Following breakfast, embark on a captivating boat ride across Tonle Sap Lake, the largest permanent freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. This expansive lake flows into the Tonle Sap River, eventually joining the Mekong in Phnom Penh. During your boat trip, you will observe a unique fishermen's "floating village," a community where homes, schools, and even police stations are built on pontoons, shifting location with the changing water levels and currents.

Next, visit a local pagoda where you will have the opportunity to participate in a traditional "Srouch Teok" or "Water Blessing" ceremony. During this spiritual experience, a monk will chant in ancient Pali while splashing water over you, a ritual believed to cleanse sins, ward off bad luck, and invite good fortune for a fresh start. Remember to wear clothes that can get wet for this ceremony.

In the afternoon, transfer to a quad bike office for an exciting adventure. After receiving safety instructions and a brief training session for beginners, you will depart on a quad bike tour. Ride through stunning rice fields and local villages, witnessing the countryside transform with the golden hues of the setting sun. The experience offers an unparalleled view of the rural landscape as dusk settles, providing a memorable conclusion to your day.

**Activities:** Boat ride on Tonle Sap Lake

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Visit a floating village
Experience a water blessing ceremony
Quad bike safety briefing and training
Sunset quad bike tour through rice fields and villages

## Day 6 Journey to Battambang and Bamboo Train Ride

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Transport: Private vehicle, Bamboo Train*

After a leisurely breakfast, begin a scenic overland journey through the Cambodian countryside to Battambang, the nation's second-largest city. Despite its complex history, including its past as a Khmer Rouge stronghold, Battambang retains much of its beautiful rural landscape and showcases striking French colonial architecture. Historically known as Cambodia's rice bowl, the region continues to thrive with agriculture, featuring extensive orange and jute plantations.

Upon arrival, head to the unique Bamboo Railway Station. Here, you will experience the famous Bamboo Train, a rudimentary yet ingenious local transportation system consisting of a single platform on four wheels powered by a small motor. Board this distinctive train for an 8-kilometer ride through picturesque landscapes and verdant rice paddies to the next station, offering an authentic glimpse into rural Cambodian life.

As evening approaches, travel to Phnom Sampeu Mountain. This location is renowned for a spectacular natural phenomenon: the mass exodus of thousands of nocturnal bats from surrounding caves. Witnessing these creatures take flight in a massive formation against the darkening sky is a truly awe-inspiring sight and an excellent opportunity for photography.

**Activities:** Scenic drive to Battambang
Experience the Bamboo Train ride
Visit Phnom Sampeu Mountain
Observe the bat exodus at dusk

## Day 7 Battambang to Phnom Penh via Cultural Stops

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Transport: Private vehicle*

Depart early from Battambang for an overland transfer back to Phnom Penh, a journey estimated to take approximately five hours, excluding stops. Your first cultural stop is Kampong Chhnang, a province celebrated for its traditional pottery. Visit a local village to observe the various stages of pottery making and gain insight into the production of traditional rice wine, engaging with local artisans.

Continue to Oudong, which once served as the royal capital of Cambodia. The drive to Oudong offers views of numerous rural villages and pagodas, with the distinctive temple mountain and its many stupas visible from a distance. Upon arrival at Oudong, enjoy a traditional Khmer lunch served in a picnic hut at the base of the hill, savoring local flavors in a serene setting.

Before reaching Phnom Penh, make a final stop at the impressive Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Meditation Centre. Your guide will explain the principles of Vipassana (Insight Meditation) as you tour the facility, providing a chance to participate in a meditation class led by one of the resident teachers. You will arrive in Phnom Penh in the late afternoon. Despite its turbulent past and recent development, Cambodia's capital, strategically located at the confluence of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap rivers, still retains a colonial charm and a bustling urban energy. Check into your hotel for the night.

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**Activities:** Visit Kampong Chhnang pottery village
Observe traditional rice wine production
Explore Oudong, the former royal capital
Enjoy a traditional Khmer lunch
Visit Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Meditation Centre
Participate in a meditation class

## Day 8 Phnom Penh Departure

*Meals: Breakfast | Transport: Private transfer*

After enjoying your final breakfast in Phnom Penh, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to Phnom Penh International Airport. This concludes your Cambodian journey, and you will be assisted with your departure arrangements for your onward flight.

Reflect on the rich history, vibrant culture, and memorable experiences encountered throughout your 8-day exploration of Cambodia's capital, ancient temples, and charming countryside. We hope you carry cherished memories of your time with us.

**Activities:** Breakfast at hotel
Transfer to Phnom Penh International Airport
Departure

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### INCLUDED

- v Accommodation with daily breakfast(Double/Twin Share)
- v Meal as mentioned in program (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner)
- v Private transfers & Tours by air con. vehicles as per program
- v Local English-speaking guide as per program
- v All boat trip as mentioned in program
- v 24hours supporting hotline
- v Flight tickets Phnom Penh - Siem Reap
- v 2 bottles of cold water and 2 towel per day
- v Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified

### NOT INCLUDED

- x Cambodia Visa stamp fee: 30$ (Passport valid more than 6 months, enough space for visa stamp (2 free spaces), 1 passport photo (4X6), cash 30$)
- x All International air tickets
- x Other meal, drink, personal expenses, tip
- x Travel insurance

## PRICE INCLUDES

- v Accommodation with daily breakfast(Double/Twin Share)

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## CANCELLATION POLICY

*Tour Code: IMP-9962432A6B80*