Cambodia's Royal Capital & Angkor Temples – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 412 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore Cambodia's rich heritage over five days, from the historical landmarks of Phnom Penh to the ancient wonders of the Angkor Complex in Siem Reap, including a serene cruise on Tonle Sap Lake.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Phnom Penh → Siem Reap

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Cambodian Adventure

This five-day itinerary offers a focused exploration of Cambodia's most significant cultural and historical sites. Beginning in the vibrant capital city of Phnom Penh, you will delve into its royal past and confront its more recent, somber history. The journey then transitions to Siem Reap, gateway to the breathtaking Angkor Archaeological Park, where ancient temples stand as testaments to Khmer ingenuity. This tour is designed to provide a comprehensive yet concise experience of Cambodia's principal attractions.

Journey Highlights

Discover the grandeur of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda in Phnom Penh.

Gain insight into Cambodia's tragic past at the S-21 Prison and Choeung Ek Killing Fields.

Experience a tranquil sunset cruise on the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers.

Explore the intricately carved temples of Angkor, including Ta Prohm and Banteay Srei.

Cycle through the lesser-known paths of Angkor Thom, revealing hidden temple views.

Witness the magnificent scale and detail of Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Enjoy a traditional Apsara dance performance accompanied by a welcome dinner.

Observe local life during a boat trip on the expansive Tonle Sap Lake.

Route Overview

The tour begins in Phnom Penh, where two full days are dedicated to exploring the city's key historical and cultural landmarks. Following this, a morning flight transports you to Siem Reap. The remaining days are spent uncovering the architectural marvels of the Angkor complex and experiencing the unique floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake, concluding with your departure from Siem Reap airport.

Who This Tour Suits

This journey is ideal for all travelers interested in history, culture, and ancient civilizations. It offers a balanced mix of guided historical tours, cultural performances, and opportunities for gentle physical activity like cycling. The pace allows for in-depth discovery without being overly strenuous, making it suitable for a wide range of ages and fitness levels.

Practical Information

Accommodation is provided for four nights with daily breakfast included. All airport transfers and inter-city transport are handled by air-conditioned vehicles. The tour includes specified sightseeing and entrance fees, a boat trip, and the services of a local English-speaking guide. Cold water and towels are provided during tours, along with a bike excursion and a one-hour foot massage in Siem Reap.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore the opulent Royal Palace and the shimmering Silver Pagoda in Phnom Penh.
* Reflect on history at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Choeung Ek Killing Fields.
* Enjoy a scenic sunset cruise where the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers converge.
* Discover the jungle-entwined Ta Prohm temple and the exquisite Banteay Srei.
* Cycle through the ancient city of Angkor Thom, visiting Bayon Temple's smiling faces.
* Witness the architectural grandeur and intricate bas-reliefs of Angkor Wat.
* Savor a traditional Khmer dinner while watching an elegant Apsara dance performance.
* Experience local life on a boat trip across the vast Tonle Sap Lake.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Phnom Penh Arrival & Royal Heritage Exploration

Meals: L | Stay: Katari Hotel (3-star) / Baitong Hotel & Resort (4-star) / Palace Gate Hotel & Resort (5-star) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

Upon your morning arrival in Phnom Penh by flight, you will be transferred to your accommodation. The city, a blend of traditional Khmer and colonial influences, presents a charming atmosphere with its tree-lined boulevards and historic French villas. After settling in, your exploration of the capital begins.

The afternoon is dedicated to visiting the magnificent Royal Palace, constructed in 1866, a prominent example of Khmer architectural style. Adjacent to the palace, you will discover the Silver Pagoda, also known as the Emerald Buddha Temple, which houses numerous Buddha statues adorned with precious gems, gold, and silver. A visit to the Independence Monument, erected in 1954 to commemorate Cambodia's liberation from French colonial rule, offers insight into the nation's modern history. Continue to the National Museum, a distinctive red building dating from 1917, which exhibits over 5,000 artifacts in sandstone, bronze, and other materials.

Later, you will pass by the picturesque Riverfront Park before ascending Wat Phnom Daun Penh, the city's only hill. This sacred site, featuring a pagoda built in 1372 by Lady Daun Penh, is steeped in local legend. The day concludes with a leisurely walk along the Mekong River bank, offering captivating views of Phnom Penh illuminated at night.

Activities:
Arrive in Phnom Penh via morning flight
Transfer to hotel and check-in
Visit the Royal Palace complex
Explore the Silver Pagoda (Emerald Buddha Temple)
See the Independence Monument
Tour the National Museum
Pass by River Front park
Ascend Wat Phnom Daun Penh
Walk along the Mekong River bank in the evening

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Day 2 Phnom Penh's Past & Mekong Sunset Cruise

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

Your second day in Phnom Penh delves into Cambodia's poignant recent history. The morning begins with a visit to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, formerly the S-21 prison, a secret facility operated by the Khmer Rouge regime for interrogation and extermination. This site offers a stark reminder of the atrocities committed during that period. Following this, you will continue to the Choeung Ek museum, one of the infamous Killing Fields, where an estimated 17,000 individuals from S-21 were executed between 1975 and 1978.

After these somber but important visits, the atmosphere shifts with a trip to Toul Tompong Market, commonly known as the Russian Market. This bustling marketplace, once known for its Eastern Bloc goods, is now a vibrant hub for tourists and locals alike. Here, you can observe the daily life of Cambodians, explore local specialties, and find unique souvenirs, experiencing the city's energetic character.

The day concludes with a relaxing one-hour sunset cruise on the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers. From the vantage point of a beautifully restored wooden boat, you will glide along the "Four Arms" where these mighty rivers meet, enjoying unspoiled landscapes and glimpses of traditional villages and ancient pagodas situated on the islands. This cruise provides a serene end to a day of profound historical reflection and cultural immersion.

Activities: Visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (S-21 Prison)
Explore Choeung Ek museum (Killing Fields)
Shop at Toul Tompong Market (Russian Market)
Enjoy a 1-hour sunset cruise on the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers

Day 3 Flight to Siem Reap & Angkor Temple Discoveries

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3-star) / The Aviary Hotel (4-star) / Borei Angkor Resort & Spa (5-star) | Transport: Domestic flight, air-conditioned vehicle

Today, you will depart Phnom Penh with a morning flight to Siem Reap, the gateway to the ancient Angkor complex. Upon arrival at Siem Reap airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel to check in, subject to room availability. The afternoon is dedicated to beginning your exploration of the magnificent Angkor temples.

Your temple journey starts with Ta Prohm, famously embraced by the roots of enormous fig trees and massive creepers, creating a mystical atmosphere. Next, you will visit Prasat Kravan, notable for its distinctive brick sculptures, and Srah Srang, the royal baths once used for ritual cleansing. The exploration continues to Banteay Kdei, surrounded by its four concentric walls, and the twin temples of Thommanon and Chaosay Tevorda.

A highlight of the day is Banteay Srei, a favorite among many visitors due to its compact size, exceptional preservation, and the exquisite detail of its decorative carvings. You will also visit Banteay Samre, recognized for its rose-colored sandstone walls adorned with some of Angkor's most impressive bas-reliefs. The evening culminates with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, accompanied by a captivating Apsara Dance show, offering a cultural immersion into traditional Khmer dance-drama.

Activities: Take a morning flight from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap

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Transfer to hotel and check-in
Visit Ta Prohm temple
Explore Prasat Kravan
See Srah Srang (The Royal Baths)
Tour Banteay Kdei
Discover Thommanon and Chaosay Tevorda temples
Visit Banteay Srei
Explore Banteay Samre
Enjoy a welcome dinner with an Apsara Dance show

Day 4 Angkor Thom Cycling & Angkor Wat Sunset

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3-star) / The Aviary Hotel (4-star) / Borei Angkor Resort & Spa (5-star) | Transport: Bicycle, air-conditioned vehicle

Begin your day with an active exploration of the Angkor World Heritage sites. You will embark on a 45-minute bicycle ride along less-traveled roads, cycling through the jungle and past local villages and shops. This unique perspective allows you to discover some of Angkor's most stunning temples away from the main tourist routes.

Your cycling adventure leads you to the West Gate of Angkor Thom, an ancient 12th-century capital often overlooked by larger tour groups. Within Angkor Thom, you will visit the iconic South Gate, the Bayon Temple with its 54 towers adorned by over 200 enigmatic smiling faces of Avolokitesvara, and the Baphuon temple, a pyramidal representation of the mythical Mount Meru. Further exploration includes the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace, and the Terrace of the Leper King.

The afternoon is dedicated to the world-renowned Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992, celebrated for its beauty and grandeur. Marvel at the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, depicting stories from Hindu mythology along its outer gallery walls. Conclude your temple visits at Bakheng Temple, where you can enjoy a romantic sunset view from Bakheng hill. The evening offers a relaxing one-hour foot massage, followed by a stroll through the lively Pub Street for drinks or souvenir shopping at the Angkor Night Market.

Activities:
Cycle to Angkor World Heritage areas (45 minutes)
Visit the West Gate of Angkor Thom
Explore the South Gate of Angkor Thom
Discover Bayon Temple
See Baphuon temple
Visit the Royal Enclosure and Phimeanakas
Walk along the Elephant Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King
Tour the famous Angkor Wat temple
Enjoy sunset view from Bakheng Temple hill
Receive a 1-hour foot massage
Walk and shop at Pub Street and Angkor Night Market

Day 5 Tonle Sap Lake & Siem Reap Departure

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ladear Angkor Hotel (3-star) / The Aviary Hotel (4-star) / Borei Angkor Resort & Spa (5-star) | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle, boat

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Your final day in Siem Reap begins early with an opportunity to witness the magical sunrise over the ancient Angkor area. After this memorable experience, you will return to your hotel for breakfast before embarking on a different kind of exploration.
The morning features a boat trip on the vast Tonle Sap Lake, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake. Here, you will enjoy a cruise past unique floating villages, complete with their own schools, restaurants, and even hospitals, offering a fascinating glimpse into a unique way of life adapted to the lake's changing water levels. This experience highlights the symbiotic relationship between the local communities and their aquatic environment.
Following the lake excursion, you will visit Puok, home to the Artisans d'Angkor Silk Farm. This stop provides insight into the traditional Cambodian silk production process, from silkworm cultivation to weaving intricate patterns. After these final cultural experiences, you will be transferred to Siem Reap airport for your departure to your next destination, bidding farewell to your Cambodian guide and driver.

Activities: Witness sunrise over the Angkor area
Return to hotel for breakfast
Board a boat for a cruise on Tonle Sap Lake
Visit floating villages
Tour the Artisans d'Angkor Silk Farm in Puok
Transfer to Siem Reap airport for departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v 04 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
- v Full board at local restaurant as mention in program
- v Airport transfers & Transport by air con. vehicles as per program
- v Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- v Boat trip as mention in program
- v Local English speaking guide as per program
- v Bike & 1 hour foot massage
- v Cold water and towel during tours

NOT INCLUDED

- x Visa fee: 25$
- x International air ticket in-out Cambodia
- x International airport tax: 25$
- x Other meal, drink, personal expenses, tip
- x Domestic air ticket: PNH_REP (US$92/Economy ticket)

PRICE INCLUDES

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-F2B3EB4BC77D