



Tour Dossier

Around Cambodia

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Moderate Pace

This document has been designed to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to assess the physical requirements of the programme and their ability to complete the tour.

Classic Tours

Designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a fully inclusive excellent value group tour.

Around Cambodia is a Moderate Pace tour. This is defined in our brochure as the following: Tours require a higher level of fitness and may include standard activities and longer periods of sightseeing. Easy walking, high altitude and overnight train journeys may feature.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course, our National Escort/Local Guides always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. Please refer to your Travel Guide for more information.

Tour highlights:

On our Around Cambodia itinerary, you will visit **Phnom Penh, Kep, Kampot, Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap.**

- **Siem Reap** - Gateway to the Angkor Wat temple complex
- **Phnom Penh** - Capital of Cambodia surrounded by the Mekong River; home to majestic palaces and pagodas
- **Kep** - Seaside town well known for its beach, seafood and friendly locals and is located close to many National Parks

- **Sihanoukville** – Popular beach town surrounded on three sides by the Bay of Thailand
- **Battambang** – Cambodia's second largest city that has the Stung Sangkae River flowing through its French Colonial town centre.

Destination Profile

Cambodia - Cambodia is blessed with unspoilt beaches and beautiful colonial cities like Phnom Penh, Battambang and Kep. In Siem Reap, the breathtaking temples of Angkor are regarded as the heart and soul of Cambodia. Many visitors may never intend to go beyond these magnificent temples; however, they will soon become captivated by other parts of this friendly country.

Development In Cambodia - Although Indochina is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Cuisine in Cambodia - All meals (excluding drinks) are included as indicated from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Cambodia.

Seatbelts - Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Cambodia and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason, some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort or Local Guide.

Traffic in Cambodia - Roads in Indochina have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only. The roads surrounding Phnom Penh, including those in outer suburbs, are in terrible condition - unsealed and eroded by daily rains.

Joining Your Tour - The tour is 14 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on '**Land Only**' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 1 in Phnom Penh and end the tour on Day 13 in Siem Reap. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary changes

Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

1. The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under new regulations from UNESCO since its recent restoration. If you wish to visit this tower you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors. The ability to do this will be determined upon the groups' program on the day of visiting.

Flight Delays or Changes to Arrival Times - Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our office in Cambodia on **+85 5 17 510 528 (24 hours)** to urgently advise your arrival details have changed.

Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in Cambodia. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and an arrival transfer will be arranged accordingly. We will endeavour to arrange a transfer as soon as possible however delays may occur.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in Cambodia as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival times.



Itinerary – Around Cambodia

Day 1: Australia to Phnom Penh

Day Outline

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Phnom Penh for your two-night stay.

Physical Description

You will be met at Phnom Penh Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your Local Guide/National Escort. Together with any other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (30 minute drive) to your hotel and check into your rooms.

There is no sightseeing today. At some point, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in Indochina.

In the event of flight delays or changes to arrival times, please see the details above as to what to do in this circumstance.

Destination Information

Phnom Penh - The capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia is built around four river arms formed by a sharp curve in the Mekong River near the junctions of the Bassac and the Tonle Sap tributaries. This charming city of attractive boulevards has a pleasant blend of oriental and colonial architecture, but reminders of a troubled past are also evident.

Day 2: Phnom Penh

Day Outline

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Phnom Penh today. Explore sites such as the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and the National Museum. Reflect on the history of the city with a visit to the Tuol Skeng Museum and Killing Fields. End the day with a visit to Wat Phnom.

Please be aware that the visits to the Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields of Cheung Ek may be confronting and upsetting for some group members.

Physical Description

Sightseeing in the city today will be 3 hours of leisurely walking. The visit to the Tuol Sleng Museum involves 1 hour on foot. This museum commemorates the atrocities that occurred during the regime of Pol Pot. The transfer South-West to the Killing Fields will take 30 minutes (15 km). You will spend about 1 hour here on foot for a harrowing insight into Cambodia's tumultuous past. Most people find it quite confronting and emotional so you will be given time to explore on your own.

The Sunset Visit to Wat Phnom involves a climb of 30 metres high and on ladders up to the hilltop temple. (Depending on the weather).

Destination Information

The Royal Palace - Built in 1866 by the French these ornate buildings are the official residence of the reigning Cambodian royal family and King Sihamoni. View the Throne Hall and Silver Pagoda.

Silver Pagoda - This concrete and marble structure includes a floor with over 5,000 silver tiles each weighing 1kg. Famous artefacts include a 90kg solid gold Buddha made in 1907 and an Emerald Buddha said to be made of baccarat crystal.

National Museum - The Museum houses the world's finest collection of Khmer pottery, bronzes and sculptures dating from the 4th century.

Tuol Sleng Museum - This former school was used by the Khmer Rouge as a detention and torture centre in the late 1970s. Today this building houses paintings and photographs of the victims. You can see the crude cells built in the classrooms and the torture devices used to extract confessions by the regime.

Killing Fields - The emotional Killing Fields of Cheung Ek, made famous by the film of the same name. More than 17,000 civilians were killed and buried in mass graves here making this place a chilling reminder of the brutalities of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime.

Wat Phnom - Home to a hilltop temple that carries the cities namesake. Locals flock here to pray for good luck and success.

Day 3: Phnom Penh to Kep

Day Outline

Head south to the beach town of Kep. Stop en route at Tonle Bati before travelling to a pepper farm to learn about the renowned Kampot pepper. Continue the drive to Kep and transfer to the port, where you will board a rustic boat to Rabbit Island. Enjoy some time at the beach before returning to Kep.

Physical Description

Driving time today will be 2-3 hours (approximately 150km). Most of the road is sealed and in good condition. Sightseeing in Kep is approximately 1 hour. Take a 20 minute boat ride to Rabbit Island, we spend 2 hours here. Return to the mainland by boat and continue driving to Kep and check into the hotel.

[Boarding your boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock, sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff].

Destination Information

Tonle Bati - View the ancient temples at Tonle Bati, built in the late 12th century by Jayavarman VII.

Rabbit Island - Also known as Koh Tonsay, Rabbit Island has quiet beaches where you can spend a few hours relaxing on the sands or exploring the small rabbit shaped island.

Kep - From the turn of the century to the 1960's, Kep was Cambodia's premier holiday destination. You can view the ruins of the luxurious villas from those days dotted by the seaside. Modern Kep is now known for its relaxed atmosphere, fresh seafood and oceanfront crab shacks.

Day 4: Kep to Sihanoukville

Day Outline

Drive to the nearby town of Kampot, stopping to explore Phnom Chhnork. Upon arrival in the colonial town of Kampot, stroll along the river towards the local market. Travel to Sihanoukville, where you can admire the view from the top of Pagoda Hill.

Physical Description

There will be easy walking to the top of Phnom Chhnork, with approximately 80 steps to the top. Sightseeing in Kampot is on flat paved roads for 45 minutes. Drive 2 hours (120km) to Sihanoukville.

Destination Information

Phnom Chhnork - A cave complex located outside Kampot, which houses the remains of a brick temple dating back to the 7th century.

Kampot - The former port city of Kampot is an enchanting small town best known for its sleepy, relaxed atmosphere and its salt and pepper production. Wander the town and admire the dilapidated French Colonial architecture.

Sihanoukville - Originally a port city, nowadays it is more a beach town and caters to beach-going weekenders from Phnom Penh, as well as a steady increase of foreign visitors. Despite this, Sihanoukville still enjoys a relaxed pace of life.

Day 5: Sihanoukville at Leisure

Day Outline

Enjoy a full day free at leisure to further explore this seaside town.

Physical Description:

Lunch with the group is included today and our guide will advise where and when to meet. However, if you decide to have lunch on your own it will be at your own expense and please let the guide know that you will not be eating with the rest of the group.

Day 6: Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh

Day Outline

Drive back to Phnom Penh, stopping at Kirirom National Park. After a picnic lunch, continue to Phnom Penh. Upon arrival check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

Physical Description:

Driving time today will be approximately 5 hours (approximately 230km) on a good sealed road. There will be sightseeing along the way at Kirirom National Park. We spend 2-3 hours here, having lunch and taking a walk in the park. Your Local Guide/National Escort will advise the different walking options available. Continue driving for 3 hours (160km) to Phnom Penh.

Destination Information

Kirirom National Park - Once a favourite resort of the Royal Family and at 700m above sea level, it maintains a cooler climate than in Phnom Penh.

The National Park has stunning waterfalls, unique and abundant birdlife and lush, elevated pine forests.

Day 7: Phnom Penh to Battambang

Day Outline

Head north today as you begin the drive to Battambang. Stop en route to explore Udong and Kampong Chhnang Province to see traditional handmade pottery and climb Touch Hill to admire the surroundings. Continue to Battambang and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Physical Description

Total driving time today will be 4-5 hours, (approximately 295km). Sightseeing en route at Udong will be approximately 2 hours, exploring the stupas and the pagoda at the top of the hill – please note the climb to the top is approximately 416 steps. At the pottery village in Kampong Chhnang province, there is 45 minutes of walking involved. Continue driving 3-3.5 hours to Battambang (200km) and check into the hotel.

Destination Information

Udong - The Udong was the ancient capital during the later stages of the Khmer Empire. It offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside with innumerable sugar palm trees, as well as 18 ancient stupas.

Battambang - Cambodia's second largest city. Situated on the banks of the Stung Sangke River, Battambang possesses some of the grandest and best-preserved colonial architecture and scenic countryside.

Day 8: Explore Battambang

Day Outline

Climb to the top of Phnom Banan to reach the Prasat Banan Temple to admire the breathtaking view. Return to the town, stopping at a vineyard for wine tasting, and walk through the village of Wat Kor. In the afternoon, visit 'La Maison de Coco' and learn how to make rice paper.

Physical Description

Sightseeing this morning at Phnom Banan Hill involves walking up steps for 20 minutes (approximately 358 steps) to see the views from Phnom Banan Temple. Walk back down and return to Battambang by coach for a wine tasting. Walk around the local villages at Wat Kor and Le Maison de Coco for approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Destination Information

Prasat Banan Temple - Located on the top of a small hill, the temple was built in the 11th century and consists of 5 towers.

Wat Kor - Gain an insight into the traditional Khmer life when visiting the village of Wat Kor. Known for its Khmer heritage houses, built from now rare hardwoods and surrounded by orchard gardens.

La Maison de Coco - A non-governmental organisation which runs projects to give skills and support to the local people.

Visit wendywutours.com.au

Day 9: Battambang to Siem Reap

Day Outline

Depart Battambang and travel to Siem Reap, stop en route in the Puok District to visit the National Silk Centre. Continue to Siem Reap, and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Physical Description

Total driving time today will be 3 hours (approximately 180km), on Cambodia's best sealed highway. We will spend approximately 2 hours at the silk farm in the Puok District, before continuing to Siem Reap.

Destination Information

National Silk Centre - A fascinating way to learn about Cambodian silk. Here you will witness silk creation and the growing and harvesting of mulberries.

Siem Reap - A bustling tourist destination due to its proximity to both the ancient Khmer national capital city of Angkor as well as Tonle Sap Lake. Angkor Wat is one of the main attractions and is the world's largest religious monument, in addition to being the spiritual and cultural heart of Cambodia. This huge complex of palaces and temples were built on the sprawling alluvial plain to the north of Tonle Sap and will amaze all its visitors

Day 10: Siem Reap

Day Outline

Spanning from the 9th to 15th century, the Angkor complex with over 1,000 temples was the seat of the thriving Khmer Empire. This morning begin at the temple of Ta Prohm, enveloped in a labyrinth of jungle before continuing to the city of Angkor Thom and the enigmatic Bayon, the Elephant Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King. This afternoon is devoted to the fascinating and awe-inspiring Angkor Wat.

Physical Description

Sightseeing within the Angkor area involves driving to and exploring the temples on foot. It can get hot and humid here so you must carry sun protection and drinking water with you. Spend the morning and afternoon sightseeing within the Angkor complex, returning to town for lunch in the heat of the day. UNESCO manages the complex and to enter, your group will drive approximately 6km out of town to the main entrance gate to get your entrance passes, which you must carry with you. If you choose to climb at any site, you must be able to climb and descend without assistance.

[NB. The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under regulations from UNESCO. If you wish to visit this tower, you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors. The ability to do this will be determined upon the groups' schedule].

Call 1300 727 998 to speak to a Reservations Consultant

Destination Information

Ta Prohm - Swallowed by the jungle where Strangler Figs and Kapok Trees have entwined themselves around the ruins. Undoubtedly, the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor with several towers, closed courtyards and narrow corridors to explore.

Angkor Thom - This fortified city is flanked by a row of 54 stone figures on each side, which leads you through a 23-meter imposing stone entrance gate to the various temples inside.

Bayon - Beautifully crafted central towers, decorated with four opposing faces representing King Jayavarman VII. Bayon's stone galleries display extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating over 11,000 figures.

Elephant Terrace and Terrace of the Leper King - Giant viewing platforms used for public ceremonies, which served as a base for the King's grand audience hall.

Angkor Wat - Surrounded by a 190-meter moat and taking 30 years to build, Angkor Wat represents the Khmer civilisation at its grandest. With its fascinating decorative flourishes, extensive bas-relief and multiple tiers, it is the best-preserved temple within the complex.

Day 11: Siem Reap

Day Outline

This morning travel to Kbal Spean to see the intricate carvings. Continue to Banteay Srei and later, explore Banteay Samre before climbing to the summit of Pre Rup Temple to view the sunset over the paddy fields.

Physical Description

Travel 1 hour (50km) to Kbal Spean. Sightseeing here involves light walking while exploring the carvings on the riverbeds and banks. Travel to Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre, which involves approximately 1.5 hours on foot. Afterwards a steep climb to the summit of Pre Rup offers an opportunity to see the sunset over the Cambodian rice fields.

Destination Information

Kbal Spean - Located in the Cambodian jungle, Kbal Spean is a spectacularly carved riverbed. Lingas have been intricately carved into the rock, as are several carvings of gods and animals.

Banteay Srei - A Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and considered by many to be the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Angkorian art. The temple is cut from stone of a pinkish hue and contains some of the finest stone carvings in the world.

Banteay Samre - Built approximately halfway through the 12th century, Banteay Samre is decorated with many intricate and well-preserved carvings of Hindi Mythological stories and Buddhist depictions.

Pre Rup Temple - A popular place to view the sun setting as the view over the rice fields is spectacular. Pre Rup was

built by Rajendravarmā II and may have been an early royal crematorium.

Day 12: Siem Reap

Day Outline

This morning observe life on the waterways of the Tonle Sap and its floating villages. From here, continue to Beng Mealea, a mysterious temple completely overrun by the jungle. Return to Siem Reap via a Cambodian artistry assembly - Les Artisan D'Angkor before arriving back at your hotel this evening.

Physical Description

Early this morning depart for the short drive to Tonle Sap and experience a one-hour cruise on the lake. Disembark and travel for two hours (80km) to Beng Mealea, located outside the UNESCO heritage protected area. Explore on foot for approximately 1.5 hours, using a newly built boardwalk to discover this temple. Please ensure when walking anywhere outside the walls of these temple ruins, you must follow marked paths as the landmine clearance project here has not been completed yet. Later this afternoon return to Siem Reap, stopping to visit Artisan D'Angkor en route.

Destination Information

Tonle Sap - The Tonle Sap is the largest fresh water lake in Southeast Asia. During the rainy season, it can swell from 3,000sq km to 7,500sq km. Locals have built floating villages on the Tonle Sap, which include schools, restaurants, markets, and even a medical clinic.

Beng Mealea - Dating from the 11th century, this sprawling temple covers over one square kilometre. Largely overrun by vegetation and constructed in a distinctly Angkor Wat-style, Beng Mealea precedes and may even have served as a 'prototype' for Angkor Wat.

Artisan D'Angkor - Established in 1998, this community workshop teaches the unique arts of painting, silk weaving, wood and stone carving in traditional Cambodian style to local young people.

Day 13: Depart Siem Reap

Day Outline

After breakfast and check-out you will have the morning at leisure. After lunch you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight to Australia.

Physical Description

Any time before your flight is free at your leisure. You will be transferred (20 minute drive) to the airport according to the departure time of your international flight.

Day 16: Arrive Australia

Day Outline

Arrive home today.

Tour Profile

Visa Requirements - Entry visas are required by all visitors to Cambodia and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf. Visas for Cambodia are issued with specific start and expiry dates which are based on the dates stated on the visa application form. Travel must be completed within those dates. Please be advised that your passport must have at least 6-months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 60 days prior to departure; if received after this, urgent visa processing fees will apply.

Also, please note we do not accept passports and visa applications within 30 days prior to departure. Passports will be returned with your Final Documentation 2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15 courier fee will apply.

Insurance - We strongly encourage all travellers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

Accommodation - All accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 3-3½star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Cambodia.

Exchanging Cash - US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout Cambodia, however other currencies such as Australian Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. US Dollars should be from the new series from the year 2003 onwards. Old series notes can be difficult to exchange. We suggest for your convenience that you ensure your US Dollars are from the new series to avoid any difficulties exchanging money during your trip.

We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250 should be sufficient; however for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Transport: Roads - Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

Climbing Steps - Some sightseeing involves climbing quite a number of steps. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside. People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Consider Cultural Differences – Cambodia has many religions, cultures and histories. Please be considerate of this, the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

Group Size - In most cases, the group will operate with a minimum of 10 participants accompanied by a National Escort. However, if the group is operating with less than 10 passengers, you will be accompanied by expert Local Guides in each of the main cities.

Climate - You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which is included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

Before You Leave - We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with <http://smartraveller.gov.au> as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After your booking - Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, lanyard, a travel guide (which includes a vocabulary list), along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

Luggage - All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Tipping - Tipping is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry. A nominated tipping amount is included in all group tour pricing, however is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours. This is so that it can be paid directly to your National Escort who will then distribute the tips among your main service providers – guides and drivers – on your behalf. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants, hotel porters taking luggage to your room or river guides is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

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