

INDO-CHINA REGION – CAMBODIA IN STYLE

04 Nights / 05 Days

Phnom Penh * Siem Reap

Highlights:

- **Phnom Penh** - visit the National Museum, Silver Pagoda, Royal Palace
- **Siem Reap** – Angkor Wat, ride on microflight, temples of the Small Circuit – Ta Prohm temple, Banteay Kdei - a Buddhist monastery, Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple, The Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King, boat trip on the Tonlé Sap Lake, temple of Banteay Srey, Landmine Museum, pyramidal Pre Rup temple, Angkor Silk Farm, boutique of Les Artisans d'Angkor

Day 01 Phnom Penh

Arrive Phnom Penh International Airport and transfer to the Hotel. This city was once considered one of the most beautiful in the Orient, and despite its recent turbulent history it still retains a colonial charm. Phnom Penh located at the confluence of the mighty rivers of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap. You will be greeted by a driver who will take you on a tour to the most remarkable sights of Phnom Penh in a Cyclo, an original Phnom Penh means of transportation and a very fun way to explore this lively city. First, head to the **National Museum**, which was built in traditional Khmer style. Continue to **the Royal Palace**. This palace dates back to 1866 and was the last palace built during the French colonial period. The same complex houses **the Silver Pagoda**, named for the over 5000 heavy silver tiles that cover its floors. Its original name is Wat Prakeo, meaning Temple of the Emerald Buddha. In this temple you will view a collection of Buddhas in gold, silver, crystal, and bronze. Evening, enjoy an atmospheric **sunset river cruise** and watch how Phnom Penh's popular riverfront awakens to life while taking pleasure in a welcome cocktail and snacks. Indulge yourself in a delicious Khmer Welcome Dinner at Malis Restaurant, one of Phnom Penh's finest places to taste Cambodian food. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Day 02 Phnom Penh – Siem Reap

After breakfast, we transfer to the Pochentong Airport for the morning flight to Siem Reap or transferred by coach (5hrs). The gateway to the majestic temples of Angkor and a charming little city. Your local English speaking guide will meet you and accompany you while you check into your hotel. Enjoy lunch at your hotel before embarking on a sightseeing tour. After lunch, board a micro flight that will lead you up for an amazing aerial view of **Angkor Wat**, and other ruins amongst the surrounding jungle and rice paddies glimmering down below. Continue to visit the famous Angkor Wat, the divine residence of Vishnu, the King himself was to reside here after his death. Inside the temple, the walls are covered with stone carvings and bas-reliefs depicting Hindu mythology and the wars Suryavarman II fought during his reign. Moreover, Angkor Wat is well known for the more than 2,000 Apsara dancers decorating the temple. Today, Angkor Wat is figured on Cambodia's national flag as the temple symbolizes the soul of the Khmer people. During sunset time, the Angkor Wat is less visited and the Apsaras will shine in the most beautiful light. Enjoy dinner at Abacus, a restaurant with an delicious menu of New Asian Cuisine. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 03 Siem Reap

After breakfast this morning, explore the temples of the Small Circuit by tuk tuk. Start your tour with a visit to **Ta Prohm temple**, built in the mid-12th to early 13th centuries. Ta Prohm is unique in that it has been left largely as it was found: overgrown by jungle trees and vines, with many parts of the temple crumbling to the ground. Continue to the ancient city of **Angkor Thom** in an ecofriendly electric vehicle. Angkor Thom was the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. Now you are ready for a very special encounter: Get up close with an Elephant as you will ride on its back

through the ancient South Gate, an impressive stone gate carved with Elephants and four giant faces – a truly unforgettable moment. From here, continue to **Bayon Temple** in the exact center of the city. The particularity of this monument is the 54 towers with four faces representing the 54 provinces of the then Great Khmer Empire. The Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King are also must-visits as they are both known for their intricate bas-reliefs. This afternoon is free at your leisure for personal shopping at the markets with Tuk Tuk and driver or to simply relax at your hotel. Enjoy dinner with a traditional khmer dance performance at Apsara Theatre this evening. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 04 Siem Reap

After breakfast, you will embark on an interesting boat trip on the Tonlé Sap Lake, where you will have the opportunity to learn about life on the lake. **Tonle Sap** is South East Asia's largest freshwater lake with its size varying greatly depending on the season. Board a local boat and visit **Kampong Phluck**, a village where we'll see houses on stilts that are submerged when Tonlé Sap Lake extends. From there, travel by private vehicle to the countryside of Siem Reap Province to see the "gem" of the Angkor area, the pretty **temple of Banteay Srey**, which is best viewed in the warm afternoon light. The so-called "**Citadel of the Women**" was built between the 11th and 13th century and remains the best preserved temple in Cambodia. Banteay Srey is unique in that it is constructed of pink sandstone, which is seen nowhere else in Angkor. On the way back to Siem Reap, stop at **the Landmine Museum** which promotes mine awareness and education. Transfer back to Siem Reap in the afternoon. Enjoy a rural sunset over the paddy fields and the beautiful countryside from the pyramidal Pre Rup temple. As this is your last evening in Cambodia, an authentic Khmer dinner will be served at the excellent Meric Restaurant in Siem Reap.

Day 05 Depart Siem Reap

After breakfast, head to the countryside around the Western Baray, where you can spot water buffalos in swampy ponds, kids in school uniforms on their bicycles and oxcarts transporting today's harvest. Visit **the Golden Silk Farm**, 15 km west of Siem Reap, where you can witness the entire process of silk creation from growing and harvesting mulberry as food for the silk worms, the breeding process and life cycle of the silk worm to the spinning of the silk, the dying process and the creation of beautiful silk weavings on wooden hand looms. Return to Siem Reap and check out of the hotel. We will transfer you to the airport for your departure flight.