



Guidepost Discovery & Cultural Tours CAMBODIA

ALL CAMBODIA MOTOR CROSS – 9 DAYS

LOCAL VILLAGE (CAMBODIA) – TBENG MEANCHEY – SIEM REAP – BATTAMBANG – PHNOM PENH

Cambodia is a great country to be discovered on a dirt bike - going offroad. The kingdom of Cambodia is an exotic, mystical, enchanting land with amazing history and the spectacular ancient ruins of the Angkor Empire, remote villages and hill tribes. This 9 days programme is a true Cambodian experience - a ride on your own motorbike for 8 days. Travelling through the countryside away from the busy tourist areas with a motorbike is where the real exciting journey begins.

Day 1 Phnom Penh - Kampong Thom - Local Village (Cambodia) (Lunch: Meals incl. in itinerary (Cambodia) Dinner: Meals incl. in itinerary (Cambodia))

By Motorbike from Phnom Penh to Kampong Thom

Visit Prasat Kuhak Nokor

Prasat KUHAK NOKOR: Located 82 km from Phnom Penh, the temple was built in 11 century by king Suryavaraman I. Prasat Kuhak Nokor is closed to Skoun near Kampong Cham.

Homestay Experience in Baray, day 1 of 2 option II

Enjoy lunch at the local village in Baray, tours by pony cart, Khmer noodle making, Ox Cart ride, Handicraft weaving and sunset. Enjoy dinner with Khmer food including fish Amok and traditional dance. Overnight at Homestay.

Overnight in Local Village (Cambodia).

Day 2 Local Village (Cambodia) - Kampong Thom - Tbeng Meanchey (Breakfast: Hotel)

Homestay Experience in Baray, day 2 of 2

After breakfast, visit old market and walk around the village. Transfer to your next destination.

Excursion to Sambor Prei Kuk

In the morning, transfer to Sambor Prei Kuk, one of the most impressive series of pre-Angkorian monuments. Over 100 small temples, dating from the 7th century, can be found in a lovely forest setting. After a visit to some of the major temples, return to Kampong Thom.

Excursion to Preah Khan

PREAH KHAN : at Kompong Svay, known locally as Prasat Bakan. The Preah Khan complex is the largest enclosure of ancient Cambodia at nearly five kilometres square, bigger than Angkor Thom (3.3 kms sq) and Banteay Chhmar (4 kms sq). The group consists of a central sanctuary and four enclosures with many accessory buildings, basins, a large eight-metre wide moat and temples, some of which are outside the outer enclosure walls.

By Motorbike from Kampong Thom, in Baray to Tbeng Meanchey

Overnight in Tbeng Meanchey.



Day 3 Tbeng Meanchey - Siem Reap (Breakfast: Hotel)

By Motorbike from Tbeng Meanchey to Siem Reap

Excursion to Koh Ker and Beng Mealea

KOH KER: previously the capital of Jayavarman IV, this is now an interesting group of ruins, featuring the pyramidal Prasat Thom.

BENG MEALEA: a 12th century temple the size of Angkor about 40 kilometers from the Bayon. Beng Mealea is enclosed by a moat measuring 1200 by 900 meters. The temple is currently being reclaimed from the jungle as years of conflict left it neglected and almost forgotten. It is now one of the most popular remote temples owing to its wealth of classical bas reliefs.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 4 Siem Reap (Breakfast: Hotel)

Sightseeing in Angkor

The crowning jewel of Khmer architecture, ANGKOR WAT is the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Cambodia. The largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples, Angkor impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well



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as the delicate artistry of its carvings. To approach the temple, first cross the vast moat, continuing along a broad causeway lined with naga balustrades. As you enter the main building, ascend through a series of galleries and courtyard before reaching the central sanctuary, which offers beautiful views back over the causeway and across the surrounding countryside. On the way, stop to enjoy the intricate stone carvings that adorn nearly every surface, with some 1,700 Apsaras, or celestial dancers, sculpted into the walls. Along the outer gallery walls run the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which narrates stories from Hindu mythology, including the famous Churning of the Ocean of Milk. Angkor Wat is stunning at any time of the day, but sunrise and sunset are especially beautiful to watch the play of light on the stones. The fortified city of ANGKOR THOM covers an area of 10 square km. Enclosed by a wall and wide moats, the city includes many of Angkor's most popular sights. Enter by the monumental SOUTH GATE over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga. Continue to the TERRACE OF THE ELEPHANTS and the TERRACE OF THE LEPER KINGS, former spaces for public ceremonies, both adorned with dramatic bas reliefs. Visit the ruined BAPHUON, ROYAL ENCLOSURE and PHIMEANAKAS before continuing to the mysterious BAYON TEMPLE. In this temple, one of the most popular and compelling in Angkor, explore the galleries of beautifully preserved bas reliefs and ascend narrow stairs to reach the central sanctuary, where you will find giant stone faces smiling enigmatically down at you from every angle. Visit TA PROHM, one of the most popular attractions of Angkor as much of the jungle has not been cleared and it looks very much as most of the Angkor monuments would have appeared when European explorers first stumbled across them. Watch the sunset over the Cambodian countryside from the upper terraces of an ancient Angkorian temple.



Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 5 **Siem Reap** (Breakfast: Hotel)

Excursion by Motorbike to Kbal Spien and Phnom Kulen

PHNOM KULEN: historically revered by all Cambodians as a sacred place of pilgrimage. It was the site, then known as Mount Mahendraparvata, that Jayavarman II chose in 802 to proclaim himself a divine universal ruler and marked the beginning of the Angkor period of Khmer history. It's possible to see some of Kulen's spectacular riverbed rock carvings. KBAL SPIEN: also known as the River of 1000 Lingas, there are carvings in the riverbed (in the same way as at Kulen). It should be more spectacular but many of the carvings have been looted. Near Kbal Spien is a waterfall that can be reached by hiking 2km uphill.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 6 **Siem Reap - Battambang** (Breakfast: Hotel)

By Motorbike from Siem Reap to Battambang with sightseeing at Banteay Chhmar

Journey westwards, stopping enroute to visit BANTEAY CHHMAR, a sprawling temple complex set deep in the Cambodian jungle. Dating from the 12th century, when it briefly served as the Khmer capital, the complex covers over nine square kilometers and is surrounded by a vast moat. Within the compound are a number of well preserved bas reliefs and sculptures. Rarely visited by tourists, the temple's remote and peaceful atmosphere makes it an unforgettable experience. After exploring the temple grounds, return to your vehicle and continue to Battambang.

Visit Wat Ek Phnom

WAT EK PHNOM: A small 11th century ruin built as a Hindu temple, located 15 km or 0.5 hr. away from Battambang.

Circus performance with dinner at Phare Ponleu Selpak association

PHARE PONLEU SELPAK CIRCUS: The Circus school provides teaching in the major disciplines as juggling, acrobatics, aerial acts, clowning, balancing, dancing... Since the first performance in 2002, Phare Ponleu Selpak circus troupes tour every year in Cambodia and abroad (Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa) with new circus shows conciliating arts and social involvement. Those achievements are allowed by the recognised training quality of permanent teachers and several foreign professional guests.

Overnight in Battambang.

Day 7 **Battambang - Phnom Penh** (Breakfast: Hotel)

Sightseeing in Battambang

A bustling provincial capital in western Cambodia, BATTAMBANG is located on the banks of the Sangker River. Explore the town center to get a feel for the modern-day city, strolling past old French shop houses, and visiting the BATTAMBANG MUSEUM and WAT PIPHIT. Continue outside the city to see the region's Angkorian past, exploring the 11th century hill temple of WAT EK PHNOM.

By Motorbike from Battambang to Phnom Penh



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Welcome banner
Welcome cocktail
Welcome Flower garland
Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Day 8

Phnom Penh (Breakfast: Hotel)

By Motorbike Sightseeing in Phnom Penh

Explore PHNOM PENH, a chaotic, energetic and always fascinating city. Graceful tree-lined boulevards and riverfront promenades are reminders of bygone eras; today they teem with life and activity, as motorcycles weave in and out of traffic, vendor hawk their wares, and pedestrians go about their business. Start your tour at WAT PHNOM, the birthplace of the capital; according to legend the city began here when a woman named Penh found four Buddha statues and built the temple to house them. Afterwards, see the splendor of Cambodia's royal heritage by visiting the ROYAL PALACE, still the official residence of King Norodom Sihamoni, the adjacent SILVER PAGODA, also known as the Pagoda of the Emerald Buddha, and the elegant NATIONAL MUSEUM, which contains a comprehensive collection of Khmer art.

In the afternoon, learn about a chapter from Cambodia's more recent, tragic, past at the TUOL SLENG MUSEUM (Museum of Genocide). Formerly the Tuol Svay Prey High School, in 1975, this became the interrogation and torture facility for the Khmer Rouge regime at that time known as Security Prison 21, or simply S-21. Kept largely unchanged, this prison now showcases photographs and exhibits about the thousands of victims that passed through these doors only seven of whom came out alive. The KILLING FIELDS OF CHOEUUNG EK provide a stark reminder of the atrocities under the Pol Pot regime. Thousands of people were killed here between the years of 1975 and 1978 and buried in mass graves.

Dinner Cruise aboard Kanika Boat (option I)

A unique dining experience on luxury Kanika boat on the Mekong river in Phnom Penh. Relax and enjoy our delicious food and drink with wonderful views of the river and city.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Day 9

Phnom Penh (Breakfast: Hotel)

Transfer

Prices from AUD \$2770, based on a private tour for 2 people, twin-sharing in double rooms. Prices reduce for more people travelling together up to a maximum of 10 people. Prices are subject to currency fluctuation and we recommend checking with our office for a firm quote for dates required.

FULLY DETAILED ITINERARIES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM OUR OFFICE
Phone 1300 73323 or send an email to enquiries@guidepost-travel.com.

This is a private tour – operates any day with minimum 2 people.