



# TASTE OF CAMBODIA

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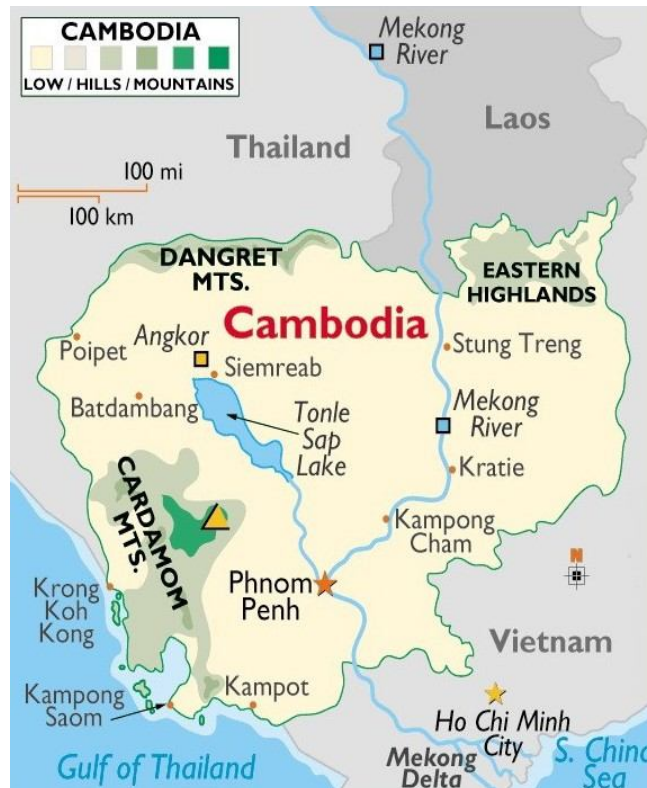
(guaranteed weekly departure with min. 2 travellers – current travel itinerary 2012)  
(Private Tourleader from Chiang Mai to Bangkok)



## OUTLINE ITINERARY



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- **DAY 01:** CHIANG MAI / FLIGHT / BANGKOK / SIEM REAP
  - **DAY 02:** SIEM REAP / TEMPLES OF ANGKOR / SIEM REAP
  - **DAY 03:** SIEM REAP / SISOPHON / BATTAMBANG
  - **DAY 04:** BATTAMBANG
  - **DAY 05:** BATTAMBANG / PHNOM PENH
  - **DAY 06:** PHNOM PENH
  - **DAY 07:** PHNOM PENH / FLIGHT / BANGKOK
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## DETAILED ITINERARY

**Day 1 : Monday 00.00.2012 – CHIANG MAI / FLIGHT / BANGKOK / ARANYA PRATHET / POIPET / SIEM REAP (-)**

- **TVIG:** Meet and Greet your PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER at the international airport in Chiang Mai.
- **IDFL: Intra Domestic Flight – Air Asia Flight FD 3427 – (Chiang Mai) to (Bangkok) – ETD 07:10am / ETA 08:20am (airline & flight hours are subject to possible contingency conditions)**
- **TRAC:** Transfer Intra Regio – private airco vehicle – (BKK Airport) to (Bangkok Bus Terminal) – 35Km / 22Mi – 00 Hrs 35'
- **EBUS:** Transfer Intra City – Express Bus – (Bangkok) to (Aranya Prathet) – 250Km / 155Mi – 04 Hrs 00'
- **OPTI:** lunch at a local restaurant – in Aranya Prathet
- **INFO:** Thailand/Cambodia border crossing formalities – exit stamp Thailand/entry stamp Cambodia; a visa on arrival can be obtained (cash 20USD/pp); your tourleader will assist you to fill out the proper documents.
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Aranya Prathet) to (Poipet) – 17Km / 11Mi – 00 Hrs 30'
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Poipet) to (Siem Reap) – 150Km / 93Mi – 02 Hrs 00'
- **INFO:** Siem Reap - is the capital city of Siem Reap Province in northwestern Cambodia, and is the gateway to Angkor region. Siem Reap has colonial and Chinese-style architecture in the Old French Quarter, and around the Old Market. In the city, there are traditional Apsara dance performances, craft shops, silk farms, rice-paddy countryside, fishing villages and a bird sanctuary near the Tonle Sap Lake. Siem Reap today, being a popular tourist destination, has a large number of hotels and restaurants. The name Siem Reap means the 'Flat Defeat of Siam' — today's Thailand — and refers to the centuries-old conflict between the Siamese and Khmer peoples. This name was baptized by *King Ang Chan* (1516-1566) as "Siem Reap", meaning "the flat defeat of Siam" (Cambodians call Siam or Thailand "Siem"). It was because of the victory over the Thais which *King Ang Chan* counter-attacked, and shot *Prince Ong* dead on an elephant's back, and routed the Thais and captured no less than 10,000 Thai troops. The history was recorded that *King Ang Chan* of Cambodia tried to assert further independence against Thailand. The Thais also had been through internal trouble themselves during these years. *King Prajai* was poisoned by his wife, *Queen Sri-Sudachan*, who committed adultery with a commoner, *Woravongsa*, when the king went on a campaign against Chiang Mai. The Queen then raised *Woravongsa* to the throne. The nobles hated *Woravongsa*, who was a commoner, and lured the usurper and his family to a place outside the city where he was assassinated together with *Queen Sri-Sudachan* and a new-born daughter during the royal family's procession by barge to see a white elephant (allegedly just captured). The nobles then invited *Prince Tienraja*, who was a monk in a monastery, to disrobe and ascend the throne under the title of *King Maha Chakrapat* (1548-1569). Being informed of the internal troubles in Ayudhaya, *King Ang Chan* attacked Prachin in 1549 and successfully took away Thai inhabitants. At Prachin, he obtained information that *King Maha Chakrapat* has become the new king of Ayudhaya, signaling that the question of succession in Ayudhaya had thus become settled. *King Ang Chan* therefore retreated and did not advance any further. *King Maha Chakrapat* was very angry at this, but his hands were tired, because the Burmese had just come by the way of the Three Pagoda Pass, took Kanchanaburi and Supanburi, and appeared in front of Ayudhaya. Cambodian history presents the reason for the next Thai attack because *King Ang Chan* refused to give *King Maha Chakrapat* a white elephant when he asked for it, it indicated that *King Ang Chan* declined any symbol of vassalage to Thailand. *King Maha Chakrapat's* attention was now turned towards Cambodia. He put *Prince Ong*, the Governor of Sawankaloke and Srey's son, in charge of an expedition against Cambodia. *King Ang Chan* counter-attacked, and shot *Prince Ong* dead on an elephant's back, and routed the Thais and captured no less than 10,000 Thai troops. It was because of this victory over the Thais that *King Ang Chan* baptized that battle area as "Siem Reap". In 1901 the *École Française d'Extrême Orient* (EFEO) began a long association with Angkor by funding an expedition into Siam to the Bayon. The EFEO took responsibility for clearing and restoring the whole site. In the same year, the first tourists arrived in Angkor - an unprecedented 200 of them in three months. Angkor had been 'rescued' from the jungle and was assuming its place in the modern world. Siem Reap was little more than a village when the first French explorers re-discovered Angkor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the acquisition of Angkor by the French, in 1907, Siem Reap began to grow, absorbing the first wave of tourists. The *Grand Hotel d'Angkor* opened its doors in 1929 and the temples of Angkor remained one of Asia's leading draws until the late 1960s, luring visitors like *Charlie Chaplin* and *Jackie Kennedy*. In 1975, the population of Siem Reap, along with that of the rest of the cities and towns in Cambodia, was evacuated by the communist Khmer Rouge and driven into the countryside. As with the rest of the country, Siem Reap's history (and the memories of its people) is coloured by spectre of the brutal Khmer Rouge Regime, though since *Pol Pot's* death in 1998, relative stability and a rejuvenated tourist industry have been important steps in an important, if tentative, journey forward to recovery. With the advent of war, Siem Reap entered a long slumber from which it only began to awake in the mid-1990s. Today, Siem Reap is undoubtedly Cambodia's fastest growing city and serves as a small charming gateway town to the world famous heritage site of the Angkor temples. Thanks to those attractions, Siem Reap has transformed itself into a major tourist hub. Siem Reap nowadays is a vibrant town with modern hotels and architectures. Despite international influences, Siem Reap and its people have conserved much of the town's image, culture and traditions. The Town is a cluster of small villages along the Siem Reap River. These villages were originally developed around Buddhist pagodas ('Wat') which are almost evenly spaced along the river from *Wat Preah En Kau Sei* in the north to *Wat Phnom Krom* in the south, where the Siem Reap River meets the great Tonle Sap Lake. The main town is concentrated around Sivutha Street and the *Psar Chas* area (Old Market area) where there are old colonial buildings, shopping and commercial districts. The *Wat Bo* area is now full of guesthouses and restaurants while the *Psar Leu* area is often crowded with jewellery and handicraft shops, selling rubies to woodcarving. Other fast developing areas are the airport road and main road to Angkor where a number of large hotels and resorts can be found.
- **OPTI:** Siem Reap – Angkor National Museum: is a profound cultural landmark in Siem Reap placing in the area of 20,000 Sq.m. which presents a world-class museum that reveals the legend of the Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom. During the Golden Era of Khmer Kingdom, one of the ancient civilizations of this world was being created. It is the origin of Khmer art, culture, and architecture. These great inventions became one of the few wonders of the world that still amaze people throughout generations, that still lays a great impact in present Cambodian society. Angkor National Museum takes pride in revealing the royal historical path of this Golden Era of Khmer Kingdom through the state of the art multimedia technology to provide visitors a full picturesque story of the legend in an easy understanding way. Angkor National Museum will take its visitors through the journey back in time from the creation to the highest point of civilization. Through the use of interactive exhibits, visitors will develop a deeper understanding of custom, tradition and different beliefs of the ancient empire. A tour of the museum will be pleasant for both visitors who have a good understanding of ancient Khmer civilization and people who do not have any previous knowledge of the ancient Khmer empire. All artifacts are divided into 8 galleries in perceptive order of the evolution, which are enhanced by a realistic atmosphere. Throughout the whole experience Angkor National Museum will allow this legend to slowly reveal before your eyes - <http://www.angkornationalmuseum.com/>

- **TRAC:** Transfer Intra Regio – cycling & walking – (Siem Reap)
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Grand Hotel d'Angkor: is a historic luxury hotel located in Siem Reap, Cambodia. It was opened in 1929. It is located at 1 Vithei Charles de Gaulle. It is currently run by the Fairmont Raffles Hotels International group. Introduction Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor was established in 1932 and provided accommodation for the first wave of travelers for whom the Angkor Temples were an obligatory stopover.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – McDermott Gallery: in the FCC Building, is an elegant, friendly gallery with photography of Angkor by *John McDermott*, called "the Ansel Adams of Angkor" by the New York Times. Also McDermott Gallery 2, on the passage between Pub Street and the Old Market, with world class photography of Asia by several different artists is worth a look. Art buffs will want to pick up a copy of Art Venues, a free guide to the galleries of Siem Reap.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Old Market (*Psar Chas*): the very heart of tourist Siem Reap, this is the best place to find Buddhist trinkets and souvenirs such as T-shirts, as well as good books on the temples. The market is a fun wander and friendly folks here are used to foreign visitors so you can easily haggle in English (or by passing a calculator back and forth to display your offer on an item). The many food stalls on the north end of the market are a good way to sample local cuisine for next to nothing. Most businesses in town give their address in relation to the Old Market address, so it's a good place to know for orientation purposes. It's open daily from dawn to dusk.
- **OPTI:** dinner at Karo Restaurant – in Siem Reap
- **OPTI:** Siem Reap – Nightlife & Entertainment Scene: you can find the best bars down in the Old Market section which is near the river. You cannot miss "Pub Street." About 10 years ago you could only find 3 bars but now there are more than 40 to choose from. An institution that pioneered nightlife in the city is the "Angkor What?" This bar is most travelers' first stop for the night and is a great place to meet other travelers. Another bar that also has its own club is the Temple Bar and Club. Right next to the Ankor What? is the Easy Speaking Cafe and Pub. This bar mainly handles the spillover from neighboring bars. A few other popular spots that stay open late are Buddha Lounge and the Ivy Bar. The Ivy Bar is a favorite haunt of correspondents, travel writers and photographers. A popular spot for expatriates is Molly Malones. It offers live music of many popular western musicians. You can find plenty of imported beer and Irish whiskey. This is the perfect spot if you are looking for a little bit of home. Two other funky and interesting bars include Laundry which is open extremely late. This is the funkier side of town and frequently puts on special events that will be promoted all over the city. Linga is a gay bar that has walls covered with paintings of Buddhist monks. Another popular and funky choice is the Dead Fish Tower which is near the temples along the main street. You can enjoy a drink in what is decorated as the rigging of a tall ship. Don't skip Miss Wong and Red Piano Bar either.
- **HTLS:** Overnight in Siem Reap – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room



**Day 2 : Tuesday 00.00.2012 – SIEM REAP / TEMPLES OF ANGKOR / SIEM REAP (-)**

- **OPTI:** breakfast at your hotel
- **TVLG:** Services of a LOCAL ASIAN TOURGUIDE ASSISTANT (English-speaking/available from 09:00am until 18:00pm)
- **TRAC:** Transfer Intra Regio – private chartered vehicle – (Siem Reap) – (available from 09:00am until 18:00pm)
- **INFO:** Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor: *Angkor* is a region of Cambodia that served as the seat of the Khmer Empire, which flourished from approximately the 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The word *Angkor* is derived from the Sanskrit *nagara* (नगर), meaning "city". The Angkorian period began in AD 802, when the Khmer Hindu monarch *Jayavarman II* declared himself a "universal monarch" and "god-king", until 1351, when Angkor first fell under Ayutthayan suzerainty, to 1431, when Ayutthaya put down a rebellion and sacked the Khmer capital, causing its population to migrate south to the area of Phnom Penh. The ruins of Angkor are located amid forests and farmland to the north of the Great Lake (Tonlé Sap) and south of the Kulen Hills, near modern-day Siem Reap, in Siem Reap Province, and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temples of the Angkor area number over one thousand, ranging in scale from nondescript piles of brick rubble scattered through rice fields, to the magnificent Angkor Wat, said to be the world's largest single religious monument. Many of the temples at Angkor have been restored, and together, they comprise the most significant site of Khmer architecture. Visitor numbers approach two million annually. In 2007, an international team of researchers using satellite photographs and other modern techniques concluded that Angkor had been the largest preindustrial city in the world, with an elaborate system of infrastructure connecting an urban sprawl of at least 1,000 square kilometres (390 sq mi) to the well-known temples at its core. The closest rival to Angkor, the Mayan city of Tikal in Guatemala, was between 100 and 150 square kilometres (39 and 58 sq mi) in total size. Although its population remains a topic of research and debate, newly identified agricultural systems in the Angkor area may have supported up to one million people.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Angkor Wat: is a temple complex at Angkor, Cambodia, built for the king *Suryavarman II* in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century as his state temple and capital city. As the best-preserved temple at the site, it is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation – first Hindu, dedicated to the god Vishnu, then Buddhist. It is the world's largest religious building. The temple is at the top of the high classical style of Khmer architecture. It has become a symbol of Cambodia, appearing on its national flag, and it is the country's prime attraction for visitors. Angkor Wat combines two basic plans of Khmer temple architecture: the temple mountain and the later galleried temple, based on early South Indian Hindu architecture, with key features such as the *Jagati*.



- It is designed to represent *Mount Meru*, home of the devas in Hindu mythology: within a moat and an outer wall 3.6 kilometres (2.2 mi) long are three rectangular galleries, each raised above the next. At the centre of the temple stands a quincunx of towers. Unlike most Angkorian temples, Angkor Wat is oriented to the west; scholars are divided as to the significance of this. The temple is admired for the grandeur and harmony of the architecture, its extensive bas-reliefs, and for the numerous *devatas* (guardian spirits) adorning its walls. The modern name, Angkor Wat, means "City Temple"; *Angkor* is a vernacular form of the word *nokor*, which comes from the Sanskrit word *nagar* (नगर), Thai, *Nakon*, meaning capital or city. 'Wat' is the Khmer word which comes from Sanskrit word "Vastu". Prior to this time the temple was known as *Preah Pisnulok* (*Vara Vishnuloka* in Sanskrit), after the posthumous title of its founder, *Suryavarman II*.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Angkor Thom: (in Khmer literally: "Great City"), was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire. It was established in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century by *king Jayavarman VII*. It covers an area of 9 km<sup>2</sup>, within which are located several monuments from earlier eras as well as those established by *Jayavarman* and his successors. At the centre of the city is *Jayavarman's* state temple, the Bayon, with the other major sites clustered around the Victory Square immediately to the north. Angkor Thom was established as the capital of *Jayavarman VII's* empire, and was the centre of his massive building programme. One inscription found in the city refers to *Jayavarman* as the groom and the city as his bride. Angkor Thom seems not to be the first Khmer capital on the site, however. *Yasodharapura*, dating from three centuries earlier, was centred slightly further northwest, and Angkor Thom overlapped parts of it. The most notable earlier temples within the city are the former state temple of Baphuon, and Phimeanakas, which was incorporated into the Royal Palace. The Khmers did not draw any clear distinctions between Angkor Thom and *Yashodharapura*: even in the 14<sup>th</sup> century an inscription used the earlier name. The name of Angkor Thom — great city — was in use from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The last temple known to have been constructed in Angkor Thom was Mangalartha, which was dedicated in 1295. Thereafter the existing structures continued to be modified from time to time, but any new creations were in perishable materials and have not survived. In the following centuries Angkor Thom remained the capital of a kingdom in decline until it was abandoned some time prior to 1609, when an early western visitor wrote of an uninhabited city, "*as fantastic as the Atlantis of Plato*", which some thought to have been built by the Roman emperor Trajan. It is believed to have sustained a population of 80,000-150,000 people. *Lara Croft's Tomb Raider* features several characters visiting Angkor Thom during their trip to Cambodia to recover the first piece of the Triangle of Light.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – The Terrace of the Elephants: is part of the walled city of Angkor Thom, a ruined temple complex in Cambodia. The terrace was used by Angkor's *king Jayavarman VII* as a platform from which to view his victorious returning army. It was attached to the palace of Phimeanakas, of which only a few ruins remain. Most of the original structure was made of organic material and has long since disappeared. Most of what remains are the foundation platforms of the complex. The terrace is named for the carvings of elephants on its eastern face. The 350m-long Terrace of Elephants was used as a giant reviewing stand for public ceremonies and served as a base for the king's grand audience hall. It has five outworks extending towards the Central Square—three in the centre and one at each end. The middle section of the retaining wall is decorated with life size *garuda* and *lions*; towards either end are the two parts of the famous parade of elephants complete with their Khmer mahouts.
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – The Terrace of the Leper King: (or Leper King Terrace; Khmer: *Preah Learn Sdech Kurlung*) is located in the northwest corner of the Royal Square of Angkor Thom. It was built in the Bayon style under *Jayavarman VII*, though its modern name derives from a 15<sup>th</sup> century sculpture discovered at the site. The statue depicts the Hindu god *Yama*, the god of Death. He was called the Leper King because discoloration and moss growing on the original statue was reminiscent of a person with leprosy, and also because it fit in with a Cambodian legend of an Angkorian king who had leprosy. The name that the Cambodians know him by, however, is *Dharmaraja*, as this is what was etched at the bottom of the original statue. The U-shaped structure is thought by some to have been used as a royal cremation site.
- **OPTI:** lunch at Karo Restaurant – in Siem Reap
- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Preah Khan: sometimes transliterated as *Prah Khan*, is a temple at Angkor, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century for *King Jayavarman VII*. It is located northeast of Angkor Thom and just west of the Jayatataka baray, with which it was associated. It was the centre of a substantial organisation, with almost 100,000 officials and servants. The temple is flat in design, with a basic plan of successive rectangular galleries around a Buddhist sanctuary complicated by Hindu satellite temples and numerous later additions. Like the nearby Ta Prohm, Preah Khan has been left largely unrestored, with numerous trees and other vegetation growing among the ruins.



- **TOUR:** Siem Reap – Ta Prohm: is the modern name of a temple at Angkor, built in the Bayon style largely in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and originally called *Rajavihara*. Located approximately one kilometre east of Angkor Thom and on the southern edge of the East Baray, it was founded by the Khmer *King Jayavarman VII* as a Mahayana Buddhist monastery and university. Unlike most Angkorian temples, Ta Prohm has been left in much the same condition in which it was found: the photogenic and atmospheric combination of trees growing out of the ruins and the jungle surroundings have made it one of Angkor's most popular temples with visitors.
- **OPTI:** Siem Reap – Traditional Apsara Dance Performance: if you can find one, you should not miss a performance of Apsara dance. This is an ancient art where the dancers wear traditional gilded costumes. They dance using wrist contortions. At Angkor Village Theater you can enjoy a traditional banquet and see the dance. A similar show is performed at the Raffles Grand Hotel. The show is outside on the lawn.
- **OPTI:** dinner at Karo Restaurant – in Siem Reap
- **HTLS:** Overnight in Siem Reap – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room

**Day 3 : Wednesday 00.00.2012 – SIEM REAP / SISOPHON / BATTAMBANG (-)**

- **OPTI:** breakfast at your hotel.
- **TVIG:** Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER (English-speaking/available from 08:00am until 18:00pm)
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Siem Reap) to (Sisophon) – 106Km / 66Mi – 01 Hrs 30'
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Sisophon) to (Battambang) – 66Km / 41Mi – 01 Hrs 00'
- **INFO:** Battambang – is the capital city of Battambang province in northwestern Cambodia. Battambang is the second-largest city in Cambodia with a population of over 250,000. Founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Khmer Empire, Battambang is well known for being the leading rice-producing province of the country. For over 500 years, it was the main commercial hub of Siam's Eastern Provinces, though it was always populated by Khmer with a mix of ethnic Vietnamese, Lao, Thai and Chinese. Still today Battambang is the main hub of the Northwest connecting the entire region with Phnom Penh and Thailand, and as such it's a vital link to Cambodia. The city is situated by the Sangker River, a tranquil, small body of water that winds its way through Battambang Province providing its nice picturesque setting. As with much of Cambodia, the French Colonial architecture is an attractive bonus of the city. It is home to some of the best-preserved, French colonial architecture in the country. With a \$36,000 financial grant from Novo Nordisk and financial support from the World Diabetes Foundation, one of two diabetes clinics was built in the town- the other was built in Kampong Thom. Battambang was established as an important trading city with around 2,500 residents in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They lived mostly along a single road parallel to the Sangker River. In 1795 Thailand annexed much of northwestern Cambodia including the provinces of Battambang and Siem Reap. The *Abhaiwongse family* rule Battambang for six generations which lasted until 1907 when the province was ceded to the French to be part of their Indochina colony. Following the colonization of the French in Battambang the colonial administration developed an urban layout which enlarged the size of the French colonial town. In the first time development, they constructed a grid pattern of well-defined streets, put in the urban structures and built three main streets parallel to the Sangker River, connected the both side with two bridges in 1917. Military purposes and prison infrastructures were erected inside the compound. 19 years later, a second urban development plan was created with a newly constructed railway linked from Battambang to Phnom Penh. The urban structure was extended to the west of the town, featuring some important urban axes orienting on the railway station. Many outstanding buildings like residential villas and significant public buildings were constructed during that period. According to the third urban development plan for Battambang, a large extension was planned for the north, east and south of the city. The urban layout was technically planned and required long-term thinking to create an urban axis corresponding to the existing urban layout from the former period. Battambang grew as a modern provincial capital, and became the most developed part of all provinces in Cambodia. Several large infrastructures and public facilities were built under the modernization program of the Cambodian government under *Prince Sihanouk*. Several provincial departments, the court house and other public administrations were set up on both sides of the river.

- Textile and garment factories were built by French and Chinese investors, the Battambang Airport was constructed, and the railway line was developed to reach Poipet. Numerous schools and a university were built. A sports centre, museum and an exhibition hall were constructed to serve the cultural needs of the growing population.
- **TRAC:** Transfer Intra Regio – private chartered vehicle – (Battambang) – (available from 12:00pm until 18:00pm)
- **OPTI:** lunch at local restaurant Café Eden, in Battambang - <http://www.cafeedencambodia.com/main/>
- **TOUR:** Battambang – bamboo train: Battambang's biggest tourist attraction is the bamboo train. Basically, its story is this: it's a train made out of bamboo. Why? So that it's ultra-light. Which means that when the bigger, faster & more expensive trains come barreling down the train tracks, the bamboo train can be disassembled and put to the side (with enough time to avoid a collision). It's a cheap and relatively easy way for locals to get around and locally transport their goods.



- **TOUR:** Battambang – 'The Killing Caves': The hill is called *Phnom Sampeau* (Sailingboat Mountain), and it is our next stop. On the hill are a number of temples, mostly destroyed by the Khmer Rouge, but currently being rebuilt. More impressive, however, is the cave in which lots of people were killed by the Khmer Rouge. The bones and skulls are collected and exhibited in a cage as a monument. We walk past the point from which, mainly children, were thrown into a deep cave. Bone splinters from these events are still present. After the defeat of the Khmer Rouge, a lot of fighting around sailingboat mountain remained. Up till 1997 the Khmer Rouge was still present around Pailin near the border with Thailand, from which they attacked the region around Battambang. On the mountain, there is still artillery pointed in the direction of "crocodile mountain", 500 meters further, which used to be a stronghold of the Khmer Rouge. After the descent from the mountain, our next stop is *Wat Ek Phnom*, a temple from the days of Angkor, built in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. It has been damaged by lightning, but the temple still remains, although partly in ruins. It's a beautiful temple in the same style as Angkor Wat, built as a hindu sanctuary, but nowadays full with Buddha statues.
- **OPTI:** dinner at local restaurant Au Cabaret Vert, in Battambang - <http://www.aucabaretvert.fr/kh/restaurant-3>
- **HTLS:** Overnight in Battambang – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room



#### Day 4 : Thursday 00.00.2012 – BATTAMBANG (-)

- **OPTI:** breakfast at your hotel.
- **TVIG:** Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER (English-speaking/available from 08:00am until 18:00pm)
- **TRAC:** Transfer Intra Regio – cycling & walking – (Battambang)
- **TOUR:** Battambang – Urban Heritage Cycling Tour: Battambang City has inherited a rich urban heritage with a great variety of historic architecture, representing different phases of the city's history. The city center between Road #1 and Road #3 is characterized by a coherent ensemble of about 800 heritage buildings from the French protectorate and from the period after the country's independence. Outside of this area, outstanding heritage buildings, like the New Khmer Architecture of the Battambang University, French-Classical style villas along the river and traditional Khmer wooden houses can be found. Throughout the city beautiful Wats are expression of the city's religious heritage. All these historic buildings and ensembles contribute to the city's unique character and beauty.

- 1) Wat Pipetharam: according to the inscriptions on the main gate, which faces east in front of the Vihara, this temple was built in 1888. During this time the province was under Thai rule. It has been restored and was renovated in 1920, 1969 and 1993. Some architectural features, especially the roof of the vihear and the decorations, show influences of Thai Buddhist architecture. – 2) Building of the Cantonese Association: dating approximately from the 1930s, the building was home to the Cantonese Association in Battambang and used as a Chinese school until the Lon Nol regime in the early 1970s. The open veranda at the backside used to be the tea kitchen for the school. The rear building on Road #2 ½ dates from 1960 and was originally part of the school; the courtyard in between was used as a sports field. After 1980 the building became an orphanage. The façade -- especially the arched windows and the handrail on the first floor -- remain intact. The handrail on the top floor has writings in Chinese and French. Today it is privatized and used by different tenants. – 3) Psar Nath: The Phsar (Khmer for “market”) is the main heritage landmark of the city, housing vendors selling all types of goods. The Art Deco building, planned by the same French engineers that built the Central Markets in Phnom Penh and Saigon, was constructed using reinforced concrete in 1936. The two halves of the building used to be divided by Road #2. The tip of the eastern part, which is now a restaurant, used to be the central bus station until the Khmer Rouge took power. Historically, the market has changed its name; today it is called either Phsar Thom or Psar Nath. – 4) Shophouses next to the Chinese Temple: this shophouse is typical for the Street #1; it contains a main two-story building and a smaller rear building with a courtyard in between. It is built from “Street-to-Street.” (between Streets #1 and #1½). Characteristic elements are the arcade (five-foot-way), louvered shuttered windows, folding wooden shop doors, a pitched roof, columns and pilaster, arched windows with shutter and air ventilation above the front door. The balcony has some elaborate cast-iron works, showing the French influences in Indochinese shophouses. All five houses in a row form an ensemble, thanks perhaps to just one investor. The owners before the war emigrated to France; following the end of the Khmer Rouge regime these buildings were taken over by the Provincial Department of Fine Arts and Culture with one part used as a printing shop. – 5) Chinese Temple / Chinese Spirit House: at approximately 150 years old, this building is the oldest in the conservation area. It is the only surviving of at least 3 Chinese temples, which existed in the 1960s. Its name, “*Huai Bao Gu Miao*,” means “The Felling of Protection Temple”. In former times, Chinese settlers used to come for prayer and offerings, asking for prosperity and luck. The building was renovated several times in the 1940s, 1960s, 1992 and 2007. After the Khmer Rouge, the temple was part of the Department of Cults and Information of Battambang and was handed over to the Chinese National Association of Cambodia in 1982. The association - located until 1992 inside the temple - initiated a foundation for the support and renovation of the temple and for the establishment of a school. Today the temple is under the management of the Khmer-Chinese Association of Battambang. – 6) Corner Building and Villa: the corner building was used as pawnshop until the Khmer Rouge period; from 1980s until early 1990s it accommodated the Provincial Radio Station. A Cambodian businessman restored and renovated the abandoned building in 2008 and 2009. The villa was constructed and used as a bank and, due to this function, was detached. During the Lon Nol regime it became residential and has been rented to various nongovernmental organizations since the early 1990. The façade combines a mixture of classical architectural elements and traditional Khmer ornaments. The rear buildings along Road #1 1/2 were demolished in 2009 to make space for car parking. – 7) Street 2 ½: Series of Shop Houses: the east side contains mostly shophouses from the colonial period in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Typical elements are rectangular columns, pitched roofs, brick walls. The shophouses on the west side are designed in 1960s and 70s, and have round columns, flat roofs and reinforced concrete structures. Thanks to the repetition of the same building type, open arcades and balconies, there is a homogenous streetscape, which is now mostly residential. Note the back lanes on both sides of the street. – 8) Chinese School: this is one of the three Chinese schools of Battambang, which survived the Khmer Rouge regime. The three distinctive buildings date from different periods. In early 2000, the central building replaced a Chinese temple. The Hokkien community used the school until the Lon Nol regime when discrimination against ethnic Chinese increased and the city defense unit fighting against the Khmer Rouge occupied the school. After 1980 it became a school for government officials. Today it is under the management of the Khmer-Chinese Association of Battambang and accommodates the biggest Chinese school in Battambang with 1300 students (in 2002). – 9) Buffalo Alley: the name of this old path (“Kampung Krabey” in Khmer) derives from the farmers who used it to lead their buffalos to the river during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today there are plenty of restaurants and street vendors. The Chinese noodle soup restaurant at the corner is famous for its fresh noodle dishes. On Street #1½ note the small rear buildings (kitchens) of the main houses along Street #1. Note also the access to the railway station to the west. In 2007 the Sar Kheng Garden Bridge replaced the old Iron Bridge dating from 1917, whose foundations were built by the French using canons brought from England in 1837. – 10) Battambang Cinema (on Street 2): the cinema has seating for 500 people and was built in early 1970s. It is one of two still running today. The building also accommodates apartments on both sides. In 1974 the Khmer Rouge tossed a grenade into a crowded movie show and killed many people. During the 1980s the cinema displayed mainly Vietnamese and Russian movies. Today new Cambodian movies are the primary films shown. The building is owned by Provincial Department of Fine Arts. – 11) School Pi Thnou: the school used to be one of three Chinese schools in the city center, catering especially for the Teochew community. The oldest building is in the rear; the high buildings on both sides were added during the 1960s. The school got its new name “2 December” after 1979 in honor of the resistance movement fighting the Khmer Rouge, which was founded in December 2, 1978. It is now the biggest primary school in Battambang. – 12) Apartment Building: this building was designed in the 1960s and is a typical example of corner buildings that introduced a bigger Phnom Penh-like scale of constructions to Battambang in the 1950s and 1960s. Probably designed for offices, this building is abandoned today, but partly used for classical performing arts classes. An example of New Khmer Architecture it is characterized by a double façade (decorative screen walls) providing shade and a roof terrace. A central staircase and outlying corridors provide the access to the rooms. – 13) Sangkera Cinema and Battambang Warehouse: the cinema was built during the 1960s and 70s, and was closed during the Khmer Rouge period. Today it is used as a workshop of the Department of Industry. *Prince Sihanouk* inaugurated the warehouse in May 1965, which belongs to the union of cooperatives of Battambang. It has enforced concrete structure, which was partly demolished in 2008. – 14) Department of Land Management: this representative French colonial villa was used during the 50s and 60s by the forestry unit. After the Khmer Rouge period the building's use changed periodically, housing a maternity clinic, the Department of Fine Arts and Culture and finally, since 1999, the Provincial Department of Land Management, Urban Planning, Construction and Cadastres. – 15) Wat Damrey Sor: construction of this temple (whose name translates as “White Elephant”) was initiated by one of the wives of the Thai Lord *Governor Choom* named *Ing*. Therefore design of the main vihara includes elements of Thai Buddhist architecture. Built in 1904, the vihear features fine wooden decorations on pediments and lime plaster carvings surrounding the outer walls, depicting scenes from the Ramayana literary epic. Two buildings on each side of the main axis east of the main vihara were demolished; one housed elephant stables. The compound used to be accessed from the river in the east, but it is blocked today by the Provincial Museum. In 1907, when the provinces Battambang, Sishopon and Siem Reap were returned to Cambodia, the Lord Governor and his family fled to Thailand and settled in Prachin Buri Province. There he built a wat following the form of *Wat Damrey Sor* and named it *Wat Kaewpichit*. – 16) Former canal south of Wat Damrey Sor: today's garden south of *Wat Damrey Sor* used to be a canal

named "O Ta Kam." It was connected to the north canal named "Prek Moha Tep." Both were part of a drainage system. A wooden bridge used to cross the "O Ta Kam" canal near the present day post office. Between 1953 and 1970 the canal was filled up and transformed into a small park and broad avenue. A sewage and drainage system was installed instead to prevent flooding.

- **OPTI:** lunch at local restaurant Café Eden, in Battambang - <http://www.cafeedencambodia.com/main/>
- **OPTI:** dinner at restaurant La Villa, Battambang - [www.lavilla-battambang.net/cambodiahotel/restaurant-battambang.html](http://www.lavilla-battambang.net/cambodiahotel/restaurant-battambang.html)
- **HTLS:** Overnight in Battambang – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room

**Day 5 : Friday 00.00.2012 – BATTAMBANG / PURSAT / KOMPONG LUONG / PHNOM PENH (-)**

- **OPTI:** breakfast at your hotel.
- **TVIG:** Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER (English-speaking/available from 08:00am until 18:00pm)
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Battambang) to (Pursat) – 141Km / 88Mi – 02 Hrs 00'
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Pursat) to (Kompong Luong) – 35Km / 22Mi – 00 Hrs 30'
- **TOUR:** Pursat - Kompong Luong Floating Village: in a country where fish is the staple source of protein and land is at a premium, most villages are located along the lakes and rivers and many are built to actually float on the waterways. This is especially the case around the shores of the enormous Tonle Sap Lake. Kompong Luong is an entire commune of five floating villages located on the lake in the Pursat province area. Like most floating communities, it is a sophisticated and bustling township of fisherfolk, boat builders and businessmen, providing everything which a town on dry land can provide its population. The people of Kompong Luong almost never need leave the water. There are five floating villages in the commune comprising 1214 families with a total population of 6962 people. There are four different ethnic groups of people living here: there are *Cham* (about 40 families), Chinese (two families), Khmer and Vietnamese. The last two are here in roughly similar numbers. Seventy percent of the villagers make their living as fishermen and the remaining 30 percent have mainly fishing-related occupations, such as boat building, making nets and processing the catch. Kompong Luong began its life as a small fishing village in ancient times. But in the post-Angkor era, and perhaps during the reign of *King Ang Chan Reacha*, who defeated King Korn's troops and the Thais during his rule, the king began to use it as a port when sailing between Krakor province (now present-day Krakor district in Pursat province) to the ancient capital of Long Vek, which now lies in present-day Kompong Chhnang province. He used it as a secret stop on his way to war and as a rest and relaxation place where he could swim and recuperate without fear of ambush. Because of the king's frequent voyages, villagers in the area christened the place Kompong Luong – '*Kompong*' in Khmer means a place where water is taken, a bathing place or a place where ships and boats land, load or unload. '*Luong*' means the king or monarch.
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Kompong Luong) to (Pursat) – 35Km / 22Mi – 00 Hrs 30'
- **OPTI:** lunch at local restaurant Magic Fish, in Pursat
- **INFO:** Pursat Marble – Stone sculptures from natural marble are hand-made products and include a large variety of handicraft products for interior decoration or worship materials in Buddhist religion. Many varieties of marble can be taken from a depth of four to five meters at Tassai mountain, Ta Yorn and Spong mountain in Pursat Province. Pursat province is the only region where marble is found and therefore Pursat is very famous throughout the country for its marble products. Skillful craftsmen can be seen at work sculpting huge Buddhas or beautiful statues. There are over 160 carving workshops in most districts, except the mountainous Veal Veng district. Most workshops are small private enterprises, although the odd one employs up to 13 craftsmen. Many workshops and shops in Pursat sell examples of the magnificent marble handiwork, which can make stylish souvenirs.
- **TRIC:** Transfer Intra City – private chartered airco vehicle – (Pursat) to (Phnom Penh) – 233Km / 144Mi – 03 Hrs 30'
- **TOUR:** Phnom Penh – Heritage Trail Rickshaw tour: the remarkable architecture and planning of Phnom Penh make it unique amongst South East Asian cities. Founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Phnom Penh became the capital of Cambodia in 1422 and again in 1866. A French protectorate from 1864, Cambodia gained its independence in 1953. Between the mid 1950s and the mid 1970s Cambodia sought new ways to express itself as a modern, progressive nation. In architecture a distinct 'movement' developed, now by some referred to as 'New Khmer' architecture. Architects experimented with ideas and forms, often innovative and dynamic; they adapted international idioms and combined these with Cambodian references, while responding to local climate and custom. The results were wholly Cambodian and unique in the development of modern architecture: 1) Villa 1900-1910: a fine, though decaying, example. Said to be the home of a previous Prime Minister. – 2) Old Royal Villa 1900-1910: one of the few remaining Royal Villas around the Palace; now used as offices. – 3) National Museum: *Architect: Georges Croslier 1917-1920*; a highly regarded reworking of the traditional Khmer pagoda form to suit a new 20<sup>th</sup> C function. – 4) Public toilet 1959: one of a pair; modern structure; French manners. – 5) Apartment building 1940's: moderne style block, partly restored in the 1990's; stairs off the street lead to a rear passage (ie not the common 'shop-house' type). – 6) Japanese de-constructivism: a peace gift from the people of Hiroshima; engineering students come and build more of this crazy, unfinished structure in Wat Onnalum. – 7) Apartment buildings 1960's: Nos 41-55; fine example of in-tact 4 storey block, built by 4 developers to a consistent style; subtle! – 8) Apartment buildings Nos 28-48; similar to above, together forming a model urban street setting. – 9) Corner block: with well considered details from 40's, 50's and 60's. Note the concrete roof pergola and the vertically louvred stairs. – 10) Street 19: a lively variety of residential types from different periods; from a 1960's 5-storey block to 2-storey Colonial; including the Popil photo gallery. – 11) Moderne apartments: 1960's Notable details; block forms a strong corner; café below. – 12) Capitol Cinema: *Architect: Vann Molyvann 1964* No longer a cinema, the splendid exterior is fairly original; inaugurated by showing Vadim's 'And God Created Woman' (1957) in the presence of the architect. – 13) Prom Bayon Cinema 1960's: a cinema integrated into an apartment block. – 14) Apartments 1900-1910: decayed but intact example of what used to be a series of 2-storey apartment buildings on this street. – 15) Deco apartments 1935-45: bold design, probably part of the Cinema Lux development originally. – 16) Cinema Lux 1935-45: still in use as a cinema; the facade has been almost totally altered. – 17) No 50, Norodom Blvd: use of framed 'brise-soleil' shading and free-form roof pavillion. – 18) Ministry of Water Resources 1915-1925: what was once a Colonial villa with massive entrance steps; enthusiastically renovated. – 19) Villa 1915-1925: a small and elegant Colonial residence. – 20) Forestry administration 1960s: balcony-access offices, similar in style to *Leroy and Mondet's Royal University of Phnom Penh*. Note the three-storey *bas-relief* panel. – 21) Offices 1980's?: example of trying to adopt a 60's style, but too heavy in its detail and closed-in on the street. – 22) Offices 1960's: Imposing curved corner entrance; with distinctive square panels and a perforated wall. – 23) Single storey houses 19<sup>th</sup> C?: the roofs, including ventilation chimneys, are still visible above the shops. – 24) Apartment block 1960's: Unusual use of a whole urban block to create apartments with an internal courtyard – which may originally have been a garden and is now mostly built-over. Main entrance on St 154 with notable ceiling design. – 25) Blue glass and pink paint 2004?: an indication of how vulgar architecture in Phnom Penh could become! –

- 26) Police offices: Architect: *Vann Molyvann* 1959, DEMOLISHED 2006. Extraordinary building with full height 'brise soleil' sun shading; reported to be one of *Vann Molyvann's* first buildings in Phnom Penh. – 27) Phnom Penh police office: Architect: *J Desbois* 1930-35, DEMOLISHED 2006. Fine 'moderne' example with a curved corner, horizontal lines and zigzag air vents. – 28) Apartment buildings: walking up street 53, various styles can be seen. Modern from the 1960's (first one on the right side), moderne (opposite, and several others) and an older French one at the end of the street, probably the oldest building surrounding the market. – 29) Central Market: Architect: *Chauchon* 1938; innovative, monumental Art-Deco structure marking the centre of Phnom Penh. Ventilation was a key factor; the four arms stand on columns without walls, but now are closed in. Restoration is planned. – 30) Corner cafe 1960s: charming corner block with fine windows and old signs; note roof-top pergola in concrete, typical of the period. – 31) Intersection in Style Moderne 1935-45: four houses in the same style though altered. On axis with the central market. – 32) Peugeot Garage 1935-45: once Peugeot occupied the whole building; today there is only a small shop in the back. – 33) Customs office 1920's: building with Art-Nouveau influences; details unusual in Phnom Penh. – 34) Old administrative building 1890's: unusual colonial style with an interesting roof. Looking for a new use. – 35) Villa: now a government office, the fine facades originally had an external corridor, for shade. – 36) Offices 1960's?: Interesting facade on what used to be a white building. A similar building can be seen at the intersection north from this one. The intersection south (136/19) offers two modern (almost identical) apartment buildings. – 37) Apartment building 1940's?: unlike any other French building in Phnom Penh, this one bears a resemblance to Mediterranean French architecture. – 38) Hemakheat Cinema 1950's?: this large cinema, in brutalist/modern style, is today a home to many people who live in desperate conditions. The apartment building attached is interesting. – 39) Intersection 1900-1980: all buildings on the intersection have different styles. The very well kept and interesting French building is from 1900-1910. The opposite French building in style moderne dates back to 1935-45 and the more modern building is from the early 1980's. – 40) Intersection: this intersection is constituted by an old French house, slowly swallowed by new development and three examples of apartment buildings from the 1940's and 1960's. – 41) No 86 Shophouse 1940s?: four-storey narrow shop-house; curved balconies and fine ironwork (building on the right is interesting too). – 42) Blue glass facade: Recent... What can one say...? – 43) Old Hotel International 1900-1910: altered many times and no longer a hotel, although the old signs are still readable. – 44) Apartment building 1918: this decayed but very beautiful building has a unique style for Phnom Penh. Presently under partial restoration. – 45) Apartment building 1910's: originally for '*Bureau Dumarest D'Indochine*'.
- **OPTI**: Phnom Penh – Pol Pot, The History of Genocide Event Movie: a unique event movie in Cambodia. 25 years after the fall of the Khmer Rouge. The most interesting documentary event, covering Cambodia's worst civil war period, shown on big screen. This 41-minute documentary covers the history of the Khmer Rouge, from its conception by Pol Pot, to the fall of the regime in 1979. Containing amazing photos and footage of the Khmer Rouge entering Phnom Penh and the city after its forced evacuation.
- **OPTI**: Dinner with authentic Asian Food and Traditional Live Khmer Dance Performances at Chayyam Restaurant in Phnom Penh – <http://www.facebook.com/Chayyam.Restaurant?sk=info>
- **HTLS**: Overnight in Phnom Penh – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room



#### Day 6 : Saturday 00.00.2012 – PHNOM PENH (-)

- **OPTI**: breakfast at your hotel.
- **TVIG**: Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER (English-speaking/available from 08:00am until 18:00pm)
- **TRAC**: Transfer Intra Regio – (Phnom Penh) – chartered open vehicle – (available from 08:00am until 18:00pm)
- **INFO**: Phnom Penh – is the capital and largest city of Cambodia. Located on the banks of the Mekong River, Phnom Penh has been the national capital since the French colonized Cambodia, and has grown to become the nation's center of economic and industrial activities, as well as the center of security, politics, economics, cultural heritage, and diplomacy of Cambodia. Once known as the "Pearl of Asia", it was considered one of the loveliest French-built cities in Indochina in the 1920s. Phnom Penh, along with Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, are significant global and domestic tourist destinations for Cambodia. Founded in 1434, the city is noted for its beautiful and historical architecture and attractions. There are a number of surviving French colonial buildings scattered along the grand boulevards. Situated on the banks of the Tonlé Sap, Mekong and Bassac rivers, the Phnom Penh metropolitan area is home to more than 2 million of Cambodia's population of over 14 million. The city is the wealthiest and most populous city in Cambodia and is home to the country's political hub. Phnom Penh first became the capital of Cambodia after *Ponhea Yat*, king of the Khmer Empire, moved the capital from Angkor Thom, after it was captured and destroyed by Siam a few years earlier. There is a stupa behind Wat Phnom that house the remains of *Ponhea Yat* and the royal family as well as the remaining Buddhist statues from the Angkorean era. There are also legends that tell how Phnom Penh was created in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Japanese immigrants who settled on the outskirts of present-day Phnom Penh. Phnom Penh remained the royal capital for 73 years - from 1432 to 1505. It was abandoned for 360 years -from 1505 to 1865- by subsequent kings due to internal fighting between the royal pretenders. Later kings moved the capital several times and established their royal capitals at various locations in Tuol Basan (Srey Santhor), Pursat, Longvek, Lavear Em and Udong. It was not until 1866, under the reign of *King Norodom I*, that Phnom Penh became the permanent seat of government and capital of Cambodia, and also where the current Royal Palace was built.

- Beginning in 1870, the French Colonialists turned a riverside village into a city where they built hotels, schools, prisons, barracks, banks, public works offices, telegraph offices, law courts, and health services buildings. In 1872, the first glimpse of a modern city took shape when the colonial administration contracted a French contractor, *Le Faucheur*, to construct the first 300 concrete houses for sales and rentals to the Chinese traders. By the 1920s, Phnom Penh was known as the *Pearl of Asia*, and over the next four decades Phnom Penh continued to experience rapid growth with the building of railways to Sihanoukville and the Pochentong International Airport (now Phnom Penh International Airport). Phnom Penh's infrastructure saw major modernisation under the rule of *Sihanouk*. During the Vietnam War, Cambodia was used as a base by the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong, and thousands of refugees from across the country flooded the city to escape the fighting between their own government troops, the NVA/NLF, the South Vietnamese and its allies, and the Khmer Rouge. By 1975, the population was 3 million, the bulk of whom were refugees from the fighting. The city fell to the Khmer Rouge on April 17, 1975. All of its residents, including those who were wealthy and educated, were evacuated from the city and forced to do labour on rural farms as "new people". Tuol Sleng High School was taken over by Pol Pot's forces and was turned into the S-21 prison camp, where people were detained and tortured. *Pol Pot* sought a return to an agrarian economy and therefore killed many people perceived as educated, "lazy", or political enemies. Many others starved to death as a result of failure of the agrarian society and the sale of Cambodia's rice to China in exchange for bullets and weaponry. The former high school is now the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, where Khmer Rouge torture devices and photos of their victims are displayed. Choeung Ek (The Killing Fields), 15 kilometres (9 mi) away, where the Khmer Rouge marched prisoners from Tuol Sleng to be murdered and buried in shallow pits, is also now a memorial to those who were killed by the regime. The Khmer Rouge were driven out of Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese in 1979, and people began to return to the city. Vietnam is historically a state with which Cambodia has had many conflicts, therefore this liberation was and is viewed with mixed emotions by the Cambodians. A period of reconstruction began, spurred by the continuing stability of government, attracting new foreign investment and aid by countries including France, Australia, and Japan. Loans were made from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to reinstate a clean water supply, roads and other infrastructure. The 1998 Census put Phnom Penh's population at 862,000; and the 2008 census was 1.3 million.
- TOUR:** Phnom Penh - Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda: is a complex of buildings which serves as the royal residence of the king of Cambodia. The Kings of Cambodia have occupied it since it was built in 1860's, with a period of absence when the country came into turmoil during and after the reign of the Khmer Rouge. The palace was constructed after King Norodom relocated the royal capital from Oudong to Phnom Penh in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. It was gradually built atop an old citadel called *Banteay Kev*. It faces towards the East and is situated at the Western bank of the cross division of the Tonle Sap River and the Mekong River called *Chaktomuk* (an allusion to Brahma). The complex is divided by walls into three main compounds, on the north side is the Silver Pagoda, to the south side is the Khemarin Palace and the central compound contains the Throne Hall. The buildings of the palace were built gradually overtime, and some were dismantled and rebuilt as late as the 1960s. But some old buildings dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Royal Palace of Cambodia is a good example of Khmer architecture featuring its layout of the defensive wall (*kampaeng*), throne hall (*preah tineang*), Temple of the Emerald Buddha (*Wat Preah Keo Morakot*), stupas (*chedei*), towering spires (*prang prasat*) and mural paintings. The Royal Palace of Phnom Penh covers an area of 174,870 square metres (402m x 435m). The *Preah Thineang Dheva Vinnichay* or "Throne Hall" (Khmer: means the "Sacred Seat of Judgement"). The Throne Hall is where the king's confidants, generals and royal officials once carried out their duties. It is still in use today as a place for religious and royal ceremonies (such as coronations and royal weddings) as well as a meeting place for guests of the King. The cross-shaped building is crowned with three spires. The central, 59 meter spire is topped with the white, four-faced head of Brahma. Inside the Throne Hall contains a royal throne and busts of Cambodians kings of the past. This Throne Hall is the second to be built on this site. The first was constructed of wood in 1869-1870 under *King Norodom*. That Throne Hall was demolished in 1915. The present building was constructed in 1917 and inaugurated by *King Sisowath* in 1919. The building is 30x60 meters and topped by a 59-meter spire. As with all buildings and structure at the Palace, the Throne Hall faces east and is best photographed in the morning. When visiting note the thrones (*Reach Balaing* in front and *Preah Tineang Bossobok* higher at the back) and the beautiful ceiling frescoes of the Reamker. The *Preah Thineang Chan Chhaya* or "Moonlight Pavilion", is an open-air pavilion that serves as stage for Khmer classical dance in the past and present. It is one of the most notable buildings of the palace as it easily seen from the outside as it was built alongside a section of the palace walls. The Chan Chhaya Pavilion has a balcony that was used as a platform for viewing parades marching along Sothearos Boulevard of Phnom Penh. The current Pavilion is the second incarnation of the Chanchhaya Pavilion, this one constructed in 1913-14 under *King Sisowath* to replace the earlier wooden pavilion built under *King Norodom*. The current pavilion is of a similar design as the earlier version. The Chanchhaya Pavilion dominates the facade of the Palace on Sothearos Blvd. The Pavilion serves as a venue for the Royal Dancers, as a tribune for the King to address the crowds and as a place to hold state and Royal banquets. Most recently, the Pavilion was used for a banquet and a tribune for the new King at the 2004 coronation of *King Norodom Sihamoni*. The Silver Pagoda is a compound located on the South side of the palace complex. It features a royal temple officially called *Preah Vihear Preah Keo Morakot* but is commonly referred to as *Wat Preah Keo*. Its main building houses many national treasures such as gold and jeweled Buddha statues. Most notable is a small 17<sup>th</sup> century baccarat crystal Buddha (the "Emerald Buddha of Cambodia") and a near-life-size, Maitreya Buddha encrusted with 9,584 diamonds dressed in royal regalia commissioned by *King Sisowath*. During *King Sihanouk's* pre-Khmer Rouge reign, the Silver Pagoda was inlaid with more than 5,000 silver tiles and some of its outer facade was remodeled with Italian marble. The Khemarin Palace is the common English name for a building called *Prasat Khemarin* [Prasat (temple or palace) Khmer + Indra] or in Khmer meaning the "Palace of the Khmer King." It is used a residence by the King of Cambodia. This compound is separated from other buildings by a small wall and is located to the right of the Throne Hall. The main building is topped with a single spired prang. Other structures include a French-style iron building that was a gift from Napoleon III, Hor Samran Phirun, Hor Samrith Phimean, Damnak Chan, Phochani Pavilion, Khemarin Palace, Serey Monkol Palace, Villa Kantha Bopha, and some less significant buildings in areas closed to the public. The palace has various gardens with tropical flowers and plants, such as *Allamanda cathartica*, *Couroupita guianensis* and *Jatropha integerrima*. The Royal Palace has had some major modifications to its buildings over time; nearly all of the King Norodom era buildings have been demolished completely. The King's living area (closed to public) has also undergone big changes. In 1960s the Silver Pagoda has undergone a tremendous face-lift with its tiles replaced and buildings given new paint. The palace has always been a popular tourist attraction in Phnom Penh. Visitors are able to wander around the Silver Pagoda compound and the central compound containing the Throne Hall and Chan Chhaya Pavilion. The King's living area, which actually takes up half of the total palace ground area, including Khemarin Palace, Villa Kantha Bopha, Serey Mongkol Palace, royal gardens & ponds, and a number of less significant buildings and pavilions, is closed to the public.

- TOUR:** Phnom Penh - National Museum of Cambodia: is Cambodia's largest museum of cultural history and is the country's leading historical and archaeological museum. The museum houses one of the world's largest collections of Khmer art, including sculptural, ceramics, bronzes, and ethnographic objects. The Museum's collection includes over 14,000 items, from prehistoric times to periods before, during and after the Khmer Empire, which - at its height - stretched from Thailand, across present-day Cambodia, to southern Vietnam. The Museum buildings, inspired by Khmer temple architecture, were constructed between 1917 and 1924, the museum was officially inaugurated in 1920, and renovated in 1968. *George Groslier* (1887–1945), historian, curator and author was the motivating force behind much of the revival of interest in traditional Cambodian arts and crafts, and it was he who designed this building that is today 'traditional Khmer' architecture. It is perhaps better described as a building enlarged from Cambodian temple prototypes seen on ancient bas-reliefs and reinterpreted through colonial eyes to meet the museum-size requirements. The foundation stone for the new museum was laid on 15 August 1917. Some 2 ½ years later, the completed museum was inaugurated during Khmer New Year on 13 April 1920 in the presence of *H.M King Sisowath*, *François-Marius Baudoin*, Résident-supérieur, and *M. Groslier*, director of Cambodian Arts, and Conservator of the museum. The original design of the building was slightly altered in 1924 with extensions that added wings at either end of the eastern façade that made the building even more imposing. Control of the National Museum and Arts Administration was ceded by the French to the Cambodians on 9 August, 1951 and following Independence in 1953, the then *Musée National de Phnom Penh* was the subject of bilateral accords. In 1966 *Chea Thay Seng* was the first Cambodian Director of the Museum and Dean of the newly created Department of Archaeology at the Royal University of Fine Arts. This university that form its foundation as the *Ecole des Arts Cambodgiens* in 1920 was intimately linked with students, artisans and teachers who worked to preserve Cambodian cultural traditions, can still be found to the rear of the museum. During Khmer Rouge regime of 1975-79—devastated all aspects of Cambodian life including the cultural realm. The Museum, along with the rest of Phnom Penh, was evacuated and abandoned. The Museum, closed between 1975 and 1979, and was found in disrepair, its roof rotten and home to a vast colony of bats, the garden overgrown, and the collection in disarray, many objects damaged or stolen. The Museum was quickly tidied up and reopened to the public on April 13, 1979. However, many of the Museum's employees had lost their lives during the Khmer Rouge regime. Together with the adjacent Royal University of Fine Arts and its Department of Archaeology, the National Museum of Cambodia works to enhance knowledge of and preserve Cambodian cultural traditions and to provide a source of pride and identity to the Cambodian people. The Museum also serves a religious function; its collection of important Buddhist and Hindu sculpture addresses community religious needs as a place of worship. A permanent exhibition, Post-Angkorian Buddha, supported by UNESCO and a number of individuals and local businesses, opened in 2000 to extend the religious function of the Museum. Under the auspices of the Cambodian Department of Museums, the Museum not only manages its own collection, staff, and premises but also supports and oversees all other state-run museums in Cambodia.
- OPTI:** Lunch at local restaurant The Shop, in Phnom Penh - <http://www.theshop-cambodia.com/>
- TOUR:** Phnom Penh – Local Colorful Markets: 1) Central Market, (in Cambodian called *Psar Thmei* - "New Market") is a 1930s Art Deco covered market near the Riverfront (Sisowath Quay) district. The market is well set out, and sells everything from flowers to video games. The market has recently been beautifully renovated, and is now worth a trip just to admire its architecture. – 2) Russian Market, (Cambodian: "*Psar Toul Tom Pong*"). The "Russian Market" moniker following the Vietnamese occupation of the city in the 1980s, but many motodops are not familiar with the name. Real designer clothes at a huge discount price. A lot of the factories for *Levis*, *CK*, *Ralph Lauren* and many other brands are in Phnom Penh, however a lot of the clothes sold here are deemed unfit to be shipped abroad due to very small fault in the clothing which a majority of people wouldn't even notice, therefore they are sold at the Russian market. You can also purchase fake Swiss watches and pirated software at low prices.
- OPTI:** Coffee at Jars of Clay, Phnom Penh - [www.canbypublications.com/phnompenhads/jars-of-clay-phnom-penh.htm](http://www.canbypublications.com/phnompenhads/jars-of-clay-phnom-penh.htm)
- TOUR:** Phnom Penh - Leasure Stroll on Sisowath Quay: Sisowath Quay aka. the Riverside Promenade, is an attractive boulevard running along the banks of the Mekong and Tonle Sap. It's fronted by a large, long open space with manicured lawns, palm trees and open pathways, all recently re-done as part of a Japanese funded project to upgrade the flood infrastructure along the river. The built-up side of the street is home to cafés and shops and the better class of bar, and is popular with tourists and expat Westerners. The esplanade along the river is also popular with Cambodians, who come here in the cool of the evening to enjoy the quasi-carnival atmosphere. It begins at the riverfront park opposite the Royal Palace, and is perhaps best experienced in the early evening. Dawn at Sisowath Quay is also a busy time, with locals doing calisthenics in front of the Royal Palace, and the sun rising over the river.
- OPTI:** Phnom Penh – River Sunset Cruise on the Tonlé-Sap.
- OPTI:** Dinner at Van's Restaurant, in Phnom Penh - <http://www.vans-restaurant.com/>
- HTLS:** Overnight in Phnom Penh – HOTEL – CAT. STD – 2\*\* - based DBL or TWN room

**Day 7 : Sunday 00.00.2012 – PHNOM PENH / FLIGHT / BANGKOK (-)**



- OPTI:** breakfast at your hotel.
- TVIG:** Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER (English-speaking/available from 08:00am until departure BKK)
- TVWG:** morning at leisure
- OPTI:** lunch at local restaurant La Croisette - <http://www.facebook.com/LaCroisettePhnomPenh>
- TRIO:** Transfer Out – private chartered vehicle – (Phnom Penh Hotel) to (Phnom Penh Airport) – 14km / 9mi – 00 hrs 30'
- IAFL: Intra Asia Flight – Air Asia Flight FD3617 – (Phnom Penh) to (Bangkok) – ETD 17:05pm / ETA 18:15pm (airline & flight hours are subject to possible contingency conditions)**
- INFO:** Say farewell to your PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER. We hope to see you again one day in ASIA!

**END OF SERVICES SMILEOFASIA**



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION – TASTE OF CAMBODIA – OUR SERVICES:

- ✓ Logistics organisation of a landarrangement as described hereabove: Taste of Cambodia 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS
- ✓ Travel period: weekly guaranteed departures on Mondays
- ✓ Hotel accommodation based on double or twin sharing room
- ✓ Services and all tariff are valid from 01 January 2012 - 31 December 2012
- ✓ Minimum 2 travellers

<b>Tariff in € (US\$) / per traveller</b>			
<i>Nett. Expenses per traveller</i>	<i>Smile of Asia Selection</i>	<i>Hotels 3*** SUP</i>	<i>Hotels 4**** DLX</i>
6 travellers w/ International Western Tour Leader	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details
4 travellers w/ International Western Tour Leader	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details
2 travellers w/ International Western Tour Leader	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details	Contact us for Details
<b>Sales Conditions</b>			
Single Room	Surcharge applies - on special request		
Group Travel 8-10-12 people	Discount applies - on special request		
Travel Advance: (150€ - 200\$) / pp.	Should reach us not later than 30 days before actual departure date		
Travel Balance	Can be paid in CASH (€ or \$) - on arrival in Chiang Mai, Thailand		
Tailor-Made itinerary CAMBODIA - contact us with 	Itinerary outline & price estimate within <b>1 hour!</b>		
Tailor-Made itinerary CAMBODIA - contact us with 	Itinerary detail & price accuracy within <b>72 hours!</b>		

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Travel with an International Western Tour Leader:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(6 people only)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Code TVP6</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services of a Private International Tourleader</li> <li>• Hotel accommodation within category of choice</li> <li>• Tours / Sightseeing / Excursions / Activities - admission- &amp; entrance fees</li> <li>• Intra Regional Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra City Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra Asia flights</li> <li>• Intra Domestic flights</li> <li>• Boat transfers</li> <li>• Express Bus transfers</li> <li>• Guaranteed Departure Date <b>with 6 people only</b></li> <li>• Liability travel license SMILE OF ASIA: TAT 24/0045</li> <li>• Local Taxes &amp; VAT.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Non-included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra continental flights</li> <li>• All meals</li> <li>• Airport Departure Tax on Day 7</li> <li>• Expenses for travel documents – visa</li> <li>• Expenses for travel insurance</li> <li>• Expenses of personal nature</li> <li>• All other...</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Travel with an International Western Tour Leader:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(4 people only)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Code TVP4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services of a Private International Tourleader</li> <li>• Hotel accommodation within category of choice</li> <li>• Tours / Sightseeing / Excursions / Activities - admission- &amp; entrance fees</li> <li>• Intra Regional Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra City Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra Asia flights</li> <li>• Intra Domestic flights</li> <li>• Boat transfers</li> <li>• Express Bus transfers</li> <li>• Guaranteed Departure Date <b>with 4 people only</b></li> <li>• Liability travel license SMILE OF ASIA: TAT 24/0045</li> <li>• Local Taxes &amp; VAT.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Non-included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra continental flights</li> <li>• All meals</li> <li>• Airport Departure Tax on Day 7</li> <li>• Expenses for travel documents – visa</li> <li>• Expenses for travel insurance</li> <li>• Expenses of personal nature</li> <li>• All other...</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Travel with an International Western Tour Leader:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(2 people only)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Code TVP2</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services of a Private International Tourleader</li> <li>• Hotel accommodation within category of choice</li> <li>• Tours / Sightseeing / Excursions / Activities - admission- &amp; entrance fees</li> <li>• Intra Regional Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra City Transport - Day 1 until Day 7</li> <li>• Intra Asia flights</li> <li>• Intra Domestic flights</li> <li>• Boat transfers</li> <li>• Express Bus transfers</li> <li>• Guaranteed Departure Date <b>with 2 people only</b></li> <li>• Liability travel license SMILE OF ASIA: TAT 24/0045</li> <li>• Local Taxes &amp; VAT.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Non-included Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra continental flights</li> <li>• All meals</li> <li>• Airport Departure Tax on Day 7</li> <li>• Expenses for travel documents – visa</li> <li>• Expenses for travel insurance</li> <li>• Expenses of personal nature</li> <li>• All other...</li> </ul>

<b>Glossary</b>	
<b>APTX</b>	Airport Departure Tax – included for intra domestic flights – not included for intra asia & intra continental flights
<b>BOAT</b>	Intra city transportation between major places, covered by local BOAT / JETFOIL / FERRY – advanced seat reservation
<b>DOCU</b>	Additional information about necessary travel documents
<b>EBUS</b>	Intra city transportation between major places, covered with an EXPRESS AIRCONDITIONED BUS – advanced seat reservation
<b>IAFL</b>	Intra asia flight – Airline – Flight Number – Est. Time of Arrival/Departure; to get to start/finish point for your journey – departs any asian airport hub
<b>ICFL</b>	Intra continental flight – Airline – Flight Number – Est. Time of Arrival/Departure; expenses are not included in our tours
<b>IDFL</b>	Intra Domestic Flight – Airline – Flight Number - Est. Time of Arrival/Departure; expenses are included in our tours
<b>ISRC</b>	Insurance of any kind – Medical, Cancellation, Bagage, ... at your own expense
<b>HTLS</b>	Hotel accommodation – Pictures displayed are 2** facilities – based on dbl/twn sharing room – surcharges for 3 or 4- star hotel and single room apply
<b>LBTY</b>	Liability covered by Travel License – SMILE OF ASIA – TAT 24/0045
<b>MEAL</b>	Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner – mostly organized for you at selected local restaurants which can ensure quality and hygiene to western standards
<b>SDNR</b>	Specially arranged Welcome- & Farewell Dinner, with local traditional dance and music
<b>TOUR</b>	Sightseeing / Tours / Excursions / Activities - admission- & entrance fees included in your journey
<b>TRAC</b>	Intra regional transport – private car & driver available from 08:00am to 18:00pm – approx. distance covered usually no more than 80km-50mi
<b>TRIC</b>	Intra city transport between overnight stops - private car & driver available – approx. distance covered usually no more than 350km-220mi
<b>TRIO</b>	Transfer in/out a major city – private car & driver are available for transfers from/to your Hotel – Airport - Railway Station - Boat Jetty Terminal...
<b>TVIG</b>	Services of a PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL TOURLEADER, who will guarantee the quality of your journey up to Western standards.
<b>TVLG</b>	Services of a LOCAL ASIAN TOURASSISTANT, who will communicate with your driver and give you an insight to the local customs of your destination
<b>TVWG</b>	Travel individual and independent, without assistance of a GUIDE - you will need to rely on your own abilities to organize sightseeing & meals yourself
<b>OPTI</b>	Sightseeing / Tours / Excursions / Activities / Meals ... any other activity NOT included in your journey and to be organized by yourself at own expense.
<b>VISA</b>	Document issued by a country's government allowing the holder to enter or to leave that country – expenses are not included.
<b>WEBS</b>	Website – Link – URL notifications: for hotels we plan to include information is usually supplied after payment of your deposit.
<b>INFO</b>	Background information about major cities, highlights, history, local customs, practical things etc... - no rights can be derived whatsoever - all content provided is for informational purposes only. SMILE OF ASIA makes no representations as to the accuracy or completeness of any information. We will not be liable for any errors or omissions in this information nor for the availability or lack of it. SMILE OF ASIA will not be liable for any losses, injuries, or damages from the display or use of this information.
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	 <b>SKYPE id: smileofasia</b>	

