

Cambodia – ‘Cambodia Overland’

All year round: 11D/10N ex London or 10D/9N Phnom Penh to Phnom Penh

Cambodia Overland: an exciting round trip, combining the famous temples of Angkor and best known sites, with some of the more off the beaten track ones, in a road and river adventure through this fascinating yet little known country. From the hectic yet charming, riverside capital Phnom Penh, overland through picturesque landscapes to the mysterious and dramatic, jungle-clad temples of Angkor, then across the scenic Tonle Sap Lake and down river to Battambang before returning to Phnom Penh via the photogenic ‘floating town’ of Kompong Chnang.



Day 1 Departure from the UK.

Day 2 Arrival in Phnom Penh and check-in to a small, comfortable [downtown hotel](#) close to the historic riverbank quarter. Time to relax before stretching your legs with an introductory walking tour, taking in the historic French Quarter, Wat Phnom and the lively waterfront area as well as giving you a first-hand feel for the bustling street-life before finishing perhaps, with sundowners at the famous Foreign Correspondents Club?

Day 3 Day tour of some of the sites of Cambodia’s fascinating capital city: the infamous Killing Fields site and the highly moving Khmer Rouge Genocide Museum at Tuol Sleng help to explain the country’s recent tragic history. The picturesque Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda will provide plenty of photo opportunities whilst the [Russian Market](#) offers some ‘retail therapy’ and a chance for a local style lunch.



Day 4 Travel through Cambodia’s scenic countryside to the small provincial town of Siem Reap in Western Cambodia – our base for the next few days while we visit the nearby Angkor Temple complex. Stops on the way include the famous ‘spider village’ of Skuon, (tasting not compulsory), the rarely visited but well preserved 10th century temple of Kuhananokor and lunch by a scenic lake. A dusk visit to the atmospheric ruins of [Banteay Kdei Temple](#) completes our day.

Day 5 Angkor – an unforgettable two-day tour of this fabulous site – its vast jungle clad temples and mysterious stone carvings. Our programme begins with dawn at Angkor Wat, followed by a comprehensive morning tour of the temple itself. Late morning return to Siem Reap to escape the midday heat and for some lunch, siesta or relaxation. Afternoon walking tour of Angkor Tom: Leper King Terrace, Preah Palilay, Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, Elephant Terrace, [Baphuon](#) and last but not least, (we’ll wait until the crowds have gone), the dramatic Bayon Temple with its famous faces.

Day 6 We'll begin with a forest hike up Bahkeng Hill to visit the spectacular [Phnom Bahkeng Temple](#) and check out the views, before moving on to the huge jungle-clad ruin of [Preah Khan](#). Dense jungle, enormous roots and trees and screeching parakeets make this atmospheric temple one of everyone's favourites. After a midday break in Siem Reap Town, the afternoon programme continues with a short jungle walk to Ta Keo via the remote and rarely visited Ta Nei Temple. A visit to the famous Ta Prom ruins – the famous 'Tomb Raider' Temple continues our jungle theme and concludes our day's visit.



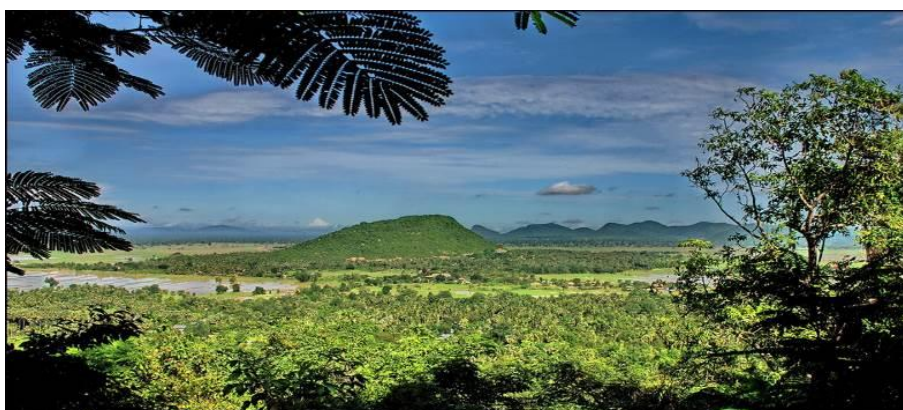
Day 7 Morning trip to one of the more remote and less visited temple sites, the truly spectacular [Beng Melea](#). A huge partially ruined temple complex, overgrown by jungle, lying to the west of Siem Reap, this is one of the most impressive Angkor monuments. Return to Siem Reap with an afternoon at leisure to relax by the pool, visit the National Museum, explore the markets or even take a [Khmer cookery lesson](#)?

Day 8 Spectacular boat journey across the Tonle Sap Lake, past the flooded forest and Prek Toal bird sanctuary and on down the [Sangkar River](#) and its floating stilt-house fishing villages to the town of Battambang. Stop off on the way to visit the [Prek Toal](#) community water hyacinth weaving project. Time of arrival will depend upon water levels.

Day 9 Morning ride through the paddy-fields on Battambang's famous 'bamboo train', followed by some leisure time to explore the friendly provincial town, or just chill-out in one of the many coffee shops. After lunch we'll visit the surrounding villages and their traditional cottage industries and handicrafts, either by bicycle, or tuk-tuk for the less energetic.

Day 10 Travelling east, our first stop will be the lively and colourful local market in Pursat Town for a chance to stretch our legs, check out the weird and wonderful produce on display, meet the friendly locals plus of course plenty of photo opportunities. Moving on, we'll stop at the fascinating river port town of Kompong Chnang where half the town is actually floating on the Tonle Sap River, and explore the bustling river front area before continuing to our days final destination - Phnom Penh.

Day 11 Morning transfer to Phnom Penh airport for a return flight to the UK.



Note: this tour is offered with return flights from London. Those persons not wishing to include the flight would join the tour in Phnom Penh on day 2, and depart in Phnom Penh on day 11.

Highlights: Phnom Penh, scenic Cambodian countryside, Ruined Cities of Angkor, sunrise at Angkor Wat, Beng Melea, Siem Reap, Sangkar River trip, Battambang, local food

Accommodation: hotel

Transport: minibus, boat, tuk-tuk, flight

Fitness: easy – maximum hiking 3-4 hrs per day during the Angkor visit

Meals: full board except for lunch on days 6, 7 & 9 and dinner on days 7 & 9



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