



CUSTOM TOURING
Dare to Dream

**CLASSIC CAMBODIA - 9 DAY ITINERARY
PLUS OPTIONAL DAY TOURS IN SIEM REAP**

When you think of Cambodia, you will imagine Angkor Wat – the glorious remnants of the once mighty Khmer Empire. When you learn about Cambodia, you will hear about the genocide – a dark period marred by war and bloodshed. But when you visit Cambodia, you will see a kind, resilient and humble people, who, despite the tragedies endured, have never lost their spirit and their infectious smiles.

Trip Highlights

- Explore famous Angkor Wat, Bayon, and Ta Promh
- Meet locals in Battambang and enjoy street food
- Learn about the work of APOPO in Cambodia – a humanitarian demining NGO

Inclusions

- Accommodation 8 nights
- Airport transfers
- Meals: 8B 2L 1D
- English speaking guides
- Phnom Penh Half-Day Tour
- Battambang Full-Day Tour
- Siem Reap Half Day Tour
- Service charge and current government VAT tax

Day by day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Siem Reap

On arrival in Siem Reap, you will be met by an English speaking guide and enjoy a private transfer to your hotel. [Lotus Blanc Resort](#) Deluxe room, or similar.

Day 2: Siem Reap Tour

Breakfast, Lunch

Your morning begins with APOPO's scent detection rats which detect landmines and tuberculosis. Then on to the monumental magnificence of Angkor Thom – the last capital of the great Khmer Empire. You will visit the temple of Bayon, known for the hundreds of smiling faces gracing the towers. The bas reliefs are quite impressive and tell the stories of daily life and the great battles fought between the Khmers and ancient Thais. Next it is on to one of the most loved temples of all - Ta Prohm.



Ta Prohm, photo by Custom Touring

Complete your tour exploring the magnificent Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument. This visually spectacular temple is a massive three-tiered pyramid, rising 65 metres from the ground and crowned by five lotus towers representing the five peaks of the sacred Mount Meru. The giant moat stretching around the temple symbolises the oceans of the world and is more than five kilometres in length. See bas-reliefs depicting Hindu epics from the Ramayana, dancing apasara's lining the walls and let your mind wander to days of ancient kings. The rest of day is at leisure.

Day 3: Siem Reap

Breakfast

Enjoy a free day to explore the charming town of Siem Reap at your leisure or take part in an optional day tour. **(See 4 optional tours at the end of this itinerary: take up one on your free day or stay a few more days in Siem Reap and enjoy more of these incredible day tours exploring the area.)**

Day 4: Siem Reap – Battambang

Breakfast, Lunch, Street food supper

Early start today for your private transfer to Battambang.

After checking in, enjoy a walking tour around Battambang town to visit a local market and other interesting French architecture colonial buildings built in the early 20th century. Visit the Provincial Museum and a Buddhist temple where you will learn about monastic life. End your morning tour around midday with an authentic Cambodian lunch. In the afternoon visit a wooden traditional Khmer house and fishing village out of town before riding a fun bamboo train.

A special treat this evening – experiencing local street food at popular places offering a genuine Khmer cuisine experience.

Overnight at Classy Hotel and Spa Superior room, or similar.



Battambang, photo courtesy of Discova

Day 5: Battambang – Full day tour

Breakfast, Lunch

This morning try your hand at making Homemade Rice Paper which is normally used to make spring rolls. On to Wat Phnom Banan, an 11th century temple built by King Jarvarman VII.

Located on top of a 400-metre-high hill, the views from the temple are simply breathtaking. The next destination is Ek Phnom, built in the 11th century under the rule of Suryavarman I. Although the temple is in poor condition compared to those in neighbouring Angkor, there are still some very beautiful Hindu carvings to be seen. Return to your hotel to freshen up and have lunch. This afternoon head to a fishing village out of town before going on to explore Phnom Sampeau, which is a natural rock formation containing a series of caves. The area was a former stronghold of the Khmer Rouge and some of the caves were used as “killing caves”. Here you will also have opportunity to visit Bat Cave and see thousands of Bats flying around as they leave the cave as dusk falls, a steady stream flying out for around 45 minutes. Your guide will be able to offer more information about the history of this area.

Day 6: Battambang-Phnom Penh

Breakfast

Your guide will accompany you on a 6-hour drive to Phnom Penh.

The rest of the day is free. Overnight at Baitong Hotel and Resort Standard room, or similar.

Day 7: Phnom Penh

Breakfast

Begin your half-day tour with a visit to the Royal Palace overlooking the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers. Built in 1866 by King Norodom, the palace is now home to the reigning monarch. Within the palace grounds you will find the Silver Pagoda, its floor covered by 5,000 silver tiles each weighing 1 kg.



Royal Palace, photo courtesy of Discova.

View a beautiful emerald and crystal Buddha sitting on top of a gilded pedestal, and life-sized Buddha made from solid gold weighing 90kgs and encrusted with 9,584 diamonds, the largest weighing in at 25 carats!

Next you will visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, which documents the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge against both their political enemies and many thousands of everyday Cambodians.

In 1975 this former high school was taken over by Pol Pot's security forces and converted into Security Prison 21 (S-21). It soon became the largest detention and torture centre in the country. Please note that the images on display are quite graphic and unsettling.

End your day on a lighter note at the city's art deco inspired Central Market which sells everything from fresh fish to flowers. You can buy gold jewellery, precious gems, silk, t-shirts, souvenirs and more!

Day 8: Phnom Penh

Breakfast

Free day to explore Phnom Penh on your own.

Day 9: Departure

Breakfast

Free time until your private transfer to the airport for ongoing flights.

Four optional day tours in Siem Reap.

(All photos courtesy of Discova.)



1. Angkor Sunrise Discovery

An early start to explore Angkor Wat is not only wise, but a pricelessly beautiful experience. After watching a breathtaking sunrise amidst the temple grounds, you will explore the ancient wonder on foot at the quietest and coolest time of day. Afterwards, enjoy a private breakfast just outside the temple area in peaceful surroundings.

Fueled by a hearty breakfast, you will spend the rest of the morning cycling the complex's back trails through forest to some of Angkor's renowned ancient ruins, stopping at both iconic and lesser-known temples. Along the way your expert guide reveals the history and unique stories of sites built and changed by both Hindu and Buddhist faiths.



This is a favourite day tour in Cambodia, with stops at some of Angkor's most famous temples.

Your cycling adventure is rewarded with a delicious lunch in a local restaurant.

Distance: 20-25 kilometres

Level required: Novice cycling skills, however, this can prove to be a moderately challenging route during the daytime's heat

Best season to go: Accessible year-round, but best during the cooler season between November and January.

2. Siem Reap Countryside by E-bike

This half-day countryside e-bike tour will take you further into the rural outskirts of Siem Reap. With the pedal-assisted power at your disposal, you can go further without breaking an extra sweat.



An easy to navigate, accessible-for-all route through Siem Reap's charming, quiet countryside.

Around the city's countryside, the way of life that has changed little over the centuries. In this charming rural setting, you will taste your way through traditional snacks, with a charming visit to a local village house included.

During the journey, you will also learn about the age-old craft of basket/rattan weaving from a local expert, meet eager fishermen at West Baray and a local medicine man, and experience a water blessing at the local monastery.

Distance: 40 kilometres

Level required: Novice, easy

Best season to go: As this tour is pedal-assisted, any time of year can be suitable.

3. Kulen Mountain Hike, Full-day Private Tour

Considered the birthplace of the Khmer Empire, Phnom Kulen is about a 1.5 to 2-hour drive out of Siem Reap. The mountain is considered sacred and is deeply revered by both locals and visitors from all over Cambodia.



A relatively easy hike with incredible views and ancient wonders hidden within its forests.

A beautiful full-day tour, this hike begins at the base of the mountain, where you will slowly ascend for around two hours until reaching the waterfall peak. Along the way, you will move through forest trails and pass several ancient Khmer ruins. A local guide will explain the deep historical significance of this magical mountain, where King Jayavarman proclaimed independence from Java in 802.

Visitors can pay a visit to the Buddhist pagoda and observe the worshippers who come to pray here. At the waterfall, you can take some time to enjoy the views before exploring the local shops.

Distance of hike: 6 kilometres, 2-3 hours

Level required: Novice, some basic fitness required

Best season to go: Accessible year-round, but most pleasant during the cooler season between November and January

4. Siem Reap Kayaking Trip to Fishing Village

Houses in the village of Mechrey are built on floating platforms of bamboo, moored around a small hilltop pagoda during the flood. As the lake starts to recede, they are towed to deeper water. When the water is high, you can kayak across the floodplain. If you travel during the dry season, you will instead take a motorboat, together with your guide, to where the village has shifted, and then kayak out to the open Tonle Sap Lake where you can watch the birds and fishermen as the sun sinks low over the horizon, and observe the unique goings-on of daily life in this rural enclave.

Distance: 1-1.5 kilometres, 1-1.5 hours

Level required: Novice, easy

Best season to go: Accessible year-round, with high water levels between August and February, and the dry season between March and July.



The people of Tonle Sap's floating villages have adapted effortlessly to the rhythm of the lake.

2023 RATES IN USD, PER PERSON SHARING (2024 rates on request)

Classic cambodia 9 day itinerary	USD1,395
Extra nights in Siem Reap	USD 92 per person per night

OPTIONAL DAY TOURS IN SIEM REAP – PER PERSON (subject to change)

1. Angkor Sunrise Discovery	USD 135
2. Siem Reap countryside by E-Bike	USD 40
3. Kulen Mountain Hike	USD 110
4. Kayaking trip to fishing village	USD 225