



## Itinerary

### 9 Day Cambodia & Laos Uncovered

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### Day 1: Arrive Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport, proceed through the immigration procedures. After collecting your luggage, head straight to the Exit Gate where our driver (no guide) will be waiting. Following a brief self-introduction, you will be transferred directly to the hotel. Please note that check-in time is 2pm.

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Mettavary Hotel, Phnom Penh

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Sun and Moon Urban Hotel, Phnom Penh

#### Day 2: Phnom Penh City Tour

After breakfast, meet our guide and embark on a tour of the city using a cyclo, a traditional means of transport in Phnom Penh. The first stop is Wat Phnom, a Buddhist temple located in the city centre, built in 1373 and standing 27 meters above the ground. Next, visit the Royal Palace compound, constructed in 1866 by the predecessors of King Norodom. This impressive palace complex features vibrant Khmer-style architecture. Nearby is the Silver Pagoda (The Emerald Buddha temple), which houses numerous Buddha statues decorated with diamonds, emeralds, gold, and silver. Continue to the National Museum, a distinctive red building with beautiful Khmer architecture built in 1917, containing over 5000 art objects made of sandstone, bronze, silver, copper, wood, and more. The tour proceeds to the Independence Monument, constructed in 1954 after Cambodia gained independence from French colonial rule. In the evening, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Mekong and Tonle Sap River for an hour. Situated at the "Four Arms" where the Mekong meets the Tonle Sap River before splitting into two branches, Phnom Penh offers an ideal location to experience the mighty Mekong.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Mettavary Hotel, Phnom Penh

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Sun and Moon Urban Hotel, Phnom Penh

#### Day 3: Phnom Penh ~ Siem Reap

After breakfast, you will be picked up by a bus company and take a shuttle bus from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. Upon arrival at the Siem Reap bus station, meet our driver (no guide) and transfer to the hotel for check-in.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Ladear Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Somadevi Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

#### Day 4: Angkor Highlight

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before driving to Angkor Thom, a masterpiece of King Jayavarman VII. Following the occupation of Angkor by the Chams from 1177 to 1181, the new king built an impregnable fortress at the heart of his empire. Begin the tour with a visit to Bayon Temple, located at the exact centre of Angkor Thom, showcasing the creative genius and ego of Cambodia's most celebrated king. Make a photo stop at the Terrace of the Leper King and walk along the Terrace of Elephants, originally used as a viewing gallery for the king to preside over parades, performances, and traditional sports. At the southern end lies Baphuon, one of the most beautiful temples at Angkor, dating from the reign of Udayadityavarman II in the 11th century. Visit the picturesque Ta Prohm, which has nearly disappeared into the jungle, creating an oddly haunting and exotic scene with the roots of trees enveloping the temple stones. Finally, journey to Angkor Wat, the mother of all temples and believed to be the world's largest religious building, representing the perfect fusion of symbolism and symmetry.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Ladear Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Somadevi Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

#### Day 5: Cooking Class & Tonle Sap Lake

Discover one of Siem Reap's most rewarding and immersive experiences, beyond exploring the iconic Angkor Wat. If you're passionate about cooking and Cambodian cuisine, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Begin your day with a visit to a vibrant local market or a traditional village, depending on whether you choose a morning or afternoon session. Then, continue to a peaceful rural village on the outskirts of Siem Reap, where you'll learn the secrets of authentic Khmer cooking under the guidance of a skilled village chef. Get hands-on with fresh, local ingredients and traditional techniques as you prepare several classic Cambodian dishes in a serene and authentic setting.

In the afternoon, depart for the Tonlé Sap Lake, the largest permanent freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, which flows into the Tonle Sap River and joins the Mekong in Phnom Penh. Enjoy a boat ride across the lake to explore a floating village, complete with schools, police stations, and homes – all drifting with the seasonal water levels and currents.

Visit a local pagoda where you will change into clothes suitable for getting wet and take part in the "Srouch Teok" water blessing ceremony. A monk will chant in ancient Pali and gently splash water over

you, symbolically cleansing you of bad luck and past negativity, offering a fresh start and spiritual renewal.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Ladear Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Somadevi Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

### Day 6: Siem Reap ~ Luang Prabang, Laos

Today you will be picked up by a driver (no guide) and transferred to Siem Reap airport for a flight to Luang Prabang, perhaps the best-preserved traditional city in Southeast Asia. Upon arrival at Luang Prabang Airport, meet our driver (no guide) and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Sala Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Muangthong Hotel, Luang Prabang

### Day 7: UNESCO Heritage & Pak Ou Buddha Cave

After breakfast, visit the National Museum at the former Royal Palace, which houses a collection of artifacts reflecting the richness of Lao culture from the early kings to the last sovereign. The tour also includes the Central Market, the city's oldest temple Wat Sene, and Wat Xieng Thong, a significant monument to religion, royalty, and traditional art. Continue to the impressive Wat Visoun, the oldest temple housing many Buddha images, followed by Wat Aham, the 'Monastery of the Blossomed Heart,' and Wat Mai, the largest and most richly decorated temple in the city. Embark on a boat trip on the Mekong River, stopping at Ban Xang Hai to see the production of and sample local rice wine. Continue through the stunning mountain landscape to the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, which contain thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes. After the river trip, visit Ban Phanom, a small village known for its hand weaving.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Sala Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Muangthong Hotel, Luang Prabang

### Day 8: Khouangsi Waterfall

Consider starting your day early to participate in the daily morning ritual of offering alms to saffron-clad monks, a unique tradition in Laos. Then travel south of town to the famous Kuangsi Waterfall, known for its turquoise waters and white limestone cliffs, creating a magical appearance. Depending on the season, you can swim in the beautiful pools. While there, visit the Sun Bear Reserve, a conservation centre that rescues animals from the wildlife trade, and the Kuang Si Butterfly Park, initiated by two passionate Dutch individuals in 2014, focusing on research and preservation of Laos butterflies. Lastly, visit the Laos Buffalo Dairy, a socially responsible and sustainable farm and social enterprise aimed at improving rural prosperity, welfare, nutrition, and health of the local population, with a focus on buffalo farming and

childhood nutrition.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR):** Sala Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR):** Muangthong Hotel, Luang Prabang

### Day 9: Depart Luang Prabang

On your final day, a driver (no guide) will transfer you to Luang Prabang airport for your departure to your next destination. It's time to say goodbye. We thank you for traveling with us and warmly welcome you to come again.

**MEALS:** Breakfast