

THE TEMPLES, THE HISTORY, AND THE CHEAPEST WEEK IN
THE REGION

Cambodia

How Angkor really works, what a day actually costs in dollars, and how to chain
Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and the coast without wasting a day on the bus.

p. 09 Angkor decoded: the pass, the circuits, and when to beat the crowds

p. 24 Every leg by bus and boat, mapped on one page

p. 29 What a day really costs, printed as a till receipt

41 PAGES

PRICES IN USD

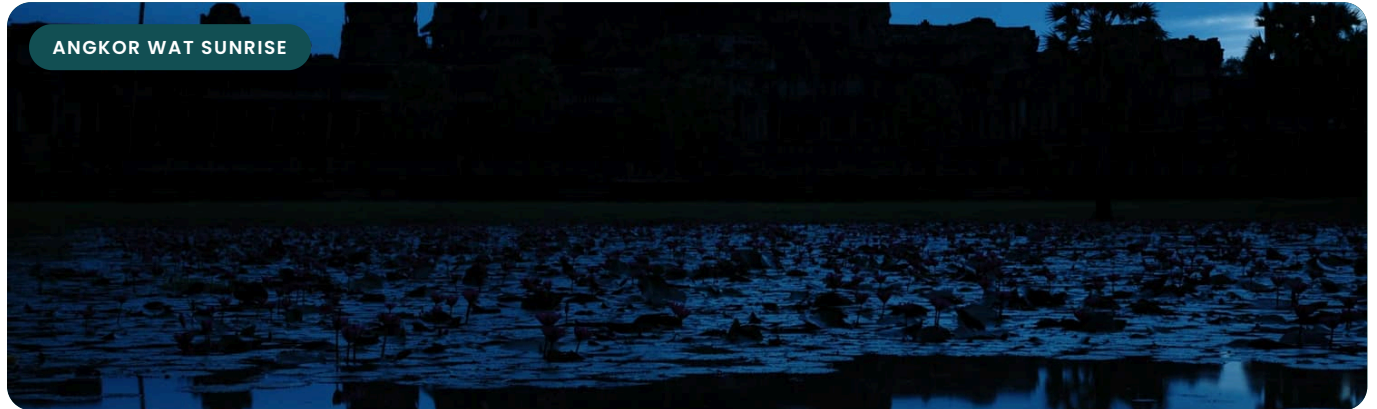
30-DAY E-VISA

EDITION 2026.06

Start here

the shape of a Cambodia trip, what it costs, what to sort first

ANGKOR WAT SUNRISE



Most people come to Cambodia for one thing, Angkor, and leave surprised by everything else. The country is small and easy to cross: Siem Reap for the temples, Phnom Penh for the capital and the recent history, and a short string of riverside towns and quiet islands down toward the coast. It is also one of the cheapest countries in the region, and prices are quoted in US dollars, which makes the budget unusually easy to read. This guide gives Angkor the depth it deserves, handles the Khmer Rouge sites plainly, and keeps the rest tight so you can plan a full trip in an afternoon. All of it offline, in your pocket.

The shape of a trip

One week is Siem Reap plus Phnom Penh, the two anchors. Two weeks adds the riverside south, Battambang or Kampot and Kep, and a few days on Koh Rong. Buses link everything; only the coast needs a boat.

What a day costs

Backpacking runs about 22 USD a day, mid-range around 50, captured June 2026. Prices are in dollars almost everywhere, with small change handed back in riel. The full receipt is itemised on page 29.

Sort before you fly

An e-visa or visa on arrival is 36 USD for most passports, an eSIM the moment you land, and the Angkor pass bought online or at the gate. Page 28 lists the four bookings that reward going early.

BAYON FACES



FISH AMOK



HOW THE LINKS WORK

Some booking links earn Pack Lightly a commission, at no extra cost to you. Full disclosure is on the last page.

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tap a line to jump straight there

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QUICK JUMPS

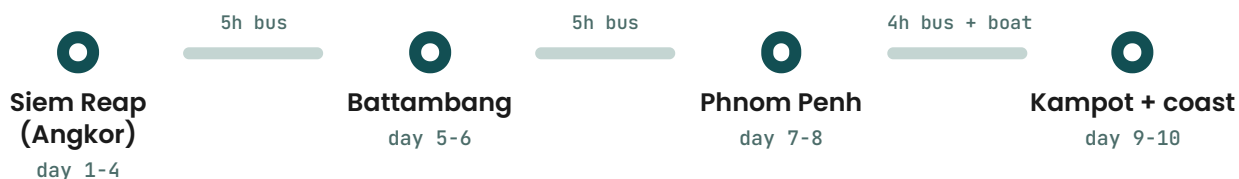
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Your trip on one page

10 days · 22 to 130 USD/day · dry season Nov to Mar

If you read nothing else, this is the trip. Start in Siem Reap and give Angkor three full days, then bus south to Phnom Penh for the capital and the recent history. With more time, add a riverside stop at Battambang or Kampot, and a few slow days on Koh Rong. Budget from the bars below, not from resort rates; this is a cheap country and dollars make it easy to track. Book the three things at the bottom right before you fly. The only timing rule that matters is dry season against wet.

THE ROUTE



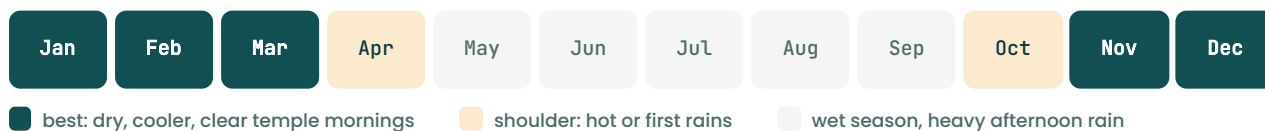
BUDGET PER DAY

Backpacker		22 USD
Standard		50 USD
Comfort		130 USD

BOOK FIRST

- 01 International flights, 6 to 8 weeks out **Aviasales**
- 02 Inter-town buses and the coast boat, a few days out **12Go**
- 03 eSIM, install before departure **Saily**

BEST MONTHS



Cambodia at a glance

scores 0-100 · pack-lightly country-comparison data

SCORECARD

Budget friendly

90

Culture

85

Food and drinks

75

Nature

65

Tourist infrastructure

60

Safety

60

Budget travel

22 USD/day

Mid-range

50 USD/day

Comfort

130 USD/day

CULTURE

TEMPLES

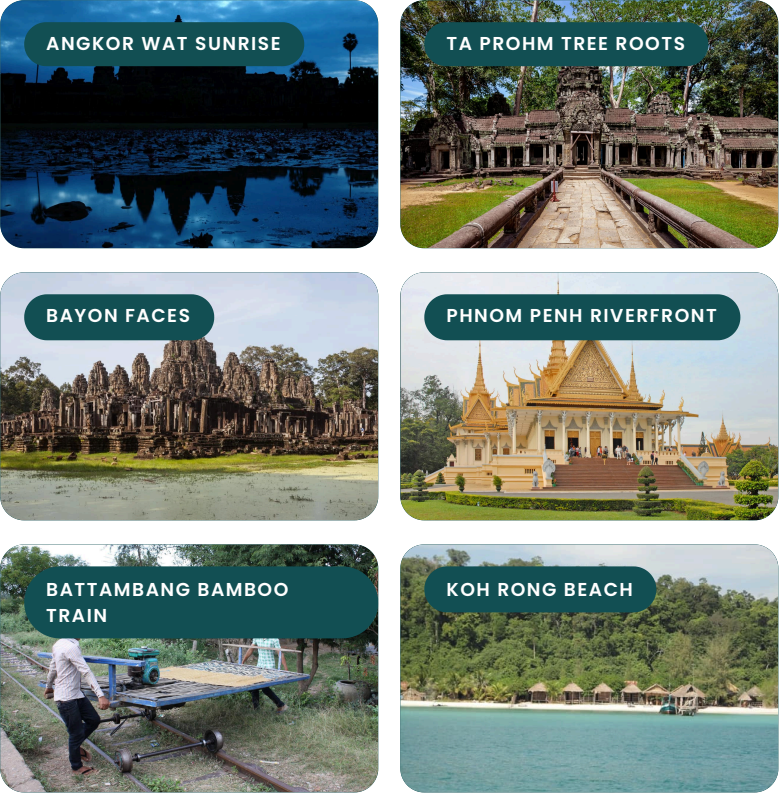
BUDGET

BEACH

ADVENTURE

source: country-comparison tool, 2026-06

SIX FRAMES OF THE TRIP



01

The country

What Cambodia is, how it divides up, who comes, and why a small country with one giant temple complex still rewards a full two weeks.

IN THIS CHAPTER

What Cambodia is

07

What Cambodia is

17M people · one giant temple city · small and quick to cross

A small country wedged between Thailand and Vietnam, with the Mekong running through it and the great inland lake of the Tonle Sap at its heart. Around seventeen million people, a Theravada Buddhist culture, and a history that swings from the medieval superpower that built Angkor to the Khmer Rouge years of the 1970s that the country is still recovering from. For travellers it is compact and cheap: the distances are short, the buses connect everything, and the US dollar is the everyday currency, so the budget is easy to read. The draw is the temples first, the recent history second, and a relaxed riverside-and-island south that asks nothing of you.

CAPITAL

Phnom Penh

~2M people

POPULATION

17M

Theravada Buddhist

CURRENCY

USD

riel for small change

BEST MONTHS

Nov-Mar

dry and cooler

THE COUNTRY, BY REGION

ANGKOR WAT

Siem Reap and Angkor

the temple city · the reason most come

The vast Angkor Archaeological Park and its base town. The single biggest draw in the country and worth three full days on its own.

PHNOM PENH RIVERFRONT

Phnom Penh

capital, history, transit hub

The Mekong riverfront, the Royal Palace, and the two Khmer Rouge memorial sites. The hub that all the bus routes pass through.

BATTAMBANG COUNTRYSIDE

Battambang and the centre

countryside, arts, the bamboo train

A relaxed riverside town of colonial shophouses, rice-field cycling, the bamboo train and a strong circus and arts scene.

KOH RONG BEACH

Kampot, Kep and the coast

pepper, crab, quiet islands

Riverside Kampot and seaside Kep for the slow days, then the modest beach islands of Koh Rong and Koh Rong Sanloem.

WHO THIS GUIDE IS WRITTEN FOR

First-time, the two anchors

7 to 10 days, Siem Reap for Angkor and Phnom Penh for the capital and the history.

Budget backpacker

One of the cheapest runs in the region, 22 USD a day, dorms and street food and buses.

Couple, slow south

Temples up top, then riverside Kampot and a few quiet days on Koh Rong Sanloem.

Overland, Thailand to Vietnam

Cambodia as the middle leg of a regional loop, entered and left by land border.

02

Angkor

The reason most people come, given the depth it deserves. How the pass and the circuits work, which temple at which hour, and how to stay ahead of the tour buses.

IN THIS CHAPTER

How Angkor works: pass, circuits, crowds	09
One day or three: the routing	10
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Banteay Srei and the quieter outliers	12
Siem Reap, beyond the temples	13
Where to stay and tours worth paying for	14

How Angkor works

the pass, the two circuits, and beating the crowds

Angkor is not one temple but a city-sized park of them, the capital of the Khmer empire from the ninth to the fifteenth century, spread over hundreds of square kilometres of forest just north of Siem Reap. You need three things to plan it: a pass, a way to get around, and a sense of which temple to hit at which hour. Get those right and the park is the highlight of a Southeast Asia trip. Get them wrong and it is a hot, crowded, exhausting day. This page is the operating manual; the next plans the route.

THE ANGKOR PASS, WHAT IT COSTS

PASS	PRICE	BEST FOR
1-day pass	USD 37	a rushed highlights loop, the small circuit only
3-day pass	USD 62	the realistic choice; use any 3 days within a week
7-day pass	USD 72	photographers and slow travellers; any 7 days in a month

official Angkor Enterprise pricing, verified 2026-05 · buy online at angkorenterprise.gov.kh or at the official ticket office



Buy the pass at the official ticket office on the road to the park, or online beforehand. Your photo is printed on it and it is checked at every temple. There is one legitimate seller; anyone offering a pass elsewhere is the ticket scam.



Buy a 3-day pass after about 4pm and most sellers let you in for that evening's sunset free, with the three days starting the next morning. A quiet bonus golden hour.

THE TWO CIRCUITS, AND HOW TO MOVE

The park has two standard loops. The **small circuit** (about 17 km) covers the headline trio: Angkor Wat, the walled city of Angkor Thom with the Bayon, and Ta Prohm. The **grand circuit** (about 26 km) swings wider to the quieter outer temples like Preah Khan and Neak Pean. Most people hire a tuk-tuk and driver for the day (about 18 to 25 USD, more for the far temples), which is the sweet spot of cost and comfort. A bicycle works for the small circuit if you can take the heat; a car with air-conditioning is the splurge. Sunrise at Angkor Wat is the famous opener, but it draws the biggest crowd of the day, so plan the rest of that morning to run against the herd.

GO DEEPER

The full park overview in the [Angkor Archaeological Park rundown](#), and the dawn slot in the [Angkor Wat sunrise page](#).

One day or three: the routing

the rushed highlights day, then the full version

Three days is the right amount: enough to see the headliners well, rest through the worst midday heat, and reach the quieter outer temples without a forced march. If you only have one day, the timeline below front-loads the three temples that matter and skips the rest with a clear conscience. Both versions start at the Angkor Wat sunrise and then deliberately turn away from the crowd.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE DAY

- 5:00

Angkor Wat sunrise
left-hand pond

In the dark by the reflecting pool for the silhouette. Then walk inside while the sunrise crowd thins out toward breakfast.
- 8:30

Angkor Thom and the Bayon
small circuit

The walled royal city and the smiling stone faces of the Bayon while the buses are still at Angkor Wat.
- 11:00

Ta Prohm
the jungle temple

The tree-root temple before lunch. Rest through the 1 to 3pm heat, then a short second look at Angkor Wat in the softer afternoon light.

THE THREE-DAY VERSION

- D1

Small circuit, sunrise start
Wat, Bayon, Ta Prohm

Sunrise at Angkor Wat, then Angkor Thom and the Bayon, then Ta Prohm. A long first day, but the headliners are done.
- D2

Banteay Srei and the grand circuit
further out

A morning run to the pink-sandstone Banteay Srei, then back via the quieter Preah Khan and Neak Pean on the grand loop.
- D3

The outliers, or a slow re-visit
your pace

The jungle temple of Beng Mealea or the river carvings at Kbal Spean, or simply return to your favourite at a quiet hour.

READ ON

The top sights ranked in the [Angkor park guide](#), and a full day-by-day country route in the [7-day itinerary](#).



The three you cannot skip

Run the small circuit backwards. While the sunrise crowd is still clock-wise from Angkor Wat, go straight to the Bayon, then arrive at Ta Prohm as they leave it.

Angkor Wat, the Bayon, Ta Prohm • the small-circuit core



Skip the Phnom Bakheng sunset; it is rationed to a few hundred people and a long queue. The temples empty after about 4pm, which is the better golden hour anyway.

If you do nothing else in the park, do these three. Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument on earth and the national symbol; the Bayon is the face-temple at the centre of the old walled city; Ta Prohm is the one the jungle is slowly eating. Each rewards a different hour, which is why the routing on the last page matters as much as the list.

ANGKOR WAT SUNRISE

Angkor Wat best at dawn

12th century • the headliner

The largest religious monument in the world, built as a Hindu temple to Vishnu and later turned Buddhist. The sunrise silhouette over the lotus pond is the postcard, but the long bas-relief galleries reward a slow walk once the dawn crowd clears.

BAYON FACES

The Bayon best mid-morning

in Angkor Thom • the face temple

At the centre of the old walled city of Angkor Thom, more than two hundred huge serene stone faces look out from the towers. The detail is in the lower galleries: bas-reliefs of everyday Khmer life and a naval battle on the Tonle Sap.

TA PROHM TREE ROOTS

Ta Prohm best at opening

Left half-swallowed by the forest, with giant strangler-fig and silk-cotton roots prising the stone apart. Famous from the Tomb Raider film, which is why it draws crowds; come right at opening or in the last hour to have a corner to yourself.

the jungle temple



Angkor is a working religious site. Shoulders and knees must be covered to climb the upper level of Angkor Wat, and that rule is enforced at the gate. The dress code is on page 32.

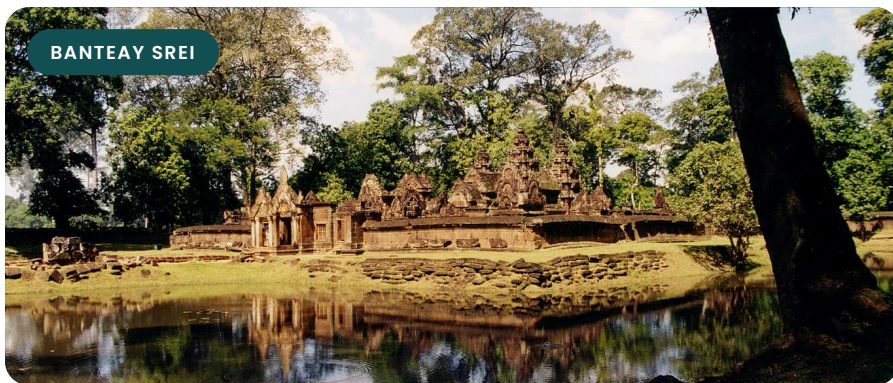


Carry more water than you think and start early. By 10am the stone radiates heat and the shade runs out; the temples are an endurance event in the dry-season afternoon.

MORE ON THE SITE The dawn in the [Angkor Wat sunrise page](#), the face temple in the [Bayon write-up](#), and the roots in the [Ta Prohm page](#).

Banteay Srei and the quieter outliers

day two and three • where the crowds thin out



Banteay Srei is small and packs out by mid-morning with the tour groups. Go first thing, before the Angkor Wat crowd has finished breakfast and turned north.



Beng Mealea and Kbal Spean sit outside the main park and may need the driver to negotiate a higher fare. Agree the full round-trip price before you set off, not at the gate.

Once you have the headliners, the second and third days are about going further out for fewer people and finer detail. Banteay Srei, about 30 km north, is the standout: a small tenth-century temple in pink sandstone, with the most intricate carving in the whole park, often called the citadel of women. It is a longer tuk-tuk run, so pair it with the river-bed carvings at Kbal Spean nearby.

Beyond the standard loops, Beng Mealea is the unrestored jungle temple, a tumbled, root-strewn ruin an hour east that feels like the early explorers found it. The grand circuit picks up Preah Khan, a sprawling monastic complex, and the small island temple of Neak Pean. None of these draw an Angkor Wat crowd, which is the whole point of staying past one day.

Banteay Srei

The pink-sandstone miniature with the park's finest carving; go at opening to beat the groups.

Beng Mealea

The unrestored jungle ruin an hour east; collapsed galleries and roots, far fewer people.

Preah Khan

A long, atmospheric monastic complex on the grand circuit, quiet even in high season.

Kbal Spean

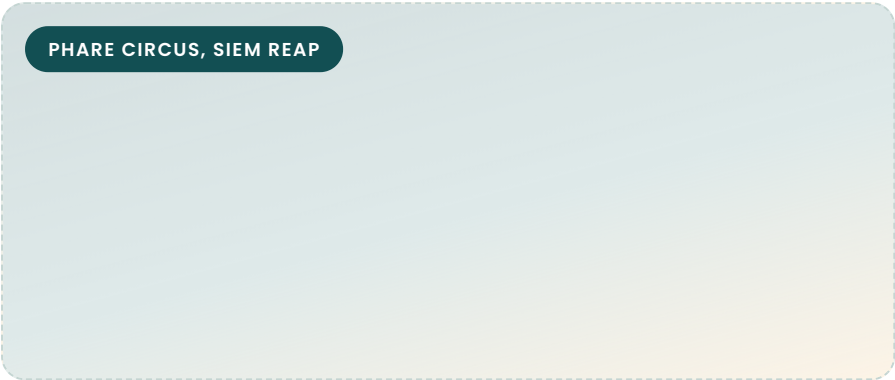
The carved river bed, a short forest hike north of Banteay Srei; pair the two in one morning.

KEEP READING

The carving in the [Banteay Srei page](#), the jungle ruin in the [Beng Mealea write-up](#), and the river bed in the [Kbal Spean hike](#).

Siem Reap, beyond the temples

the base town • what is worth your evening



Siem Reap is the base, and it has grown into a genuinely pleasant small town: a riverside, French-colonial streets, good food and a craft scene that has outgrown its backpacker beginnings. The honest verdict on Pub Street is that it is a loud, cheap-beer tourist strip and fine for one boisterous night, but the better evenings are a block away around the river and the night markets.

Two things are worth booking. Phare, the Cambodian Circus, is a slick, moving acrobatics-and-storytelling show run by an arts charity that trains young Cambodians, and it is the best night out in town. The Tonle Sap floating villages are the popular half-day add-on; pick a community-run trip to one of the genuine stilt villages rather than the staged tourist one, and go in the wet season when the lake is high.

The Tonle Sap boat trips are a known overcharging spot. Book through your guesthouse or a community operator at a set price; the dock touts quote double and add fuel surcharges.

Book Phare ahead in high season; the tent is small and the good shows sell out. An early slot leaves the rest of the evening for the night market.

Phare, the Cambodian Circus

Acrobatics and storytelling by a youth arts charity; the standout evening in Siem Reap.

The river and night markets

The pleasant core a block off Pub Street; food stalls, craft markets and a calmer crowd.

Tonle Sap floating village

A half-day boat to a stilt village on the great lake; community-run, high water, set price.

Pub Street

The loud cheap-drink strip; fine for one night, skippable after that. The verdict: one and done.

THE LONG VERSION

The town picks in the [Siem Reap rundown](#), the show in the [Phare circus page](#), and the lake in the [floating village write-up](#).

Where to stay: Siem Reap

prices per night, double room • base near the river or the Old Market

Siem Reap is the easiest base in the country: small, walkable, and stuffed with good-value rooms because the competition for temple visitors is fierce. Stay near the river and the Old Market for the food and the markets within a short stroll, and a quick tuk-tuk ride to the park gate. Book your first nights ahead in the November to February peak, then you can move freely. Pick a guesthouse that arranges a reliable temple tuk-tuk driver; the good ones become your guide for three days.

Old Market and the river (central base)

hostel **5 USD** mid **22 USD** comfort **70 USD**

The walkable heart: food, night markets and Pub Street within a few minutes, and a short ride to the park. [See what a room costs around Siem Reap](#) before you commit; backpackers run the dorm scene on [Hostelworld](#).

Mid-range and up across Siem Reap, with free cancellation while your dates are still moving.

Find Stays on Booking.com

TOURS WORTH PAYING FOR

Angkor sunrise small-group temple tour with guide

from 25 USD

via GetYourGuide

full day

Banteay Srei and Beng Mealea outer-temple day trip

from 35 USD

via GetYourGuide

full day

Tonle Sap floating village half-day boat trip

from 20 USD

via GetYourGuide

half day

Live GetYourGuide search, filtered to Siem Reap; prices and ratings update on the site. Tap a card to browse and book.

03

The rest of Cambodia

The capital, the riverside towns and the modest beach islands. Kept tight, because once you are off the Angkor circuit the country slows right down.

IN THIS CHAPTER

The towns, mapped to what you want	16
Phnom Penh	17
Battambang	18
Kampot and Kep	19
Koh Rong and Koh Rong Sanloem	20
Food, and where to stay south	21

The towns, mapped to what you want

five places plus the temple base · pick the row, read across

Once Angkor is done, the rest of Cambodia is a short list of relaxed stops, not a second epic. Decide what you want most from the back half of the trip, find the row that scores it highest, and read the page. Almost everything is a half-day bus from the last place, and Phnom Penh is the hub the routes pass through. Nothing here needs the depth Angkor does, which is the point of a compact country.

PLACE	FOR	CULTURE	BEACH	NATURE	FOOD	QUIET
Siem Reap	temples	●●●	○○○	●○○	●●○	●○○
Phnom Penh	capital	●●●	○○○	●○○	●●●	○○○
Battambang	countryside	●●○	○○○	●●○	●●○	●●●
Kampot + Kep	riverside	●○○	●○○	●●○	●●●	●●●
Koh Rong	island	○○○	●●○	●●○	●○○	●●○
Koh Rong Sanloem	island	○○○	●●●	●●○	●○○	●●●

● filled dots = stronger fit (3 = built for it)

assessment: pack-lightly Cambodia cluster, 2026-06



One week, first trip: Siem Reap plus Phnom Penh, no more. Ten days adds one southern stop. Two weeks does the whole sweep down to the coast without rushing.



The islands are a beach add-on, not the headline. If you have done Thai or Philippine islands, set expectations lower; come for the quiet, not the scenery.

ON THE WEBSITE The landscapes in the [best places list](#), the coast in the [beaches ranking](#), and the islands in the [islands rundown](#).

Phnom Penh

capital, riverfront, history · 2 nights · the transit hub



The capital sits where the Mekong, the Tonle Sap and the Bassac rivers meet, and the riverfront is the best of it: a long promenade that fills with families and food carts at dusk. By day the Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda are the cultural anchor, and the city has a fast-growing cafe and gallery scene. Two nights is enough for most: one for the palace and the river, one for the two Khmer Rouge memorial sites that the next chapter covers in full.

Phnom Penh is also the hub. Almost every bus route crosses it, so you will likely pass through it at some point either way. Use that: break the journey here on the way south, see the capital properly, and move on. The traffic is heavy and the tuk-tuk drivers persistent, but the centre is small enough to walk and the river end is genuinely pleasant in the cool of the morning.



The Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda enforce a dress code: covered shoulders and knees, the same as the temples. Bring a layer or you will be turned away or charged for a cover-up at the gate.



Use the Grab and PassApp ride-hailing apps for tuk-tuks and cars in the city; they are metered, so there is nothing to haggle and far less chance of the long way round.

The riverfront

The Sisowath Quay promenade at the river junction; the best evening walk and street food in town.

Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda

The working royal complex and its floor of silver tiles; the cultural centrepiece, dress code enforced.

The history sites

Tuol Sleng and Choeung Ek, the two Khmer Rouge memorials; handled in full in the next chapter.

Silk Island day trip

A cycling escape to the weaving villages of Koh Dach in the Mekong, a calm half-day from the city.

MORE DETAIL

The city picks in the [Phnom Penh rundown](#), the palace in the [Royal Palace page](#), and the cycling escape in the [Silk Island write-up](#).

Battambang

countryside, arts, the bamboo train • 1-2 nights



The country's second city, and a relaxed riverside stop on the road between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. Battambang keeps its low-rise, French-colonial shophouse character and has grown a real arts scene, with galleries, a circus school and good cafes. The draw is the countryside around it: rice fields and palm sugar, a working vineyard, and easy cycling between the villages.

Two set pieces pull travellers in. The bamboo train, or norry, is a flat bamboo platform on rails that you ride through the rice fields, a rebuilt tourist version of the old improvised local transport, and good fun for what it is. At dusk, Phnom Sampeau hill draws crowds for the river of bats that streams from a cave mouth at sunset, a genuinely strange and memorable thirty minutes. The same hill carries a sombre Khmer Rouge memorial that the next chapter notes.



The bamboo train is a short, set-price tourist ride now, not a way to get anywhere. Treat it as a 20-minute novelty in the countryside, not transport, and you will enjoy it.



Time the Phnom Sampeau bat cave for sunset and arrive 30 minutes early for a spot. The flight lasts a long time, so do not panic if it starts slowly.

The bamboo train

A bamboo platform on rails through the rice fields; a short, fun, set-price novelty ride.

Phnom Sampeau bat cave

A river of bats pouring from a cliff cave at sunset; arrive early and stay for the show.

Countryside cycling

Rice fields, palm-sugar kilns and villages on quiet lanes; the best way to spend a morning.

The arts scene

A circus school, galleries and colonial shophouse cafes; the town has more going on than it looks.

WORTH A READ

The town picks in the [Battambang rundown](#), the ride in the [bamboo train page](#), and the cave in the [Phnom Sampeau write-up](#).

Kampot and Kep

pepper, crab, riverside calm · 2-3 nights



The slow heart of the south. Kampot is a riverside town of faded colonial buildings where the day is built around a sunset cruise and a long dinner, and the surrounding farms grow the famous Kampot pepper, one of the best peppercorns in the world and worth a farm visit. Behind the town, Bokor Hill rises to an eerie old French hill station and abandoned casino in the clouds, reached on a winding road, a good half-day trip.

Kep, half an hour along the coast, is even sleepier: a former seaside resort town known almost entirely for its crab market, where you pick your seafood and eat it cooked with green Kampot pepper at a waterfront shack. It is one of the best simple meals in the country. Neither town is about the beach, which is muddy here; the coast proper is the islands further west. Come to Kampot and Kep to do very little, well.



Eat the Kep crab cooked with fresh green Kampot pepper at the crab market shacks. It is the regional dish and the single best reason to make the detour to Kep.



The Kampot and Kep beaches are muddy and the swimming is poor. Come for the river, the pepper and the food; save the sand for Koh Rong on the next page.

Kampot pepper farm

A tour of the plantations that grow one of the world's best peppercorns; tastings included.

Kep crab market

Pick fresh crab and eat it with green pepper at a waterfront shack; the best cheap meal in the south.

Bokor Hill Station

An abandoned French hill station and casino in the clouds above Kampot; an atmospheric half-day.

The river sunset cruise

A cheap evening boat on the Kampot river; the town's signature way to end the day.

SEE ALSO The town picks in the [Kampot rundown](#), the farm in the [pepper farm page](#), and the crab in the [Kep crab market write-up](#).

Koh Rong and Koh Rong Sanloem

the beach add-on • 2-3 nights • boat from Sihanoukville



Cambodia's beach is two islands a short fast-boat ride off Sihanoukville. Koh Rong is the bigger and busier, with a backpacker party strip at Koh Touch and quieter white-sand bays like Long Set a walk away. Koh Rong Sanloem, its smaller sibling, is the calmer choice: Saracen Bay is a long, gentle arc of sand with simple bungalow resorts and not much to do beyond swim, read and eat, which is the appeal.

Set expectations honestly. These are pleasant, low-key islands, not the dramatic scenery of the Thai or Philippine chains, and the infrastructure is basic: limited power, patchy wifi, cash-only at many places. The standout is the bioluminescent plankton on a moonless night, a swim through cold blue sparks that is genuinely worth a late dip. Two or three nights is the right dose; longer and the lack of anything to do starts to show.



Bring cash. Many island places do not take cards and the few ATMs run dry or charge heavily. Draw enough on the mainland to cover the whole stay.



For the bioluminescence, go out on a dark, moonless night away from the bar lights. A guided night swim or kayak finds the brightest patches.

03

Saracen Bay, Sanloem

The calm choice: a long gentle white-sand bay with simple bungalows and very little to do.

Long Set Beach, Koh Rong

A quieter white-sand stretch a walk from the Koh Touch party strip; the better Koh Rong base.

The plankton swim

Bioluminescent water on a dark night; the island highlight and worth a late dip.

Koh Touch, Koh Rong

The backpacker party beach; loud and cheap. Stay elsewhere on the island if you want sleep.

DIG IN

The beaches in the [Koh Rong beach-hopping page](#), the calm bay in the [Saracen Bay write-up](#), and the wider picks in the [islands rundown](#).

Food: the four calibration dishes

street and market economy • 1 to 5 USD a plate

Khmer food is milder than its Thai and Vietnamese neighbours, built on rice, freshwater fish from the Tonle Sap, fresh herbs and a fermented fish paste called prahok that underpins many dishes. It is underrated and cheap, best eaten at the markets and small family kitchens rather than the tourist strips. Order these four early; they set your bar for the rest of the trip.

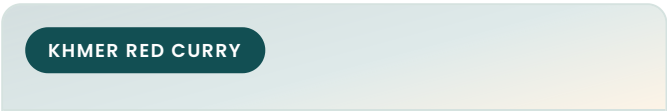


FISH AMOK

Fish amok amok

USD 2-12 • everywhere

The national dish: freshwater fish in a mild coconut and lemongrass curry, steamed in a banana-leaf cup until it sets like a savoury mousse. The benchmark Khmer plate; the market version costs a couple of dollars, the restaurant one more.



KHMER RED CURRY

Lok lak lok lak

USD 2.50-6 • everywhere

Stir-fried marinated beef served over lettuce and tomato with a lime, salt and black-pepper dipping sauce, usually with rice and a fried egg. The everyday meat plate and a safe, satisfying order at any local kitchen.



NOM BANH CHOK

Nom banh chok nom banh chok

USD 1-2.50 • mornings

Khmer noodles: cold rice vermicelli under a green fish-and-lemongrass gravy, piled with raw vegetables and herbs. The classic breakfast, sold from morning carts and markets. Cheap, fresh, and the most local thing on the menu.



KHMER RED CURRY

Samlor korko samlor korko

USD 3-7 • local kitchens

The everyday Khmer vegetable stew, a thick herb-and-vegetable soup thickened with roasted ground rice and seasoned with prahok. Considered the national comfort dish; ask for it where locals eat rather than on the tourist menu.

WHERE TO STAY SOUTH: THE BASE TOWNS

Off the temple base, rooms get cheaper and simpler. In Phnom Penh, stay near the riverfront or the Bassac lane cafes. In Kampot, the riverside guesthouses are the draw. [Check live Phnom Penh prices](#), see what [Kampot is charging](#), or pull up the [Battambang map](#). Dorms across all three sit on [Hostelworld](#).

Guesthouses and resorts across Phnom Penh, the riverside towns and the islands, cancellable until close to check-in.

Find Stays on Booking.com

THE FULL PICTURE

The dishes and drinks in the [Cambodian food page](#), and what a plate costs street versus restaurant in the [budget breakdown](#).

04

Khmer history, and the sites that tell it

The recent past matters here, and two memorial sites tell it directly. What they are, why people visit, and how to visit with respect.

IN THIS CHAPTER

The Khmer Rouge years, and the memorials

23

The Khmer Rouge years, and the memorials

1975 to 1979 • two sites in Phnom Penh • visited with care



Between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot emptied the cities, abolished money and schools, and forced the population into rural labour. An estimated 1.7 to 2 million Cambodians, close to a quarter of the population, died from execution, starvation, forced labour and disease. The regime fell in 1979, but the country is still living with the consequences, and most Cambodians you meet have a direct family connection to the period. Understanding this is part of understanding the country today.

Two sites in Phnom Penh document it plainly. Tuol Sleng, also called S-21, is a former school the regime turned into a prison and interrogation centre; it is now a genocide museum, kept much as it was found. The Choeung Ek Killing Fields, about 15 km outside the city, is one of the sites where prisoners were taken to be killed and buried in mass graves, now a memorial marked by a stupa of recovered remains. Most visitors see both in a single sober half-day, usually S-21 first and Choeung Ek after, which is the order the audio guides assume.



Both sites provide an audio guide, and at Choeung Ek it is the right way to visit: measured, well made, and narrated in part by survivors. Allow a full, unhurried morning for the two.



These are places of mourning, not photo backdrops. Dress modestly, keep your voice low, do not pose for pictures, and follow the posted rules on what may be photographed.

VISITING WITH RESPECT: THE SHORT LIST

- ☐ Cover shoulders and knees, the same as a temple; this is a memorial.
- ☐ Use the audio guide and keep conversation quiet throughout the visit.
- ☐ Do not take smiling or posed photographs; photograph nothing where signs forbid it.
- ☐ Step around the marked grave areas at Choeung Ek, never across them.
- ☐ Survivors are sometimes present at S-21; buy their book if you wish, photograph them only if asked.
- ☐ Plan something light afterward. Both sites are heavy, and back-to-back is enough for one day.

GO DEEPER The museum in the [Tuol Sleng \(S-21\) page](#), the memorial in the [Choeung Ek write-up](#), and the wider context in the [culture and history rundown](#).

05

Getting around and when to go

A small country crossed by bus and one boat, and one clean rule on timing: dry season against wet. The map, the routes and the calendar on three pages.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Getting between the towns	24
Pick your trip, 6 paths	25
Weather, crowds, price	26

Getting between the towns

bus for almost everything, one boat to the coast • the map is the plan

Cambodia is small and the logistics are simple: buses and minivans link every town on this map, and the only water leg is the short fast boat out to the islands from Sihanoukville. The main triangle, Siem Reap to Battambang to Phnom Penh, is half-day hops on sealed roads, and Phnom Penh down to Kampot, Kep and the coast is another easy run. There is one tourist train, the Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville line, which is slow but pleasant. Skip the domestic flights for a trip this compact; the bus is cheap and the distances are short. Book the legs through 12Go, which bundles the buses, the train and the island boat in one place.



Book the bigger, reputable bus lines through 12Go rather than the cheapest minivan. The minivans overload and drive hard; the larger coaches are slower but far more comfortable and safer.



The island boat from Sihanoukville is a 30 to 45 minute crossing. Buy a return with an open date so a rough afternoon does not strand you; the last boats back fill up fast.

READ ON

Compare buses, the train and the island boat and book combined tickets through [12Go](#); the road realities are in the [traffic page](#), and the air option in the [domestic flights write-up](#).

Pick your trip

three dimensions, six paths · find yours, then read the route

Who you travel with, how long you have, and what you spend per night decide which stops you can chain. Every path starts with Angkor, because that is why almost everyone comes; the difference is how far south you push afterward and how slowly. Find your row below. Cambodia is cheap, so the totals run low even for the comfortable trips.

SOLO · 7D · BACKPACKER

The two anchors

USD 250 · hostels + bus

- Siem Reap 4: 3-day Angkor pass
- Bus to Phnom Penh 3
- Capital, river, the history sites

SOLO · 14D · BACKPACKER

The full sweep south

USD 550 · buses + island boat

- Siem Reap 4 · Battambang 2
- Phnom Penh 2 · Kampot 2
- Koh Rong Sanloem 3

COUPLE · 10D · MID

Temples, capital, coast

USD 1,400 for 2 · 3-star

- Siem Reap 4 · Phnom Penh 2
- Kampot + Kep 2
- Koh Rong Sanloem 2

COUPLE · 7D · COMFORT

Slow, two bases only

USD 1,600 for 2 · boutique

- Siem Reap 4: private guide, spa
- Phnom Penh 3: river, palace
- Fly the one leg if short on time

FAMILY · 10D · MID

Temples and a calm beach

USD 2,400 · family of 4

- Siem Reap 4: half-day temple runs
- Phnom Penh 2: river, palace
- Koh Rong Sanloem 3: easy days

OVERLANDER · 6D · BACKPACKER

The middle leg, Thai to Viet

USD 200 · land borders

- Enter at Poipet, Siem Reap 3
- Bus to Phnom Penh 2
- Exit at Bavet for Vietnam

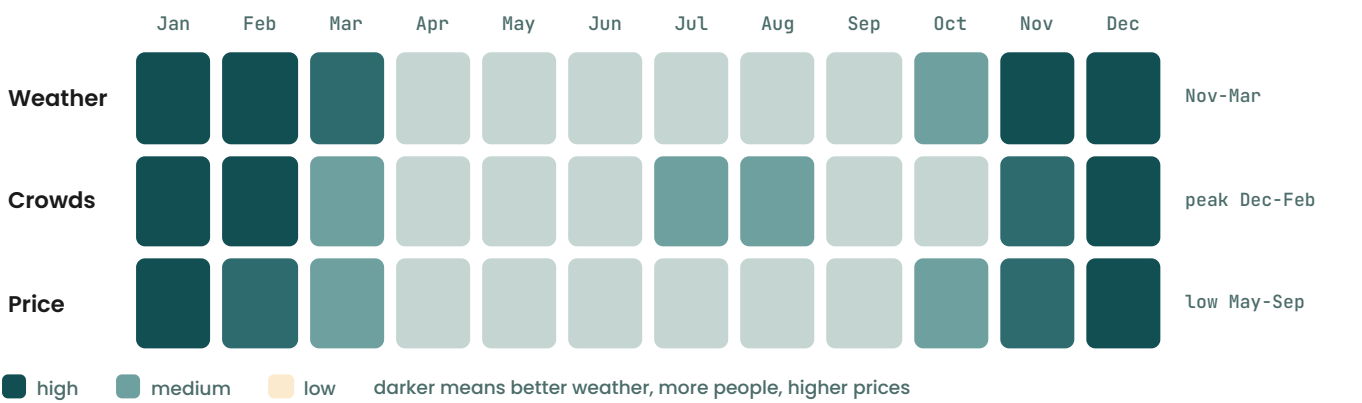
**MORE ON THE
SITE**

Full day-by-day versions online: the [7-day route](#), the [14-day route](#), and the [21-day route](#).

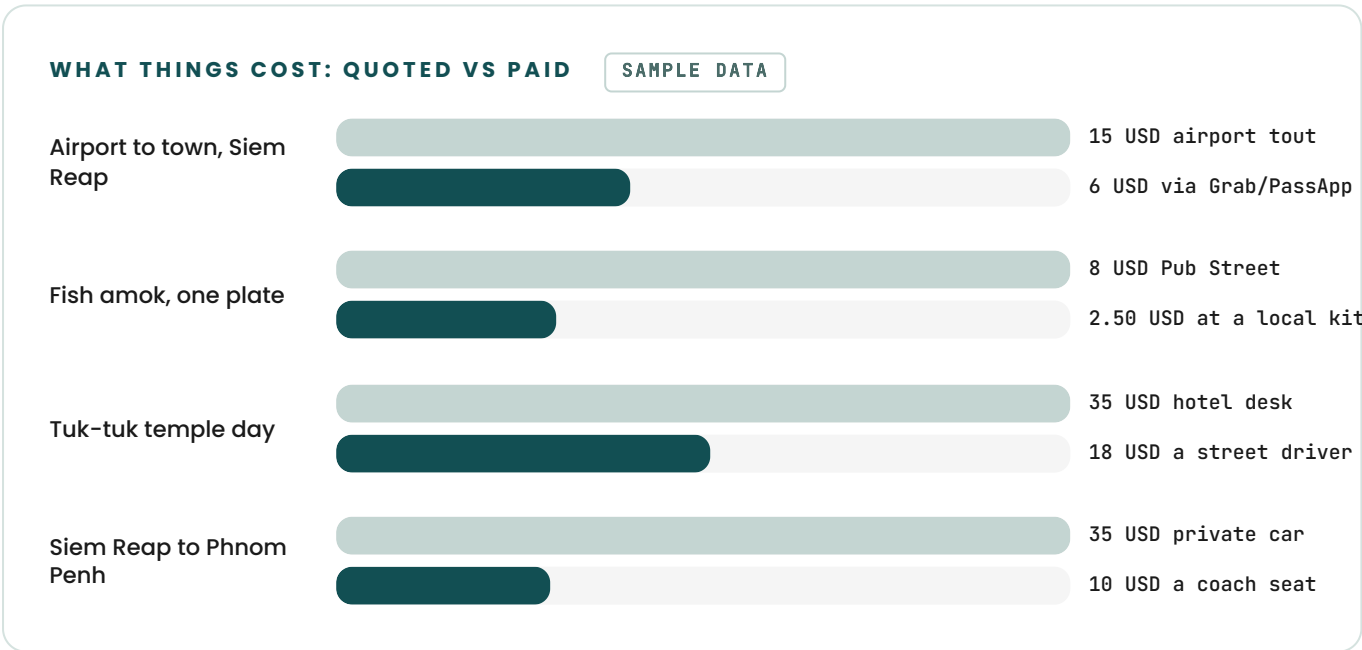
Weather, crowds, price

12-month calendar · one dry window, November to March

One rule runs the calendar: dry season against wet. The dry, cooler months from November to March are the time to come, with clear temple mornings, easy roads and the lake high enough for the floating villages. April and May are the hot, sticky build-up to the rains, when Angkor is an endurance test by mid-morning. The wet season, June to October, brings heavy afternoon downpours and some flooded roads, though mornings often stay clear and the countryside turns green. November to February is peak: the best weather and the biggest crowds at Angkor, with prices a notch higher. The shoulder of late October and March is the value sweet spot.



source: best-travel-time dataset · captured 2026-05-17



06

Practical and safe

What to book first, what a day really costs in dollars, how money and the road work, the scams worth knowing, and the etiquette that is load-bearing.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Book in this order	28
What a day really costs	29
Money, the dollar reality, getting around	30
Bed, bag, signal and health	31
The scams, and how to dodge them	32
Etiquette and the temple dress code	33
Emergency numbers and phrases	34

Book in this order

four things before you fly • everything else on the ground

Cambodia rewards travelling light on bookings: rooms, tuk-tuks and tours are cheaper and easier arranged on the spot. Only four things genuinely pay to lock in early, and they have a natural order. The visa is a quick online step for most passports, since the e-visa and visa on arrival are granted to almost everyone.

8 wk
before

International flights

Fares into Siem Reap or Phnom Penh bottom out six to eight weeks ahead for the dry season. Flying into one and out of the other saves a backtrack.

**Compare fares
on Aviasales**

4 wk
before

Insurance + visa check

Buy travel insurance with strong medical and evacuation cover, and add scooter riding if you plan to. Most passports get a 36 USD e-visa online or a visa on arrival; the e-visa skips the airport queue. Check your nationality before you fly.

**Check entry
rules per
passport**

1 wk
before

Buses and the island boat

Book the inter-town coaches and the Koh Rong boat a few days out, earlier in the December to February peak. The popular Siem Reap to Phnom Penh seats and the morning boats fill first.

**Book the legs on
12Go**

1 wk
before

eSIM

Install before departure, activate on landing. Coverage is strong in the towns and along the main roads, patchy on the islands. 10 GB covers two weeks of maps and uploads.

**Set up a Saily
eSIM**



Passport rule: six months validity beyond arrival, and a blank page. The official e-visa portal is evisa.gov.kh; book only there, as lookalike sites charge a markup for the same visa.



Bring some clean, newish US dollar bills for the visa fee and the first day; torn or marked notes are sometimes refused. Small change comes back in riel.

What a day really costs

itemised, bed to nightcap • one of the cheapest runs in the region

Three days, three budgets, every line itemised so you can see where the money goes. Cambodia is genuinely cheap, and because prices are quoted in US dollars the budget is easy to read; small change comes back in riel. The single biggest lever is where you sleep and eat: a market lunch and a guesthouse hold the backpacker line, while a hotel and a Pub Street dinner push you up fast. Siem Reap and the islands run a touch dearer than Phnom Penh and the countryside.

A DAY IN CAMBODIA * backpacker *	A DAY IN CAMBODIA * standard *	A DAY IN CAMBODIA * comfort *
hostel dorm5.00 market breakfast1.50 nom banh chok lunch1.50 local-kitchen dinner3.00 tuk-tuk, shared3.00 site or temple share3.00 draft beer x22.00 iced coffee + water1.50 TOTAL / DAY ~22 USD budget-calculator data • 2026-05-17	guesthouse double, half11.00 cafe breakfast4.00 restaurant lunch5.00 dinner with drinks10.00 private tuk-tuk day9.00 Angkor pass, per day7.00 coffee + a cocktail4.00 TOTAL / DAY ~50 USD budget-calculator data • 2026-05-17	boutique hotel, half65.00 hotel breakfastincl. restaurant lunch12.00 dinner, good table20.00 private car + guide, half18.00 spa or private tourincl. above cocktails x212.00 TOTAL / DAY ~130 USD budget-calculator data • 2026-05-17

\$

The single biggest saving is the bed and the kitchen: a guesthouse and two market meals hold the backpacker line; a hotel and a tourist-strip dinner push you to comfort by lunch.

🏠

You pay in dollars but get change in riel at roughly 4,000 to the dollar. Keep the small riel notes for tuk-tuks, market stalls and tips; nobody will break a 100 note for a coffee.

KEEP READING The full cost model by category in the [budget breakdown](#), and the dollar-and-riel system in the [currency rundown](#).

Money, the dollar reality, getting around

USD everyday, riel for change • tuk-tuk, bus, boat

Cambodia runs on the US dollar. Prices are quoted in dollars, ATMs dispense dollars, and you pay in dollars almost everywhere; the local riel exists mainly as small change, handed back at about 4,000 to the dollar for anything under a dollar. So carry clean, unmarked dollar bills, keep the riel for tuk-tuks and stalls, and you rarely need to think about exchange rates at all. Cards work at hotels and bigger restaurants in the cities; the street economy is cash. ATMs dispense dollars but charge a flat 4 to 6 USD per withdrawal, so draw larger amounts less often.

ITEM	BACKPACKER	MID	COMFORT
Bed (dorm / guesthouse / hotel)	USD 5	USD 22	USD 65
Market meal / restaurant	USD 1.50	USD 6	USD 18
Draft beer (Angkor / Cambodia)	USD 0.75	USD 1.50	USD 4
Tuk-tuk across town	USD 1.50	USD 3	private USD 18/day
Inter-town coach seat	USD 8	USD 12	private car USD 35

verified 2026-05-14 • per-category numbers in the budget guide

GETTING AROUND: WHAT BEATS WHAT

In town, the Grab and PassApp ride-hailing apps settle everything: metered tuk-tuks and cars, so there is nothing to haggle. Between towns, the bus and minivan network is cheap and covers the country; book the larger, reputable coaches through [12Go](#) rather than the cheapest overloaded minivan. The one rail line, Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville via Kampot, is slow but scenic. The only boat is the short island crossing from Sihanoukville. Scooters are rentable but Cambodian traffic is chaotic and the rules loose, so ride only with real experience, a helmet and an international permit, and never leave your passport as a deposit.



When an ATM offers to charge you in dollars or "with conversion", decline the conversion; you are already withdrawing dollars, so the offer is just a hidden markup.



Inspect your dollar bills before you accept change. Torn, taped or heavily marked notes are often refused by the next vendor, so hand the worst ones back politely.

THE LONG VERSION

The dollar-and-riel system in the [currency rundown](#), the road and licence rules in the [traffic page](#), and the budget detail in the [travel budget breakdown](#).

Bed, bag, signal and health

hotels, packing, eSIM and the short health list

BED

For mid-range and above, [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) wins on free-cancellation depth and inventory. For dorms and social hostels in Siem Reap or on the islands, [Hostelworld](https://www.hostelworld.com) has the deeper review pool. For family guesthouses in the smaller towns and on Koh Rong, message the host directly; small places often pass back a saving on a direct booking and the cash stays local.

BAG: THE TWO-WEEK CARRY-ON LIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Two quick-dry tops, one long-sleeve (temples + sun) | ☐ Starter med-kit: loperamide, paracetamol, electrolytes, plasters |
| ☐ A light scarf or sarong (temple and palace dress code) | ☐ Type A/C/G plug adapter, 20,000 mAh power bank |
| ☐ Lightweight trousers or a long skirt for the memorial sites | ☐ Clean US dollar bills plus a backup card |
| ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen and 30% DEET repellent | ☐ Passport copies in three places: phone, print, email |
| ☐ Sandals plus one closed shoe for the temple stones | ☐ A dry bag for the island boat and a refillable water bottle |

Signal. Buy the eSIM the day before you fly and activate it on landing. A 5 GB plan covers a week (from ~3 USD); 10 GB covers two weeks. Coverage is strong in the towns and along the main roads, patchy on the islands. Stays over a month are cheaper on a local Cellcard or Smart SIM, sold cheaply with your passport.

[Set up a Saily eSIM](#)

HEALTH: THE SHORT LIST

- ☐ **Six weeks before:** travel-clinic visit. Confirm routine vaccines are current, plus Hepatitis A and typhoid for street food.
- ☐ **Malaria:** none in the main towns or at Angkor; pills only for remote rural and forest areas like Ratanakiri. Check your exact route.
- ☐ **Water and food:** tap water is not safe; bottled or filtered only. Busy market stalls with high turnover are the safe choice.
- ☐ **Hospitals:** the best are in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap; serious cases are evacuated to Bangkok, which is why the insurance line matters.
- ☐ **Emergency:** the national line is 119 for ambulance; full numbers on page 34.

ON THE WEBSITE

The full list in the [packing list](#), the shot schedule in the [vaccinations breakdown](#), and hospital picks in the [hospitals page](#).

The scams, and how to dodge them

low violent crime · the risks are mostly to your wallet

Cambodia is a friendly, low-crime country for travellers, and most of what goes wrong is a money scam rather than a danger. The two physical risks to take seriously are the scooter and the roads; beyond that, the list below is the handful of overcharges and tricks worth knowing cold, each with the fix.

SCAM 01

The fake Angkor ticket

Touts near the park sell "passes" or offer to skip the office; the pass is then refused at the temple gate, since there is only one legitimate seller.

The fix: buy only at the official Angkor Enterprise ticket office on the airport road, or online at angkorenterprise.gov.kh. Your photo is printed on the real pass; nobody else can issue one.

SCAM 02

The tuk-tuk overcharge and detour

Drivers at airports, bus stops and tourist spots quote double, claim your hotel is "closed" to steer you to a commission one, or add fuel surcharges mid-ride.

The fix: use the Grab or PassApp ride-hailing apps, which are metered with a fixed fare shown up front. For street drivers, agree the full price before you get in, and ignore the "your hotel is closed" line.

SCAM 03

The border-crossing run-around

At land borders like Poipet, agents charge a "processing fee", quote an inflated visa price, or run a fake e-visa desk. The bus may dump you at a partner guesthouse.

The fix: get the e-visa online beforehand at the official portal, pay the exact posted visa-on-arrival fee in clean dollars, and refuse any extra "stamp" or "processing" charge. Walk to the official window yourself.

DANGER 04

The scooter and the road

Far more travellers are hurt on a rented scooter or in a hard-driven minivan than by any crime. Loose rules, fast traffic and no helmet are the recipe.

The fix: ride only if you genuinely can, with a helmet and an international permit, and never leave your passport as deposit. For longer legs, choose the larger reputable coaches over the cheapest overloaded minivan.

MORE DETAIL The full risk picture in the [safety rundown](#), and the road and licence rules in the [traffic page](#).

Etiquette and the temple dress code

first four are load-bearing • last four save you face

Eight things that matter in a Buddhist country with deep respect for monks, elders and the recent dead. The first four cause real offense or real trouble if you ignore them; the last four mostly cost you face. The dress code is the one travellers trip over most, because it is enforced at Angkor, the Royal Palace and every active temple.

DO

Cover shoulders and knees at temples

The Angkor upper level, the Royal Palace and every working temple enforce it. Carry a scarf and light trousers; a sarong over shorts works at a pinch.

DO NOT

Touch drugs, at all

Penalties are severe and the "happy" menus in some towns are a setup for a police shakedown. There is no safe amount; treat any offer as a trap.

DO NOT

Touch a monk or hand a woman to one

Women must not touch a monk or pass something directly to him; set it down for him to take. Dress modestly and sit lower than monks at temples.

DO NOT

Treat the memorial sites as photo spots

At Tuol Sleng and Choeung Ek, no posed or smiling photos, quiet voices, and follow the signs on what may be photographed. They are places of mourning.

DO

Use the sampeah greeting and your right hand

A small palms-together bow, the sampeah, is the warm greeting. Give and receive with the right hand, or both hands for respect; the left alone reads as rude.

DO NOT

Touch anyone's head, or point your feet

The head is sacred and the feet are low: do not pat heads, and never point your soles at a person or a Buddha image when you sit.

DO

Bargain gently at markets, not at kitchens

Market stalls and tuk-tuks expect a friendly haggle; food kitchens and fixed-price cafes do not. Smile, start a little below, and keep it light.

DO NOT

Lose your temper to win

Raising your voice and causing someone to lose face backfires everywhere here. Calm and smiling gets you a better price and a faster fix every time.



A few words of Khmer go a long way. "Arkoun" (thank you) and "soursdey" (hello) with a small sampeah bow open doors that a tip does not.



Tipping is not expected, but it is appreciated and goes far here; rounding up for a tuk-tuk driver or guide is a warm, easy gesture, never required.

WORTH A READ

Religion, traditions and the full etiquette context in the [culture write-up](#), and what to wear where in the [dress code page](#).

Emergency numbers and eight phrases

save the numbers now • the phrases change how locals respond

POLICE

117

nationwide

AMBULANCE

119

medical

FIRE

118

nationwide

TOURIST POLICE

012 942 484

English line

KHMER 115 HOTLINE

115

general help

US EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

+855 23 728 000

citizen services

EIGHT PHRASES THAT CHANGE HOW LOCALS RESPOND		
ENGLISH	KHMER (PHONETIC)	NOTES
Hello	soursdey (sua-s-day)	"chom reap sour" is formal
Thank you	arkoun (ar-kohn)	the one to learn first
Yes / No	baat (m) / chaa (f) / te	"te" is the universal no
How much?	tlay ponman? (t-lai pon-man)	essential for markets and tuk-tuks
No meat / vegetarian	ot sait (ot sai-t)	"ot trey" for no fish too
Where is the toilet?	bantop tuk nov ena?	point and ask
Sorry / excuse me	som toh (som toh)	also to pass by
Help!	chuoy phong! (chooy pong)	emergencies only



Save 119 and your hotel's name and address in Khmer in your phone before the first night out, plus your insurer's evacuation line.



These same phrases print as a wallet card on page 37; cut it out and keep it with your room key.

07

Tools, print cards, sources

The live tools this guide was built from, the cut-out cards for your wallet, and the sources behind every number.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Take the live tools with you	36
Print cards: cut, fold, take	37
Sources and methodology	38
A note on the links	39

Take the live tools with you

scan to open · data updates after this PDF was printed

This guide is a snapshot; the tools behind it keep updating. Scan a code or type the short URL. Each one is preloaded with the same Cambodia data this guide was built from.



Trip Budget Calculator

Cambodia: 22 USD/day backpacker, 130 USD/day comfort.

[pack-lightly.com/
tool/budget-calculator/](https://pack-lightly.com/tool/budget-calculator/)



Country Map

Cambodia spots mapped, from Angkor to the coast.

[pack-lightly.com/
tool/country-map/](https://pack-lightly.com/tool/country-map/)



Best Time to Travel

Best: November to March. Month by month for 140+ countries.

[pack-lightly.com/
tool/best-travel-time-worldmap/](https://pack-lightly.com/tool/best-travel-time-worldmap/)



Mobile Data and eSIM Calculator

Which eSIM and how much data for your Cambodia route.

[pack-lightly.com/
tool/mobile-data-calculator/](https://pack-lightly.com/tool/mobile-data-calculator/)



What to Eat and Drink

Fish amok and nom banh chok from 1 USD, with the rest of the menu and prices.

[pack-lightly.com/
tool/local-food-and-drinks/](https://pack-lightly.com/tool/local-food-and-drinks/)

Print cards: cut, fold, take

print at 100% scale • credit-card size, 85 x 54 mm

Print this page on A4 or US Letter at 100 percent (no fit-to-page), cut along the dashed lines, and the two cards live in your wallet for the trip. The form fields are interactive in Acrobat and iOS Preview if you would rather type than write.

KHMER • ESSENTIALS

Hello

Thank you

Yes / No

How much?

No meat

Where is toilet?

Help!

Sorry

soursdey

arkoun

baat / chaa / te

tlay ponman?

ot sait

bantop tuk nov ena?

chuoy phong!

som toh

pack-lightly.com

EMERGENCY • CAMBODIA

Police

Ambulance

Fire

Tourist Police

US Embassy (PP)

117

119

118

012 942 484

+855 23 728 000

My hotel:

Address:

Insurance #:

Left card front, right card back: print double-sided on the short edge and they fold into one.

Lost the guide, kept the card? The QR opens the live Cambodia hub with every page this guide links to, plus updates published after this edition went to print.

pack-lightly.com/cambodia/





Photograph both cards before you cut. A phone copy of the emergency card still works when the wallet is back at the hotel.



Ask reception to write your hotel name and address in Khmer on the back. Tuk-tuk and Grab drivers read it in one glance.

07

page 38 of 41

pack-lightly.com

Sources and methodology

every number traces to a dated source



WRITTEN BY

Wouter van Kemenade

Founder of Pack Lightly. Twenty-plus countries on the ground, with time spent across Cambodia from the Angkor temples to Phnom Penh and the southern coast. Performance-marketing background, data-led travel writing. Every number in this guide is verified against a source listed below; if a price moves more than 15 percent, the next edition flags it.

SOURCES USED IN THIS EDITION

1. Hostel and hotel pricing: Booking and Hostelworld snapshot 2026-05-14, across Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and Kampot.
2. Angkor Pass pricing: Angkor Enterprise official rates, verified 2026-05.
3. Visa policy: Cambodia's official e-visa portal (evisa.gov.kh), retrieved 2026-05-15.
4. Community pricing checks: archived [r/cambodia](#) and [r/solotravel](#) threads, 2026-Q1.
5. Travel advisories: FCDO and US State Department, last update 2026-04-30.
6. Climate: Open-Meteo 10-year averages for Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, captured 2026-05-17.
7. Pack Lightly Cambodia cluster pages, retrieved 2026-06-10: [visa](#) · [budget](#) · [safety](#) · [best travel time](#) · [eSIM](#)

Methodology. Pack Lightly's country scores aggregate eleven dimensions into the 0-100 scorecard on page 5, re-scored every six months; the last full re-score ran February 2026. Budget figures come from the live budget-calculator dataset, climate verdicts from the best-travel-time dataset, both stamped with their capture date where they appear.

What changed in edition 2026.06: first Cambodia release on the v2 design standard, built around Angkor with the rest of the country kept compact. Next planned update: December 2026. Not covered in depth here: the far northeast (Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri) and the standalone diving and national-parks pages, which have their own write-ups online.

Photo credits. Every photograph is sourced from Wikimedia Commons under a Creative Commons or public-domain license. The full per-image list, with each photographer and license, is added on a separate page. Tour links point to live GetYourGuide search results, current as of June 2026.

Image credits

every photo, its author and license

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1. [2016_Kampot,_Budynek_ze_sklepami.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 4.0.

2. [Angkor_Wat_at_sunrise.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 2.5.

3. [Angkor_Wat.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 4.0.

4. [Banteay_Srei_full2.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 3.0.

5. [Bayon,_Angkor_Thom,_Camboya,_2013-08-17,_DD_37.JPG](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 3.0.

6. [Buddhist_Stupa_at_Choeung_Ek_killing_fields,_Cambodia.JPG](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 3.0.

7. [Fish_Amok_with_Rice.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC0.

8. [Le_Palais_Royal_ _ .jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY 2.0.

9. [Norrydisassembled01.JPG](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 3.0.

10. [Num_Banh_Chok.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY-SA 2.0.

11. [Sok_San_Bungalows_koh_Rong_island_Cambodia.jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, Public domain.

12. [Ta_Prohm_ .jpg](#). Wikimedia Commons contributor, CC BY 4.0.

Tour data and prices: Viator Partner API, captured June 2026. Author portrait and brand marks: Pack Lightly.

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Questions, corrections, or a place you tested that belongs in the next edition: write to hello@pack-lightly.com.

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This file is versioned; the edition is on the cover. The next planned update lands December 2026 and replaces this file at the same download.