



CAMBODIA TRAVEL GUIDE

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Contents

I. Top must- visit in Cambodia.....	4
1. <i>Phnom Penh</i>	4
2. <i>Siem Reap:</i>	4
3. <i>Kampot:</i>	4
4. <i>Sihanoukville:</i>	4
5. <i>Kep:</i>	5
6. <i>Kob Rong:</i>	5
7. <i>Kratie:</i>	5
II. The best time to travel Cambodia:.....	5
III. Cambodian cuisine	6
1. <i>Features of Cambodian cuisine:</i>	6
2. <i>Must- try dishes in Cambodia:</i>	6
2.1. Fish amok (steamed coconut fish in banana leaves)	6
2.2. Khmer red curry	6
2.3. Nom banh chok (Khmer noodles)	6
2.4. Lok lak (stir- fried beef in brown sauce)	7
2.5. Lap Khmer (Lime-marinated Khmer beef salad)	7
2.6. Bai sach chrouk.....	7
2.7. Kdam Chaa (fried crab)	7
IV. Top hotels in Cambodia	7
1. <i>Plantation</i>	7
2. <i>Park Hyatt Siem Reap</i>	8
3. <i>Rainbow Lodge</i>	8
4. <i>Naia beach resort</i>	8



5.	<i>Herritage Suites Hotel</i>	9
6.	<i>Anantara Angkor resort & spa</i>	9
7.	<i>Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra</i>	9
V.	Transportations	9
1.	<i>Tuk-tuk</i>	9
2.	<i>Taxi</i>	10
3.	<i>Motorbike (hire)</i>	10
4.	<i>Bus</i>	10
5.	<i>Walking tour</i>	10
6.	<i>Cyclo</i>	11
7.	<i>Ferry</i>	11
VI.	Activities in Cambodia	11
1.	<i>Cinema</i>	11
2.	<i>Traditional dance in Cambodia</i>	11
3.	<i>Nagaworld Casino</i>	11



I. Top must- visit in Cambodia

1. Phnom Penh

Located at the junction of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers, Phnom Penh is the vibrant capital of Cambodia with about 1.5 million inhabitants. It is interesting to sit on cyclo and explore downtown Phnom Penh, visit the beautiful Wat Phnom temple, the Royal Palace of Cambodia and the fair. Besides, You can not miss the Killing Fields and S-21 prison museum (S-21). You will learn about the history of Cambodia and understand the terrible pain this country has gone through.

2. Siem Reap

You have to go to Siem Reap when you arrive in Cambodia. In this ancient city, there are cultural and historical vestiges everywhere, this is also where you start your visit to the Angkor Wat temple complex. Siem Reap is also home to the busiest markets and funky nightlife venues in Cambodia.

3. Kampot

Kampot, a beautiful but old town. What you see in Kampot is what remains of the golden days when Kampot was Cambodia's main port before Sihanoukville "took the throne" in the 1950s. Kampot is famous for its typical French architecture and charming natural scenery such as Bokor national park- a colonial architecture still has remained in Cambodia. You can also visit fishing villages and major agricultural markets here.

4. Sihanoukville

The coastal city of Sihanoukville is home to the most beautiful beaches in Cambodia. Visitors flocking here are captivated by the blazing sun, beaches, and cheap food. It is also a vibrant entertainment place like Phnom Penh, but Sihanoukville is a new place that started to be developed about 30 years ago. This is the youngest city in Cambodia and quickly becoming a famous entertainment place in domestic and foreigners. The beaches in Sihanoukville have no palm trees, neither the clear water nor the fine sand, but from here you can contemplate the picturesque islands. The day in Sihanoukville is not too special but the vibrant nightlife will surprise you!



5. Kep

Kep used to be the most favorite beach before Sihanoukville occupied that position. However, recently Kep is gaining popularity again because travelers want to go to fewer people. Visitors to Kep often visit national parks, old French mansions and mountain pepper plantations. You will also be able to eat fresh seafood dishes and watch the night sea with glowing seaweed here.

6. Koh Rong

There is no denying the accelerated development of this Cambodian island- Koh Rong. However, until now, the tranquility still retains well on the beach here. Koh Rong is located not far from Sihanoukville, it only takes about 45 minutes by ferry. It has 23 beaches and extremely vibrant nightlife. In addition to lying on the beach, there are also major water activities, from snorkeling and kayaking to boat trips. The restaurant here looks a bit old, but that's why the backpacker loves the island when it comes to avoiding luxury resorts.

7. Kratie

Although little known, Kratie has been welcoming backpacking tourism for years. Coming to Kratie is coming to ancient temples, villages, and museums. This is also a great destination for nature lovers. Visit the Turtle Sanctuary, see whales, birds or take a boat ride through the mangrove forests.

II. The best time to travel Cambodia

The weather in Cambodia divides into two distinct seasons: dry (from October to late April/early May), wet (from May to October). Cambodia has a tropical monsoon climate. The average temperature falls around 26.7 degrees Celsius. But the Cambodian heat is very intense and the rainy season temperatures up to 35 degrees Celsius, so you should choose the most suitable time for you to travel smoothly. Therefore, the best time to visit Cambodia is from November to February next year. At this time, the weather is mild, not too hot and little rain.

You should avoid traveling to Cambodia in July and August because this is the time when the flood season begins to rush to Cambodia, making it difficult for tours here.



III. Cambodian cuisine

1. Features of Cambodian cuisine

Cambodian cuisine is strongly influenced by India and China. Most dishes are flat, sweet and fatty. The Indian food found in most of the spices used is mainly spicy like satay, chili, pepper, anise, etc. Chinese food is found with a lot of taste and is quite rich, most greasy food style Sichuan region.

The staple food for Cambodians is rice. Almost every meal has rice. Other dishes such as curry, soup or chips are often the popular main dishes that served with rice. In addition to rice, Cambodians also use sticky rice to make sticky rice dishes and bamboo cooked rice. Sticky rice is often served with durian as a dessert while bamboo cooked rice is often used as a substitute for rice for farmers who do not have time to cook.

2. Must- try dishes in Cambodia

Fish amok (steamed coconut fish in banana leaves)

Amok is usually made from fish such as snakehead or catfish. Prahok sauce, sugar, and eggs will be beaten into a mixture, cooked until the sauce thickens, then cover the whole fillet with this mixture, add some slok ngor leaves, a local herb and wrap with banana leaves and steamed.

Khmer red curry

Less spicy than the curry of neighboring Thailand, Khmer red curry is usually made from beef, chicken or fish, eggplant, green beans, potatoes, fresh coconut milk, lemongrass and a little bit chili, so it will be much easier to eat than Thai curry. Red curry is often served with bread - influenced by the French era. This dish is often used to serve at special occasions in Cambodia such as weddings, family gatherings, and religious holidays like Pchum Ben, or ancestral day- the occasion when Cambodians make food to offer to monks on behalf of the deceased.

Nom banh chok (Khmer noodles)

Nom Banh Chok or Khmer noodles is a typical dish in Cambodian cuisine. The noodles here are rice noodles then filled with rich broth and served with mint leaves, bean sprouts, banana flowers, cucumbers, and some herbs. If you want to eat this dish, you will not have to look far because this is a popular breakfast dish that you can find in many parts of this country.



Lok lak (stir- fried beef in brown sauce)

Lok Lak beef is also a Cambodian specialty dish that you should enjoy when you have the opportunity to visit this country. The ingredients of this dish include thinly sliced beef and then sauteed with cucumber onion and tomatoes. This dish can be served with rice and fried eggs to increase protein and make people feel more delicious.

Lap Khmer (Lime-marinated Khmer beef salad)

This is one of the most popular dishes in Cambodia. Lap is the name of Khmer beef salad, including thinly sliced beef or marinated beef with lemon juice, mixed with lemongrass, dry onions, garlic, fish sauce, and herbs, of course, it will be served with lots of fresh peppers.

Bai sach chrouk

Bai Sach Chrouk is a dish sold on street corners throughout Cambodia in the early mornings. Bai Sach chrouk consists of white rice served with thinly sliced pork, marinated in coconut milk or garlic and grilled over charcoal. When you eat this dish, you will serve with a bowl of soup made from chicken and a cup of cucumber and red radish pickled ginger.

Kdam Chaa (fried crab)

Fried crabs are a specialty dish in coastal towns in Cambodia. An indispensable spice of this dish is Kampot pepper. Kampot pepper is a famous spice among gourmets around the world, although visitors can find this pepper in the dried form available but can only enjoy the unique taste of these young green pepper in Cambodia. If you have the opportunity to visit the coastal areas of Cambodia, do not forget to enjoy this fried crab with garlic and pepper.

***IV.* Top hotels in Cambodia**

1. Plantation

Address: 28 Samdach Preah Thoamak Lekhet Ouk St. (184), Phnom Penh 12206, Cambodia

Centrally located in Phnom Penh, The Plantation Urban Resort and Spa is just behind the Royal Palace. The hotel has 2 outdoor pools. The accommodation is about 1.2 km from Chaktomuk 2 Conference Hall and 3.6 km from Aeon Mall. Breakfast is served every morning in the restaurant. The Plantation restaurant is the best place to relish Western dishes. To make your stay special, the



café bar also offers a terrace and Wi-Fi. Guests can share a meal in Magnolia Vietnamese Restaurant and Opera Cafe, located about 250 meters away¹.

2. Park Hyatt Siem Reap

Address: Sivutha Boulevard, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Nestled in private garden, this luxurious 5-star Park Hyatt Siem Reap features modern rooms with free Wi-Fi. Featuring a collection of traditional Cambodian and Modern Artworks, the hotel features an indoor and outdoor pool.

Located on Sivutha Boulevard, Park Hyatt Siem Reap is a few minutes' walks from the French Colonial Area, Old Market, and Pub Street. Angkor National Museum is a 2-minute tuk-tuk (rickshaw) ride from this hotel. From the property, guests are only a 15-minute drive away to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat and Siem Reap International Airport.

3. Rainbow Lodge

Address: Tatai & Koh Andet Commune, Tatai, Cambodia

Rainbow Lodge nestles neatly between a forested hillside & the stunningly beautiful Tatai River within the boundaries of the South Cardamom Protected Reserve². Rainbow Lodge has 7 eco-friendly wooden lodging on an area of 5 hectares around the Cardamom Mountains. This wooden lodge near the river offers all meals and free kayak rentals.

4. Naia beach resort

Address: Otres 2, Group 2, Village 6, Sangkat 4, Marina Road, Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Naia Resort is a beachfront property offering rooms in Sihanoukville in Preah Sihanouk Province, Sihanoukville city, 6 km from Ochheuteal Beach.

The resort has a terrace, where guests can enjoy beach views and use the outdoor swimming pool, which is open year-round. There is also a restaurant on the campus. The resort has an elevator to go to the upper floors.

¹ Refer to <https://plantation-urban-resort-and-spa.hotels-phnom-penh.net/en/>

² Refer to <https://rainbowlodgecambodia.com/>



5. Heritriage Suites Hotel

Address: Wat Polanka, Slokram Village, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Heritage Suites Hotel is a newly refurbished Colonial Retreat ideally located in the center of Siem Reap only 15 minutes away from the airport and the famous UNESCO world Heritage Angkor Wat Temples . At Heritage Suite Hotel, the excellent service and superior facilities make for an unforgettable stay. A selection of top-class facilities such as free Wi-Fi in all rooms, 24-hour security, daily housekeeping, fireplace, gift/souvenir shop can be enjoyed at the hotel

6. Anantara Angkor resort & spa

Address: National Road no.6, Khum Svay Dangkum, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Just 15 minutes from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor, this luxurious hotel in Siem Reap is the closest hotel to the Angkor Wat temple - the perfect base for a day of exploration by tuk-tuk, Vespa or helicopter. For those of you who want to venture out, Cambodian Cultural Village, Royal Angkor International Hospital, Royal International Hospital are just some of the attractions to visitors.

7. Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra

Address: 26 Old August Site, Street, Samdach Sothearos Blvd (3), 12301, Cambodia

Located in Phnom Penh's Old Quarter with colonial architecture, Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra features an outdoor pool. Guests can dine at the hotel's 5 dining venues or enjoy a drink in the lobby. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property.

Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra conveniently located within 850 meters from Aeon Mall and 2.5 km from Chaktomouk Conference Room 2. Phnom Penh International Airport is 13 km away. Airport transfers and shuttle services are available at additional charges.

V. Transportations

1. Tuk-tuk

This type of vehicle is most noticeable when you come to Cambodia because it is the vehicle most people use to travel between destinations. Especially for tourists when traveling in Cambodia will



choose it is a very cheap price that goes many points. Average price from \$ 15 - \$ 20 for a circuit around Phnompenh capital.

2. Taxi

Taxis are not a popular means of transportation in Cambodia. In Phnom Penh, taxis are concentrated in the Sisowath Quay area. Taxis have two types: meters with meter counters, quotes and taxis without meters (most taxis in Phnompenh do not have counters).

Reference price

- Traveling in the city of Phnompenh about 4-5usd
- Rent a taxi for a day about 30-35usd.

3. Motorbike (hire)

The traffic situation in Phnom Penh is very complicated. To be able to drive a motorbike in Phnom Penh in particular and Cambodia in general, you need to have an approved driver license in Cambodia.

The rental price is about 9usd/day.

4. Bus

The capital city of Phnom Penh does not have a public bus system to serve residents and tourists, as for tuk-tuk commuters, it is still the number one. However, if you want to go to other tourist cities like Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, etc, you can look to different transport companies like Phnom Penh Sorya Transport Company, G.S.T. Express Bus Service, Virak Buntham Express Travel, etc.

5. Walking tour

Walking only applies to attractions inside the city, this is the easiest, cheapest, no less interesting and of course it will be very tiring. With the map in hand, in the morning you can visit many attractive destinations in Cambodia.



6. Cyclo

Not only Vietnam, when traveling to Cambodia, you will come across a few cyclo cars are running slowly on the road. However, this vehicle is not very popular in Cambodia.

7. Ferry

You can choose to go to tourist destinations in Cambodia by river by ferry. In Cambodia, currently operating ferries on two routes, the city of Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and from Siem Reap to Battambang. If you choose to take the ferry, the cost will be more expensive compared to the bus.

VI. Activities in Cambodia

1. Cinema

Recently in Cambodia, with the encouragement from the Ministry of Fine Arts and Culture, many cinemas have been built and reopened to many old theaters. Most of the major roads and main roads in Cambodia have movie theaters and shopping centers, convenient for residents and tourists to visit.

At cinemas, especially Platinum Cineplex is an international movie destination for visitors. With so many exclusive and entertaining options all over the world, visitors can watch movies from Hollywood, local and many other countries.

2. Traditional dance in Cambodia

Today, there are very few places where you can find traditional dance in Cambodia. Some places like Cambodia Living Art, hotels in Phnom Penh and some local restaurants in Siem Reap such as Angkor Village Theater, Kulen II Restaurant, Angkor Century Hotel are among the places that you can visit to watch Cambodian traditional dance.

3. Nagaworld Casino

One of the largest casinos in Cambodia is Casino Nagaworld. Tourists not only have the opportunity to visit the unique architectural places here, but also can participate in one of the most modern and magnificent casinos in Cambodia. This is a 13-story building with 4 areas with casinos complex, restaurants, and hotels.



