



## **Trip to Cambodia February 2-16, 2019**

### **Days 1 and 2, Sat.-Sun., Feb 2-3, 2019--San Diego to Phnom Penh**

Make your own flight arrangements to arrive in Phnom Penh on Monday, February 4, 2019. Keep in mind that you will cross the international dateline and loose a day in transit. Your return flight will leave from Siem Reap the evening of February 15 (after dinner) or the morning of February 16.

### **Day 3, Mon. Feb 4, 2019--Arrival – PHNOM PENH (-)**

Our local guide will meet you at the Phnom Penh International Airport and transfer you to the hotel. If rooms are available, the hotel will provide early check-in for those arriving in the morning.

Overnight at Queen Grand Boutique Hotel and Spa

### **Day 4, Tues. Feb 5, 2019--PHNOM PENH (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

We'll meet our guide at 9:00 a.m. for an orientation and then start our city tour of Phnom Penh. We'll stop at Wat Phnom, Phnom Penh's first pagoda, constructed in 1372, where, according to legend, Phnom Penh was founded. Next, we'll visit the Central Market, located in a unique art deco building. Constructed in 1935, it is a Phnom Penh landmark and said to be the biggest market in Asia.

Next, we'll go to the National Museum with one of the world's largest collections of Khmer art, including sculptures, ceramics, bronzes, and ethnographic objects. Its collection includes over 14,000 items, from prehistoric times to periods before, during and after the Khmer Empire. At its height the Khmer Empire stretched from Thailand, across present-day Cambodia, to southern Vietnam.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll visit the Royal Palace with its Silver Pagoda. Named for its silver tiled



floor, it houses a collection of priceless Buddhist and historical objects including the "Emerald Buddha."

We'll return to our hotel for some "pool time" and relaxation before our evening sunset cyclo ride along the riverside where you are likely to see locals exercising, doing tai chi and enjoying the view. Several Cambodian Village Fund scholarship students and graduates who live in Phnom Penh will join us for the cyclo ride and dinner.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Queen Grand Boutique Hotel and Spa.

### **Day 5. Wed, Feb 6, 2019--PHNOM PENH (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

Today we'll visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, chronicling the Cambodian genocide. The site is a former high school, which was used as the notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21) by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979. Tuol Sleng, just one of at least 150 prisons established by the Khmer Rouge, was the largest center of incarceration and torture.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll visit Choeung Ek, known as the Killing Fields. The site, about 11 miles south of Phnom Penh, was once an orchard before it became a mass grave of victims of the Khmer Rouge. During their reign, the Khmer Rouge regime executed over one million people between 1975 and 1979. Mass graves containing 8,895 bodies were discovered at Choeung Ek after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime. Many of the dead were former political prisoners who were kept by the Khmer Rouge in their Tuol Sleng detention center. Today, Choeung Ek is a memorial, marked by a Buddhist stupa, filled with more than 5,000 human skulls.

In the afternoon, you will have time to relax at the hotel or shop at some of Phnom Penh's high-end shops.

We'll have an early dinner and then we'll enjoy an Apsara Dance Performance by Cambodian Living Arts.

Overnight at Queen Grand Boutique Hotel and Spa.

### **Day 6, Thurs, Feb 7, 2019--PHNOM PENH TO BATTAMBANG (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, we will board our air-conditioned bus and head to Battambang province, the western-most province of Cambodia, famous for its rice plantations and tropical fruits. More than just a natural resource, the province is known for its ancient temples. On the way we will stop in Kampong Chhnang to visit a school that trains children in the ancient martial art of kickboxing and wrestling. After lunch in Kampong Chhnang we'll make a short stop at a village famous for its unique way of making pottery, then we'll continue to

Battambang. After checking into our hotel, you'll have time to relax, swim in the hotel pool and enjoy happy hour at the hotel's outdoor bar.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Bambu Battambang Hotel

### **Day 7, Fri, Feb 8, 2019--BATTAMBANG (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel.

Today we'll head for the rural villages where the Cambodian Village Fund has been helping the communities build schools, libraries and roads. We'll visit the primary and secondary schools and our football (soccer) stadium, and participate in community service activities. We'll return to Battambang for lunch. After lunch, you will have free time to explore Battambang, with its colonial architecture, riverside setting and laid-back cafes.



After dinner at the hotel (not included), we'll board the bus for the Phare Ponleu Selpak Circus, where the performers are children from nearby villages who have been trained by a French NGO.

Overnight at Bambu Battambang Hotel

### **Day 8, Sat, Feb 9, 2019--BATTAMBANG (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast we'll board the bus for Battambang's Wat Domrei Sor to meet with Venerable Sovechea to learn about Buddhism, pagodas, and meditation. Then we'll go to the Cambodian Village Fund's Scholarship House in Battambang to meet the Cambodian Village Fund's scholarship students. After a short visit with the girls and a tour of their house, we'll all head to Kaun Khlong Village.



Lunch will be served in the village at the home of Nem Vanna and his wife, Kosel. After lunch we'll divide into groups to visit the homes of the scholarship girls. In the afternoon, everybody (Americans and Cambodians) will board the bus and return to the hotel for a party, including a buffet dinner.

Overnight at Bambu Battambang Hotel

### **Day 9, Sun, Feb 10, 2019--BATTAMBANG (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast we'll take a half-day cooking class (9:00 - 1:00), including a market tour. Markets in Cambodia are most interesting in the morning hours when fresh produce arrives and most Cambodians do their shopping. You will prepare three dishes from scratch, and then eat the food you prepared for lunch.

After lunch you will have time to relax, or take the bus to Wat Banan, an Angkor era temple which sits on top of a hill close to the Sangke River. After climbing 358 steps, you are rewarded with a stunning 360-degree panoramic view.

Later in the afternoon, we'll take the scholarship girls to visit Phnom Sompav to see the killing caves. At sunset, we'll watch thousands of bats leaving their caves for the night.

Dinner is on your own tonight.

Overnight at Bambu Battambang Hotel

### **Day 10, Mon, Feb 11, 2019--BATTAMBANG (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, we'll head for the lovely Battambang countryside in tuk-tuks to see the rural people at work making rice wine, rice paper and fish paste. Then we'll visit Ek Phnom, a Hindu temple, built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Lunch at local restaurant.



After lunch there will be free time for relaxing and swimming at the Bambu Hotel. Or you can explore some of Battambang's shops and galleries (Human Gallery, Romcheik 5 Art Space, Mrs. Bun Roeung's Ancient House). Later in the afternoon, we'll board the bus for Kaun Khlong Village to teach English classes at the Cambodian Village Fund's English language school. We'll return to Battambang in time for dinner.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Bambu Battambang Hotel

### **Day 11, Tues, Feb 12, 2019--BATTAMBANG – SIEM REAP (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer by private bus to Siem Reap. We'll go directly to a local restaurant for lunch.

**Optional Boat transfer to Siem Reap.** If the level of the river is high enough, a boat trip to Siem Reap will be offered. You will have lunch and snacks on the boat and arrive in Siem Reap before dinner. The additional cost for the boat is \$40.

After lunch, we'll check-in at our hotel. We'll have free time to enjoy the pool at the hotel or do some shopping.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Sokha Angkor Resort

### **Day 12, Wed, Feb 13, 2019--SIEM REAP (B, L, D)**

This morning we'll get up early to see the sun rise over Angkor Wat. We'll have breakfast in front of Angkor Wat and then explore this World Heritage Temple. We'll study both the splendid architecture and the famous bas-reliefs.

Next, we'll tour Angkor Thom, the lost city of the Khmer empire. We'll enter Angkor Thom



on elephants from the South Gate (or ride elephants around Bayon Temple). After saying "good bye" to our elephants, we'll visit the giant faces of famous Bayon and Baphoun Temples, and the Elephant and Leper King Terraces.

After lunch, we'll explore the unforgettable jungle temple of Ta Prohm (where the movie Tomb Raider was filmed).

We'll return to our hotel and then

enjoy a 1-hour foot/body massage.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

After dinner, we'll visit the Night Market and Pub Street.

Overnight at Sokha Angkor Resort

### **Day 12, Thurs, Feb 14, 2019--SIEM REAP (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast we'll take the bus for an excursion to the holy Kulen Mountain, where the Angkor era began. We'll see thousands of lingas (a symbol of the Hindu god, Shiva), the large reclining Buddha, and the waterfall where we can take a dip in the cool water. It was here that King Jayavarman II proclaimed independence from Java in 802 A.D.

We'll have a picnic lunch on the mountain. After lunch we'll head down to visit the pink stone Banteay Srei temple. Next, we'll visit the Cambodian Landmine Museum where we'll see deactivated landmines and learn about the consequences of war.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

After dinner, you will have another opportunity to shop at the Night Market and Pub Street.

Overnight at Sokha Angkor Resort

### **Day 13, Fri, February 15, 2019--SIEM REAP – Departure (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

In the morning we'll visit a Silk Farm, located in Puok district, a short drive from Siem Reap, on an 8-hectare site with mulberry fields, silk worm breeding and silk weaving using traditional Khmer knowledge. Next, we'll visit Western Baray, a water reservoir built in the Angkorean era and still in use for agriculture today.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch we'll visit Les Artisan D' Angkor, a workshop that teaches the unique crafts of wood and stone carving, lacquerware, silver plating, and ceramics in the traditional style of classic Cambodian artistry. Les Artisan D' Angkor has 48 workshops in Siem Reap province and provides employment to over 1100 people. It also has a beautiful shop where you can purchase high quality merchandise.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Depart Siem Reap. (Unless your return flight departs after dinner, you may want to spend an extra night in Siem Reap. We will be happy to reserve an extra night at our hotel for an extra cost.)

## Day 14, Sat, February 16, 2019--Arrive San Diego.

### **Price (land cost only): \$3,095 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement--\$500**

To reserve space for this trip, send a deposit of \$500 per person, payable to Cambodian Village Fund, to:

Cambodian Village Fund  
c/o Bill and Nancy Bamberger  
4376 Argos Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92116-2330

50% of your deposit is refundable if you cancel before August 31, 2018.  
Final payment for the trip is due by November 2, 2018.

This trip will be limited to 18 people. Space will be allocated to the first 18 people who send their deposits.

#### **Price includes the following services:**

- Airport transfers (for those arriving on Monday, February 4 and departing on February 15)
- Private transfer and transportation with air-con bus.
- Sightseeing with English speaking guide.
- Meals as program above, including one drink (beer or soft drink) at every included lunch and dinner.
- Accommodations on twin sharing basis with daily breakfast at hotel above for 11 nights.
- All fees to the temple compound and all other sites shown in program above.
- Ticket for Apsara Performance by Cambodian Living Arts.
- Private bus transfer from Phnom Penh- Battambang - Siem Reap with guide escort.
- Tuk-Tuk rides in Battambang with countryside activities
- Phare Ponleu Selpak Circus.
- Cooking class in Battambang.
- Cyclo ride in Phnom Penh.
- Elephant ride in Siem Reap.
- Foot/body massage in Siem Reap (60-minutes).
- Drinking water provided on tours.
- Arrival welcome jasmine garland.

#### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Arrival Visa Fee (\$30/Pax)
- Insurance
- Drinks over the 1 beer or soft drink per lunch and dinner

- Tips for guide and driver
- Personal Expenses
- Domestic and International Air-Tickets
- Optional visits besides the program above and others not mentioned.