

Best of Cambodia and Laos - 8 Days

Brief Itinerary:

- Day 1: Phnom Penh arrival (D)
- Day 2: Phnom Penh city tour – fly to Siem Reap (B)
- Day 3: Siem Reap – Rolous group (B)
- Day 4: Siem Reap – Angkor Wat – Angkor Thom (B)
- Day 5: Siem Reap – Luang Prabang (B)
- Day 6: Luang Prabang city – Kuang Si fall (B)
- Day 7: Luang Prabang – Vientiane (B)
- Day 8: Vientiane departure (B)

Remark:

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

Tour includes:

- Accommodation based on twin/double sharing with daily breakfast
- Experienced English-speaking guides as indicated in the itinerary
- Private transportation with AC
- Flight ticket Phnom Penh – Siem Reap, Siem Reap – Luang Prabang, Luang Prabang – Vientiane
- All sightseeing tickets
- Lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary
- Taxes and services charges

Tour excludes:

- International flight tickets and airport tax
- Visa stamping fee
- Early check in and late check out
- Drinks, gratuities and personal expenses
- Insurance

Detail itinerary:

Day 1: Phnom Penh arrival – city tour (D)

Welcome to Phnom Penh – The capital of Cambodia. The city is considered as the pearl of Indochina, still reserve lots of French old building. With your professional guide and private car you start to visit Phnom Penh. You will first go to the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda. The Palace is a magnificent example of Khmer architecture, it was built in 1866. You will see the Throne Hall and the Napoleon III Pavilion. Silver Pagoda is one of the richest shrines in the world. The floor is made of 5.000 silver tiles. Continue the trip with the National Museum, a Khmer red pavilion, which is dedicated to Khmer art and sculpture. The majority are from the Angkor period (9th to 15th century), and some from the 4th century. Enjoy dinner at the local restaurant before coming to your hotel.

Day 2: Phnom Penh – Toul Sleng - fly to Siem Reap (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then drive to Toul Sleng museum (S-21) and the killing field of Choueng Ek, which is about 35km away from the city. These places

are grim reminders of Cambodia's bloody past under Pol Pot. It is almost inconceivable to confront the nature of true evil here in this gentle land, but the Buddhist memorial at Choeung Ek, commemorates the 1.7 million victims of the 1975-79 Pol Pot regime. This excursion may prove distressing for some. Return to the city for a short flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival in Siem Reap, pick up and transfer to your hotel. Drive to southern down of Siem Reap around 15 km from Siem Reap for an excursion to the floating village on the Tonle Sap lake, the "Great lake" of Cambodia. With traditional wooden boat, you pass by floating villages with friendly children in small boats and fishermen at work. The village moves with the water level and during wet season houses are anchored around an island pagoda.

Day 3: Siem Reap- Rolous Group- Banteay Srey- Banteay Samre (B)

This morning you visit the ancient Khmer civilization site of Hariharalaya which flourished in the late 9th and early 10th centuries. These are the earliest temples in the Angkor area and are referred to the Rolous group (Lo Lei, Preah Koh, and Bakhong Temples). You will continue to drive to the rural outskirts 35km from Angkor area to visit the smallest, but magnificent, Banteay Srei built in the 10th Century and dedicated to Shiva. The temple was the birthplace of Khmer classical style architecture and the bas-relief work is the best example of Khmer classical art remaining. The pink sandstone structure bears a series of striking and beautiful sculptures, lintels, pediments and friezes. Khmers say the temple must have been carved by women for the details are too fine for the hands of a man. On the way back to Siem Reap you will visit the Banteay Samre Temple

adorned with impressive reliefs depicting scenes of Vishnu as well as Krishna legends.

Day 4: Siem Reap – Angkor Wat – Angkor Thom (B)

Early morning, enjoy the Tuk Tuk to the jungle-covered temple of Ta Phrom - that had nearly disappeared into the jungle and remains overgrown, an oddly haunting and exotic scene. The magnificent roots of a tree, pushing between the huge stone blocks of the temple in a sort of embrace, evoke feelings that you may remember forever. Come back to hotel for breakfast before a full Angkor temple tour. Start with Angkor Thom, the South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple, built from the late 12th century to the early 13th century by King Jayavarman VII and consists of 54 towers, the Royal Enclosure, the Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King. In the afternoon, spend your time for Angkor Wat, the largest temples in world and covers an area of 200 hectares and surrounded by moat and an exterior wall measuring 1300 meters x 1500 meters.

Day 5: Siem Reap – fly to Luang Prabang (B)

Leave Siem Reap to catch flight to Luang Prabang - the royal capital of the former Lane Xang Kingdom, with its gleaming temple roofs, colonial architecture and stunning mountain backdrop retains a unique charm rarely found in all Asia. Here is plenty to see, some of which are the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun, the shrine of Wat Aham and Wat Mai with five tiered roofs. You include these sights in a half day guided tour, which ends with a climb to Phousi Hill to enjoy a

beautiful sunset view of the city and its glowing reflection on the Mekong River. There are 329 steps leading you on zigzag way past various temples to the sacred, gilded stupa of Wat Phousi at the summit.

Day 6: Luang Prabang – Kuang Si water fall (B, L)

This morning, you continue to explore Luang Prabang with the temple of Wat Xieng Thong, a magnificent piece of architecture, which nestles at the meeting of the Mekong and the Nam Khan River. The temple structures are decorated in various ways with gilded stuccoes as well as doorways and the main sim has a marvelous 'tree life' mosaic pattern on an outer wall.

After that, you take a drive 30km to visit Tad Kuang Sii waterfall. The falls cascade over many calcified tiers and down several hundred feet into a series of cool, turquoise pools. The water here has a clear blue-green tint due to the high mineral content. You can climb the stairs and look down from various high viewpoints on the way to the top! Enjoy a picnic lunch and later in the afternoon return to the hotel to relax or explore on your own. Luang Prabang is a wonderful walking town, and you can find dinner on your own at any number of fine international restaurants.

Day 7: Luang Prabang – fly to Vientiane (B)

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting offerings of Alms (ubiquitous sticky rice) from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the procession.

Leave Luang Prabang for Vientiane by a short flight. Tour briefing and transfer to city centre. You have a guided day tour of the capital; including the oldest Wat Sisaket, the temple with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former royal temple of Wat Prakeo, which previously housed the famous Emerald Buddha Image. On the way to Lao's national precious heritage, the famous and sacred structure of That Luang Stupa, you stop enroute to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph. Enjoying a spectacular view of over the Mekong River at sunset is a perfect way to finish the day.

Day 8: Vientiane departure (B)

Free in your own until your departure time. Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your departure flight.