

## Cambodia from Phnom to Angkor 7 days 6 nights

Code: CAM\_04\_B

### Itinerary:

#### Day 1 - Phnom Penh.



Arrival and after immigration and customs formalities, meeting with the guide. Transfer and accommodation with check in at 14:00 or earlier if rooms are available. Beginning of the introductory tour of the lively capital of Cambodia passing through the colonial quarters near the Independence Monument and continuing with a walk near the area where the three rivers flow almost in front of the **Royal Palace**. Visit to **Wat Unalom**, the famous pagoda where the great Venerable of Buddhist monks lives. We then go to the famous **Russian market**, formed by a series of intricate corridors between them and towards which a myriad of stalls and sellers overlook, where all kinds of merchandise are shown to possible buyers.

Lunch in a local restaurant and free dinner - Overnight.

#### Day 2 - Phnom Penh.

Breakfast at the hotel. Beginning of the visits with the temple that gives its name to the city, **Wat Phnom**: located on top of a hill, frequented by the faithful who go here to pray and be predicted by the many fortune tellers, fortune tellers and fortune tellers. We then go to the complex of the **Royal Palace** and the **Silver Pagoda**, so called for the more than five thousand silver tiles from which the floor is made, all embellished with gifts offered to the royal family from all over the world. We will then visit the **National Museum**, built around 1918 and entirely dedicated to Khmer art. There are splendid finds from both Angkorian and **pre-Angkorian** times on display, including important statuary from **Angkor** itself and several everyday objects found in various areas and historical periods. Continue to the **Toul Sleng**, a tragic prison museum testimony of the bloody regime of the **Khmer Rouge** and the genocide perpetrated against the **Cambodian** population itself, guilty of being able to read and write, wear glasses, be teachers, doctors, professionals, speak foreign languages, it is estimated that about three out of twelve million people were tortured and killed over the four-year period up to 1979.



Lunch in a local restaurant and free dinner - Overnight

#### Day 3 - Phnom Penh – Battambang.

Breakfast in hotel.



Departure for Battambang, the second largest city in Cambodia, also called the Capital of the West. You can see, at one of the villages along the road, how the technique of silver working has been handed down for generations. At Kampong Chnang you will travel along a stretch of the river that leads to Tonle Sap, seeing how life unfolds in the floating villages formed by countless boats, houses and various floating structures. Continuation to Battambang, and arrival in the afternoon. The city still has its very provincial atmosphere and is characterized by a mixed architecture between the colonial and the local, where people still live according to the customs of the traditional peasant culture. Situation permitting, sometimes the visit is not possible for reasons technicians, you will be able to try a singular form of local transport, the Bamboo Train, or Bamboo Train, climbing aboard a small platform, precisely formed by bamboo and anchored to wheels that allow it to travel on the rails of what was once a railway line, now disused, all driven by a small but powerful engine. If time permits, we proceed to Ek Phnom, an evocative

Khmer sanctuary dating back to the first half of the 11th century and exemplary for understanding Angkorian architecture.

Lunch in a local restaurant and free dinner - Overnight

## Day 4 - Battambang – (Bantey Chmar – Sisophon) – Siem Reap.

Breakfast in hotel.

Departure for **Siem Reap** by public scheduled boat from the pier which is located in the town center. The boat departs following the **Sangke River**. Continue on the river through splendid and **unusual scenarios: villages, pagodas, fishermen** who use a very particular technique through nets raised by a sort of pendulum catapults, mangroves and anything else you can imagine or not, in a luxuriant and uncontaminated nature. We arrive at the splendid floating village of **Prek Toal** where it will be possible, if required and conditions permit, to visit a floating church and the school moored nearby. Then you enter the **Tonle Sap**, so big that you can't see the banks. The boat continues along part of the lake until after the floating village of **Chong Kneas** where you go ashore and reach **Siem Reap** by bus after about thirty minutes by road. Arrival after about 9-10 hours of navigation from **Battambang**, times are flexible, depending on the water level and the conditions at the time. (The boats are local, made of wood, sometimes not very comfortable, due to a rigid internal rotary on use it is not possible to choose them in advance, the maximum capacity is 30-35 people). Navigation is generally possible in the period from September - October to February – March.



Transfer in Hotel

## Battambang - Siem Reap alternative by land::

Early departure for **Bantey Chmar** passing through the town of **Svay Sisophon**, not far from the Thai border.



*The temple of Bantey Chmar is located about 60 km from the capital of the province of Bantey Meanchey. It is a little known and little visited monastic complex, in practice not yet untouched by any form of restoration. Built between the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th, it was dedicated to the son of King Yayavaraman VII who fell fighting against the Champa. The bas-reliefs on the inner perimeter wall depict scenes from the battles of that war. Bantey means citadel, or city, and the complex is the size of a small town. In the internal part, the vegetation has grown luxuriantly, even without taking over and the absence of tourists revives the experience of the few travelers of the*

*colonial period. Among the bas-reliefs, a representation of Awalokiteshwar, or in Tibetan Cenresi, a divinity who represents compassion and at the same time the tutelary god of Tibet, makes it possible to make risky, but probably real, connections between two civilizations so distant. Breakfast during the excursion.*

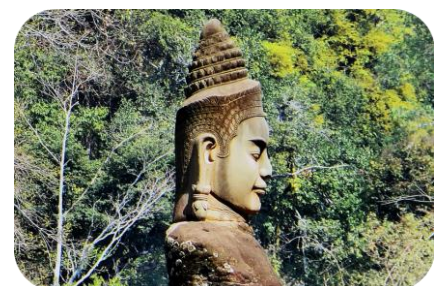
*Continuation and arrival in the early evening in Siem Reap.*

*Cena libera e pernottamento in hotel.*

## Day 5 – Siem Reap.

Breakfast in Hotel.

Departure for the visit to the **pre-Angkorian** structures of the Rolous complex, located about 15 km from the town, towards the south-east. The temples of **Prae Ko**, Bakong and Lolei are the main and the first to have been built in the area in the 9th century, they represent the link between the **kingdom of Chenla**, whose capital is represented by what remains of **Sambor Preikuk**, and the new kingdom of **Angkor**, marking the beginning of the culmination of Khmer power and art. Head towards the **Angkor complex** and see the **Prasat Kravan**, the only example of a temple consisting of five towers in a line, inside the central one it will be possible to admire one of the most beautiful decorations dedicated to the divinity Visnu. In the afternoon a visit to the fortified city of **Angkor Thom** is



scheduled, passing through the **South Gate**, and continuing towards the spectacular **Bayon** temple which, with its more than two hundred enigmatic faces, represents the central construction both in its location and in its conception. of the city itself. It is a masterpiece with a surprising structure made up of 54 towers and which presents splendid bas-reliefs representing daily life in the times of the **kingdoms of Angkor** and in which more than ten thousand figures carved in stone have been counted. Then you pass in front of the imposing **Baphuon** and continue to the pyramid-shaped temple linked to the legend of the king and the snake, the **Pimeanakas**, then the area where the **Royal Palace** was located and ends with the splendid **Terraces of the Elephants** and the **Leper King**. Lunch in a local restaurant and free dinner. Overnight.

## Day 6 – Siem Reap.

Breakfast in hotel.

Excursion to discover the temple of **Bantey Srey**, or the citadel of women, famous for its splendid bas-reliefs



almost all carved in pink sandstone and according to many, superior in delicacy and precision even to those found inside **Angkor Wat**. The temple is located about 40 km from **Siem Reap** and is reached among enchanting landscapes characterized by rice fields and villages. We return to **Siem Reap** passing through the temple of **Bantey Samre**, so named in honor of the legend of the farmer who became king. In the afternoon, visit part of the **Grand Circuit of Angkor**, starting with the vast and majestic temple of **Prae Khan**, also known as the temple of the **Holy Sword**, which served as a religious, cultural center and, for a period, also

as a royal residence. At the moment of its maximum development, more than ten thousand people resided there, including many of the important teachers and the **Apsara** dance troupe, the celestial dancers. We continue with the **Neak Pean**, the only circular structure in memory of a mythical lake from which the four rivers of Hindu mythology arise. At the time it was used as a place of purification through the waters. Then we head towards one of the most suggestive and romantic temples, the **Ta Phrom**, totally immersed in the jungle and deliberately left in the conditions in which it was found by French archaeologists around 1860, partially covered by vegetation, with the roots of centuries-old trees that magically wrap the sculptures and the stone blocks of the galleries, signing a union between history and the bursting force of nature itself.

Lunch in a local restaurant and free dinner – Overnight

## Day 7 – Siem Reap.

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning dedicated to **Angkor Wat**, the masterpiece of all **Khmer** art, the most famous and imposing temple, considered one of the wonders of the world. It is a structure that dazzles in its spectacularity, an example of extraordinary architectural wisdom, decorated with extremely refined sculptures and bas-reliefs, through which the main scenes of Indian epics are masterfully described. Lunch in a restaurant. Departure in the direction of **Phnom Krom** to visit the **Tonlé Sap**, the largest lake in South East Asia. The pier is located about thirty minutes by road from **Siem Reap**. The view of the Vietnamese floating village of **Chong Kneas** is very suggestive and touching, located, according to the period and depth of the water, along the banks of the canal river that leads to the lake or near the lake itself. **The Vietnamese community** has in this place its homes, shops and shops, small refreshment centers, public offices, fish farms, schools, churches, all built on floating platforms that fluctuate according to the rhythms of the floods of the lake. You then enter the **Tonle Sap**, so large that you cannot see the banks. The boat stops by turning off the engine to better savor the silence of this "sea". Sailing near the mangroves you will visit a fish and crocodile farm before returning.



## **Alternative to visiting the lake:**

The **Angkor National Museum** is the one and only museum of international standard in **Siem Reap** that enhances the cultural heritage of the **Khmer Golden Age** through a collection of priceless technologically advanced multimedia artefacts and exhibits that lead to full and immediate understanding . The museum is an important place of inspiration, art, culture and history of the legendary ancient **Khmer** civilization. Lunch in a local restaurant. Transfer to the airport in time for the scheduled flight to take off.



-- End Service --

## **The Tour Includes:**

- Transfers and excursions in private air-conditioned vehicles as per program, except open scheduled boats where required.
- English or Italian speaking guides in supplement.
- Assistance, availability and regular visits to customers by resident Italian staff.
- Entrance fees.
- Overnight stays in selected hotels in rooms with private facilities.
- Meals as per program.

## **The tour does not include:**

- Flights to and from Cambodia.
- Visa on arrival in Cambodia (\$ 30, one free page, 2 photos, 6 months of validity of passports).
- Insurance of all kinds.
- Personal expenses, tips, drinks with meals, extras in general
- Quantonon shown in included