

PHNOM PENH CAMBODIA

21 - 31 August 2012

Guide to Cambodia

Currency

Cambodia's currency is the Riel (KHR), however USD are accepted everywhere as a second official currency. In some places, it's more common to see USD than KHR. USD 1 = approx. KHR 4,100, although the rate of exchange may vary across individual establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and markets.

Time

Cambodia's time zone is UTC +7 hours, which covers most of South-eastern Asia. The telephone country code is +855.

Map of Cambodia

Language

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia but English is widely spoken, especially in tourist areas.

Useful Phrases

- Hello: johm riab sua
- One: muy
- Thank You: aw kohn
- Please: sohm
- What is your best price: niak daich pohnmaan

Cambodian Cuisine

Cambodian cuisine has several national dishes that are similar to versions found in neighbouring Thailand and Laos, while others are closer to Vietnamese and Chinese. Make sure to try 'amok' (baked fish with coconut, lemongrass, and chilli in a banana leaf), 'samlor machou bunlay' (hot & sour fish soup with pineapple and spices), or 'phlea saich kow' (a beef and vegetable salad flavoured with coriander, mint, and lemongrass).

Note: Overseas travellers should drink bottled water by reputable brands in Cambodia.

Weather

Cambodia, along with most of South-eastern Asia, has a tropical climate. The rainy season, generally June to October, has average maximum temperatures of 27 - 35°C (80-95°F).

Attractions

If you only have a bit of time to spare, take a full day city tour of Phnom Penh. Here are some highlights:

- National Museum: USD 3, open from 08:00 to 17:00. Over 5000 objects and artifacts are on display.
- **Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda:** USD 3 per person, plus USD 2 to bring a still camera and USD 5 for a video camera. Open from 07:30 to 11:00 and 14:00 to 17:00.
- **Independence Monument:** Commemorates Cambodia's independence from foreign rule.
- **Phsar Thmey (Central Market):** A traditional market displaying an amazing collection of gems and jewelry.
- **Phsar Toul Tom Poung (Russian Market):** Traditional market of stalls this is the place to buy textiles and souvenirs.
- Choeung Ek Memorial (The Killing Fields): Several sites in Cambodia where large numbers of people were killed and buried by the Khmer Rouge regime, during its rule of the country from 1975 to 1979.
- Toul Sleng Genocide Museum (S-21): USD 2, open from 08:00 to 17:00. Now a museum, this former secondary school was converted into the S-21 prison and interrogation facility during the reign of the Khmer Rouge.
- The Riverfront Area and Sisowath Quay: Lined with dozens of restaurants and several silk and souvenir shops, this is a popular spot with locals and tourists.



Mekong River

Siem Reap

If you have more time to spend in Cambodia, Siem Reap is a four-hour drive from Phnom Penh.

Siem Reap is famous for the Temples of Angkor, including Angkor Wat, the Bayon, and Angkor Thom (site where Tomb Raider was filmed).





Angkor Gondola Boat

Take a ride down the Mekong in a traditional Khmer boat! This is a memorable and relaxing experience showcasing the natural and historical significance of the river.

Getting Around

- Boat
- Bus or tram
- Car or motorcycle
- Outboards
- Moto Small motorcycle taxis, good for making short hops around towns & cities. Prices range from USD 1 or more depending on the distance. It is best to negotiate prices up front before the journey.
- Remorque-moto/ Tuk tuks A canopied trailer hitched to the back of a motorcycle for two or three people to ride in comfort.

Gratuities

Wages in Cambodia are low, so travellers are encouraged to leave a 5-10% (or more) tip in restaurants. Tipping is unnecessary if a service charge has already been added to the bill.

Restaurants & Bars

Amber Garden Terrace

Khmer/International

A breezy, comfortable terrace restaurant, café and bar offering reasonable prices for dining and accommodation. Khmer dishes are the specialty but there are western and international choices as well. Free WiFi is available. #1A, Street 57 (in Boeung Keng Kang 1), Phnom Penh 06:00 - 23:00 Phone: 023-216 303 • 012 929 128 www.amber-kh.com

Boat Noodle Restaurant

Thai & Cambodian

This restaurant is situated in an old wooden house, in a leafy garden brimming with water features and offers some of the best-value Thai and Cambodian food in Phnom Penh. It serves tasty noodle soups for breakfast and has daily lunch specials. It is worth a visit! Prices range from KHR 3000 to 10,000. 8B St 294, one block west of Sothearos Blvd, Phnom Penh 10:00 - 22:00 Phone: 012 200 426

Friends the Restaurant

Multi-Asian, Western

This is one of a few non-profit restaurants in the city that employs young Cambodians, including rehabilitated street children, to help them get their careers started. A few favourite dishes include Khmer seafood and lime soup and coconut lime cake with passion fruit syrup. Also try the fruit shakes or the tapas-style entrees, such as the grilled fish fillet with salsa verde. Prices range from USD 3 to 5. 215 Street 13, Phnom Penh Phone: 023/426-748

www.friends-international.org

Khmer Surin Restaurant

Khmer & Thai

Situated in an old Khmer-style building, this is one of the oldest and most famous Khmer restaurants in Phnom Penh. This is a great place to experience Cambodian culture through traditional cooking, furnishings, music, and dance. The menu offers both Khmer and Thai food, including stir-fries, deep-fries, curries, grills, steamed dishes, soups and salads, served in a beautifully decorated and tranquil setting. You can choose western or Thai-style seating on cushions.

#9 Street 57, two blocks south of Sihanouk Blvd 10:00 - 22:30 Phone: 023-993163 • 012-887320 • 012-797539

Le Moon Terrace Bar

Bar/Café: International

A roof-top bar on top of the upscale Amanjaya Pancam Hotel on the riverfront, offering a fantastic view of the Mekong and Tonle sap rivers and colourful Wat Ounalom. There is a full bar with draught and imported beers, cocktails, and wines. Snacks and small plates are also served. #1, Street 154, Sisowath Quay 17:00 - 01:00 Phone: 023-214 747 • 017 760 676 www.amanjaya-pancam-hotel.com

NagaWorld

The NagaWorld resort and casino complex has it all - luxury accommodation, fine dining restaurants, entertainment venues with bars, karaoke, a dance club lounge and sprawling casinos with extensive gaming facilities.

- The Aristocrat Wine & Cigar Bar
- Club 88 Karaoke
- Lobby Lounge
- Darlin Darlin Bar, Live music and dancing
- Catwalk Bar (New!)

Samdech Hun Sen Park www.nagaworld.com





Riverside Bistro

International

A popular, long-running riverfront restaurant and bar set in a beautifully refurbished classic old colonial-era building. It contains pleasant curbside seating with a great river view and comfortable fully air-conditioned indoor dining and bar. It features an extensive menu, full bar, cocktail menu, and a good selection of beers and wines There is also free WiFi and live music on Wed to Sun from 8:30. #273A, Sisowath Quay, Phnom Penh 07:00 - Late night; Happy Hour 07:00 - 19:00 Phone: 023-213 898 • 012-277 882 www.riverside-bistro.com

The Cavern Pub & Café

Pub/Café: English

A welcoming, fully air-conditioned pub and restaurant with a full bar, a good selection of British and western fare, and a friendly neighbourhood pub atmosphere. Come here for pork chops, bangers and mash, roasts, and a full bar with a particularly good selection of single malts. There is also a sports TV, WiFi, and occasional live music.

#19, Street 104, Phnom Penh 11:30 – 02:00; Happy Hour 11:30 – 18:00 Phone: 012-620 441 www.cavern-pub-phnom-penh.com

Van's Restaurant

International

This spot is located in the former Banque Indochine, one of the grandest buildings in Phnom Penh. Dishes are beautifully presented, and menu highlights include sea perch carpaccio and tender veal and Grand Marnier soufflé. Prices range from USD 5 to 25.

5 Street 13, Phnom Penh 11:30 - 14:30; 17:00 - 22:30 Phone: 023 722 067 • 016 376 326 www.vans-restaurant.com