

## Cambodia Encounters

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**Country(ies):** Cambodia

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** A/C minibus/car

**Group size:** Min: 2 | Max: 12

**Days:** 6 days

**Start Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**End Location:** Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 5, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 1

**Highlights:**

Phnomh Penh - Toul Sleng Museum, Choeung Ek Killing Fields, Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda, spider market, Tonle Sap Lake, Kulen Mountain stay, Siem Reap - Angkor Wat temples, Ta Prohm, street food walk



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Your Cambodia adventure begins, transfers included

Once you arrive in Cambodia, one of our staff members will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel for the evening. Once you're settled in, we'll brief you on what you can expect over the next few days, before arranging a time to collect you tomorrow.

**OVERNIGHT:** Phnom Penh hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 2: Exploring Phnom Penh's history

After breakfast at your hotel, the day begins with a sobering but essential journey into Cambodia's recent past. We will visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, both grim reminders of the country's bloody history under the Pol Pot regime. While confronting the nature of these events can be distressing, the Buddhist memorial at Choeung Ek stands as a powerful testament, commemorating the 1.7 million victims of the 1975-79 period. This experience is a crucial part of understanding Cambodia's historical and cultural identity.

In the afternoon, we continue with a visit to the National Museum, also known as the Musee des Beaux-Arts. Designed by French archaeologist Georges Groslier in 1917, the building itself is a beautiful example of Khmer architecture. Inside, you'll discover a remarkable collection of Khmer art and sculptures from various eras.

The day concludes with a tour of the Royal Palace, built by King Norodom in 1866, and the magnificent Silver Pagoda. Situated within the palace grounds, the Silver Pagoda gets its name from its floor, which is composed of 5,000 silver tiles. The pagoda's incredible treasures include a 90kg solid gold Buddha statue encrusted with thousands of diamonds and a smaller 17th-century Buddha made of emerald and Baccarat crystal.

In the evening, you'll have the chance to explore the city at your own pace. A popular option is to visit one of Phnom Penh's vibrant night markets, where you can browse stalls selling local crafts and clothing, and enjoy a wide variety of delicious street food. You will spend the night in Phnom Penh.

**OVERNIGHT:** Phnom Penh hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 3: Visit the 'spider market' and explore Kampong Kleang on Tonle Sap Lake. Overnight at Kulen Mountain

After breakfast at your hotel, we will begin our journey north to Siem Reap by private car with your tour guide. This scenic drive will offer a glimpse of rural Cambodian life. Our first stop will be in the Skun district, often referred to as the "spider market," where you'll have the chance to see and, if you're feeling brave, even try local fried tarantula. Continuing on, we'll visit a stone carving workshop in the Santuk district, where you can see

artisans at work on beautiful Khmer sculptures. We'll also make a brief stop at the ancient Naga Bridge, a historic stone crossing with intricate carvings of the mythical serpent.

Our journey will then take us to Kampong Khleang, one of the largest and least-visited floating villages on the edge of Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. Here, you will board a boat for an immersive trip, passing through a stunning submerged forest and floating houses that rise on stilts over the water. You will see firsthand how local communities have adapted to the lake's dramatic seasonal changes. The village is a fascinating and authentic insight into a unique way of life, with floating schools, markets, and fishing farms.

Finally, we will head to your countryside resort located at the foot of the sacred Kulen Mountain. This mountain is considered one of the most significant sites in Cambodia, as it is where King Jayavarman II proclaimed himself a "god-king" and established the Khmer Empire in the 9th century. The mountain is also home to a magnificent reclining Buddha and numerous ancient carvings. In the evening, you'll have the chance to enjoy a unique campfire dinner at the resort. Please note that this dinner is an optional extra and requires a minimum of four participants. You will spend the night at Thisak Resort.

**OVERNIGHT:** Thisak Resort

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 4: Explore the Kulen Mountains. Visit the Tbeng community to learn about local life. Siem Reap Night Market (Street 60)**

After breakfast, we'll drive up to the holy Kulen Mountains, known locally as Phnom Kulen. The sandstone from this mountain was the primary source of building materials for the vast temples of the Angkor Kingdom. Our first stop is the sacred site of The River of a Thousand Lingas, a unique archaeological site where hundreds of phallic carvings are etched into the sandstone riverbed, dating back to the 9th century. Further downstream, you'll also see large stone blocks carved with figures of Apsara dancers and Vishnu.

Next, we'll explore the mountain-top pagoda, home to ancient relics, statues, and a large reclining Buddha. Our final stop on the mountain is Kulen Waterfall, where you can cool off in the natural pool. It's also a perfect picnic spot, which is exactly what we'll do before heading back down.

In the afternoon, we'll travel to the community of Tbeng, about 32km from Siem Reap. Here, you'll get a firsthand look at rural life, starting with a visit to a local vegetable garden and livestock area to learn about traditional agricultural practices. We'll also visit Damnak Thlork Vea Pagoda, where you will receive a blessing from a Buddhist monk. You'll also get to observe the traditional process of making mats and, on occasion, Khmer noodles, which you can then sample.

Before returning to the city centre, we'll visit a local's favourite night market, known as Plov Hockseb, or "Street 60." This is a vibrant, authentic market where you can discover a huge variety of Khmer street foods, fresh fruits, local beers, and if you're feeling adventurous, some protein-rich fried insects. We'll then return to Siem Reap for the night.

**OVERNIGHT:** Siem Reap hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 5: Temple visits - Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm**

After breakfast at your hotel, we will begin a full-day tour of the magnificent temples of the Angkor area, a truly unforgettable experience. Our first stop is the ancient city of Angkor Thom, entering through its impressive South Gate, which is famous for the colossal stone faces that greet you. Inside the city, we'll explore the mesmerising Bayon Temple, with its 216 enigmatic smiling faces, as well as the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace, and the Terrace of the Leper King.

Next, we'll visit the most famous of all the temples, Angkor Wat. This architectural masterpiece, constructed in the 12th century, is the largest and most complete temple on the site, covering an area of about 210 hectares. You'll have plenty of time to explore its incredible bas-reliefs and intricate carvings, learning about its history as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu.

The tour concludes with a visit to the atmospheric Ta Prohm. This temple is an incredible sight, as it has been left largely in its natural state, with enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers embracing the stone foundations. The intertwining of man-made and natural elements gives the impression of a lost world being reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature.

For dinner this evening, we will enjoy a delicious meal at Spoons Restaurant. This isn't just a place to eat; it's a social enterprise that supports underprivileged Cambodian youth by providing them with valuable hospitality training. By dining here, you're not only enjoying fantastic food but also directly contributing to a positive social mission.

**OVERNIGHT:** Siem Reap hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 6: Bon Voyage! Airport transfer included

We hope that you had an amazing time in Cambodia! We'll transfer you to the airport to board your flight home. If you have a late afternoon or evening flight, or would like to add some extra nights in Siem Reap, then a range of additional half day tours are available, including a cooking class, cycling tour of some temples you've not visited yet, and a visit to the floating houses on Tonle Sap lake.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Siem Reap - post-tour Half-day local village tour & cooking class Half-day silk farm tour Half-day remote temples tour Half-day cycling tour of the temples Half-day tour to Tonle Sap Lake

**Included:**

- 5-nights accommodation in 4-star hotels
- All transport and transfers in private AC car/minibus
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour guide during sightseeing and activities
- Admission fees, with instruction where necessary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Phnom Penh historical tour
- Spider Market and 'Street 60' Market visits
- Tonle Sap Kampong Khleang Community Visit
- Kulen Mountain resort stay
- Tbeng Community Experience
- Angkor region Temples tour

**Excluded:**

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visas fees
- Travel Insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Single room supplements
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Optional tours
- Tips for tour guides and drivers
- Any other items not mentioned above

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single Room Supplement (CASGCE)

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

**Note:** Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

## Extra day in Phnom Penh - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Extra day in Siem Reap - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

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## 1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the local 4-star level on this tour. Hotel rooms all have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms.

All couples will be given a private double room.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

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## 2. Transport

Our trips aim to feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. As this tour through Cambodia covers a relatively short distance and we want to be flexible with our stops between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, we only use private vehicles (minivan/minibus depending on the number of travellers).

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## 3. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to making sure our small-group tours in South East Asia have low maximum numbers as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. Having a smaller group also allows us to be a bit more creative with the places you stay and activities you do, which may simply not be possible with larger numbers. The group size for this tour is therefore a minimum of 2 and maximum of 12.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

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## 4. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour throughout the year starting on Mondays. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 people. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request. Extra nights can be added to the start and/or finish of the tour if you would like to extend your time.

The tour can also be run privately on any other dates for any number of people. An additional supplement will be due for private departures, the amount depending on your dates and the number of people in your party.

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## 5. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour.

Most of our Cambodia tours start and finish in either Phnom Penh airport (PNH) or Siem Reap airport (REP).

If you are booking a tour that combines Cambodia with Vietnam we may not include connecting flights between the two countries in the tour price (see the inclusions/exclusions or extension option sections for details). This

flight can often be built into your main international flight ticket, or we may be able to book this flight for you separately if you prefer - please contact us and we will advise you on available airlines, times and prices.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

### **Flight CO2 Emissions:**

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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## **6. What to take**

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Cambodia, though if your itinerary has many stops and different travel included within it, we recommend packing light and not bring any large cases. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips - you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Climate and Clothing:** The best time to visit and enjoy Cambodia's famous temples, Wat's and pagoda's are during the cooler months of December and January when humidity is low and there is little rainfall. Please be aware that though these areas are more exposed to the elements and the cooler temperatures of this time of year are a blessing they are also the busier tourist months of the year and main sights can be crowded. Though Cambodia can be visited at any time of year it is best to avoid April with its extreme temperatures in the 40's and May, June when the south western monsoon brings rain and high humidity. You may wish to coordinate your trip with one of the annual festivals, such as Bon Om Tuk, a three-day Water Festival, in October or November, marking the changing of the flow of the Tonle Sap River and is also seen as thanksgiving to the Mekong River for providing the country with fertile land and abundant fish or Khmer New Year which usually falls on April 13th or 14th. Take light clothes with something warmer for the winter nights if you are travelling to the north. Some light raingear would be useful in the wet season.

**Other items:** We recommend you also bring:

- Cool footwear (sandals are ideal). If you are interested in exploring the reefs, a pair of reef shoes is recommended to avoid injuries. If you are trekking, then bring comfortable and sturdy walking shoes or light walking boots.
- Swimming costumes - rash-guards/t-shirts are recommended for snorkelling to avoid sunburn.
- Sunscreens, after sun lotions and personal hygiene products - Please adhere to 100ml restrictions for anything you wish to carry on hand-luggage on flights.
- Prescription medications (if required) - please bring supporting documents.

- Power adapter for phones, laptops etc
  - Sunglasses and hats
  - Basic first aid kit and toiletries
  - Money belt
  - Small torch
  - Dive certification card and log book if you intend to participate in SCUBA diving.
  - Sleeping bag if your tour includes any hill-tribe or village trekking
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## 7. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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## 8. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

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## 9. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.

- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

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## 10. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/encounterstravel](http://www.facebook.com/encounterstravel)

<https://x.com/encounterstravel> (yes, without the 'e')

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## 11. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? [World Nomads Travel Insurance](#) offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

### **Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

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## 12. Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's ['Travel Aware' campaign](#) which provides further useful and invaluable information.



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### 13. Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

#### How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

#### The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can't fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon's efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

#### Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories

(USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

## **Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!**

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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### **14. Private & Tailor-made Tours**

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please [contact us](#).

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### **15. Transfers**

Our South East Asia tours all include a 24-hour arrival and departure airport-hotel transfer service, and all other transfers throughout the tour. If you are already in the country then we will provide you with your first hotel details, contact numbers for our local representatives, and details of your first meeting time.

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### **16. Entrance Fees**

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

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### **17. Tipping**

Tipping is not part of culture in South East Asia in the same way that it is standard practice in other parts of the world. However it has become more customary but not compulsory in the tourist and service industry. Tipping is always optional, and any amounts paid should reflect excellent service. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. USD 5-10 per person per day would be appropriate for your guide(s).

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### **18. Health and Vaccinations**

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

**Thailand:** Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus. [Malaria map](#). Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

**Vietnam:** Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. [Malaria map](#). Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

**Cambodia:** Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. [Malaria map](#). Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

**Laos:** Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. [Malaria map](#). Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

**Malaria:** Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

**Yellow Fever:** This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vaccination may be required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate with you and to hand if necessary.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.

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## 19. Voltage

Sockets are two round or flat pronged and 220 volts (Type A, B, C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already. If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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## 20. Time

The time in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos is GMT plus 7 hours. Daylight saving adjustments are not observed.

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## 21. Money - Cambodia

The Cambodia currency is the 'Riel' (KHR). US\$ are widely accepted in the country and more or less work as a second currency. Because of its location so close to Thailand, you will find that Thai baht is also accepted in most

places. Bear in mind that if paying in US\$ or Thai baht, your change will be given back in riels.

It's also possible to change Thai baht or US\$ with local private moneychangers, at some shops and markets or as usual, any banks that you may come across. These banks will also change most other currencies such as Sterling, Euros etc. The banks tend to open from 7.30am to 2.30pm.

If you have travellers cheques in major currencies then the banks will accept these although it is likely that a commission will be charged.

In Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, banks and even some travel agents will allow you to draw cash against most major credit cards but you can expect a surcharge of around 3-4%. These days, more and more shops, restaurants and hotels in the major tourist destinations will accept payment with credit cards. Until recently, Cambodia had no ATM's whatsoever but this is changing fast and it's now possible to withdraw money from ATM's located in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Most credit cards and some debit cards are accepted but its best not to rely on this as a way of accessing your funds while in the country.

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## 22. Passports and Visas - Cambodia

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

Many nationalities (including British, EU, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand amongst many others) can obtain a 30-day tourist visa on arrival in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap Airport (and some land borders). At the time of publishing the visa fee is \$30.00. You'll need to make sure you have a passport sized photograph for the visa. If you are arriving via Phnom Penh or Siem Reap Airports then you can obtain an e-visa prior to arrival at - [www.evisa.gov.kh/](http://www.evisa.gov.kh/) (these are not accepted at land borders).

As visa regulations often change we recommend that you check this information with your nearest consulate. Obtaining the correct visa is the responsibility of the traveller.

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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