

Temples Swallowed by Jungle, Crab Fresh from the Sea

A 7-Day Cambodia Itinerary

Cambodia in seven days, Siem Reap to Phnom Penh to the Kampot coast: sunrise over Angkor Wat and the jungle-swallowed ruins of Ta Prohm, a stilt-house village on Tonle Sap, the Royal Palace and a reckoning with the Khmer Rouge's history, then pepper farms and fresh crab on a slow riverside afternoon. Real hotels, real drive times, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

November–March

the dry season, with the coolest, least humid air of the year (peak crowds and prices hit Angkor Wat in December–January) — avoid the June–October wet season, when floodwaters raise the floating villages but can slow overland travel

FROM

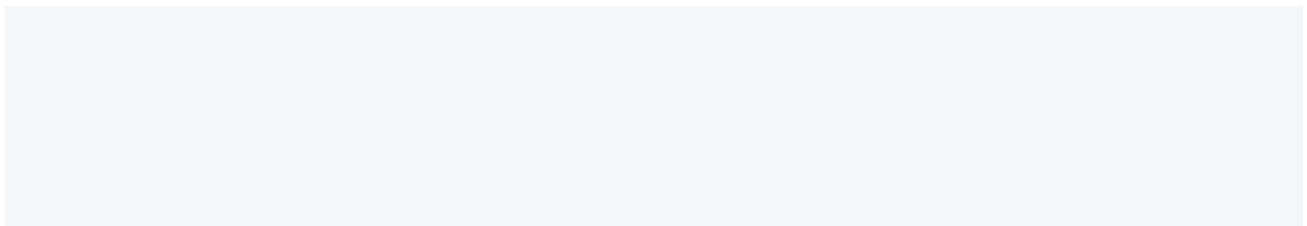
\$980 USD / person

for 2 people

DAY 1

Arrive in Siem Reap

A short transfer into town, a wander through the Old Market's stalls and Pub Street's night market, and a first taste of Khmer cuisine before an early night ahead of tomorrow's sunrise.



Dinner — Cuisine Wat Damnak

~2 hours · Set menu from \$38 USD / person

Chef Joannès Rivière's tasting menu draws on half-forgotten Cambodian recipes and daily market produce, changing every two weeks — one of Siem Reap's most acclaimed tables, and reservations are essential.

Cuisine Wat Damnak

Overnight — Shinta Mani Angkor

From \$118 USD / night, for 2 people, breakfast included

A Bill Bensley-designed hotel a short walk from Pub Street, built around a courtyard pool, with part of every stay funding the on-site Shinta Mani Foundation's community projects.

Shinta Mani Angkor · <https://www.shintamani.com/angkor>

DAY 2

Angkor Wat at Sunrise & the Jungle Temples

The classic Angkor loop: sunrise over Angkor Wat's towers, the carved stone faces of the Bayon, and the strangler-fig roots of Ta Prohm before the midday heat sets in.

Angkor Pass — 3-Day Pass

Valid any 3 days within 10 · \$62 USD / person

The Angkor Enterprise ticket office issues a photo pass on the spot — the 3-day option is the standard choice for a proper visit and covers today's and tomorrow's temple runs with a day to spare.

Sunrise Tuk Tuk Tour — Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom & Bayon

~8 hours · From \$25 USD / group (up to 3 people)

A private driver-guide collects you before dawn for a spot inside Angkor Wat's outer enclosure as the five towers silhouette against the sky, then continues through the South Gate's giant stone faces to Angkor Thom's Bayon temple.

Ta Prohm

~1 hour, included in tour · Included in Angkor Pass

Left largely as French explorers found it, Ta Prohm's sandstone galleries are held in the grip of centuries-old silk-cotton and strangler-fig trees — the temple made famous by “Tomb Raider” and Cambodia's most photographed ruin.

Dinner — Marum

~1.5 hours · Est. \$12–\$18 USD / person

A social-enterprise restaurant training at-risk youth in hospitality, serving updated Khmer dishes like red tree ant beef and pumpkin hummus in a garden courtyard just off the tourist strip.

Marum

Overnight — Shinta Mani Angkor

From \$118 USD / night, for 2 people, breakfast included

A second night at the Shinta Mani, resting up for tomorrow's temples further afield.

Shinta Mani Angkor · <https://www.shintamani.com/angkor>

DAY 3

Banteay Srei & Tonle Sap's Floating Villages

A morning at Angkor's most intricately carved temple, then an afternoon by boat through a village built entirely on stilts and water.

Banteay Srei

~1.5 hours round-trip by car (25 miles / 40km each way) · Included in Angkor Pass

A 10th-century temple carved from pink sandstone in relief so fine it's nicknamed the "citadel of women" — smaller and further out than the main complex, which keeps the crowds noticeably thinner.

Kompong Phluk Floating Village Boat Tour

~3 hours · From \$20 USD / person

Stilt houses rise 20 feet above the Tonle Sap floodplain, sinking and rising with the lake's dramatic seasonal swings — a wooden boat winds past a flooded mangrove forest to a village school and a floating market stall.

Floating Village Tours · <https://floatingvillagetours.com>

Dinner — Chanrey Tree

~1.5 hours · Est. \$15–\$25 USD / person

Contemporary Khmer fine dining on the river road, known for its fish amok steamed in banana leaf and a wine list that outdoes most of Siem Reap.

Chanrey Tree

Overnight — Shinta Mani Angkor

From \$118 USD / night, for 2 people, breakfast included

A third and final Siem Reap night before tomorrow's bus south to the capital.

Shinta Mani Angkor · <https://www.shintamani.com/angkor>

DAY 4

Siem Reap to Phnom Penh

A scenic bus ride south across the Cambodian countryside to the capital, with the afternoon free for a riverside introduction to Phnom Penh.

VIP Bus — Siem Reap to Phnom Penh

~6 hours (320 km) · From \$15 USD / person

Giant Ibis's air-conditioned coaches run the highway route past rice paddies and sugar-palm groves, with free WiFi, a rest stop, and reclining seats — book the morning departure to arrive with daylight left.

Giant Ibis Transport · <https://www.giantibis.com>

Wat Phnom & Sisowath Quay Riverside

~1.5 hours, self-guided · \$1 USD temple entrance

The hilltop pagoda that gave Phnom Penh its name sits atop the city's only hill, a short stroll from the Tonle Sap riverfront promenade where the afternoon crowd gathers for sunset over the water.

Dinner — Malis Restaurant

~2 hours · Est. \$20–\$35 USD / person

An open-air Khmer restaurant built around a lily pond, serving refined versions of Cambodian classics — beef lok lak, fish amok, and a “Cambodian tapas” tasting flight — a favorite with visiting diplomats.

Malis Restaurant

Overnight — Raffles Hotel Le Royal

From \$188 USD / night, for 2 people

A 1929 colonial-era landmark where Jacqueline Kennedy and Charlie Chaplin once stayed, with a palm-lined pool, a cigar bar, and the Elephant Bar, which claims to have invented the Femme Fatale cocktail.

Raffles Hotel Le Royal · <https://www.affles.com/phnom-penh>

DAY 5

Phnom Penh — Palaces and a Reckoning with History

The Royal Palace's gilded pavilions in the morning, then an unflinching afternoon at the sites of the Khmer Rouge's genocide — one of the heaviest, most necessary days of the trip.

Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda

~2 hours · \$10 USD / person

The still-functioning residence of Cambodia's king, with the Silver Pagoda's floor of solid-silver tiles and an emerald Buddha housed inside — modest dress with covered shoulders and knees is enforced at the gate.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum & Choeung Ek Killing Fields

~4 hours · \$8 USD (Tuol Sleng) + \$6 USD (Choeung Ek, audio guide included)

A former high school turned S-21 prison, then the mass graves 30 minutes outside the city, where the audio tour — narrated in part by survivors — winds along wooden pathways between excavated pits; heavy, but essential context for modern Cambodia.

Tuk tuk for the half-day

Dinner — Sisowath Quay Riverside

~1.5 hours · Est. \$10–\$20 USD / person

An evening to decompress along the riverfront's row of open-air restaurants and bars, with the illuminated Royal Palace across the water and the night market a short walk south.

Overnight — Raffles Hotel Le Royal

From \$188 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night at the Raffles before tomorrow's drive south to the coast.

Raffles Hotel Le Royal · <https://www.affles.com/phnom-penh>

DAY 6

Phnom Penh to Kampot

A drive south to the sleepy riverside town at the foot of Bokor Mountain, with an afternoon among the pepper vines that made Kampot famous.

Private Transfer — Phnom Penh to Kampot

~2.5–3 hours (148 km) · From \$45 USD, private car for up to 3

The drive south leaves the capital's traffic behind for open highway and roadside sugar-palm stands, arriving in Kampot's shophouse-lined old French quarter by early afternoon.

La Plantation Pepper Farm Tour

~2 hours · Est. \$8–\$12 USD / person

A working farm growing the peppercorns that once supplied the tables of Paris, with a self-guided walk through the vines followed by a tasting of black, red, and rare white Kampot pepper straight off the plant.

La Plantation

Dinner — Rikitikitavi

~1.5 hours · Est. \$15–\$22 USD / person

A riverside restaurant on stilts above the Praek Tuek Chhu river, built around Kampot's famous pepper crab and a wine list longer than most Phnom Penh Hotel Le Roycbuilt around Kampom0 TM9418l2 cm q BT 1 0 0 1 0m0

Overnight — Rikitikitavi

From \$55 USD / night, for 2 people, river-view room

A restored 1930s shophouse turned six-room boutique hotel above its own restaurant, with a small rooftop pool and private balconies looking straight over the river toward Bokor Mountain.

Rikitikitavi · <https://www.rikikitavi-kampot.com>

DAY 7

Kampot & Departure

A last quiet morning in Kampot's old quarter before the drive back to the capital to close out the loop.

Old French Quarter Walking Tour

~1 hour, self-guided · Free

Crumbling colonial shophouses along the riverfront, a handful of independent cafes serving Kampot pepper lattes, and the town's slow, unhurried pace — best walked before the midday heat sets in.

Private Transfer — Kampot to Phnom Penh International Airport

~2.5–3 hours (155 km) · From \$50 USD, private car for up to 3

The return drive retraces the highway north to Phnom Penh, with buffer time built in for the capital's unpredictable traffic before an international departure.

Departure — Phnom Penh International Airport (PNH)

Self-guided

Closes a seven-day loop that ran from Angkor Wat's sunrise towers and a floating village on Tonle Sap to Phnom Penh's palaces and Kampot's pepper coast — check international carriers' recommended arrival times, typically 3 hours before departure.