



Smiling Albino's Khmer Treasures

Siem Reap & Phnom Penh



Stunning stone temples, cool hangouts,
a vibrant capital, and adventuring in style

Validity: November 2016 - March 2017,
except December 20, 2016 - January 10, 2017



Background



Cambodia is a land of dramatic contrasts. From magnificent ancient temples reflecting one of the greatest cultural forces in history, to the charming former French colonial capital and its conflicted past, this trip explores multiple corners. Starting at Angkor Wat you'll marvel at the glory of the Khmer Kingdom then attempt to understand the turmoil of its recent history and youthful promise of its future. This six-day adventure brings you up close and personal with Cambodia's essentials.

Prepared to be hosted!

Day 1: Welcome To Cambodia, an Introduction to Angkor



On arrival in Siem Reap, you will be met by your Smiling Albino host who will transfer you to your hotel. Settle-in and get oriented before an amazing afternoon introductory adventure.

The Angkorian Empire lasted five hundred years with the metropolis of Angkor covering more than a thousand square kilometers. We'll set out for Phnom Kraum Hill near Tonle Sap Lake for an introduction to ancient Angkor, one of the world's greatest civilizations. Like all the best stories, we need a stage from which to tell it and a view to match, Phnom Kraum provides both.

Beginning the Angkor tale while exploring the 10th century temple, the fascinating story of this great civilization will unfold in front of you over the following days of your adventure in Cambodia. As the sun sinks over the Great Tonle Sap Lake, we'll pop open a bottle of sparkling wine on the summit of Phnom Kraum Hill and marvel at it all. Tonight we'll treat you to dinner at one of the city's excellent Khmer restaurants.

Driving: 30 minutes each way, paved and rural roads

Hiking: 20 - 30 minutes up hills

Arrival Flight: Independently arranged

Meals: D

Accommodation: [Shinta Mani Resort](#), Poolside Room

Day 2: Angkor Uncovered



Today indulge in essential Angkor. With various transport options to choose from, we'll explore Angkor's signature sites. A great way to explore the temples is to cycle along shady paths between the ruins which rise like islands from a sea of forests. We'll start with the ancient city of Angkor Thom and the multi-faced Bayon Temple carved in the likeness of the Great King. Back roads take us to the hidden temple of Ta Nei then the iconic Ta Prohm Temple draped with the twisted roots of Silk Cotton Trees. A picnic lunch is perfect when the weather is cool or we can retreat to an air-conditioned restaurant, before heading to Angkor Wat in the afternoon, the largest religious monument in the world. However you choose to explore, we'll take the day at your methodical pace without suffering 'temple overload'.

Enjoy tonight at leisure (we'll give you ideas for happy hour).

Level of activeness: moderate

Cycling: 15 - 20 kilometers, paved roads, natural paths, can be extended for active cyclists

Walking / climbing: there are uneven stone steps at each temple (with and without handrails)

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: [Shinta Mani Resort](#)

Day 3: Tonle Sap Lake Kayaking Expedition



Photo courtesy of Nick Butler, Cambodia Director

Today we'll head along the river through villages and rice fields to explore the lakeside village life on the Tonle Sap Lake. We'll gain an interesting look at floating villages, fishing communities, flooded forests and wildlife. Exploration by kayaks allows you to see and experience things more intimately, naturally, and it's more fun! We'll enjoy lunch on the wooden verandah of a stilted house overlooking the pagoda or have late afternoon drinks there as the fishing boats return to unload their catch.

Flexible touring means you can paddle as much or as little as you like. This is a great day off the main tourist path and is a truly intimate cultural experience.

Tonight is at your leisure and your host will be happy to escort you to dinner or make arrangements as you wish.

Driving: Approximately 45 minutes to one hour each way, depending on water levels

Kayaking: 1 - 2 hours, paddling inflatable kayaks

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: [Shinta Mani Resort](#)

Day 4: To Phnom Penh and Essential Sites



After breakfast, a quick morning flight takes us to Phnom Penh where we'll check-in to the capital's most famous hotel – Raffles le Royal. Featured in films and novels, this grandiose colonial-era property is the essential address in Phnom Penh.

This afternoon is given over to Cambodia's history. We'll visit the expansive National Museum to learn what was achieved during the Khmer Empire, a great adjunct to your visit to the Angkor Park in Siem Reap. Then we'll explore the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda which tell the story of pre Khmer Rouge 20th century Cambodia as well as being the symbolic resting place of the King Father Sihanouk and the residence of the current King Sihamoni his son.

Evening is at your leisure. Perhaps drinks in the trendy Tonle Bassac part of town where an alleyway of cool bars and eateries has congregated. There's a burgeoning restaurant scene from which to choose for a dinner reservation.

Meals: B, L

Flight: Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 11:30 - 12:15 (subject to change)

Accommodation: Raffles le Royal, State Pool View Room

Day 5: Khmer Rouge and the New Khmer Movement

An introduction to the brightest and darkest of Cambodia, we'll start with the dark side.



We'll pick you up after breakfast for the short drive across town to Toul Sleng or S-21 Prison, the interrogation center where supposed enemies of the regime were processed before being sent to their deaths at the Killing Fields. Toul Sleng is now a thoughtful museum that lets us reflect on the awful annihilation that took place.

After the morning's moving experience, enjoy a peaceful lunch in the garden of a contemporary Khmer Restaurant. We can arrange for a Khmer Rouge victim to tell us his story of survival.

Suggested time: Start not later than 9:00

Exploration by: private car, tuk tuk and foot power

Continued!



This afternoon's about the bright side of Cambodia. Phnom Penh was the most beautiful city in SouthEast Asia, it is still one of the most fascinating. We'll explore the city's landmarks, some of which were designed by Vann Molyvann, Cambodia's most famous architect. His work is known as New Khmer, blending modernist themes with Cambodian traditions. We can either focus on Molyvann's Le Corbusier inspired iconic buildings or take in old colonial villas and shop houses around the Post Office and some less obvious examples of religious architecture. The choice is yours!

Tonight we'll enjoy a final dinner together at a tasty eatery.

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: Raffles le Royal

Day 6: Onwards



Take the morning to hit that final site of interest or enjoy it at your leisure before your Smiling Albino host transfers you to the airport for your flight onwards. You'll be remembering Cambodia for years to come. Until next time...

Meals: B

Departure flight: independently arranged

Prices

- Group of 2-3 people: \$2,410 US/ pax (Double / Twin Sharing)
- Group of 4 people: \$2,070 US/ pax (Double / Twin Sharing)
- Single Supplement: \$785 US/ pax

Inclusions

- A three night stay at Shinta Mani Resort with daily breakfast
- A two night stay at Raffles le Royal with daily breakfast
- Fast track immigration assistance on arrival in Siem Reap
- Flight Siem Reap - Phnom Penh on economy class
- Round trip airport transfers at both locations
- Daily activities, including most meals (as indicated), drinks and snacks, English speaking hosts, all transportation and logistics, admissions and executive care
- The only surprises are good ones. We've got you covered

Exclusions

- Tourist Visa to Cambodia is \$30 per person plus approx \$7 processing fee. The visa on arrival is paid by you directly at the airport visa counter. Alternatively you can get an e-visa online (<https://www.evisa.gov.kh/>) to help fasten the process on arrival. It normally takes three days processing
- Flights to and from Siem Reap (we can help with recommendations)
- Optional activities: [Phare Circus](#)
- Personal expenses such as spa, laundry, souvenirs, meals not indicated

Hotel Options in Siem Reap:

- Upgrade to Heritage Suites (Bungalow Suite), add \$60 US per room total for three nights
- Upgrade to Shinta Mani Club (Superior Room), add \$210 US per room total for three nights
- Upgrade to Sala Lodges (One Bedroom Suite), add \$270 US per room total for three nights
- Upgrade to Phum Baitang Resort (Terrace Villa), add \$780 US per room total for three nights

About Accommodation

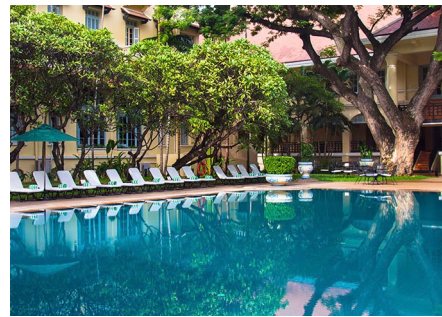
Shinta Mani Resort, Siem Reap

Shinta Mani Resort is a newly renovated boutique courtyard-style resort which rooms direct access or first floor balcony views to the stunning swimming pool and flourishing tropical gardens. Each room enjoys a surprisingly different ‘Bensley twist’ with custom designed iron bed, mirrored feature wall and artwork exclusively created for Shinta Mani. The resort has strong commitment to community outreach with the Development Center - a purpose built facility that provides free hospitality training to less fortunate members of the Siem Reap community.



Raffles Le Royal, Phnom Penh

Raffles Le Royal is the premier hotel in Phnom Penh, a property with those rare attributes of history and style. It was first established in 1929, and in its early heyday enjoyed an international clientele comprising globetrotters and adventurers, writers and journalists, royalty and dignitaries. Renovated and reopened in 1997, the grand hotel fulfils all the requirements of a modern world-class facility, but imparts an old-world charm through its style and decor, which is elegant yet comfortable, classic yet casual.



Hotel Options in Siem Reap

Heritage Suites

A member of Mr & Mrs Smith's hand-picked collection of the most special boutique hotels in the world, Heritage Suites exudes style, class and elegance. Lovingly conceived and managed by its owner in a classic Khmer design. Combining tasteful modern touches to create one of Siem Reap's nicest properties. A relaxing pool area and high-ceiling lobby/bar offer many places to relax and unwind.



Shinta Mani Club

Shinta Mani Club is an upscale boutique hotel created by acclaimed architect Bill Bensley, showcases 39 contemporary designed rooms and public spaces in a Khmer inspired design. Stylish guestrooms feature minimalist chic interiors, modern amenities and terrazzo bathroom with rainshower. Artwork showcasing Angkor Wat complements the sleek Bensley signature design. Shinta Mani has strong commitment to community outreach with the Development Center - a purpose built facility that provides free hospitality training to less fortunate members of the Siem Reap community.



SALA Lodges

Smitten with the charm of Khmer traditional architecture during their Cambodian peregrinations, the founders of Sala Lodges have reunited eleven such wooden houses in order to create a unique hotel with the look of a village. The houses all have individual history and architecture, and the oldest date from the late 1950s. While the exterior has been carefully conserved, each house reveals a pure and refined interior with subtle decoration of local artisanal touches, featuring modern amenities.



Phum Baitang

The first Zannier resort in Asia, Phum Baitang has been inspired by traditional Cambodian wooden housing with contemporary design that is innovative, simplistic and sophisticated. Each private stilted villa sets in the resort's own rice paddies and gardens. Both interior and exterior have been sculpted and furnished with the aim of creating an authentic yet luxurious experience allowing guests to absorb a genuine sense of Cambodia lifestyle.



The Smiling Albino Service Difference



We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience. You'll be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure.

We look forward to hosting you!

The Team at Smiling Albino

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"See a different part of the world, differently"