

Itinerary for Two Days Tour

Day I: 08:00 - 19:00

AM: Visit the City of **Angkor Thom** comprised of the **Bayon Temple, Baphoun, and Elephant Terrace & Terrace of the Leper King.**

Enter the city of **Angkor Thom** through the monumental south gate. Avenue of Gods and Asuras lining the bridge across the structure moat.

Baphoun is the vast temple near mountain near the center of Angkor Thom. It's under France's restoration project. It is possible to access the entrance gate and the elevated walkway entrance and there is a huge reclining Buddha on the west side of the temple.

The **Bayon** or State Temple of **Javavarman VII** is one of the most enigmatic and powerful religious constructions in the world. It is a unique mass of "face towers" which create a stone mountain of ascending peaks. There were originally 54 towers of which 37 are still standing today. Most are carved with four faces on each cardinal point. The central tower has many more.

The **Elephant Terrace** is the heart of Angkor Thom and looks out over the Royal Square. It marks the entrance to the Royal Palace and was the focal point for royal receptions. The carvings of elephants along its walls give its modern name.

Terrace of the Leper King – this massive terrace is named after the 15th century sculpture that was discovered on top of it. It probably dates back to the reign of Jayavarman VII and has been restored in a manner which allows visitors to explore the earliest to most recent additions by actually entering the internal layers of the structure. Return Back to the Hotel.

PM: **Angkor Wat** & sunset at **Phnom Bakheng**. Built between the 9th and 14th centuries, the temples of Angkor are among the grandest monuments ever constructed. The entire complex covers approximately 164sq miles with over 200 temples. Among the 30 temples that are accessible today, the most famous is Angkor Wat, the largest Hindu temple in the world. Conceived by Suryavarman II in the early 12th century, Angkor Wat took an estimated 37 years to build. Unlike most other Khmer Temples, it faces west, the most likely reason being that the temple was dedicated to Vishnu, who is sometimes associated with the West.

Phnom Bakheng, hill for sunset, late 9th century was the State Temple of the first capital of Angkor. The view from the top is magnificent, particularly of Angkor Wat to the South East and is the most popular spot for visitors at sunset.

Day II: 08:00 - 19:00

AM: **Kbal Spean:** The valley of a 1,000 Lingas, entrance to the area closes at 3:00pm. Combine with a visit to **Banteay Srei** and allow a half-day for the two. Taking the road straight past Banteay Srei about 15km requires a moderately easy 45 minutes uphill walk through the paths in the shade.

Leave for the "Jewel" of Angkor, **Banteay Srei**, known as the "Citadel of Women" or "Citadel of Beauty", presumably referring to its size and delicacy of its decoration.

Unlike the major sites of Angkor, Banteay Srei was not a Royal Temple. It was built not by kings, but by Brahmin priests. Often described in terms as the 'Jewel of Khmer Art', Banteay Srei is a temple of great beauty and compares with little else in Angkor. Its miniature scale almost always surprises visitors and the near total decoration of its surfaces is exceptional.

Return Back to the Hotel.

PM: Banteay Samré is one of the most complete complexes at Angkor and restored using the archaeological method. The method entails complete deconstruction of the building, numbering of its component part and then painstaking reconstruction.

Ta Phrom or **Tomb Raider Temple** was built in the 12th century by Jayavarman VII as a royal monastery. It was dedicated to the King's mother. This temple was chosen to be left in its natural state as an example of how most of Angkor looked, upon its rediscovery in the 18th century. Shrouded in jungle, the temple of Ta Phrom is ethereal in aspect and conjures up a romantic aura with gigantic roots and branches intimately intertwined with the stones and probing walls to form a natural roof above the manmade structures.

If you would like to visit further distances such as: Floating Village, Kulen Mountain, Banteay Srei, Kbal Spean and Beng Mealea, there will be additional charge.