

# hidden splendors of cambodia

**10 Days**

**Siem Reap – Kratie – Mondulkiri – Phnom Penh**

*Embark on a captivating adventure off the beaten path in Cambodia, from the vibrant cities of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap to ancient ruins, elusive wildlife, and tranquil Khmer villages. This journey through pristine jungles, mountains, remote countryside, and along the legendary Mekong River promises unforgettable discoveries.*



## **Day 4: Siem Reap to Kratie | Scenic Drive Through Cambodia's Heartland**

Set out on a full-day drive from Siem Reap to Kratie, passing through picturesque countryside, quaint towns, and bustling markets. Stop at Cambodia's oldest surviving pagoda before taking a local ferry across the mighty Mekong River to Koh Trong Island, a car-free haven where time seems to stand still and rural life thrives.

## **Day 1: Siem Reap | Discover the Wonders of Angkor**

Arrive in Siem Reap, your gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park. Begin your journey by tuk-tuk, exploring iconic temples like Banteay Kdei, home to an ancient Buddha statue. As the day closes, board a private boat on Angkor Thom's moat, gliding to Prasat Chrung Temple for a serene sunset over the majestic ruins.

## **Day 2: Siem Reap | Temples, Blessings, and a Sunset Finale**

Delve into the heart of the Angkor complex, starting with the grand Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument. Wander through Ta Prohm, where fig trees have reclaimed the temple walls. Conclude with a visit to the famed Bayon Temple, known for its giant, serene faces. In the afternoon, receive a traditional monk's blessing at a quiet temple, then enjoy an optional sunset view over Angkor Wat's timeless spires.

## **Day 3: Siem Reap | Immerse Yourself in Khmer Village Life**

Step beyond Siem Reap into the peaceful Khmer village of Peak Sneng, where you'll experience daily life in rural Cambodia. Engage with students at a local school, take a ride in local-style transport, and learn traditional crafts from artisans. This meaningful visit directly supports the village through tour proceeds, benefitting causes like school improvements or housing repairs for elderly residents.



## **Day 5: Kratie | Spotting the Elusive Irrawaddy Dolphins**

Explore the charming colonial town of Kratie, then board a private boat on the Mekong River in search of the rare and endangered Irrawaddy Dolphins. Your guide will help you spot these elusive creatures while you take in the beautiful river scenery, including rare bird species and local fishermen at work.

## **Day 6: Kratie to Mondulkiri | Journey to the Mountain Highlands**

Enjoy a scenic drive to Mondulkiri, where the flat plains give way to lush mountains. Stop at a hilltop viewpoint to admire the expansive jungle below before continuing to Dob Kromom, a peaceful mountaintop pagoda offering panoramic views of the region's breathtaking landscapes.

## **Day 7: Mondulkiri | A Day with Elephants in the Jungle**

Spend an unforgettable day at the Elephant Valley Project, where you'll learn about conservation efforts while shadowing two elephant families in their natural habitat. Local mahouts will share insights into their unique bonds with the elephants, offering a deep connection to these gentle giants in the heart of the Cambodian jungle.

## **Day 8: Mondulkiri to Phnom Penh | Coffee Farms and Waterfalls**

Travel through Mondulkiri's fertile highlands, known for their coffee plantations tended by indigenous tribes. Visit Bousra Waterfall, a majestic three-stage cascade set in dense jungle, before continuing to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, where ancient Khmer culture meets rapid modern development.

## **Day 9: Phnom Penh | Rural Charm on Silk Island**

Escape the city and head to Silk Island, a peaceful haven in the Mekong River. Guided by a local couple, you'll explore the island's market, school, pagoda, and more. Learn traditional skills from the islanders, such as noodle-making, while soaking in the authentic rural atmosphere.



## **Day 10: Departure | Fond Farewell**

After an enriching journey, transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your onward flight, departing with memories of Cambodia's hidden splendors.