

Cycling Tour of Angkor Wat



Highlights

Holidays to Cambodia come in all shapes and sizes, but this one is really special. Discover the ancient jungle temples of Angkor Wat on two wheels! This four-day cycling tour takes you deep into the Cambodia countryside, where Khmer ruins nestle amongst rice paddies, dense forest stands and vast freshwater lakes complete with floating townships!

Discover the East on two wheels! Asia and the South Pacific are home to some truly incredible cycling routes, combining millennia-old cultural heritage with scenery of breathtaking majesty, from the mighty Himalaya to the volcanic isles of Polynesia! A cycling tour gives you the chance to explore these epic landscapes under your own steam; there are no trains to catch, no 4am starts, no watching the sublime country pass you by from the back seat of a packed bus. Better still, a bike holiday allows you to interact with people and places in a much more intimate fashion than is possible on many tours, where you're forever surrounded by coachloads of other tourists in default travel mode: stop, snap, shop, split. On tours like these the main things are planned for you – hotels, routes, even the best time of year to travel – leaving you free to enjoy the awesome cycling!

This four-day cycling tour features all of the significant ruins of Angkor's epic temple complex, the largest religious structure in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll follow both the Grand Circuit and the Lesser Circuit, passing paddy fields, pagodas and Khmer villages as you hunt for ancient relics buried in the undergrowth. En route are the recondite remains of the Death Gate, the Terrace of the Leper King and Phnom Bakeng, from which you'll watch an unforgettable sunset over the temple tops. And there's more. You'll enjoy a boat ride on the Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, where you'll visit floating villages at the mercy of the currents, and you'll also be entertained by celestial Aspara dancers during a traditional Cambodian banquet!

Is it for me?

This is a fantastic cycling tour around what is widely considered one of the top man-made wonders of the world. As such, we'd recommend this to absolutely everyone, so long as they have some cycling experience and are in fairly good shape. You won't be covering any mammoth distances – the daily average is about 25 miles – and there are no steep hills to tackle, so you don't need to be Lance Armstrong to enjoy this one! The roads are relatively quiet too, meaning you don't have to worry about negotiating frenzied traffic or deciphering alien road signs. If for any reason you are struggling with the riding, you can always get a lift in the back-up at either the beginning or end of the day, so there's no danger of you holding up the other riders. The daily itinerary is in fact very flexible – you can see what you want to see at a pace that suits you – which means early starts can be avoided if you need your full eight hours!

Holidays to Cambodia are a fantastic experience, but do bear in mind that there is a lot of poverty in the region. You might want to take with you some small gifts, such as pens, to give to the local children you meet there.

Accommodation

For this tour you'll be based at The Angkor Village Resort, an elegant wooden hotel complex designed in accordance with the principles of traditional Khmer architecture, complete with tropical ponds and gardens. The luxury cottage rooms are equipped with all mod cons, from LCD TV to WiFi, while the hotel also features an extensive spa and a unique snake-shaped swimming pool, the perfect spots to unwind after a hard day in the saddle. As you might expect from a hotel of this calibre the food is also pretty special. There are three restaurants where you can try classic Khmer dishes such as Trei Tik (grilled fish with green mango) and Nam Ya

Prices from

456 GBP (4 days) per person

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(rice noodles and fish curry), and when you're out exploring the temples you'll enjoy lavish picnics comprising traditional Cambodian finger foods served in an exquisite bamboo hamper! If you fancy eating out any time you'll find Siem Reap has a good range of options, with everything from street food to haute cuisine on offer.

Itinerary

Day 1 - After checking into your hotel, you will pedal into Siem Reap's countryside. Today's ride will bring you to 9th century Rolous temple group which includes the oldest temples of the Angkor Complex. Following the tranquil rural trails, you'll cycle past Khmer villages, pagodas and rice fields. Before getting to Rolous, you'll visit Lolei, Bakong and Preas Kor Temple. After discovering the fabulous temple ruins, you'll return to town by bike. The rest of the day you're free to relax and explore Siem Reap. Then in the evening you'll enjoy a traditional Cambodian meal and performance by Apsara dancers. (Cycling - 25 to 40 km)

Day 2 - Today starts with a 10km ride from Siem Reap to Angkor Wat, stopping to explore the temple complex and to enjoy a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, you'll cycle an additional 17 to 24km on the Small Circuit between Angkor Wat and Phnom Bakeng, with stops at the Death Gate, Victory Gate, Terrace of Elephants, Srah Srang and the Terrace of the Leper King. You'll then watch the spectacular sunset from Phnom Bakeng. (Cycling - 50 km)

Day 3 - Today you'll take a shuttle bus to the rose sandstone temple of Banteay Srei, then explore the temple's magnificent carvings and embark by bicycle on the 31km Grand Circuit to the ruined jungle temple of Preah Khan. It's then on to Neak Pean Temple, famous for its sacred pools, breaking for lunch before riding another 21km to Banteay Kdei and Siem Reap via picturesque country lanes. (52 km)

Day 4 - This morning you'll will enjoy a boat ride on the Tonle Sap lake. This is the largest permanent fresh-water lake in South East Asia and flows into Tonle Sap River, joining the Mekong in Phnom Penh. You'll see the fishermen's "floating village" (complete with floating schools, a floating police station, etc!) which moves from place to place according to the water levels and current. It's then back to the hotel to check out before heading on to the airport for your onward flight.

Details

Price includes

All meals, accommodation, van support, transfers, bike, guide, sightseeing and cultural activities. Flights not included.

Price details

Price quoted is based on a group of 2 to 5 people. Price for a group of 6 or more is \$595. Single supplement \$195.

When is best

November to March is best with warm temperatures and little rain. April and May are hot and sunny. June until October is the rainy season, cooler temperatures but a chance of several days of rain.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

4 days

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

Some previous experience is needed