

# MOMENTS on the road

Cruise and Drive: Vietnam and Cambodia  
(14 Days)





## ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS


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We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. We think the world of western China and the countries that border on this region – think Vietnam, Lao, Thailand, Myanmar, for example.

*On the Road Experiences* is all about sharing with like-minded travelers just how beautiful a road journey in these varied lands can be. Now turn the page to find out what we've come to love so much...

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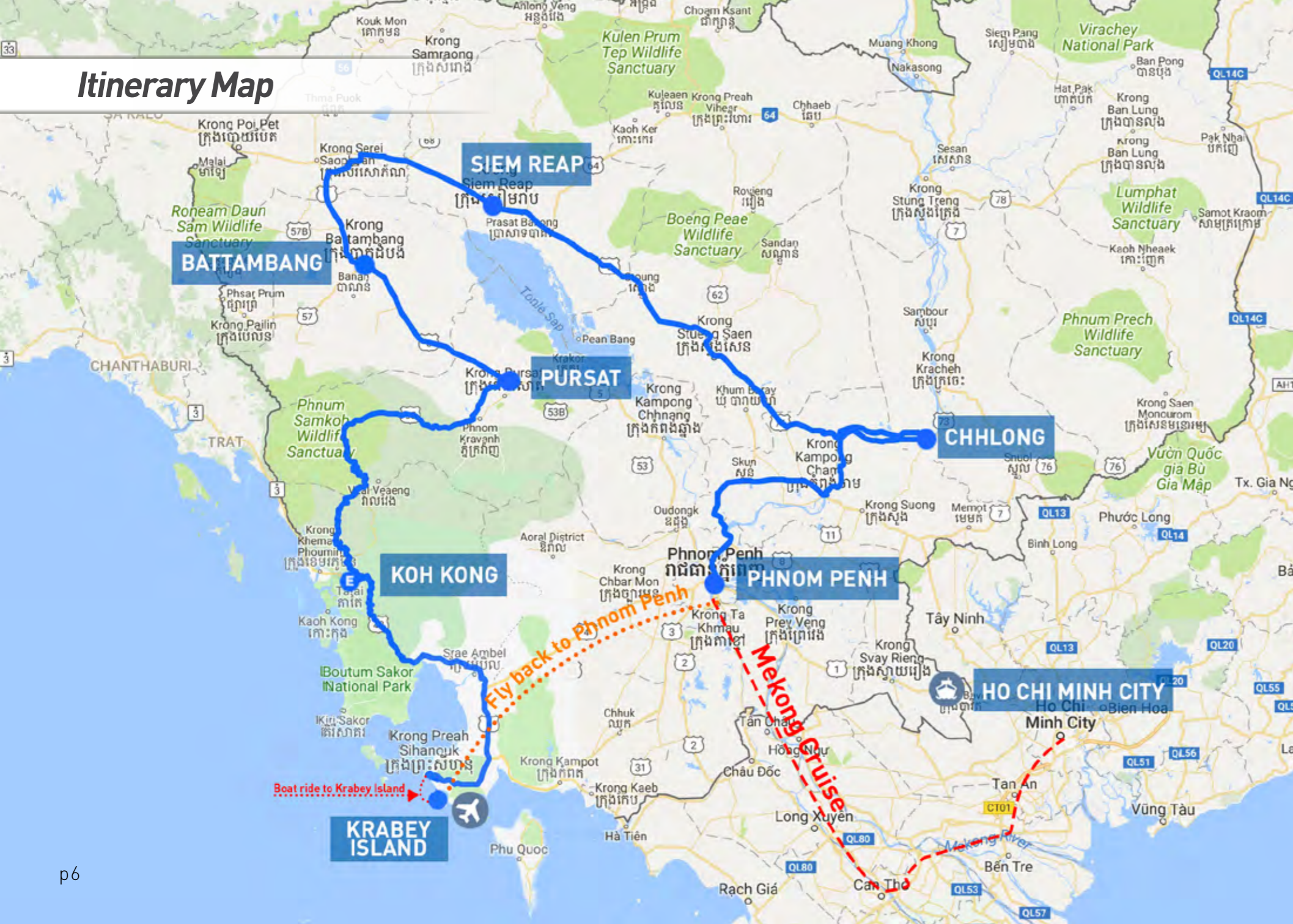




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# Itinerary Map



# Day-by-Day

Day1 - Day 4

Vietnam to Cambodia –  
Cruise along the Mekong from  
Saigon to Phnom Penh

Day5

Phnom Penh to Chhlong –  
Disembark in Phnom Penh and drive  
to a small community along the  
Mekong

Day6

Chhlong to Siem Reap –  
Along the Mekong to Siem Reap

Day7

Siem Reap –  
In and around Siem Reap

Day8

Siem Reap –  
In and around Siem Reap

Day9

Siem Reap to Pursat –  
Drive to Battambang then onto  
Pursat

Day10

Pursat to Koh Kong –  
Adventure driving through the  
Cardamom mountains

Day11

Krabey Island –  
A beautiful drive to your final  
destination

Day12 & 13

Krabey Island –  
Relax at the Gulf of Thailand

Day14

Flight home –  
Farewell, unless you wish to linger  
a little longer?

## Yes, it is possible...

A driving holiday in this part of the world is indeed possible. We take care of everything. All you need to do is come, drive and enjoy a rare adventure!

This time we make it even more special as we combine a beautiful cruise with the drive. Depart from Saigon and cruise along the Mekong Delta to Cambodia. In Phnom Penh your car is waiting for you and we will take you onto an unforgettable driving journey through the country of the Khmers.

Explore Central Cambodia and the small community of Chhlong, visit Siem Reap and the iconic Angkor temples, before continuing to up- and-coming Battambang, reminiscent of Siem Reap before the advent of mass tourism, filled with graceful Indochinese architecture and home to a thriving contemporary art scene.

From here we take you onto an adventure drive through the Cardamom Mountains, part of a vast tropical forest that is home to elusive wildlife. Finally experience the rhythm of rural life and landscapes of dazzling rice paddies and swaying sugar palms on the way to Cambodia's gorgeous south coast, the shore fringed with tropical islands and fishing villages.

The vast majority of visitors to Cambodia focus on a mere handful of sights. This journey will take you to little-visited parts of the region, as you discover the mysteries of Indochina.

On the Road Experiences has paved the way for you to cross borders in your own properly insured SUV, so that you can enjoy the romance of a classic overland journey without any of the logistical headaches that typically accompany such journeys...



# Journey of discovery





“ Arrive in the HUSTLE  
and BUSTLE of  
Phnom Penh...”

“On the way to  
CHHLONG...”

A Cambodian main road





“ Farmer  
KHMER women...”

Near Chhlong

“ONE of the many  
SIDESTREAMS of  
the MEKONG...”

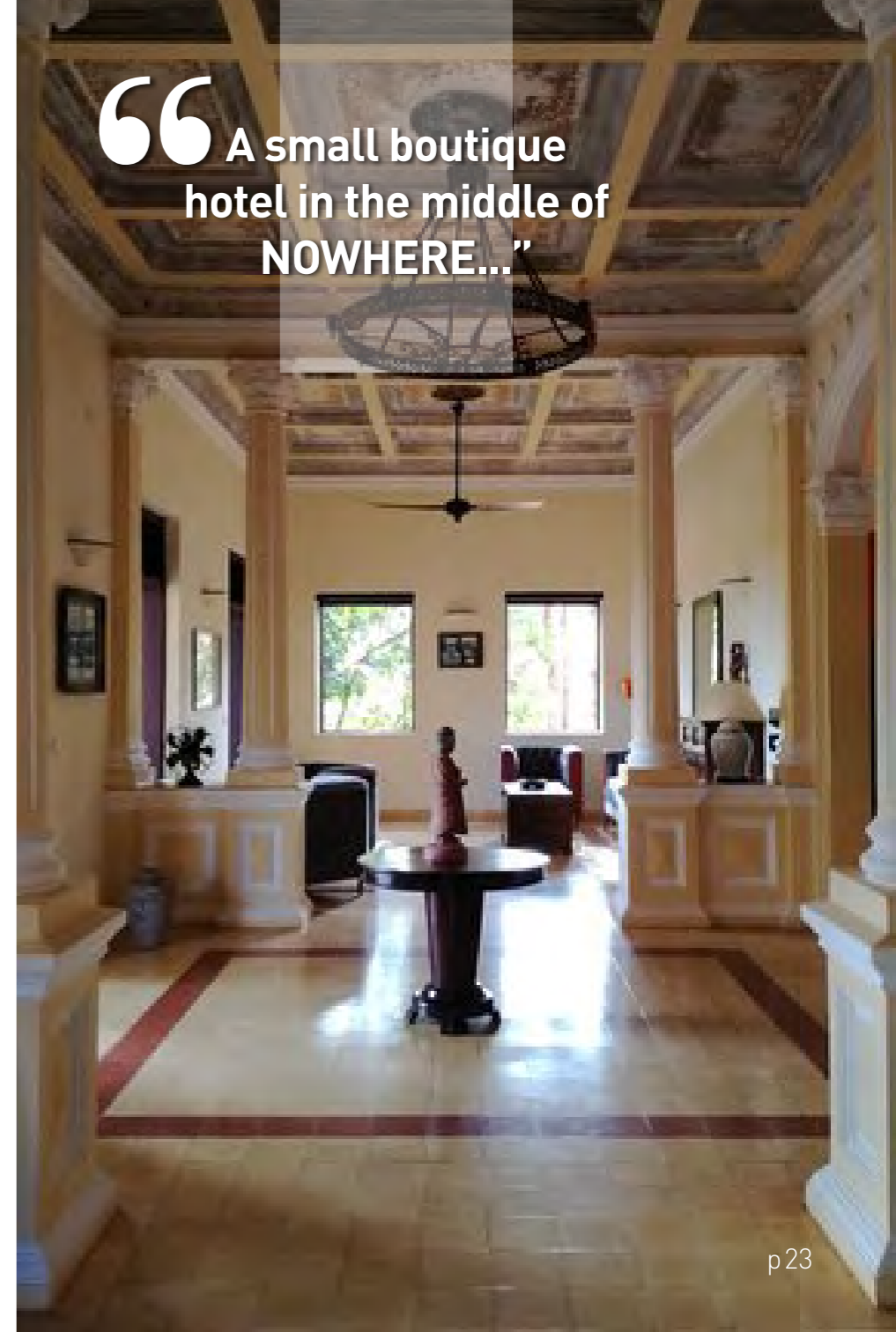


“MUSLIM and KHMER communities sharing villages along the MEKONG...”



In Chhlong

“A small boutique hotel in the middle of NOWHERE...”





“Rubbertrees  
as FAR as  
you can SEE...”

Near Kampong Thom

“SUNRISE at  
ANGKOR WAT...”





“ Be AMAZED  
by the KHMER  
heritage...”



The New Cambodian Artists

“ENJOY and evening of  
Cambodian history expressed  
through Dance...”





“Through FIELDS  
along VILLAGES...”





Cardamom Mountains



“ Be PREPARED for GREAT OFF ROAD driving...”

“ A day  
THROUGH the  
CARDAMOMS...”



“CAMPING  
in  
STYLE...”

The Four Rivers Floating Lodge

“The perfect place to  
end the journey...”

“The  
GULF OF THAILAND:  
RELAX in your private  
VILLA...”

# Day-by-day



## Day 1 - Day 5 Cruise along the Mekong from Saigon to Phnom Penh

### Day 1: MEKONG RIVER-MY THO-HO CHI MINH, VIETNAM

Check into the boat at My Tho dock where you will be welcomed aboard the Aqua Mekong. Settle into your floating retreat, with its window wall conferring an endlessly captivating panorama. Enjoy these private Mekong moments on your California king bed, terrace or daybed.

### Day 2: MEKONG RIVER -BINH THANH/SA DEC -MY AN HUNG

Begin the day at Binh Thanh mat weaving village or opt to visit Sa Dec where you will peruse the vibrant market and see the famous house of Marguerite Duras' legendary lover, Mr. Huynh Thuy Le. In the afternoon, visit a typical Mekong Delta village called My An Hung where you will walk through verdant plantations.

You will be invited to a local's home to taste local fruits while hearing traditional folk songs performed by villagers followed by a unique unicorn dance.

### Day 3: MEKONG RIVER – CHAU DOC -VINH XUONG –KA'OM SAMNOR BORDER

Travel by skiff along Bassac Canal to Chau Doc floating market then head off by van to Long Son Pagoda atop Sam Mountain. Ask the monks about their age-old Buddhist practices. Return via the bustling morning market. After lunch, relax by the pool, try traditional Khmer massage or learn to cook Mekong inspired dishes while we cross the border.

### Day 4: MEKONG RIVER -KOH OKNHA TEY - PRAH PROSOP

Today you can admire dexterous Khmer artisans

dyeing and weaving kroma, the ubiquitous item no Khmer lives without. After lunch, board our marine-grade aluminum skiffs and head towards the tamarind trees of Preah Prosop, a remote village little changed over several lifetimes.

### Day 5: PHNOM PENH CAMBODIA

Disembark in Phnom Penh.





## Day 5 Disembark in Phnom Penh and drive to a small community along the Mekong

After disembarking we take you straight to the cars and begin to drive to Chhlong. First we stay on a main road, be prepared it can be busy, then after lunch we continue on a smaller village road along the Mekong to our final destination for today, to Chhlong. This region is home to the Cham, a matriarchal Muslim community found in Cambodia, central Vietnam and Malaysia. On our way, we will come across women swathed in colourful veils and proud bearded men in white robes, while the domes of mosques loom over coconut groves.

In the middle of this all we have found a newly renovated boutique hotel, where we will spend the evening in the local community.



### Details

#### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 220 km

Duration: 6 hours

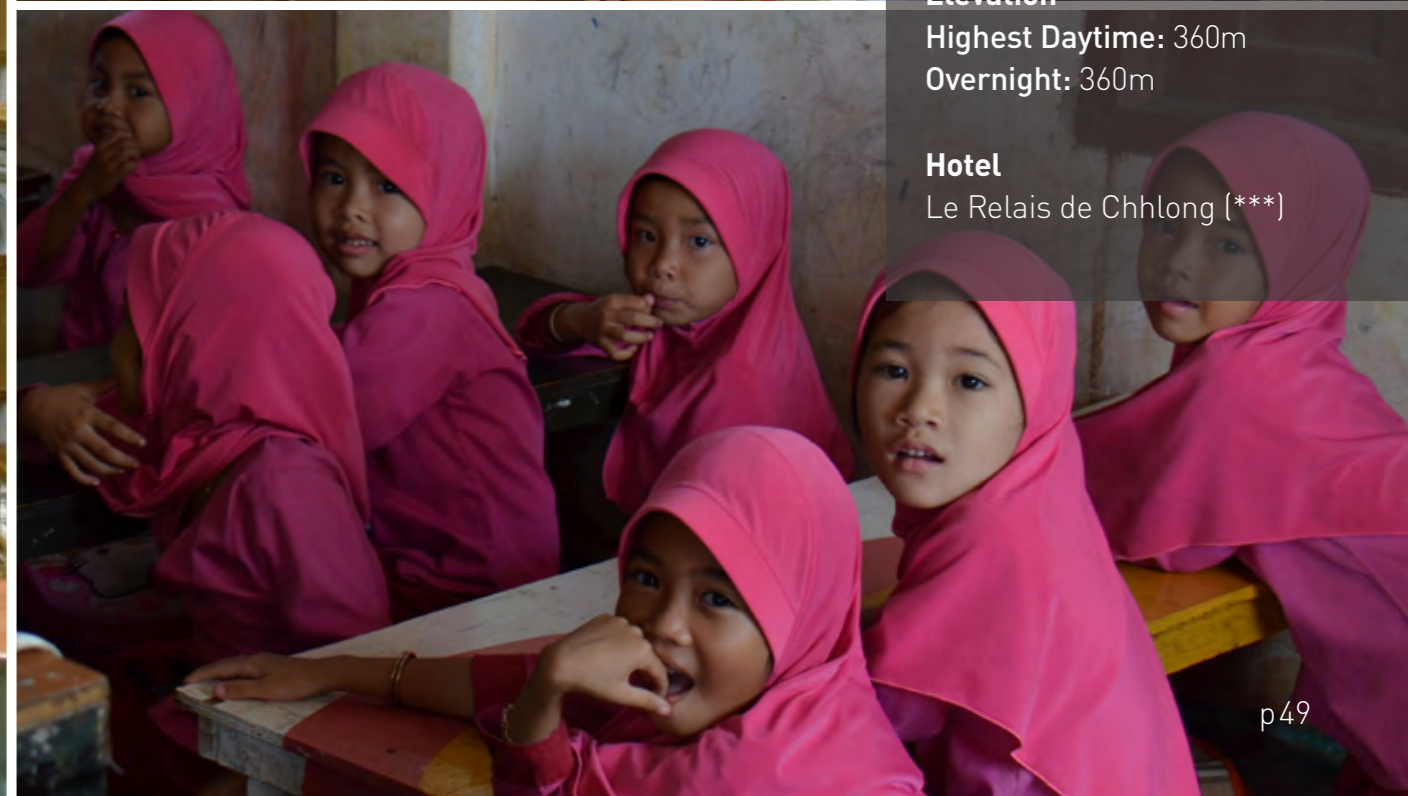
#### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 360m

Overnight: 360m

#### Hotel

Le Relais de Chhlong (\*\*\*)

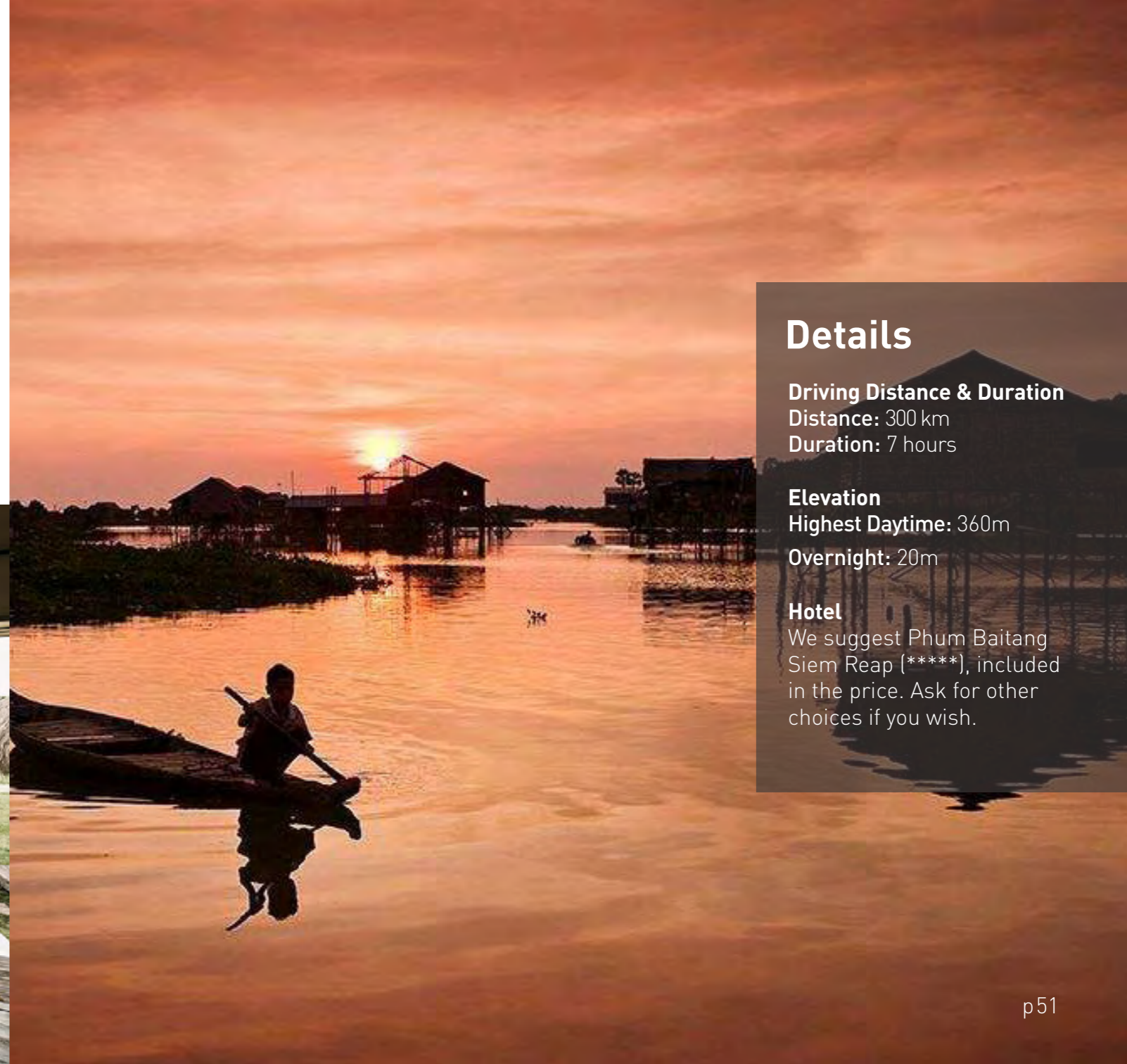


## Day 6 Along the Mekong to Siem Reap

Today it's a driving day. After a leisurely breakfast we leave Chhlong behind us and take a car ferry across the Mekong. Our way leads us slowly away from the Mekong through rubber tree plantations and small villages. After a local lunch we continue our drive to Siem Reap. If time allows

we will visit the floating village Kampong Khleang. Kampong Khleang is a traditional stilted village community found living high above the lake's waters and the village provides homes for some 20,000 residents - it is the largest single community on the fringes of the lake. Then we will make our way into Siem

Reap and to our hotel for the next 2 nights at a hotel of your choice.



## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 300 km

Duration: 7 hours

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 360m

Overnight: 20m

### Hotel

We suggest Phum Baitang Siem Reap (\*\*\*\*\*), included in the price. Ask for other choices if you wish.

## Day 7 In and around Siem Reap

As the base for visiting Angkor Wat, Siem Reap is one of the most famous destinations in Cambodia. Angkor itself is one of the most important archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. It extends over approximately 400 square kilometres and consists of scores of temples and hydraulic structures (basins, dykes, reservoirs, canals).

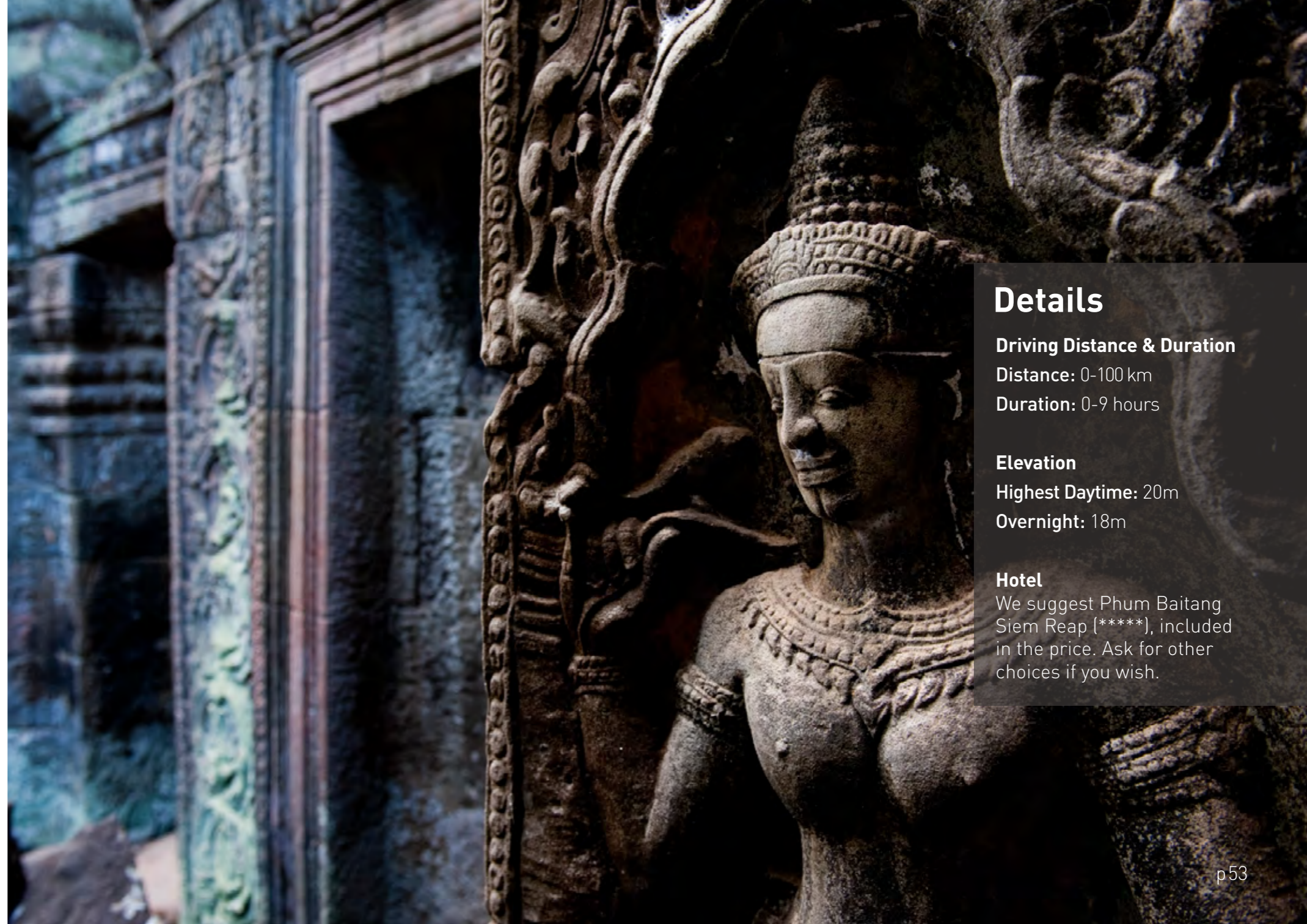
Although the entire site is known as Angkor Wat, the name actually refers to a single large temple within the Angkor region.

For several centuries Angkor was the centre of the Khmer Kingdom. Temples such as Angkor Wat, the Bayon, Preah Khan and Ta Prohm are the finest existing examples of Khmer architecture.

Angkor was intended as an earthly representation of Mount Meru, the Mount Olympus of the Hindu and Buddhist faiths.

Khmer kings each strove to better their ancestors, a process that culminated in Suryavarman II's (r 1112-52) construction of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious building.

There is much to see in Angkor. We will start the day early, and watch sunrise over the temples. Thereafter, you can arrange the day as you wish; explore as much of Angkor as possible, or relax at the hotel through the heat of the day, and head out again in the evening. Whatever you would like to do, our team will do their best to help you realise your plans.



### Details

#### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0-100 km

Duration: 0-9 hours

#### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 20m

Overnight: 18m

#### Hotel

We suggest Phum Baitang Siem Reap [\*\*\*\*], included in the price. Ask for other choices if you wish.

## Day 8 In and around Siem Reap

Today we continue to explore villages and temples around Siem Reap.

In the evening we can join a fantastic initiative based in Siem Reap, the New Cambodian Artists, a contemporary dance group.

Nestled back in the calm residential streets of the city is the new dance studio of the New Cambodian Artists. The group is currently made up of five female dancers who train in both classical Cambodian dance, known as Apsara dance, and contemporary dance, inspired by modern dance methodologies of the Western canon. They describe their style as "Apsara fusion". New Cambodian Artists presents a platform for expression, creativity and growth for young artists in Siem Reap. Despite the negative stigma sometimes

associated with pursuing dance outside of the classical tradition in Cambodia, there is power to be found in the diligence and discipline of working for a dream. The company also maintains a focus on education and learning with the dancers working with select visiting choreographers to explore new movement styles. "If they are strong, they can be role models. If they become role models, more people, especially young women, can look up to them". Angelina Jolie and other celebrities are huge supporter of them.



## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0-100 km

Duration: 0-9 hours

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 20m

Overnight: 18m

### Hotel

Hotel at your choice

## Day 9 Via colonial Battambang to Pursat

After breakfast we will depart for Battambang, Cambodia's third largest city. Battambang lies in the far west of Cambodia. With a rich architectural heritage, a thriving art scene, and stunning surrounding countryside, Battambang is a tranquil respite from the hustle and bustle of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. After lunch in Battambang and a leisurely stroll through the town we continue our drive for a late arrival in Pursat.

Pursat is the only place in Cambodia where marble is found, and the region Pursat is well-known throughout Cambodia for its marble products. Craftsmen can be seen at work sculpting vast Buddhas and graceful statues. Many workshops and shops in

Pursat sell examples of their handiwork.

Please expect the hotel in Pursat to be more basic, but it is the best base for our long drive through the Cardamom mountains the next morning.



## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 280 km

Duration: 6-7 hours

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 40m

Overnight: 40m

### Hotel

KM Hotel, Pursat (\*\*\*)

## Day 10 Adventure driving through the Cardamom mountains

Today is one of our most adventurous drives on this itinerary, through the Cardamom Mountains to the beautiful south of Cambodia.

The Cardamom Mountains are one of the last real rainforests in Southeast Asia. The roads are partially well-paved, partially under construction and partially still off-road.

Our adventure starts, as we drive on mountainous roads from Pursat to Vang Viel. Up to here the road is usually in good condition, but then follow 100km off road between Vang Viel and O Sam. Thereafter the road improves again until we reach the reception of tonight's hotel. Here, we park our cars and embark on a small boat trip into the jungle to the hotel itself. Unwind at this tranquil Southeast Asian luxury resort with top-of-the-line amenities, cozy rooms filled with the scent

of freshly cut flowers, and pristine, unspoiled views for a comfortable and awe-inspiring "glamping" experience.



## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 290 km

Duration: 9-10 hours

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 1200m

Overnight: 20m

### Hotel

4 Rivers Floating Lodge (\*\*\*\*)

## Day 11 A beautiful drive to your final destination

Today is your last driving day on Cambodia's roads. The drive is beautiful on well paved a bit winding roads towards Sihanoukville. From here the private Six Senses Boat will bring you to your private Island Resort!

*Please note that all extra expenses, also your drinks and meals at the Six Senses are not included in the journey price!*

## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 160 km

Duration: 3-4 hours

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 20m

Overnight: 20m

### Hotel

Six Senses, Krabey Island (\*\*\*\*\*)



## Day 12-13 Relax at the Gulf of Thailand

We suggest you spend another night at the Gulf of Thailand. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and let the journey revue pass.

Situated on a private Island off the South coast of Cambodia, Six Senses Krabey Island blends into the lush canopy of trees and tropical landscape. The 12-hectare private resort features 40 free-standing pool villas, an extensive Six Senses Spa, a sunset bar, two unique restaurants, an ice cream parlor, horizon lap pool, outdoor fitness circuit, oceanfront boardwalk, beachfront sundeck, openair cinema and sky observatory.

Savor the tranquility and comforts of Six Senses Krabey Island which combines intimate privacy, excellent guest amenities and unique experiences.



### Details

#### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: NA

Duration: NA

#### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 20m

Overnight: 20m

#### Hotel

Six Senses, Krabey Island  
[\*\*\*\*\*]

*Please note that all extra expenses, also your drinks and meals at the Six Senses are not included in the journey price!*

## Day 14

Farewell, unless you wish to linger a little longer?

We will transfer you to Phnom Penh Airport for your flight home. Please note that the transportation might take up to 5 hours, depending on the hotel you stayed before. Therefore only an afternoon flight is recommended if you need to fly out on the same day. If on the other hand, you want to spend an extra day in Phnom Penh we are very happy to help you with the arrangements.

We hope you have enjoyed our road journey away from the tourist paths among unspoiled villages, to Angkor Wat and Cambodia's hidden highlights.



## Details

### Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: NA

Duration: NA

### Elevation

Highest Daytime: 20m



## Choice of Cars

We include in the package price an SUV we procure from Avis or Hertz or another reputable car rental company. Most of the SUVs are Toyotas, but on occasion Mitsubishi's or other brands may also make an appearance. For some itineraries, we are able to offer you an option to upgrade your car to the new models from Audi.

We wish the car rental markets of Southeast Asia would be more developed and we could give you more choice, but this is not so: since we want to provide well-maintained and well-insured cars, the choice is rather limited.

But SUVs are in fact the right choice for driving journeys in this part of the world because they are spacious enough to accommodate a lot of luggage, photography equipment, and

good-and-bad-weather gear. Also, they reinforce the feeling of adventure, exploration and discovery...which is, in the end, the mood of journeys in this region, no matter how comfortable or even luxurious the night's hotel may be.

What's more, they offer sufficient clearance when required and thus add a sense of safety and all-round ability. (4-wheel drive capability is hardly needed in China these days since all roads are either very well-paved or, with good gravel, offer solid support.)

And so SUVs from reputable brands are our car of choice!

**“ ANY car,  
as long as  
it is an SUV”**



## Adventures and Discoveries in Local Cuisines

While this itinerary is not one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

Wherever you travel with us, we will order, with very few exceptions, dishes fresh and on location with an emphasis on local produce. It is not uncommon for our guides to venture into the kitchen to pick this, that or the other vegetable and to ask the cook to prepare them in the finest possible way. (On occasion we do pre-order a meal: this will normally be the case only for special occasions!)

Wine and beer is always included in our meals for you to enjoy. (When we travel into high-altitude, we suggest moderation!)

Finally, if you have special dietary requirements are particularly interested in the culinary aspect of one of our journeys, please let us know.

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).



## What's Included / Best Month to Travel

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again.

- **Cars** – a modern SUV is provided for all driving days, expertly maintained and serviced by Avis Cambodia, and covered by the best insurance available.
- **International Journey Host, Guide and Support Vehicle** – you will be accompanied by a registered Cambodian tour guide, an On the Road Experiences host and a fully equipped lead car with a local support driver.
- **Routes** – A well-researched itinerary and carefully crafted journey experience. You will receive a detailed route book before your departure.
- **Driving License** – All arrangements, fees and permits for driving in Cambodia are included
- **Fuel & Tolls** – we provide petrol for the car throughout the journey and pay all tolls
- **Airport Transfers** – all airport transfers are included



- **Permits and logistics** – all entry, border crossing and road permits are included.
- **Hotels** – the best available or five-star accommodation is included in each overnight stop
- **Meals** – breakfast (a choice of Western and Local is provided), and lunch and dinner are included on all driving days, as are drinks.

- **Meals on non-driving days as specified above.** Prepare for a culinary adventure!
- **Goodies** – you will enjoy an On the Road Home-Away-from-Home Kit containing wet towels, anti-bacterial gel and basic toiletries, and a daily picnic basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles
- **Other Essentials** – we provide each car with walky-talkies

- **Travel Insurance** – including 24-hour medical assistance, evacuation and repatriation emergency service
- **Tips & Entrance Fees** – basic tips and entrance fees for jointly attended activities are included
- **Activities, Meals, Transport** during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier

### What's Not Included

The only items not included in our prices are your flight to Ho Chi Minh City and back from Phnom Penh, your visas, and personal purchases (e.g., gifts, souvenirs).

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“ A picture is worth a thousand words. True, but when it comes to a road journey, moving images are priceless. Please visit : <http://www.ontheroadexperiences.com/en/video-gallery>”





## ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

