

Angkor: The Jewel In Cambodia



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

Angkor is found just outside the Cambodian city of Siem Reap, with its nearby airport. For more than a century it has captivated the hearts and minds of westerners, but until recently wasn't a viable destination for any but the most daring travelers. With the stabilization of Cambodia's government and the improved infrastructure, visiting is now the ideal experience for anyone looking for unbelievable beauty and wonder. With more than seventy temples and palaces, Angkor is a place of dreams, and should be on everyone's list of places to visit in their life.

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Introduction





There are few sites on Earth as impressive as the Angkor Complex – the majestic palaces and temples of the mighty Khmer Empire.



Between the 9th-14th centuries, the Khmer built more than 70 major temples and other structures.



Since the beginning of the 20th century these sites have been cleared and restored, and they now comprise one of the most awe-inspiring attractions on Earth.



One can easily spend a week or more exploring the many temples of Angkor, but a 1-day tour that takes in 5 major highlights will give an excellent overview of the park.



A 1-day pass is available for about US\$20, and may be purchased upon entry. Transport costs anywhere from \$5-\$25, and ranges from a rented motorbike with driver to a private car.



This tour explores 5 of the key structures of Angkor, many dating from the period of lavish building under King Jayavarman VII.



We begin at the majestic Bayon, with its large carvings depicting the Face of Compassion.



We continue to the Terrace of the Elephants, a long viewing platform from which the king could watch his troops returning home in victory.



Then we travel to the overgrown Ta Prohm, the quintessential lost city, best known for its role as the backdrop in the Tomb Raider films.



Savoring each moment, we make our way to Angkor Wat itself, the pinnacle of architectural and aesthetic achievement within the park, and a site which is often called the Eighth Wonder of the World.



We complete our day watching the sun set over Angkor Wat from the mountain-peak of Phnom Bakheng.



Finally, we go over some outlying sites within Angkor, for those who choose to stay on an extra day or two.

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