

Exotic Cambodia & Laos: A Journey Through Culture, History, and Tranquility

Step into a world where history whispers through ancient temples, serene rivers mirror the skies, and vibrant cultures create unforgettable memories. This exclusive 7-night, 8-day journey to Cambodia and Laos, designed for a small group, offers a perfect blend of adventure, heritage, and indulgence. From the grandeur of Angkor Wat to the tranquil charm of Luang Prabang, every experience is crafted to immerse you in the soul of Southeast Asia.

Day 1: Welcome to Phnom Penh – The Pearl of Asia

Arrive in Cambodia's bustling capital, where the Mekong River meets a city steeped in history and charm. Your private guide will greet you at the airport and accompany you to your elegant hotel. Take the afternoon to unwind or explore the city's lively streets.

In the evening, gather for a **welcome dinner**, a delightful three-course meal paired with refreshing drinks, served in a refined setting. This is your introduction to Cambodia's famed hospitality and flavors, setting the tone for the days ahead.

Day 2: Historical Highlights and Sunset Serenity

Explore Phnom Penh's rich history, beginning with a visit to **Wat Phnom**, the city's founding temple perched atop a hill. Continue to the **Royal Palace**, an architectural marvel that houses the glittering **Silver Pagoda**, with its floor made of over 5,000 silver tiles.

After a local lunch, delve into Cambodia's darker past at the **Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum** and the **Killing Fields of Choeng Ek**, where haunting stories of resilience emerge from tragedy.

Conclude your day with a private **sunset boat cruise** on the Mekong River. As the city lights reflect on the water, relax with a drink in hand and watch the sun dip below the horizon, painting the sky in hues of orange and pink.

Day 3: From Phnom Penh to Siem Reap – The Gateway to Angkor

Fly to Siem Reap, the gateway to the legendary Angkor temples. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel for check-in.

In the evening, embark on the unique **Khmer Dine Around Tour by Remork**. A remork, Cambodia's iconic open-air tuk-tuk, will take you through the lively streets of Siem Reap. Discover the city's culinary scene with curated stops at local eateries and cultural venues, sampling everything from fusion delights to the finest Khmer dishes. Each stop offers a taste of Siem Reap's vibrant dining culture, enhanced by its artistic and community spirit.

Day 4: The Majestic Angkor Temples

Begin your exploration of the **Angkor Archaeological Park** with a sunrise visit to **Ta Prohm**, where giant tree roots entwine ancient ruins in a scene straight out of a fantasy. Enjoy breakfast near **Srah Srang**, the "pool of ablutions," before continuing to **Angkor Thom**, the former royal city of the Khmer Empire. At its heart lies the **Bayon Temple**, with its enigmatic stone faces and intricate carvings.

After lunch, visit the iconic **Angkor Wat**, a symbol of Cambodia and a masterpiece of classical Khmer architecture. Marvel at its intricate bas-reliefs and towering spires that symbolize Mount Meru, the center of the universe in Hindu mythology.

The day concludes with a Dinner at the Angkor Village Theater, where you'll enjoy a traditional Apsara dance performance. This captivating dance, performed in elaborate costumes, narrates ancient Khmer stories and folklore, offering a glimpse into the region's artistic heritage.

Day 5: From Temples to Tranquility – Welcome to Luang Prabang

Begin your morning with a visit to **Siem Reap's Old Market**, where vibrant stalls brim with local crafts and souvenirs. Then, head to **Artisans Angkor**, a social enterprise empowering local artisans to preserve traditional crafts.

Late afternoon board your flight to flight to Luang Prabang, Laos' charming UNESCO World Heritage City. Upon arrival, you'll settle into your boutique hotel. Surrounded by lush greenery and French-colonial architecture, this tranquil town feels like a step back in time. The evening is reserved for a **Laotian tasting experience**, where traditional dishes are paired with refreshing drinks, introducing you to the flavors of Laos.

Day 6: Spiritual Encounters in Luang Prabang

Rise early to witness the sacred **Tak Bat ceremony**, where saffron-robed monks silently collect alms from locals in an act of humility and spirituality. After breakfast, visit iconic temples such as **Wat Xieng Thong**, with its ornate mosaics and sweeping roofs, and participate in a **monk blessing ceremony**, a deeply personal and spiritual experience.

In the evening, immerse yourself in Lao culture with a **cooking class in a local family's home**. Prepare traditional dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients, learning about the culinary traditions and customs that form the heart of Lao life. End the day by enjoying the meal you prepared, accompanied by homemade drinks and heartwarming hospitality.

Day 7: Mystical Caves and Mekong Magic

Cruise along the **Mekong River** to the enchanting **Pak Ou Buddha Caves**, where thousands of Buddha statues have been placed by pilgrims over centuries. Visit a nearby weaving village to interact with locals and gain insight into traditional Lao craftsmanship. After the rural explorations embark on your cruiseboat making a descent aboard the Mekong River to Luang Prabang. Indulge in unique Lao refreshments and canapés on board along with your choices of soft drinks.

In the evening, embark on a **Lao foodie and cocktail adventure**, sampling street food, discovering hidden venues, and enjoying creative cocktails. This journey through Luang Prabang's culinary and nightlife scene showcases the town's vibrant yet laid-back charm.

Day 8: Farewell to Laos

Your final day begins with a scenic **high-speed train journey** from Luang Prabang to Vientiane aboard Train #C97, traveling in Business or First Class. Relax in the comfort of your modern carriage as you journey through lush landscapes, arriving in the heart of Laos' tranquil capital by late morning.

Upon arrival, enjoy a **traditional Lao lunch** in a charming restaurant housed in a beautifully preserved French colonial building. Savor the authentic flavors of Laos while soaking in the nostalgic ambiance that bridges past and present.

The afternoon is dedicated to exploring **Vientiane's historic landmarks**. Begin with a visit to **Vat Sisaket**, the city's oldest surviving temple, adorned with thousands of Buddha images and intricate frescoes. Nearby, discover **Haw Phra Kaew**, once the home of the Emerald Buddha and now a treasure trove of Buddhist sculptures and artifacts.

No visit to Vientiane would be complete without stopping at the iconic **Phra That Luang Stupa**, a golden monument and symbol of Laos' Buddhist heritage. End your exploration at **Wat Si Muang**, a revered city-pillar temple where locals come to seek blessings and good fortune.

After freshening up at a hotel, conclude your journey with a transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Bangkok. Reflect on the memories of this enchanting adventure as you bid farewell to the serenity and culture of Laos.

Highlights of the Journey

- **Explore Phnom Penh's legacy:** Discover the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, and the poignant history of the Khmer Rouge era.
- **Cruise the Mekong River:** A private sunset cruise in Phnom Penh with breathtaking views.
- **Unveil the grandeur of Angkor:** Stand in awe of Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm, and Angkor Thom's Bayon Temple.
- **Culinary adventures:** Experience Khmer and Lao flavors through curated dine-around tours, family cooking classes, and street food explorations.
- **Spiritual encounters in Luang Prabang:** Witness the sacred Tak Bat, receive a personal monk blessing, and explore UNESCO-listed temples.
- **Pak Ou Buddha Caves & village life:** Discover rural Laos, partake in a traditional Baci ceremony, and cruise the Mekong in style.
- **End your journey in Vientiane:** Laos' tranquil capital welcomes you with colonial charm and centuries-old temples.

What's Included in Your Cambodian & Laotian Exotic Journey

Accommodations

Enjoy thoughtfully curated stays in premium accommodations, blending comfort and cultural charm. All rooms include daily breakfast to start your days with energy and indulgence.

- **2 nights** at **Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra** in Superior Rooms, offering a blend of French elegance and Khmer heritage.
 - **2 nights** at **Shinta Mani Angkor** in Boyan Rooms, a boutique retreat inspired by Angkorian design.
 - **3 nights** at **Satri House Boutique Hotel** in Deluxe Rooms, an oasis of tranquility in Luang Prabang.
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Effortless Transfers and Premium Transport

Enjoy seamless travel with private and efficient transportation throughout your journey.

- Air-conditioned vehicles for all transfers and tours (private basis unless stated otherwise).
 - High-speed train tickets in Business/VIP Class for your journey from Luang Prabang to Vientiane.
 - Private airport transfers in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Luang Prabang, ensuring a smooth arrival and departure.
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Expert Guidance for Immersive Experiences

Benefit from the expertise of seasoned guides and directors who bring every destination to life.

- A **Local English-speaking Trip Director** to accompany the group throughout the journey.
 - **Local English-speaking guides** for all specified sightseeing activities, offering deep cultural insights.
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Culinary Highlights

Relish a selection of curated dining experiences that showcase the unique flavors of Cambodia and Laos.

- **Daily breakfasts** at your accommodations.
- A **welcome dinner** at Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, featuring a three-course set menu with free-flowing drinks.
- Local dining experiences, including lunch at a celebrated restaurant in Phnom Penh and a **Khmer Discovery Dine Around Tour by Remork** in Siem Reap.
- A **farewell dinner with Apsara performance** at Angkor Village Theater, a blend of culinary and cultural artistry.

- A **Laotian tasting experience** with drinks at Satri House Hotel in Luang Prabang.
 - A **light lunch** with Lao refreshments during the Mekong River Cruise.
 - A hands-on **dinner at a family home cooking class**, where you'll prepare a traditional three-course meal.
 - A **Lao foodie and cocktail adventure**, exploring street markets and fusion dining with creative cocktails.
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Flights

- Economy class airfares for your intra-tour flights: Phnom Penh to Siem Reap (PNH-SAI), Siem Reap to Luang Prabang (SAI-LPQ), and Vientiane to Siem Reap (VTE-SAI).
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Signature Activities & Sightseeing

Explore the cultural and natural wonders of Cambodia and Laos with an array of curated experiences:

- **Phnom Penh Highlights:** Visit Wat Phnom, the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, and the Killing Fields.
 - A private **sunset cruise on the Mekong River**, offering stunning views of Phnom Penh's skyline.
 - **Angkor Temples Exploration:** Witness the magnificence of Ta Prohm, Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat, and the Terrace of the Elephants.
 - **Siem Reap City Exploration:** Stroll through the Old Market and visit Artisans Angkor, a social enterprise preserving traditional craftsmanship.
 - **Luang Prabang's Sacred Rituals:** Participate in the Tak Bat ceremony and explore vibrant local markets.
 - A **monk blessing ceremony** and visits to iconic temples such as Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Mano, and Phou Sii Hill.
 - A **private cooking class** in a local Lao family's home, immersing you in authentic culinary traditions.
 - A serene **Mekong Riverboat cruise** to Pak Ou Buddha Caves and Ban Thin Hong village, with an intimate **Baci ceremony** welcoming you to local culture.
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Additional Inclusions

- Bottled water provided during transfers and sightseeing tours.
- Comprehensive travel insurance for all travelers.

- Entrance fees to all mentioned attractions and sites.
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What's Not Included in Your Cambodian & Laotian Journey

To provide clarity and transparency, here's a list of exclusions for your adventure:

- **Taxes and Government Fees:** Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) as per Indian government regulations.
 - **Visa Requirements:** Visa fees for Cambodia (Visa on Arrival or e-visa) and Laos, including processing and issuance costs.
 - **International Travel:** Flights to and from Cambodia and Laos.
 - **Personal Expenses:** Mini-bar usage, laundry, phone calls, and other personal expenditures.
 - **Gratuities:** Tips for guides, drivers, porters, hotel staff, and restaurant or boat crew.
 - **Additional Meals and Drinks:** Meals and beverages beyond those listed in the inclusions, as well as drinks during meals unless specified.
 - **Optional Activities:** Entrance fees or participation costs for sightseeing or excursions not outlined in the itinerary.
 - **Baggage Fees:** Charges for excess baggage as levied by airlines.
 - **Special Requests:** Early hotel check-ins (before 14:00 hours) or late check-outs (after 12:00 hours) are not included.
 - **Force Majeure:** Any expenses resulting from flight cancellations, delays, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.
 - **Unmentioned Services:** Anything not specifically outlined in the itinerary or inclusions.
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Limited Availability – Reserve Your Place Today

With only a small number of spots available, this intimate group journey offers a personalized experience through the wonders of Cambodia and Laos. Secure your place now and embark on an adventure that captures the heart of Southeast Asia!

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A Journey to Timeless Treasures: Cambodia & Laos

Embark on an extraordinary 7-night, 8-day odyssey through the enchanting lands of Cambodia and Laos—a seamless blend of history, culture, and unforgettable experiences. With Away Exotics, journey in intimate small groups to legendary destinations, immersing yourself in the mystical charm of ancient temples, vibrant markets, serene rivers, and rich traditions. This itinerary is your gateway to discovering Southeast Asia’s most iconic wonders, paired with local indulgences and inspiring moments.

Highlights of the Journey

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 - **Cruise the Mekong River:** A private sunset cruise in Phnom Penh with breathtaking views.
 - **Unveil the grandeur of Angkor:** Stand in awe of Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm, and Angkor Thom’s Bayon Temple.
 - **Culinary adventures:** Experience Khmer and Lao flavors through curated dine-around tours, family cooking classes, and street food explorations.
 - **Spiritual encounters in Luang Prabang:** Witness the sacred Tak Bat, receive a personal monk blessing, and explore UNESCO-listed temples.
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Itinerary in Detail

Day 1: Arrival in Phnom Penh

Welcome to Cambodia! After a warm airport reception, transfer to your luxurious hotel to settle in. This evening, indulge in a **Welcome Dinner** featuring a delightful three-course menu and free-flow drinks—your perfect introduction to Phnom Penh’s charm.

Away to indulge: Dinner

Day 2: Phnom Penh City & Historical Highlights

Begin your day exploring Wat Phnom, the Royal Palace, and the stunning Silver Pagoda. After lunch at Sombok Restaurant, confront Cambodia’s dark past with visits to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek.

Wind down with a private **Sunset Cruise on the Mekong**, soaking in the golden hues over the city.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3: From Phnom Penh to Siem Reap

Fly to Siem Reap, home of the legendary Angkor temples. In the evening, embark on a **Khmer Discovery Dine Around Tour**, sampling Siem Reap's finest culinary gems via Khmer Remork.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4: Angkor Temples Highlight Tour

Rise early to explore the mystical **Ta Prohm**, followed by breakfast near Srah Srang. Visit Angkor Thom's Bayon Temple and Terrace of the Elephants, and marvel at **Angkor Wat**, Cambodia's most iconic temple. Conclude the day with a mesmerizing **Apsara Dance Performance** during your Farewell Dinner.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5: Siem Reap to Luang Prabang

Delight in a morning market tour and visit Artisans Angkor before flying to Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage City. Enjoy a **Laotian Tasting Dining Experience** amidst the serene backdrop of your boutique hotel.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6: The Soul of Luang Prabang

Start your day with the ethereal **Tak Bat** ceremony, followed by a visit to local markets and a monk blessing at Wat Xieng Thong. In the evening, immerse yourself in Lao culture during a private cooking class at a local family's home, capped off with a three-course dinner.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7: Mekong Mystique

Embark on a serene riverboat journey to the **Pak Ou Buddha Caves** and Ban Thin Hong village, where you'll partake in a **Baci ceremony**. Later, join the vibrant **Lao Foodie and Cocktail Adventure**, exploring street food markets and chic local venues.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8: Luang Prabang to Vientiane & Departure

Travel to Vientiane aboard Laos' high-speed train, arriving in time to visit the city's most revered landmarks, including Wat Sisaket and Phra That Luang. After a traditional lunch, bid farewell as you transfer to the airport.

Away to indulge: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions

- **Accommodations:** 7 nights in luxury boutique hotels.
 - **Guided Experiences:** Local guides and a dedicated trip director throughout.
 - **Transfers & Transport:** Private transfers, domestic flights, and a high-speed train journey.
 - **Meals:** Daily breakfasts and curated dining experiences.
 - **Activities:** Cultural tours, private cruises, cooking classes, and temple explorations.
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Exclusions

- International flights to/from Cambodia and Laos.
- Visa fees and personal expenses.
- Optional sightseeing and activities.
- Gratuities for guides and drivers.

Authentic Stays during your journey

Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra

An oasis of elegance in Cambodia's bustling capital, Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra effortlessly combines French colonial charm with modern luxury. Nestled along the Mekong River, this exquisite property is your serene retreat, featuring spacious rooms adorned with contemporary Khmer art and luxurious amenities. The lush gardens, inviting pools, and world-class dining options create a haven of tranquility. Whether sipping cocktails at the chic bar or indulging in a relaxing spa session, your stay here sets the tone for a journey of sophistication and cultural discovery.

Shinta Mani Angkor

Steeped in the spirit of the Khmer Empire, Shinta Mani Angkor is an intimate boutique hotel that redefines luxury with a conscience. Located in the heart of Siem Reap, this property blends contemporary design with traditional Cambodian aesthetics. Each room is an artful sanctuary featuring bespoke furniture and intricate local detailing. Beyond its striking design, the hotel prides itself on community engagement, supporting local development projects. With a serene pool, lush gardens, and exceptional hospitality, Shinta Mani Angkor invites you to immerse yourself in the magic of Angkor in comfort and style.

Satri House Boutique Hotel

A hidden gem in the heart of Luang Prabang, Satri House Boutique Hotel is a sanctuary of charm and nostalgia. Once the childhood home of a Laotian prince, this heritage property offers a window into the region's rich past. The colonial-style architecture is enhanced by traditional Lao decor and handcrafted furniture, creating a perfect blend of history and sophistication. Surrounded by verdant gardens and serene pools, the hotel provides a tranquil escape from the world. With impeccable service and a deep connection to local culture, Satri House promises an unforgettable stay in this UNESCO World Heritage City.

Book Your Exotic Escape Now!

Reserve your spot for an intimate, expertly curated journey through Cambodia and Laos. Let Away Exotics take you beyond the ordinary—because extraordinary adventures await.