

Trek To Angkor Wat



Duration: 10 days

Lying in the heart of old Indochina, the small country of Cambodia is home to dazzling green rice-paddies and jungle, temples and ruins, villages of thatched, stilted houses, and small towns where Buddhist temples nestle amongst graceful French-era buildings.

This exciting cultural trek takes us truly off-the-beaten-track, through villages and farmland. Sleeping in village homestays allows an authentic insight into the local way of life. We trek via the highest point in the area: the sacred Phnom Kulen (Kulen Mountain). Dotted with ancient historical sites – but very few tourists – Phnom Kulen is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and, at 487m, visible for miles across the flat farmland and rice-paddies.

This is a hot, dusty challenge, but our finish point at Angkor Wat, one of the most renowned and impressive sights in South-East Asia, is an unforgettable reward for our efforts.

This trip generates around **118 kg of CO₂ per person**. Because of our commitment to responsible travel, **we offset 100% of these emissions**, including flights booked with us.

Perhaps you'd prefer to pedal? Check out our [Ho Chi Minh to Angkor Wat Cycle](#).

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart London for Siem Reap

Day 2: Arrive Siem Reap

We arrive in Siem Reap and check in to our hotel, where we can relax or take time to explore this busy, fascinating town, and enjoy our first glimpse of the local culture. Night hotel.

Day 3: Siem Reap – Trav Kok

After breakfast and a detailed trip briefing, we take a short transfer out of town and begin our trek. Heading out south-east across dazzling green rice-paddies and farmland dotted with coconut palms, we pass through several small villages. Cambodia is one of the friendliest countries in South-East Asia and we will get plenty of smiles and waves as we pass! We're never far from a temple or pagoda, and we make time to stop at some for a closer look. After a lunch-break in one of the villages, we continue our trek through rice fields and green pastures – we should be able to see the slopes of Phnom Kulen, rising in the distance. We stay the night near a Buddhist pagoda, immersing us even more deeply in the local culture. Night homestay.

Trek approx. 5-6 hours; 16km

Day 4: Trav Kok – Wat Preash Bat Bun Tham

After a delicious breakfast at camp, we start our day's trek along small dirt roads before turning off into scrub-land. It's a long day today, and we gradually wind our way northwards on tracks between small villages and farmland; cassava is one of the main crops grown here, and you'll see plenty of durian trees too. The distinctive zebu cattle, with their long drooping ears, are very photogenic! We are well off the tourist trails here, and are likely to be passed only by occasional motos and farm vehicles. On reaching our evening's destination, a short drive takes us to the temple of Beng Melea, a real Indiana-Jones style ruin, hidden and overgrown by the jungle. It's an untouristed gem, and a wonderful reward for completing a long day's trek. Night homestay.

Trek approx. 6-7 hours; 19km

Day 5: Wat Preash Bat Bun Tham – Kulen Mountain

Today we'll tackle our main challenge – the ascent of Phnom Kulen. The highest point around by far, it's a stiff uphill hike, and a bit of a reality-check for our muscles after so many flat kilometres! Heading out initially through flat farmland and rice paddies towards the southern slopes of Kulen, it's then approx. two hours of ascent on dirt and rock trails. Many of the trees around us grow crops such as durian and cashews, and we're grateful for the shade they provide. We take it steady, and finally reach the plateau atop this huge sandstone mountain, enjoying far-reaching views across the forests and fields below. We stop at Sras Damrei, the Elephant Pond, where huge stone-carved animal monoliths await us. Thought to date from the 8-9th Century, they are well-preserved and a wonderful welcome to the ancient history that makes Kulen Mountain so special. We have lunch near a cave on the plateau, and hike on mainly-shaded forest tracks to Thmey, the small village hosting us tonight. Night homestay.

Trek approx. 7-8 hours; 15km

Day 6: Phnom Kulen (Kulen Mountain)

We spend the day exploring the trails on Cambodia's sacred mountain, discovering some of the many ancient sites that make it so revered. Most of our paths are shaded as we walk between crumbling temples and ruins.

Highlights include the River of One Thousand Lingas, where the riverbed itself is elaborately carved with deities and symbols, and the huge Reclining Buddha statue nearby, cut into sandstone boulders and overlooking the central plain. It's the largest Reclining Buddha in Cambodia, and an important pilgrimage site. We also stop and rest at a beautiful cascading waterfall, where it's possible to cool off. At weekends this spot is busy with local families, but during the week we're likely to find it much more peaceful. We stay the night in Anlong Thom, a small village of stilted thatched houses near the waterfall. Night homestay.

Trek approx. 5-6 hours; 12km

Day 7: Phnom Kulen – Tbeng Village

After a hearty breakfast, we set off on an old trail, now little-used since the construction of a road. We may meet a few local people who still use the path for hunting, cutting lianas and to get to work. Our trek continues south-east on a small jungly trail that leads us down the mountain-side. Partway down is a small pagoda, where we can stop to rest. Back on the flat plains, we continue our trek on sandy, sometimes muddy tracks - missing the shade of the trees. We pass a school in a small village, and several more pagodas. We will be hot and tired by the time we reach our evening's accommodation, our final goal nearly within reach. Night homestay.

Trek approx. 6-7 hours; 19km

Day 8: Tbeng Village – Angkor Thom – Angkor Wat

After our last homestay breakfast, we meet the vehicles and drive towards the checkpoint for Angkor. Our final day of trekking is a real highlight, and the reward for all our efforts, as we hike the small trails and paths threading between the sites of this huge temple complex. A jungle trail takes us to the unforgettable temple of Ta Prohm, which was left to be reclaimed by nature. It features incredible tree roots breaking through the stone carvings and walls - a fascinating tribute to the power of nature over man and an experience reminiscent of 'Indiana Jones' and 'Tomb Raider'. We pass more temples and ruins as we near our goal - the spectacular walled city of Angkor Thom and the famous Bayon, standing in the exact heart of the city. Adorned with fabulous wall carvings and mysterious giant faces, the Bayon is a real highlight of our challenge. We then continue to the magnificent 12th Century Angkor Wat. It is worth climbing the remarkably steep and narrow steps of the central spire for the unparalleled view over the whole temple. We are free to explore the temple complex until sunset, when we transfer to our hotel by bus. After a refreshing shower, we celebrate our huge achievement with a celebration dinner at a local restaurant, where we'll be able to enjoy a display of traditional dance. Night hotel.

Drive approx. 1.5 hours; Trek approx. 7-8 hours; 10-12km

Day 9: Siem Reap; Flight departs

Free time to explore Siem Reap, depending on flight times. You may want to opt for some last-minute shopping or a relaxing Cambodian-style massage, before transferring to the airport in time for our flight home. *(Lunch and Dinner not included)*

Day 10: Arrive UK

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London to Siem Reap
- All known airline taxes
- Transport and transfers as part of itinerary
- All accommodation in hotel (twinshare) and homestays
- All meals except where specified
- Discover Adventure crew (number dependant on group size)
- Local guides and cooks
- Local support and back-up equipment
- Entrance to Angkor Wat and any other sites visited as part of the itinerary
- **We offset 100% of the carbon emissions from your trip, including flights booked with us**

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Cambodia entry visa
- Travel insurance
- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks, including tips for local guides and support crew
- Fees for optional sites, attractions or activities
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

GRADE | YELLOW

All our trips are designed to provide a challenge. Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **YELLOW** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors. Trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account. Some sections will feel more challenging than others, but the grade reflects the overall trip. Unusual weather conditions can also have a significant impact.

The Accommodation icon indicates the living conditions while trekking/cycling. While there are usually several factors that present a challenge, the Challenge icon indicates the trip's most challenging element, for most people.

[Trip grading explained](#)



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Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 12 Jul 2025, and the challenge is subject to change.