

Phnom Penh Travel Guide

Phnom Penh: Cambodia's Vibrant Capital

Cambodia · Generated August 28, 2026 · mycitytravelguide.com/cambodia/phnom-penh/

Things to do in Phnom Penh

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Phnom Penh's skyline and cultural heritage, from colonial-era buildings to modern landmarks celebrating Cambodia's independence and spiritual traditions.



Must See

Royal Palace

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The official residence of the Cambodian monarch, featuring stunning **Khmer architecture** with glittering golden spires. The palace complex includes ornate pavilions, manicured gardens, and the sacred Silver Pagoda with its 5,000 silver tiles. The emerald Buddha and footprint of Buddha are housed within its walls.



Must See

Wat Phnom

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The city's oldest temple (14th century) sits atop a 27-meter artificial hill in the heart of Phnom Penh. Housing multiple Buddha statues and offering panoramic city views, this spiritual landmark is sacred to locals and provides respite amid urban bustle.



Top Pick

Independence Monument

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A striking 37-meter tall monument erected in 1958 to commemorate Cambodia's independence from France. Designed in traditional Khmer style with lotus-shaped platforms and four arms, it's beautifully illuminated at night and surrounded by fountains.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda early morning to avoid crowds and heat
- Wear respectful clothing: covered shoulders and knees required
- Hire a guide for deeper historical context and stories
- Independence Monument is magical at sunset and nighttime



Museums & Galleries

Repositories of Cambodia's rich history and artistic heritage, documenting everything from Khmer civilization to contemporary struggles and cultural achievements.



Must See

National Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Cambodia's largest museum housing the world's finest collection of **Khmer sculpture** and artifacts. The red building contains treasures from Angkor period, Hindu-Buddhist sculptures, ancient ceramics, and royal regalia spanning centuries of Khmer civilization.



Must See

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A sobering memorial to Khmer Rouge atrocities (1975-1979), housed in a former torture prison where 17,000 people died. Exhibits include photographs, personal belongings, and survivor testimonies. **Essential but emotionally intense** for understanding Cambodia's modern history.



Must See

Choeung Ek Genocidal Center

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The 'Killing Fields' where Khmer Rouge executions took place. A haunting memorial with a stupa containing 8,000+ skulls, bullet-ridden trees, and open fields. An audioguide provides context for victims' stories and experiences during this dark period.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Book guided tours for museums to gain deeper insights from local perspectives
- Allow emotional processing time after genocide museums
- Many museums have restricted photography policies
- Student discounts available at National Museum with valid ID



Religious Sites

Sacred Buddhist temples and spiritual centers reflecting Cambodia's deep spiritual heritage, offering serene spaces for meditation, worship, and cultural exploration.



Top Pick

Wat Botum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of Phnom Penh's largest temples and a community hub, this sprawling complex features ornate carvings, peaceful courtyards, and multiple halls. The temple hosts festivals and serves as a center for Buddhist education and spiritual practice.



Notable

Wat Kilavanh

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A tranquil Buddhist temple featuring traditional architecture and beautifully maintained grounds. Known for its monks' morning chanting and welcoming atmosphere, it offers visitors insight into monastic life and daily Buddhist practices in Cambodia.



Notable

Wat Oknha Tep

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A smaller, intimate temple in central Phnom Penh with intricate woodcarving and gold leaf decorations. The temple features beautiful reliefs and sculptures depicting Buddhist stories and legends in traditional Khmer style.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Respectful dress is essential: cover shoulders and knees
- Remove shoes before entering main prayer halls
- Early morning visits allow you to witness monks' alms-giving ceremonies
- Photography may be restricted in certain areas; always ask permission
- Avoid pointing feet at Buddha images



Parks & Gardens

Green spaces offering respite from urban energy, perfect for leisurely walks, picnics, and enjoying riverside scenery with locals and fellow travelers.



Top Pick

Riverside Park

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A scenic waterfront promenade along the Tonlé Sap River stretching 4 kilometers, with walking paths, local food vendors, and views of traditional wooden boats. Perfect for sunset strolls and people-watching among local residents enjoying evening activities.



Top Pick

Chaktomuk Conferenceroom Garden

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A newly renovated waterfront area at the confluence of three rivers (Tonlé Sap, Bassac, and Mekong), featuring landscaped gardens, fountains, and outdoor sitting areas. Offers peaceful spots for reflection and photography with river views.



Notable

Boeng Kak Lake

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An urban freshwater lake surrounded by residential areas, offering a peaceful escape from central city chaos. The lake has walking trails, local cafes, and is frequented by joggers and cyclists, especially during early mornings and evenings.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Riverside Park is best visited in late afternoon for cooling breeze and sunset views
- Bring insect repellent, especially during dusk
- Street food vendors along the river offer authentic local snacks
- Lakes are popular with locals; visit early morning to experience authentic daily life



Shopping & Markets

Bustling bazaars and markets reflecting Cambodian commerce and daily life, from souvenir shopping to authentic local goods and street food discoveries.



Top Pick

Russian Market (Toul Tom Pong)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Phnom Penh's most popular tourist market spanning multiple levels with everything from silk scarves to souvenirs, antiques, and traditional crafts. The covered market has a labyrinthine layout with stalls selling textiles, jewelry, artwork, and local delicacies.



Top Pick

Central Market (Psar Chas)

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Phnom Penh's historic Art Deco market building (1937) featuring a striking yellow dome and cross-shaped layout. Stalls sell jewelry, silver, textiles, spices, and handicrafts. The architecture alone is impressive; it's an iconic photo spot and cultural landmark.



Notable

Night Market

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A lively evening market (typically opening around 5 PM) with food stalls, clothing, electronics, and street performers. Popular with locals and tourists, it offers authentic street food experiences and people-watching opportunities in a vibrant atmosphere.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Bargaining is expected at markets but not supermarkets
- Visit Russian Market early morning to avoid crowds and heat
- Bring small bills for easier transactions
- Street food at night markets is usually fresh and cheap but assess hygiene
- Keep belongings secure in crowded market areas



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and interactive activities offering deeper cultural immersion, from river cruises to cooking classes and historical tours led by knowledgeable locals.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Tonlé Sap River Cruises

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Daytime and sunset cruises along Phnom Penh's scenic rivers offering panoramic city views, historic landmarks from the water, and traditional wooden boat experiences. Evening cruises often include dinner and entertainment with live Khmer music and dance performances.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Guided Historical Tours

4-8 hours Book Ahead

Comprehensive tours covering Khmer Rouge history, colonial architecture, temples, and cultural landmarks, led by informed guides who provide personal perspectives and historical context. Tours available for half-day or full-day options with flexible itineraries.



Notable

Khmer Cooking Classes

4-5 hours Book Ahead

Interactive classes teaching traditional Cambodian cooking techniques using authentic ingredients and recipes. Classes typically visit local markets, prepare multiple dishes, and end with dining on prepared meals. Offers cultural insight through culinary traditions and flavor profiles.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours through established companies with verified reviews
- Cooking classes should include market visits for authentic experience
- River cruises are best at sunset for lighting and comfortable temperatures
- Historical tours benefit from knowledgeable guides; tip appropriately



Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby attractions within day-trip distance offering contrasting experiences from floating villages to ancient temples and countryside adventures.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Floating Villages of Tonlé Sap Lake

8 hours Book Ahead



Map

Visit authentic floating communities where ethnic minorities live on the water in traditional stilt houses. See fishing practices, local schools, and markets all on water. Tours include visits to fish farms, crocodile farms, and offer insights into unique waterborne lifestyles absent from mainland communities.



Notable

Udong Temple Mountain

5-6 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ancient mountaintop temple complex 40 km north featuring hilltop stupas, ruins, and spiritual centers from pre-Angkor periods. Climb stairs to summit for panoramic countryside views and visit sacred temples still in active use by monks.



Notable

Takeo Province Temples

10-12 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Southern province featuring pre-Angkorian temples and archaeological sites set in rural landscape. Includes Ta Prohm Temple and Ta Moan temples with Hindu and Buddhist sculptures. Less crowded than Siem Reap temples with authentic rural Cambodian experience.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Floating villages tours should be booked through responsible operators supporting local communities
- Early morning departures allow you to experience villages before tourist crowds
- Bring sunscreen, hat, and water for full-day trips
- Udong requires moderate fitness for temple mountain climbs



Squares & Streets

Public spaces defining Phnom Penh's urban character, from colonial heritage streets to bustling hubs of commerce and local life.



Top Pick

French Quarter (Boeng Keng Kong)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Historic district featuring colonial-era architecture with tree-lined streets, elegant mansions, government buildings, and French-influenced cafes. The area showcases Phnom Penh's colonial heritage with restored villas alongside modern developments, creating charming aesthetic contrasts.



Top Pick

Sisowath Quay

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The riverfront boulevard lining Tonlé Sap River with colonial buildings, restaurants, bars, and shops. Popular evening promenade with locals and tourists, offering river views, street food vendors, and vibrant nightlife with silhouettes of traditional boats against sunset.



Notable

Street 240 Art District

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A revitalized artistic hub with galleries, cafes, boutiques, and street art murals. Local artists exhibit contemporary work, vintage shops offer unique finds, and restaurants serve international and local cuisine. The area transforms nightly with vibrant social scene and evening strolls.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- French Quarter is best explored on foot with frequent cafe breaks
- Street 240 offers best shopping during daytime; nightlife picks up after 6 PM
- Sisowath Quay is ideal for sunset walks and evening dining
- Always use crosswalks and watch for motorbike traffic on main streets



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Phnom Penh, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Phnom Penh Three Rivers Restaurant★★★★★ 4.9 (868)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Phnom Penh Three Rivers Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.9★ from 868 reviews. Located at 164 Preah Ang Eng St. (13), Phnom Penh 12200, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Must See

Shindi Georgian Cuisine Phnom Penh★★★★★ 4.9 (325)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shindi Georgian Cuisine Phnom Penh is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.9★ from 325 reviews. Located at 11B, Street 29, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM



Must See

Wild Phnom Penh★★★★★ 4.8 (934)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Wild Phnom Penh is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 934 reviews. Located at 13Y St 830, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Must See

Baldwin's★★★★★ 4.8 (241)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Baldwin's is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 241 reviews. Located at Steet 240, 52C Oknha Chhun St. (240), Phnom Penh 12207, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Above Eleven Phnom Penh★★★★★ 4.8 (629)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Above Eleven Phnom Penh is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 629 reviews. Located at Pasteur, 51 corner street 294, Phnom Penh 120102, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM



Must See

Banteay Srey Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (365)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Banteay Srey Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 365 reviews. Located at 225 St. 13 Corner of St, 13, and Samdach Preah Sokun Meanbon St. (178), Phnom Penh 120200, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

HoubHoub Cambodian Restaurant (BKK1)★★★★★ 4.8 (306)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

HoubHoub Cambodian Restaurant (BKK1) is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 306 reviews. Located at St.51, Langka Lane, Phnom Penh 12302, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

BÚN - Vietnamese Kitchen (Langka Lane)★★★★★ 4.8 (520)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

BÚN - Vietnamese Kitchen (Langka Lane) is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.8★ from 520 reviews. Located at 47 Rue Pasteur No. 51, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

AURA - Phnom Penh★★★★★ 4.7 (967)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

AURA - Phnom Penh is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 967 reviews. Located at 11B street 29, & Street 308, Phnom Penh 12301, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM

Must See

Ox Club Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (274)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ox Club Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 274 reviews. Located at Street 71 corner street 400, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Le Langka★★★★★ 4.7 (952)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Le Langka is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 952 reviews. Located at 132 Z13 Rue Pasteur No. 51, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM



Must See

Cuisine Wat Damnak- Phnom Penh★★★★★ 4.7 (341)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Cuisine Wat Damnak- Phnom Penh is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 341 reviews. Located at 29 Samdech Mongkol lem St. (228), Phnom Penh 12253, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:30 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Mauu! (Langka Lane)★★★★★ 4.7 (396)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mauu! (Langka Lane) is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 396 reviews. Located at Street 51, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

Hybrid Kitchen★★★★★ 4.7 (294)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hybrid Kitchen is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.7★ from 294 reviews. Located at 17B Street 222, Phnom Penh 12200, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Must See

Maloop★★★★★ 4.6 (568)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Maloop is a highly-rated restaurant in Phnom Penh, rated 4.6★ from 568 reviews. Located at 209, Ta Phon street, 12BT, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM

Practical Information

Dry Season (November to April) is the ideal time to visit Phnom Penh with cool temperatures (20-30°C), minimal rainfall, and clear skies. **December to February** offers the coolest, most comfortable weather. This peak season features lower humidity and stable conditions perfect for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

Rainy Season (May to October) brings warm, humid conditions with frequent afternoon downpours. While cheaper and less crowded, afternoons are often uncomfortably wet. March and September-October transition months offer moderate conditions and fewer tourists.

Month	Temperature	Rainfall	Tourism
Nov-Feb	20-30°C	Minimal	Peak
Mar-May	25-35°C	Increasing	Decreasing
Jun-Oct	24-32°C	Heavy	Low

Arrival: Phnom Penh International Airport (PNH) offers connections via Bangkok, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City. Taxis cost \$15-20 to city center; negotiate before departing or use ride-sharing apps.

Getting Around:

- **Tuk-tuk:** The iconic three-wheeled vehicle; negotiate fares beforehand (\$2-5 for short trips)
- **Motorbike Taxi:** Fastest but adventurous; drivers navigate congested streets efficiently
- **Ride-sharing Apps:** Grab and PassApp offer metered fares with app security
- **Rental Bikes/Motorbikes:** Available but requires navigation skills and Cambodian driving comfort
- **Bus:** Local buses are cheap but crowded; limited route information available

Traffic Tips: Phnom Penh traffic is chaotic with minimal traffic laws enforcement. Stay alert as pedestrian, always use zebra crossings, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

→ Airport Transfer

Phnom Penh International Airport (PNH) to city center:

- **Airport Shuttle Bus:** Route to city center in about 30-40 minutes, roughly \$2 to \$3 USD
- **Grab (ride-hailing app):** Door-to-door to central Phnom Penh in 20-30 minutes, around \$5 to \$8 USD
- **Metered Taxi:** Fixed-rate taxi to downtown in 25-35 minutes, typically \$9 to \$12 USD
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car with driver to your hotel in 20-30 minutes, around \$15 to \$20 USD



What to Buy:

- **Silk & Textiles:** Cambodian silk scarves, traditional kramas, and woven fabric with intricate patterns
- **Art & Crafts:** Stone sculptures, wooden carvings, lacquerware, and traditional masks
- **Jewelry:** Silver items, gemstones, and intricate jewelry featuring Khmer designs
- **Souvenirs:** Temple replicas, Angkor Wat postcards, and artisanal products supporting local artisans
- **Spices & Food:** Dried peppers, fish paste, rice crackers, and Cambodian candy

Shopping Areas: Russian Market for bulk bargains, Central Market for architecture and variety, Night Market for atmosphere, and Street 240 for contemporary art and boutiques. Department stores like Sorya and Aeon offer modern shopping with fixed prices.

Bargaining Strategy: Markets expect negotiation; start at 30-50% of asking price and work toward mutually acceptable figure. Supermarkets and malls have non-negotiable fixed prices.

Khmer New Year (April 14-16): Cambodia's most important celebration lasting three days with water throwing, temple visits, family gatherings, and festive spirit throughout the city. Streets fill with revelers, music, and traditional ceremonies marking fresh starts.

Royal Ploughing Ceremony (May): An ancient agricultural ritual performed at Chey Chumneas Field predicting the harvest season. Ceremonial oxen plow sacred ground while Brahmin priests bless the year's crops through traditional rituals.

Bon Om Touk - Water Festival (November): Phnom Penh's most atmospheric festival celebrating the reversal of Tonlé Sap River flow with boat races, riverside festivities, and illuminated processions. The city transforms with decorative boats racing and nighttime celebrations along the river.

Independence Day (November 9): National holiday commemorating Cambodia's independence with parades, flag ceremonies, and official celebrations throughout the city.

Pchum Ben - Ancestor Festival (September-October): Traditional observance honoring deceased ancestors with temple visits, merit-making, and family gatherings lasting two weeks.

Day 1: Sacred Temples & Royal Heritage

Start early (7:30 AM) at **Wat Phnom** for temple atmosphere and sunrise views. Return to city for breakfast, then visit **Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda** (ticket required). Lunch at riverside restaurant. Afternoon: **National Museum** for Khmer sculpture collection. Evening: sunset walk along Sisowath Quay followed by dinner with river views.

Day 2: History & Reflection

Morning: visit **Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum** with guide for comprehensive understanding. Lunch break for processing. Afternoon: **Choeung Ek Killing Fields** with audioguide. Return to city for quiet evening. Dinner at local family restaurant. Recommended for emotionally prepared visitors seeking deeper historical understanding.

Day 3: Markets, Art & Culture

Morning: explore **Russian Market** for bargaining and local goods. Lunch on street food at Night Market. Afternoon: **Street 240 Art District** for galleries and boutique shopping. Early evening: visit **Central Market** for architecture photos. Dinner at craft beer bar or upscale restaurant. Night: explore Sisowath Quay nightlife or riverside bars.

Day 4: Floating Villages & Water Life

Full-day organized tour to **Tonlé Sap Floating Villages**. Early morning departure (6 AM) for authentic community experience before tourist crowds. Visit fish farms, local schools, and minority settlements on water. Return evening for sunset. Dinner with local-style grilled fish or traditional fare.



Day 5: Temples & Countryside

Day trip to **Udong Temple Mountain** (40 km north). Climb mountain for panoramic views, explore ruins and active temples. Visit nearby villages for rural Cambodian perspective. Return to city for final evening. Sunset dinner along river reflecting on week's experiences. Evening at leisure.

Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda (Early Morning, 7:00-9:00 AM): Golden spires backlit by sunrise create magical photography. Low morning light enhances details of ornate architecture and reflections in palace grounds. Arrive before crowds for clean shots without tourists in background.

Independence Monument (Sunset & Night, 5:30-8:00 PM): Illuminated monument against twilight sky, then glowing against night darkness creates dramatic contrast. Surrounding fountains and landscaping frame the shot beautifully. Perfect for silhouettes and evening light photography.

Sisowath Quay (Golden Hour, 4:30-6:30 PM): Riverside promenade with traditional boats silhouetted against Mekong sunset. Street vendors, local residents, and colonial architecture combine for authentic urban riverside composition. Low sun angle creates warm tones and long shadows.

Central Market Interior (Mid-Morning, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM): Iconic yellow dome with Art Deco architecture provides geometric shapes and warm color palettes. Colorful market stalls, vendors, and vibrant goods create dynamic compositional opportunities. Overhead light through dome creates dramatic shadows.

Night Market (Evening, 5:30-9:00 PM): Street food stalls, neon signs, and colorful vendor goods create vibrant street photography opportunities. Night lighting reveals different Phnom Penh character. Candid shots of locals eating and vendor interactions capture authentic city life.

French Quarter Cafes (Any Time, Morning Best): Shaded tree-lined streets, colonial villa facades, and charming cafe setups with local patrons. Morning light through foliage creates dappled shadows. Architectural details and blue-shuttered buildings offer nostalgic colonial aesthetic.

Tonlé Sap Sunrise (5:00-7:00 AM): Early morning mist on river with fishing boats and floating villages creating ethereal landscape. Golden light reflects off calm water. Silhouettes of stilt houses and boats against sunrise create striking compositions.

Voltage & Frequency: Cambodia uses 220 volts at 50 Hz electrical standard, different from North American 110V/60Hz.

Plug Types: Cambodia primarily uses Type A (two flat parallel pins, US standard) and Type C (two round pins, European standard) outlets. Some older buildings may have Type I (Australian three flat parallel pins).

Adapter Requirements: Visitors from North America need voltage converter for 110V appliances or buy dual-voltage devices. European visitors need Type A-to-C converters if devices are EU-plug equipped. Bring universal adapters to handle multiple outlet types.

Practical Tips: Most hotels provide adapters or can source them locally. 7-Eleven stores and electronics shops sell adapters (2,000-8,000 KHR). Power outages occur occasionally in rainy season; carry power banks for device charging. Electrical infrastructure in city center is reliable; older buildings may have unreliable power.

Must-Try Dishes:

- **Nom Banh Chok:** Cambodian noodle soup with fish gravy, vegetable toppings, and fresh herbs—a breakfast staple reflecting authentic local cuisine
- **Samlor Machu Kreung:** Sour soup with tamarind, vegetables, and protein (fish/shrimp) representing balancing flavors of Khmer cooking
- **Lok Lak:** Marinated grilled beef with lime, pepper, and onions served with fresh vegetables and dipping sauce
- **Ameok:** Fish curry steamed in banana leaf with coconut milk and spices, fragrant and traditional



- **Grilled Fish (Trey Ang):** Whole fresh fish seasoned simply with lime, salt, pepper reflecting river cuisine traditions
- **Papaya Salad (Som Tam):** Fresh green papaya pounded with lime, chili, and herbs—refreshing and commonly served

Dining Tips: Street food and market stalls offer authentic, cheap meals (\$1-3). Local restaurants serve family-style portions meant for sharing. Rice is central to every meal. Tap water is not potable; drink bottled or purified water. Meal times: lunch 12:00-1:30 PM, dinner 6:30-9:00 PM. Tipping is not required but appreciated (10% at upscale restaurants).

Where to Eat: Markets and street stalls for authentic experiences, riverside restaurants for ambiance with tourist-friendly menus, upscale establishments in Boeng Keng Kong for contemporary Khmer cuisine with international options.

Tourist Passes

Angkor Archaeological Park Passes

Multi-day passes for Angkor temples 230 km away (day trip possible). **1-day pass: \$37** (access temples during one sunrise/sunset period), **3-day pass: \$62** (best value for exploring Angkor complex thoroughly). Purchase at entrance gate with passport photo. Half-price for 12-18 year-olds; children under 12 free.



www.angkortourist.org

Cultural Heritage Combo Pass

Combined discounted entry to National Museum, Royal Palace, and Silver Pagoda when purchased together. Available at each location or through hotels. Saves 10-15% versus individual tickets. Check current pricing as rates change seasonally.



www.cambodia.travel

River Cruise Passes

Multi-day cruise packages combining Phnom Penh with downstream Mekong Delta exploration in Vietnam. Luxury river cruises (\$100-300+ per day) offer all-inclusive amenities, expert guides, and multi-country experiences. Budget options available through travel agencies.



www.mekongrivercruises.com

