

Our Angkor

We grew up at Angkor. Let us share our heritage with you.

Adventurers are picked up at their hotel at 8am, and climb aboard their waiting Vespa. With a large comfortable seat and backrest – it's perfectly safe for an excited kid too. Your experienced driver, one of our team, will be a delightfully smiling, friendly young Khmer local.

After meeting up with the group - for a quick induction to the day ahead, we will go to the ticket booth to get our day-passes (covered in your tour price.) From there, we ride down the long avenue cut through the jungle, to your first exciting glimpse of the world famous Angkor Wat and its huge surrounding Temple City.

You will now embark on a tour with a difference. Although only 'discovered' in the 1850's, that was merely the Western re-discovery of a place not forgotten in time - but rather a living breathing community of local people and villages who have existed amongst the Angkor Temples for centuries. Today and especially at the end of the tour we will connect you with the life of Akim, the tour's founder who grew up at the Monastery (Pagoda) of Angkor. It's the Principal Pagoda of the whole Temple Complex, right in the grounds of the majestic Angkor Wat.

Throughout the day we will visit a selection of the most interesting sights not many tourists get to see from a Bus or Tuk Tuk, such as a tall (almost Aztec style) pyramid temple, with something special on top, if you dare climb up? Smaller temples which house some of the most beautiful and best preserved wall carvings of the female divine figures called 'Devatas'. **We try to please you and your cameras by avoiding the crowds as much as possible.**

At our first stop away from the crowds, we visit Baksei Cham Krong and a 'Linga' monument, which represents fertility - the male and female in union. From here we cross a wide moat by stone bridge, and pass under the watchful tower of the South Gate to the walled city of Angkor Thom. Beyond the entrance bridge, protected on either side by demons ('Asuras') that hold seven-headed 'Naga' serpents - we ride the narrow approach to 'Bayon' Temple.

The Temple of 'Bayon', with its 54 giant carvings of the Buddha's face - it is said the faces are that of King Jayavarman VII in meditation, morphing into the Buddha - such was the devotion of the king who

built Angkor Thom. Exiting Bayon you will take a leisurely 30min hike through the jungle, behind the 'Terrace of the Elephants', coming to a welcome resting spot...a fresh coconut anyone?

Breezing freely through the forest once more, pausing on the way to see less visited remarkable temples, we arrive at 'Ta Prohm'. Overgrown with jungle, massive trees grow on and out of the walls of this fantastical ruin, their tangle of roots snaking along and down in search of terra firma. This temple, you may have heard was once used as a movie set? Well, Akim's grandfather was in that movie, acting alongside...don't forget to ask your guide!

In the afternoon, we stop for lunch at a secluded restaurant in the countryside, set back from a water-lily pond; there you will enjoy 4 courses of enticing Khmer dishes. (*Please notify us in advance if you require a vegetarian option.)

After lunch, we drive to a small village in the heart of the forest. Which supports itself by maintaining its traditional handicrafts: from ornate wood carving to making musical instruments. Witness generations working together in a self-sustaining rural community. Feel free to ask the locals about their way of life.

Stopping at 'Sra Srong' – the Royal Pool built for the kings wives, to relax a moment and breath. The tranquil reflections of the pool and the drive home are mood-inspiring in the golden, early evening light.

Again away from the crowd, we will also go off-road during the day. There is a tree house hidden high in the forest canopy, where local teens often go in the evenings. No typical tour bus or Tuk Tuk goes there, but with the mobility of Cambodian Vespa Adventures it's no problem, we just leave our bikes with the experienced drivers and trek through the forest.

Time to walk over to Angkor Wat itself - the awe inspiring temple will come alive as the guide explains the significance of its elaborate reliefs, decoration and design. On a lighter note: you may want to make a wish at a secret room hidden in the temple, one of the many places where Akim used to play as a child!

All concludes with the Monastery (Pagoda) where Akim grew up. Here our guide will tell you of Akim's life as a young girl, and of how day-to-day life continued in Angkor Wat after the Khmer Rouge; tales about ghosts and burials and bicycles, and the thread linking our proud Khmer heritage.

And just about when it is time to leave, the low sun's caress illuminates Angkor Wat right on queue for a striking parting picture of this monumental icon.

If your goal is to not only see the world famous temples, but to experience an in-depth impression of life as it currently is at Angkor Wat, behind the scenes in the surrounding jungle, then this tour is a must. Let us share our heritage with you.

Important points

- The safety of the guests is paramount and all guests must wear helmets.
 - Each guest is driven by their personal driver, because officially in Siem Reap only international or local license holders are eligible to drive. However, due to the quality of the roads it is also not advisable to drive. Comfortably sitting at the back of the Vespa scooter with a back rest our guests can immerse in the environment, the great views - seize the magical moments to enjoy the ride of your life.
 - Mrs. Akim, the main owner and promoter of Cambodia Vespa Adventures is a proponent of gender equality and is an active promoter of employment for females in tourism. Therefore many of the Cambodia Vespa Adventure drivers are ladies.
 - A guide accompanies every tour.
 - All food and drinks are included in the price of the tour. Any separate or individual purchases during the tour are guests own responsibility.
 - If you require a vegetarian option, please notify us in advance.
 - Pick up from the hotel is at 08:00 sharp. The tour ends at 4 pm or thereabouts.
 - The tour program can sometimes vary, for instance due to spontaneous extra activities or if an activity should not be available due to circumstances beyond our control.
 - It is advisable to use sunscreen, especially during the dry season. In the monsoon season effective rain gear is provided. On scooters it is best to wear comfortable clothes and footwear with closed toes that can be cleaned easily.
 - As we are visiting Holy Sites guests should be dressed appropriately. Both men and women should have their shoulders covered (a t-shirt or shawl), and women should ideally wear long skirts – below the knee (long shorts are acceptable.)
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The Ride Of Your Life!

