

# Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



COUNTRY INFORMATION, FACTS & ADVICE

## Cambodia



## Getting into Cambodia

All land border crossing between Cambodia and Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, and Cambodia and Vietnam are open. All travellers can freely travel to Cambodia. However, travel insurance is highly recommended for coverage across the entire length of your travels.

Note: Travellers must check with the airlines for any travel requirements in case they transit a country before arriving in Vietnam.

## Passport and Visa

You need a visa to enter Cambodia. You can apply for an e-visa online [https://www.evisa.gov.kh/application\\_new](https://www.evisa.gov.kh/application_new) or get a tourist visa on arrival (VoA), these are valid for 30 days. For longer stays or other situations, get a visa through an embassy or consulate of Cambodia. For most visitors to Cambodia, visas on arrival (VoA) are available at Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville International Airports. Entering from Thailand, visas are available at Poipet (Banteay Meanchey province) and Cham Yeam (Koh Kong province). Visitors entering by land from Vietnam can obtain visas at Bavet (Svay Rieng / VN: Moc Bai) or Ka-Om Samnor (VN: Chao Doc).

### Holders of eVisas may enter via the following entry points:

- Phnom Penh International Airport
- Siem Reap International Airport
- ChamYeam(KohKongProvince)(fromThailand)
- PoiPet(BanteayMeancheyProvince)(fromThailand)
- Bavet (Svay Rieng Province) (from Vietnam)

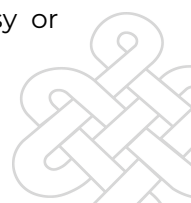
Printed passport photos are no longer necessary for visas on arrival as proof of identity is now fully digital.

Holders of diplomatic and official/service passports of Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam do not require a visa for Cambodia.

E-Visas are **Not Available** to nationals of: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Kenya.

### Useful tips:

- Check your passport expiry date and ensure it is valid for more than six months beyond the date of your expected return to your country.
- Ensure you have at least two blank pages in your passport prior to arrival in each country of your journey.
- Print all important documents and keep them handy, such as airline tickets and visa approval letters.
- If your passport is lost or stolen overseas, please contact your local Asia Concierge representative or hotel staff. They will assist you in contacting the relevant embassy or consulate.



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*While we do our best to provide the most up-to-date information, visa requirements may change at short notice. Obtaining the correct visa is the responsibility of each passenger. Therefore, we recommend that you check with your consulate or embassy for current visa information before leaving home.*

## **Health requirements**

There are no health requirements for Cambodia, however, we recommend that you have medical or travel insurance that covers COVID-19 treatment with a minimum liability of US\$10,000.

## **Wearing of a mask**

It is compulsory to wear a mask at the airport and on board the aircraft. This is the measure imposed by the government. You are not required to wear a mask in public areas or restaurants, hotels, or hospitals, however, we recommend you should wear masks, where possible and when you feel comfortable.

## **Keeping Healthy in Cambodia**

### **Vaccinations**

Staying up-to-date with your vaccinations is a crucial part of your pre-holiday planning and it is important to seek professional medical advice for your specific requirements. If you are traveling to remote areas, you may also consider preparing a medical kit.

### **Special Requirements**

If you are on prescribed medication, ensure that you take a copy of your prescriptions in case of loss of supply. Be sure to pack enough medication in your hand luggage for the duration of your trip as it may not be available locally. It is important to keep it in its original packaging. Check with the relevant embassy or consulate that your medication is legal in the countries you plan to visit and find out whether you need to take a doctor's letter with you.

*Please advise Asia Concierge Travel Designer of any special dietary requirements or allergies at least four weeks prior to departure. Every effort will be made to comply with your request. Travelers with physical disabilities and those who require frequent or on-going medical attention should advise Asia Concierge of their situation at the time of booking or at the earliest possible opportunity.*

## **Local Food & Drink**

Cambodian food is perhaps the most overlooked of all Asian cuisines. Too often Cambodian cooking is dismissed as a lesser version of Thai or Vietnamese fare. Generally, the food in Cambodia is not as spicy as the cuisine of Thailand or Laos but is flavoured heavily with herbs to create aromatic dishes. While generally having less chilli, sugar, and coconut milk than Thai food, Khmer food relies heavily on Prahok (a pungent fermented fish paste) as a foundation to many of its dishes. Samlors (soups) play an important role in Khmer cuisine, they tend to contain lots of healthy herbs and vegetables and will always feature in any family meal. Popular dishes include Fish Amok, a subtly spiced dish with lemongrass and galangal, mixed with egg and coconut milk and served usually in banana leaf or a coconut shell, it's become almost a national dish. With an abundance of fish living in the Tonle Sap lake and along the coast, fish is



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the most important source of protein, and rice is another mainstay of Cambodian cuisine. Noodles and Chinese style stir fries are also very common.

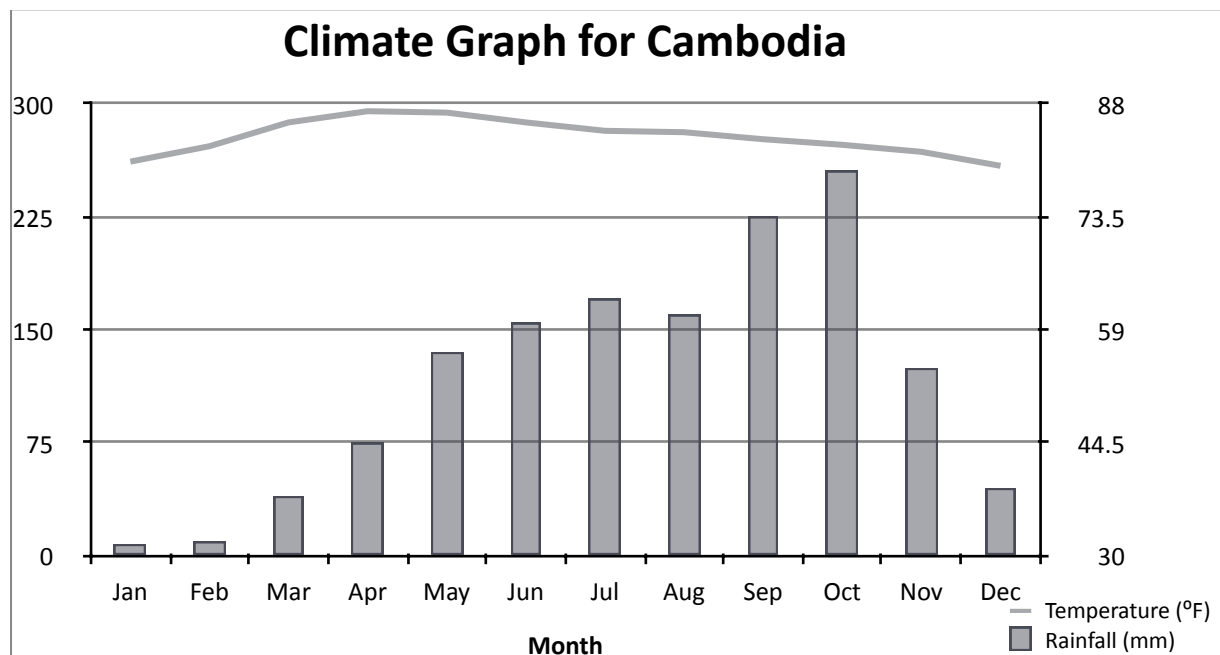
## Drinking Water

Do not drink tap water in Cambodia and avoid ice in your drinks unless it is made from clean water. When eating or drinking with your travel expert he/she will ensure that all food and drink is safe and will inform you if otherwise. Exercise caution when eating and drinking outside reputable hotels and restaurants, and please dine at places recommended by your Asia Concierge travel expert or representative as many local restaurants do not follow typical food hygiene practices.

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## Weather

Cambodia has two distinctive seasons: Rainy with the northeast monsoon from June to October; and dry with the southwest monsoon from November to May. The hottest days (March - May) can see the temperature climb to around 35C (95F), and the cool season (December-January) may push the mercury as low as 20C (68F). The monsoons between June and October follow the same pattern with clear mornings and rain for around one-to-three hours in the afternoon or evenings. During the monsoon months the fields are a verdant green and usually full of rice. The moats at the temples are full of water and cast beautiful reflections, and the skies are often full of fluffy white clouds. September is the wettest month.



## Time Zone

Cambodia is + 7 hours, Pacific time + 15 hours, and Eastern Time + 12 hours. Daylight saving is not observed.



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## What to Pack

Light and comfortable cotton or linen clothing is recommended for most of the year in Cambodia, while warmer clothes for the winter months are recommended if visiting the hills around the borders. Good walking shoes or sandals for touring are also beneficial.

For women, shorts are acceptable, however keep in mind that the Khmer tend to dress conservatively and very revealing clothing may be frowned upon. Smart/casual dress is adequate for dinner restaurants.

A hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and regular sun protection are recommended to protect against the sun and heat, particularly if you are planning to spend a lot of time visiting the many interesting sites which are outdoors. A hand held or battery operated fan is a great way to stay cool when visiting the temples. Feel free to ask your Travel Expert to lend you an umbrella if you wish to use it as a parasol.

When visiting temples and shrines, it is best to dress conservatively as visitors may be refused entry if not dressed appropriately. It is often a requirement to wear a long skirt or trousers that cover the knees as well as long sleeves to cover the arms and shoulders, as is the case when visiting Angkor Wat. Avoid any see-through clothing. You may also be required to remove footwear when visiting working pagodas or local homes, so sandals may be more convenient. Your travel expert will always be on hand to advise in such situations.

It is recommended to bring along a universal travel adaptor. The voltage supply in Cambodia is 220v 50Hz. Sockets are sometimes fit for two or three round prongs and sometimes two parallel blades.

## Money

### Currency & Exchange

The national currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel (KHR). Although US dollars are accepted in all shops and restaurants, it is recommended to have some local currency at hand. The US dollar is worth around 4000 KHR. If you pay in USD you will usually get a mixture of change in smaller USD and local currency.

*It is very important to make sure your US or any other Foreign Currency is in mint condition. Any rips, marks, old, or damaged notes will not be accepted.*

### Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard are accepted in most major shopping centres, restaurants and hotels, although relatively few establishments accept American Express.

### Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks can be exchanged in most banks, but this is often complicated and time-consuming so we recommend against using travellers checks.

### Banks & ATMs

Banks are open Monday to Friday, from 8am-4pm, and some also on Saturday morning until 12 noon. In the major cities, exchange bureaus and most hotels will change US dollars – although for other currencies it is usually necessary to visit a bank. ATMs can be found easily in all tourist centres and provincial towns.





## Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Cambodia. Some restaurants add a 5 - 10% service charge to your bill. However, you are welcome to offer additional gratuities as a sign of appreciation for the services provided.

Tipping is a very personal matter and should you feel you would like to acknowledge their service, please consider the following as a rough travel expert, per person per day.

Type of Service in USD	Group Size (Number of People)					
	1	2	3	4	5-9	10+
Travel expert (or Tour Leader)	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00
Driver (or Tour Assistant)	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.50
Hotel Porters	1.00 per service					
Local Service Providers (cyclo, jeep & boat driver; specialist, waiter & waitress etc.)	1.00 – 5.00 per service					

*The above tipping travel expert guidelines are recommendations only. Please use your own discretion in tipping based on the quality of service.*

## Shopping

Shopping in Cambodia can be great fun and rewarding. Bargaining is widely accepted and most of the time expected. It is recommended that you start your bid around 60-70% of the asking price and work towards settling somewhere in the middle. The Khmer are not as aggressive with their bargaining as the Vietnamese or even the Thais, so it is best to enter into the bargaining as a friendly game and arrive at a price that suits both parties. Many travellers find that interacting with local tradespeople as they create or sell their goods can be a great way to experience Cambodian culture.

There are the usual kind of handicraft available in the markets and small shops, but there are also a number of excellent social enterprises that support disadvantaged people and sell very high quality products from clothing, silk, lacquer-wear, and high quality handicrafts. There is also an increasing number of stylish boutiques owned by both locals and expats.

### Useful tips:

- Take your purchases home with you wherever possible to avoid complications with additional shipping fees, customs duties and regulations. Also, airfreight and shipments can sometimes take months to arrive.
- Avoid purchasing expensive items unless you are certain of its quality and value. Some vendors may overstate the value of their goods, even in shops recommended by Asia Concierge. While our guides will try to assist wherever possible, they are not authorities on antiques or rare items.
- Take the time to read credit card slips and calculate the exchange rate before signing.



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- Retain receipts of your purchases as you may be asked to provide proof of purchase to local officials when exiting the country. You may also need to present it to customs on your return home.

*If you are looking for a specific item, your travel expert may, as a courtesy, refer you to a vendor that carries the merchandise. However, this should not be taken as Asia Concierge's endorsement of the vendor. All purchase decisions are entirely your own responsibility. Asia Concierge shall not assume any liability for products that may be faulty or not as advertised. Similarly, Asia Concierge does not take responsibility for any loss or damage during shipment.*

## Customs, Etiquette & Useful Information

### Religion

Buddhism is the dominant religion in Cambodia with nearly 95% of the population followers of this faith. Islam is practiced by a small percentage of the population; mainly the Cham people resident near the border with Vietnam. Christianity and Hinduism account for less than 1%.

### Travelling During Public Holidays

Many Khmers (Cambodians) celebrate public holidays by visiting friends and relatives that live in other provinces so, during these times, many hotels will be fully booked and certain areas can be very busy. If your travel plans coincide with any major festivals, it is best to make sure you book everything in advance to avoid disappointment. If you are travelling on the roads, be aware that the traffic might be much heavier than usual. There are many Public Holidays in Cambodia, but the most important and the times when people travel the most are Khmer New Year (April 14-16), Pchum Ben for 3 days (falls in September or October depending on the lunar calendar), Water Festival (Bon Om Touk) 3 days (falls in November depending on the lunar calendar). Chinese New Year is also a busy time with lots of locals travelling. Your Travel Designer will let you know if you travel plans coincide with any of these dates.

