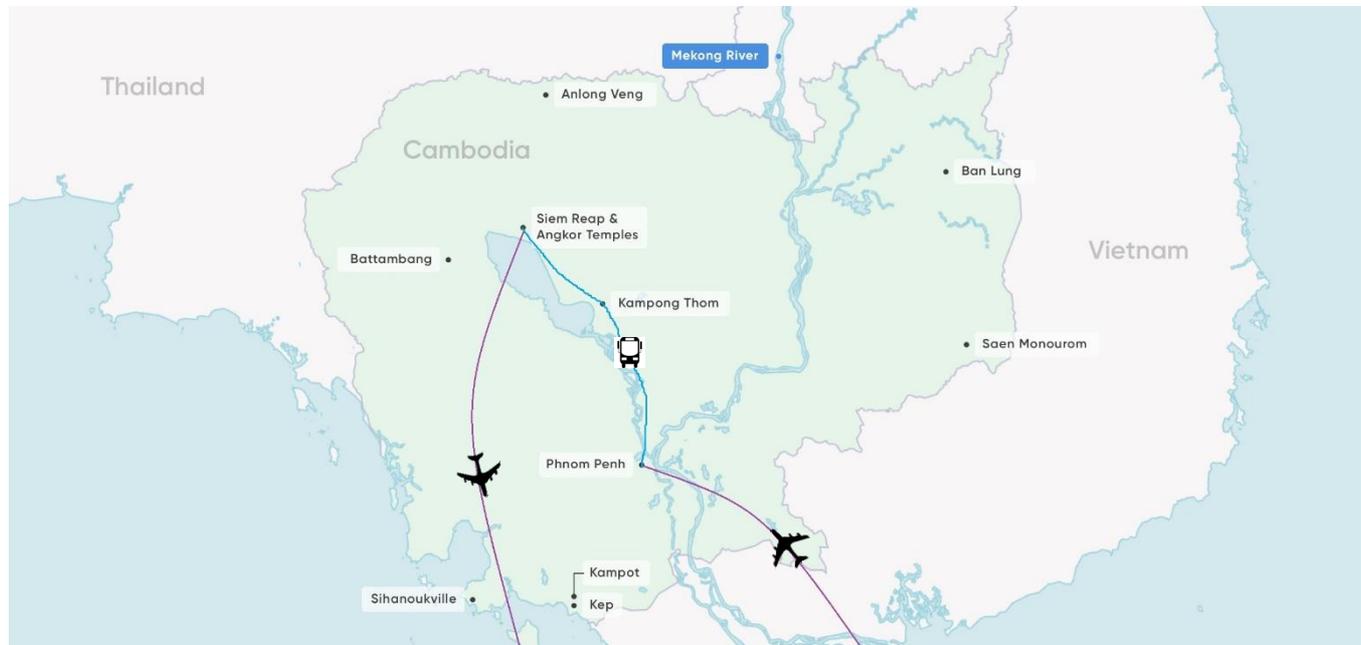


Cambodia: Culture & Service (10 days)



Departs anytime (2018 – 19)



Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school's particular aims, learning objectives and budget.

Please contact us detailing any changes you'd like to make.

There's magic about a charming yet confounding kingdom that never fails to delight. With this in mind, we have created a trip specifically designed for student travelers to expose them to ancient traditions and charming culture that collide to create this authentic adventure.

This 10-day trip of Cambodia is for motivated and energetic students seeking authentic interaction with their Cambodian counterparts. As such, the focus of this trip is a challenging and very rewarding service component which will entail working alongside a local community, just beginning to overcome decades of adversity and social neglect. It will further feature a variety of activities that can only be accessed on a well-planned student trip educational journey.

This itinerary also includes a thorough exploration of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap as well as a plethora of highly enjoyable activities and excursions to make this journey truly unforgettable.




Billy Penfold
Director

Day 1

Arrive Cambodia (Phnom Penh)



We will be greeted at Phnom Penh International Airport by our tour leader and escorted to our hotel. After checking into our rooms, we have a brief meeting to discuss the coming day's activities. We head out to visit the Central Market selling the most astounding array of textiles, silverware and curio items to be found anywhere in Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon we will visit Wat Phnom located on a small hill overlooking the city where we will learn of the legend of Mrs Penh and the founding of the capital city in the 15th Century. It is here that we will enjoy panoramic views of the city. This evening we will enjoy Khmer cuisine at a popular local eatery

before returning to our hotel. (dinner) **Flight details to be advised**

Day 2

Phnom Penh



This morning we set out to visit the infamous Tuol Sleng Interrogation Centre and the disquieting Killing Fields – both stark reminders of Cambodia's tragic recent history during the Khmer Rouge reign from 1975-1979. It was during this relatively brief time a little know teacher called Pol Pot instituted a reign of terror over the country and implemented a plan to turn Cambodia into an agriculture-based society, systematically emptying the cities and forcibly moving the people onto collective (state-owned) farms where they performed hard labour. It is estimated that during this time over a fifth of the country's population perished by overwork, starvation and execution.

From here we will travel across the city to visit the Russian Market where we can practice our bargaining skills as we browse the many and varied stalls of this rambling fair. As the sun sets we take an evening boat cruise on the Bassac and Mekong Rivers to see the city skyline from another perspective and see how the city is developing in all directions. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 3

Phnom Penh Siem Reap



We will set off this morning and visit the Silver Pagoda situated alongside the Royal Palace to learn about the royal family and French colonial influences before we travel north to Siem Reap. While long, this journey will afford us a wonderful glimpse into the lives of those who subsist in what is still an overwhelmingly agricultural based society. We will stop at a mid-way point where we can taste some special local delicacies including durian and for the more adventurous amongst us – deep-fried spiders.

On arrival in Siem Reap we explore the town by way of tuk-tuk for a thorough reconnaissance of this popular place. Tonight, we enjoy a performance from a local circus acting traditional folklore skits and dance scenes using skilled acrobatics and music. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4

Siem Reap (Temples of Angkor)

This morning we will set out to explore the magnificent Temples of Angkor. These temples are unique; the ultimate expression of a past race of genius, sublime and matched by only a few select spots on earth, such as Machu Picchu or Petra.



Journeying to the aesthetically and architecturally breath-taking Angkor Wat Temple, we will explore this massive three-tiered pyramid dedicated specifically by the Khmer King Suryavarman II to the Hindu god, Vishnu. After lunch, we will visit the Jungle temple - Ta Prohm over which nature has well and truly run riot. This quiet, sprawling complex is only partially cleared of jungle overgrowth. Intentionally left somewhat unrestored, large fig and silk-cotton trees grow from the towers and corridors offering some of the best photo opportunities at Angkor. (breakfast, lunch)

Day 5

Siem Reap (Student-initiated activities)

Prior to travelling, a Student Educational Adventures staff member will talk to teachers and students about specific activities that your students might like to add to their overseas experience. These activities can be included *based on students' knowledge of the country* or their particular interests or passions for any aspect of a country's culture.

The activities we can include are many and varied. These may include; an introduction to a country's creative or performing arts scene, visits to local schools, great race activities, outdoor educational pursuits such as hiking, bike riding or a plethora of cultural programs. Please contact us for further ideas.

OPTION 1:



Mountain biking: There are numerous biking tracks on the outskirts of Siem Reap that we can take to explore the rural countryside. This gives students a great opportunity to visit local villages and gain an understanding and appreciation of everyday life. The bike ride affords us the ability to travel to some of the most traditional villages whose way of life has changed little in decades; horse and cart is still a common form of transport and farming practices are still done by hand. After a swim in the hotel pool, our tour leader will escort us downtown for dinner. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

OPTION 2:



Arts & Crafts: Around Siem Reap there are various arts and craft centres where we may try our hand at painting, weaving or even traditional dancing. As part of this program, we can try our hand at traditional lacquerware production, charcoal painting and bas-relief temple rubbing assisted by local artisans.

Time can also be spent out in the villages helping with weaving baskets, fishing nets and thatched roofing. After a swim in the hotel pool, our tour leader will escort us downtown for dinner. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

OPTION3:



Remote temples & jungle exploration: There are literally hundreds of overgrown abandoned temples in the jungles and forests scattered around Siem Reap and further afield. Today we will venture out to explore the remote temples of Banteay Kdei and the unfinished Ta Keo temple. During the final phase of its construction, it was struck by lightning which was taken as a sign of bad luck upon which work was halted.

Later we will explore Preah Rup temple once used as a crematorium, then continue to Preah Khan temple famed for its sprawling galleries and numerous hidden doorways. Other options include the huge and impressive Beng Melea temple structure that has long been reclaimed by the jungle. During the day we will enjoy a picnic lunch before returning to Siem Reap. After a swim in the hotel pool our tour leader will escort us downtown for dinner. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6

Siem Reap – Mt. Kulen



This morning we will enjoy a day trip to the sacred Cambodian site of Mt. Kulen. En route we will stop at a landmine museum to learn more of the terrible legacy of conflict in the last century. Here, we will see many inert examples of this terrible weapon that continue to cause so much suffering in Cambodia and throughout the world, as well as to learn of the efforts in eradicating them.

Arriving before lunch at the Phnom Kulen National Park, we will take a short walk to see a reclining Buddha as well as a unique archeological site where Hindu lingams have been carved beneath flowing water.

After lunch, we will visit a spectacular waterfall to enjoy a refreshing swim. In the late afternoon, we will return to Siem Reap for dinner at a popular local eatery before some limited free time to explore the town's vibrant night markets. (breakfast, dinner)

Day 7 & 8

Siem Reap (community building project)



Today we will begin our 2-day community service project where we will work alongside local people in a challenging community-service project specifically initiated for our group.

This project will entail a series of labouring tasks as we break into groups to erect scaffolding, assembling bamboo frames and walls, hammering, sawing and transporting of materials.

Over these days local tradesmen and our tour leaders will be supervising and assisting us, often identifying students with particular skills to perform the more difficult or skill-orientated tasks. Groups will be rotated throughout the project. The days will be long and the results rewarding as we see our

project come to fruition and as curious villages from all around come to watch and assist us. (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner)

Day 9

Siem Reap (Tonle Sap Lake, Phnom Krom)



We take a morning boat trip on the Tonle Sap Lake to visit Vietnamese and Cambodian fishing villages that fled to this part of the lake during the war years. We have the chance to learn about conditions of the local inhabitants who live a subsistence lifestyle. While on the lake we pass floating schools, football fields and floating petrol stations. We will also visit Phnom Krom Hill revealing views across Tonle Sap Lake and then return to Siem Reap to explore the central market and nearby streets.

Our final evening's dinner will be buffet style and feature a traditional Khmer or Apsara dance performance. Apsara dancing, a classical style dating back to the Angkorian era, nearly vanished in the 1970s when the Khmer Rouge

regime decimated much of the country's infrastructure, culture and traditions. In recent years, the dance form has been making a comeback in Cambodia – the grace and charm of these performances matching perfectly with the sultry atmosphere that envelops a typical Cambodia evening.

There will be time for a final tuk-tuk ride around Siem Reap this evening before we head back to our hotel for an evening swim and then a rest. (breakfast, dinner)

Day 10

Depart Siem Reap ✈ Home

There will be ample time for some exploration this morning including a visit to a silk farm to learn how the silk that comprises Asia's famous fabric is produced. Here we will learn of the intricate processes of unwinding fibres, dyeing threads, spinning and weaving which explains why silk is no cheap commodity. From here we will transfer

straight to the airport where our tour leader will take care of our onward travel arrangements and wave us farewell. (breakfast) Flight **details to be advised**

Summary

Grading

Moderate: Students & staff will be required to be in good health to get the most of this trip whilst any one of reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties however students will be expected to walk every day. You will also be expected to work diligently during the days of the community service project. You will also be expected to be able to ride a bike. It will be necessary for you to carry your own luggage throughout the trip but only for short distances.

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple share basis. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. Hotels hold a 3-star equivalent rating.

Transport

Modern air-conditioned bus, boat, bicycle.

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling free of charge.

▲ [Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application](#)

Your Tour Leader

Your tour leader is probably the person who most influences the success of your trip. Thus, Student Educational Adventures employs our own team of meticulously trained student dedicated, local tour leaders - not foreigners, imported at your students' expense with no language skills or insight into your host culture.

These nationals are not only the best folk to show you their country. They are your teachers, translators and an enthusiastic purveyor of authentic experiences. They are there to facilitate your immersion into new cultures and are the bridge between you and the world of education and new experiences.

Your tour leader is always with your students and is thoroughly versed in safety protocols and duty of care responsibilities. This ranges from assisting in the most basic of health and safety measures to ensuring that teachers & students are well looked after during our trips. All have been chosen because of their ability to deal with the needs and unique issues associated with escorting young people through this wonderful and at times, most foreign of regions.

Service-Learning Programs

All service-learning programs initiated by Student Educational Adventures are conducted after careful consultation with the local community and with the local People's Committees.

These projects are initiated based on a model of mutual learning and designed as an immersion experience. An understanding of the importance of an integrated approach to community development is useful to frame what students and teachers might see, learn or experience during a student immersion.

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Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, activities, entrance costs and other programs as describe in the itinerary
- Student Educational Adventures tour leader throughout the trip & additional specialist guides
- Meals (+ drinking water) as listed in the daily itinerary
- Pre-departure support, briefings & planning meetings for students and parents
- 24/7 in-country support

Exclusions

- International flights to/from Cambodia
- Community project costs (approx. US\$1000)
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Cambodia Visa