

CAMBODIA

PHNOM KULEN

NATIONAL PARK



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**2026
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FOREWORD



Thanks for downloading this FREE interactive travel guide. You've made an excellent choice if you plan on **GETTING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK** in (add country). Before you delve into the content of this travel guide, please take a few minutes to read this foreword. It outlines how to make the best use of the information contained within.

First-hand experience: This travel guide has been put together using first-hand experience gained from traveling to, and exploring, all the locations presented within. The information and photos featured in my travel guides, have been collated over years of putting boots on the ground. There is no second-hand information, or information which is plagiarized from other travel sources, within this guide. Every cave, waterfall, river, viewpoint, jungle trail, temple site, guesthouse and restaurant presented, or promoted, I have been to and seen and/or experienced myself.

Getting off the beaten track: The primary focus of my travel guides is ADVENTURE TRAVEL (and activities) to locations which are non-mainstream tourist destinations. As an example, there is no information for mainstream tourist locations (except as transit hub's before heading off to a more remote location) listed in this travel guide. As such, the information in this guide is directed towards travelers (not tourists) who are keen for a bit of adventure - caving, climbing, jungle trekking, kayaking - in an off the beaten track location, of South East Asia. If these types of activities aren't to your liking, then this travel guide won't be much use to you. There's no information in here about the party towns in South East Asia.

Budget travel: Knowing the importance of making the most of your hard-earned currency, my travel links (12GO ASIA) and accommodation links (AGODA) are predominantly budget orient-ed. They provide a range of options for getting to a central hub, or base, from which you can make your daily explorations.

Independent sightseeing: Instead of going on group tours, I strongly promote the idea of renting your own vehicle (car or motorbike) and venturing out yourself. To help you get to the exact location, there's always a **GOOGLE MAPS** link to show the route from a hub (hotel or guesthouse) to the sightseeing attraction. If there's a local tour operator offering excellent adventure type tours, or activities, I'll provide links to their website. A good example of a great adventure tour operator is **SABAIDEE ADVENTURES LAOS**, who offer excellent caving, kayaking and trekking tours throughout Laos.

The Table of Contents: This is page four of the travel guide and has a sequential list of sections, which you can go to directly by clicking on the **GREEN** numbered tab.

YouTube Links: These take you directly to my YouTube Vlog (**Megaworld Asia**) where you can see short, high quality travel videos of the numerous attractions listed in my travel guides. If you enjoy the videos, please hit the like button and don't forget to **SUBSCRIBE** to see my upcoming adventures.



Megaworld Asia Facebook Link

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Safe travels,

MEGA

PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK

Table Of Contents

About, Getting There, Accommodation, Dining, & Transportation

Foreword.....	Page	3
Table of Contents.....	Page	4
How to Use This Interactive Travel Guide.....	Page	5
Phnom Kulen National Park: About.....	Page	6
Siem Reap: Getting There.....	Page	7
Siem Reap: Accommodation.....	Page	8
Siem Reap: Restaurants & Cafe's.....	Page	9
Siem Reap: Getting Around.....	Page	10
Siem Reap: Temple Site Entry Fees.....	Page	11
Phnom Kulen National Park: Getting There.....	Page	12
Phnom Kulen National Park: The Amazing Cliff.....	Page	13
Phnom Kulen National Park: Kulen Waterfall.....	Page	14
Phnom Kulen National Park: The 1000 Lingas & Holy Well.....	Page	15
The Elephant Pond Loop Tour: About.....	Page	16
The Elephant Pond Loop Tour: Peong Tbal Temple.....	Page	17
The Elephant Pond Loop Tour: Aram Rong Chen Temple.....	Page	18
The Elephant Pond Loop Tour: Damrei Krab Temple.....	Page	19
The Elephant Pond Loop Tour: Srah Damrei Temple.....	Page	20
Kbal Spean: Ancient Hindu Rock Carvings.....	Page	21
Kbal Spean: Photos & Video Link.....	Page	22



Your Next Adventure Is Just One Click Away

How To Use This Interactive Travel Guide

The Table Of Contents: To effortlessly move from the **TOC** to the page you want to view, simply click on the **page number**: **1**

YouTube Links: These will take you to a short highlights video, of the sightseeing attraction, in the section you're looking at:



Other Links: These take you to ancillary services such as recommended restaurants, or car and motorbike rental agencies, in the location you're traveling to:

ANCILLARY SERVICES

Travel Links: This takes you to **12GO ASIA**, an excellent travel group which provides a range of options for getting around the region:



The Table Of Contents: To move back to the **TOC**, click on the **yellow arrows**, at the bottom of each Page: 

Google Maps Links: These provide a route from a designated location (e.g., a hotel) to a particular sightseeing attraction:



Information Links: These links take you to information sites, such as Wikipedia or Wiki-voyage, to provide more in-depth info on a particular subject or location:



Accommodation Links: This takes you to the Agoda website to check accommodation availability and make bookings:



It's Time To Get Off The Beaten Track



PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK: ABOUT

Mountain: PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK is located approximately forty-five kilometers north of the Siem Reap. The national park is predominantly a sandstone, jungle covered peak, which runs northeast to southwest. It's the only elevated geographical feature in the area and can be seen from a considerable distance, owing to the surrounding flat landscape of endless rice paddies. The primary sightseeing attractions, within the national park are WATERFALLS, VIEWPOINTS, and several ANCIENT KHMER sites. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of the National Park:



Entry fees: The ENTRY FEE to the national park for foreigners is 20 USD. The entry fee must be paid at the TICKET OFFICE (checkpoint & boom gate) at the base of the mountain, before riding up. **Note:** The ticket must be paid for in CASH. Operating hours for the ticket office are 08:00 - 16:00. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of the ticket office:



Ancient Khmer Sites

Siem Reap Base: If You're already in Siem Reap, go to page 12 of this guide. If you're planning on traveling to Siem Reap, to check out the KHMER HISTORICAL SITES, read through pages 6 - 11 of this guide. These pages provide the information you'll need for staying in Siem Reap and using it as a base to travel out to remote locations such as PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK. **Note:** If you're staying at the MONY REACH ANGKOR HOTEL, they can provide a driver with a 4 x 4 vehicle for day trips to Phnom Kulen National Park.



Phnom Kulen Waterfall

SIEM REAP: GETTING THERE

Getting There is multiple travel options for getting to the nearby city of SIEM REAP. This includes air travel, buses, and minivan transportation. Siem Reap has an airport and there are many daily flights from nearby regional centers. There is also regular bus services for those traveling up from Phnom Penh. Click the following 12GO ASIA link to see your travel options from Bangkok to Siem Reap:



Click the following 12GO ASIA link to see your travel options from HCMC to Siem Reap:



Click the following 12GO ASIA link to see your options from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap:



SIEM REAP: ACCOMMODATION

Mid-range Accommodation: The MONY REACH ANGKOR HOTEL is an excellent mid-range choice (4 star hotel) for your stay in Siem reap. As of JANUARY 2026, room rates start at 55 USD per night (includes breakfast). The rooms are spacious, comfortable, air-conditioned, and there's an elevator. Click the following AGODA link for booking inquiries:



Budget Accommodation: The SIDEWALK HOTEL is a good budget choice (2 star hotel). The hotel has a small swimming pool and is located only 800 meters from the town center. As of JANUARY 2026, room rates are 15 - 18 USD per night (which includes a basic breakfast). Click the following AGODA link for booking inquiries:



Breakfast: If you're staying at the either of the above-mentioned hotels, there's some great local restaurants and cafés within walking distance. For an excellent western breakfast check out the SOURCE CAFÉ - located approximately 200 meters south of the Sidewalk Hotel. Their juices and smoothies are fantastic, and the SOURCE (big) BREAKFAST has their signature homemade hash browns. Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location of the Source:



SIEM REAP: RESTAURANTS & CAFE'S

Coffee: For a good, inexpensive coffee, try the FAME CAFÉ - located across the road from the SOURCE CAFE. As of JANUARY 2026, a hot AMERICANO starts at 1.25 USD. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Patisserie: For an excellent LUNCH, COFFEES, JUICES, and BAKERIES, try the PARIS BAKERY. This is probably the BEST BAKERY in Siem Reap. They have a fantastic range of breads and croissants, and it's also a DELICATESSEN, with a great selection of CHEESES and COLD CUTS. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location of Paris Bakery:



Dinner: The JUNGLE BURGER SPORTS BAR & BISTRO probably serves the BEST WESTERN FOOD in Siem Reap (at very reasonable prices). They have a range of SIGNATURE BURGERS with the bacon, avocado, and beef burger being one of the best. They also give you the option of having CHUNKY FRIES or WEDGES with your burgers. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



SIEM REAP: GETTING AROUND

Transportation: Due to the size and spread of the temple sites, transportation is a definite requirement for sightseeing excursions. If you've got a motorbike license, **HIRING A MOTORBIKE** (such as a Honda 125 cc) is a cheap and reliable option for getting about. These can be rented for 8 - 10 USD per day, from any of the motorbike shops around the town center. **Note:** You will be required to leave your passport as security for the duration of the rental contract.

Tuk-tuks: If you don't have a motorbike license, or you're not confident about riding around on the hectic streets, the only other viable means of transportation is the local tuk-tuks. There are **TWO TYPES** of tuk-tuk available in Siem Reap. The **REMORQUE** is a two-wheeled carriage, with open sides and a roof, secured to a motorbike. The **THREE WHEELED TUK-TUK**, is more modern but is enclosed and you don't have much of a view when travelling around the area.

More Expensive: However, using a tuk-tuk to get around is a bit more expensive than renting a motorbike. Hire rates for an outing to a temple site (on a tuk-tuk) are approximately 15 - 20 USD for temples around Siem Reap, and more for locations further out.



SIEM REAP: TEMPLE SITE ENTRY FEES

Entry Fees: All temple sites within Siem Reap Province are covered by the ANGKOR PASS. Even remote sites, such as BENG MEALEA and KBAL SPEAN, are covered. If you have a current Angkor Pass, take it with you. **Note:** If you want to see the above-mentioned sites, and you don't have one, you'll need to purchase it before leave Siem Reap.

Purchasing an Angkor Pass: Before heading off on your temple sightseeing trips, you'll first need to purchase an ANGKOR PASS. This comes in 1 day, 3 day and 7-day issues and can be purchased at the ANGKOR PARK PASS ticket office. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link below for directions from the Mony Reach Hotel:



Angkor Pass Prices: As of JANUARY 2026, Angkor Pass prices are as follows:

- 1 day pass = US 37 dollars
- 3 day pass = US 62 dollars
- 7 day pass = US 72 dollars

All tickets are good for one month from the date of purchase.



Guides: Most of the tuk-tuk drivers are knowledgeable about the temple sites around Siem Reap. However, they are not government approved guides. If you need a guide, you'll need to pay extra for this service. **Note:** If you're staying at the MONY REACH HOTEL, the staff can arrange professional standard, and responsible, transportation for you. This is highly recommended if you're considering a trip to distant locations such as KOH KER PYRAMID and BENG MEALEA RUINS.



PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK: GETTING THERE

Getting there: If you have your own transportation (rented motorbike) then getting to the park entry point is straight forward. The roads are sealed all the way and don't pose any difficulties. However, once you enter (go beyond the boom gate) the road becomes more degraded and most of it, at the top of the plateau, is red dirt.

Seasonal Difference: In the DRY SEASON, this isn't an issue. The rainy season is a different story though. From June to October, much of this road becomes a muddy, red bog. If you're inexperienced in riding over mud tracks on a motorbike, it might be better to go on an organised tour in a 4 x 4 vehicle. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for directions from Siem Reap Center:**

8 SIEM REAP to PHNOM KULEN

On site: From the boom gate (ticket office) a sealed road winds up to the top of the mountain, from which point it changes to red dirt. **Note:** The road along the top of the plateau, to all the sight-seeing attractions, is red dirt most of the way. A map at the park ticket office shows a spiderweb of roads, along the top of the plateau, leading to a considerable number of sightseeing attractions.



Poor Roads: During the rainy season, without an off-road bike or 4 x 4 vehicle, there's no hope of getting to the more distant ones (over twenty kilometers of dirt road) on a Honda scooter. **Click the following YOUTUBE link to see a highlights video of Phnom Kulen National Park:**

PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK



PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK: THE AMAZING CLIFF

Entering the park: From the boom gate a sealed road winds up to the top of the plateau, from which point it turns into a dirt track. The road along the top of the plateau, to all the sight-seeing attractions, is predominantly dirt most of the way. **Note:** During the rainy season this dirt track can turn into a mud filled bog.

The Amazing Cliff: The first easy stop on the sightseeing circuit is a location called THE AMAZING CLIFF (Cambodian name is POENG TA KHO). This is essentially a SANDSTONE CLIFF line, providing views across the surrounding jungle covered terrain, just one hundred meters from the road. At the end of the rainy season, when everything is green and vibrant, it's a picturesque landscape and well worth a thirty-minute stop.

Ancient Quarry: According to online information, this site was an ANCIENT QUARRY during the age of the Khmer Empire. Large sandstone blocks were excavated and transported back to the Angkor Archaeological area, and used in the construction of ANGKOR WAT. Leftover sandstone blocks can be seen at the base of the cliff. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Sandstone Cliff



Ancient Quarry



The Amazing Cliff

PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK: KULEN WATERFALL

About: From the Amazing Cliff, the next sight-seeing stop is KULEN WATERFALL, some eight km further along the road. This is the highlight attraction of a tour to Phnom Kulen National Park. The waterfall is quite impressive in the rainy season, when there's a good flow. The site is set up for mass tourism with restaurants, trinket sellers, and hawkers stalls in abundance on the UPPER LEVEL of the falls. **Note:** Follow the stairway to get down to the lower level. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



Onsite: As mentioned, the waterfall site - called the cascading waterfalls - in peak flow is well worth the effort of getting to. However, it's an absolute tourist trap with restaurants, hawkers stalls, and drink sellers everywhere on the path down to the falls.

Lower Level: A properly constructed pathway leads down a series of levels to the PRIMARY WATERFALL at the bottom of a long stairway. At the bottom the volume of water coming over the falls (in the rainy season) is impressive. A boarded walkway allows sightseers to get closer to the face of the falls.



PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK: 1000 LINGAS

About: This attraction is just a few hundred meters down the road from Kulen Waterfall. The site is easy to access and is nearby the road. The primary attraction of this site is the LINGAM CARVINGS in the riverbed, which date back to the early 9th century. If the river level is low enough, and the water is clear, carvings which resemble square boxes around a circular dimple can be seen in the riverbed.

Note: During the rainy season the high flow of water can make it difficult to see anything. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



The Holy Well: This is a natural spring of crystal clear water which is nearby the 1000 Lingam Carvings. It's a place which is marked as the HOLY WELL on Google Maps. The spring is considered a holy place for the locals and there's often animistic celebrations taking place at the site. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



THE ELEPHANT POND LOOP TOUR: ABOUT

Adventure: For anyone feeling adventurous, and wanting to get away from the above-mentioned mainstream tourist sites, this is an excellent way to see some ANCIENT KHMER TEMPLE sites in the more remote areas of Phnom Kulen National Park. Starting at the KULEN WATERFALL CAR PARK, the loop is a three hour circuit which takes in four sightseeing attractions:

1. Poeng Tbal
2. Ah Ram Rorm Chin Temple
3. Kror Bei Krab Temple
4. Sras Dom Ray (aka Elephant Pond).

The tour goes in a clockwise direction with the ELEPHANT POND being the final stop, before the ride back to the Kulen Waterfall car park.

Off the beaten track: This is not a mainstream tourist junket. To do this tour you'll need to hire a local guide, and his motorbike, and go as a pillion passenger. The tour price, including the motorbike hire, is sixty thousand Cambodian Rial (15 USD).

Warning: Do not attempt to do this circuit solo as there's a myriad of trails running through the jungle and little, or no, sign posting. The trails are dirt tracks which are only suitable for motorbikes. Only the local guides know the correct routes and without them, you will get lost.



THE ELEPHANT POND LOOP: PEONG TBAL TEMPLE

About: This is the first stop on the Elephant Pond Loop Tour. Most of the route, from the Kulen Waterfall car park, is a cement road. It's only the last two kilometers which is a dirt track. What is noticeable on the way in is there's some directional signage along the track, but all of it has been bleached white by the weather. For this reason, it's highly recommended to do the tour with a guide and his motorbike. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



Onsite: The temple site is set in a picturesque location, among large SANDSTONE BOULDERS. Online information sources mention this may have been a place of ancient learning, or study. There are several locations with HINDU CARVINGS on the rock faces which, according to Wikipedia, date back to the EARLY 9th CENTURY. There's two areas of carvings. The first one is under a rock shelter. The second one is about 100 meters walk from the first. **Note:** There are some local staff working there who can point you in the right direction. Unfortunately, none of them speak English.



THE ELEPHANT POND LOOP: ARAM RONG CHEN

Aram Rong Chen Temple: This is the second stop on the Elephant Pond Loop Tour. The site is located a few hundred meters to the southwest of the Poeng Tbal Site. The trail between the two sites has a couple of steep sections where you may be required to get off the motorbike and walk for a few meters. **Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:**



Onsite: There's no actual temple at this site, just a flat topped, stone construction which gives the appearance of a three step pyramid. From the top you can look down the sides and see another two levels of stonework, albeit in a broken up state, down to the base.

Religious Site: There is a RELIGIOUS ALTAR at the top of STRUCTURE but there's no indication if it's used for local ceremonies or merit making. The burnt incense sticks around the base suggest the locals may occasionally come here for worship.

Note: There is normally park staff on-site but unfortunately they don't speak English. Additionally, there are information placards on site but only in the Khmer language. This is an interesting site and worth a stop for a few minutes.



THE ELEPHANT POND LOOP: DAMREI KRAB TEMPLE

About: DAMREI KRAB TEMPLE is the third stop on the Elephant Pond Loop Tour. The site is located approximately two kilometers directly south of the Aram Rong Chen site. This is probably the best example of a HINDU TEMPLE in this remote area, which remains reasonably intact. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Onsite: According to on-line information sources (Wikipedia) the structure dates back to the LATE 8TH to EARLY 9TH CENTURY and was part of a large kingdom, established on Kulen Mountain, prior to the advent of the Angkor Empire. The construction of this temple differs from the those around Angkor. Instead of the large sandstone blocks, much smaller red bricks were used in its construction. Once again, there are park staff at the site but there's no information available in English. Click the following [YOUTUBE](#) link to see a highlights video of the ELEPHANT POND LOOP TOUR:



THE ELEPHANT POND LOOP: SRAH DAMREI

About: SRAH DAMREI is the final stop on the Elephant Pond Loop Tour, and it is definitely the best. The site is located approximately three km to the southwest of Damrei Krab Temple and the trail runs through dense jungle and farming areas. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:

8 SRAH DAMREI (ELEPHANT POND)

Onsite: Also known as THE ELEPHANT POND, the main attraction of this site is the LIFE SIZE STATUES, carved from sandstone boulders. There are four large statues: an ELEPHANT, two LIONS, and a DOG. The site dates back to the eighth or ninth century and was part of a Kingdom established by Jayavarman II, on Kulen Mountain. Apparently, this Kingdom was the birthplace of the Khmer Empire, and it precedes the Angkor period.

High point: Approximately two hundred meters to the west of the figurines, is a lookout which gives unimpeded views across to Siem Reap. It's worth noting that this site is located on one of the high points of Kulen Mountain. Once you head back to the Kulen Waterfall site, you'll understand this very clearly. The trail descends through what is the worst section of jungle track on the loop trail.



Two Lions & a Dog



Elephant Pond



A Life Size Elephant Statue

KBAL SPEAN: ANCIENT HINDU ROCK CARVINGS

About: This is an off the beaten track waterfall and historical site, located 48 km north of Siem Reap - on route # 67. To get there from Siem Reap, the best options are by guided tour or independently on a motorbike. **Note:** To visit this site, you'll need the ANGKOR PASS. **Click on the following GOOGLE MAPS link for directions from Siem Reap.**



Hindu Rock Carvings: The main sightseeing attractions are the ANCIENT HINDU ROCK CARVINGS, reportedly 1000 years old, which are located at a small, picturesque waterfall site. To see these attractions, you'll need to make a short hike (1.5 km) through a beautiful jungle landscape.

The Jungle Trail: From the parking area, there's a dedicated trail, with directional signage, which is easy enough to follow. The hike will normally take around thirty minutes as the first 800 meters is a steady incline. The trail eventually leads to the top of the waterfalls area where several Hindu Rock Carvings can be seen.

Note: If you visit during the rainy season, there'll probably be too much water flowing and you won't see the rock carvings.



Lingam Carvings

The 1000 Lingas: From the upper level, follow the riverside trail down to the lower level where you can see the LINGAM CARVINGS on the riverbed. According to on-line information resources (Wikipedia) the Kbal Spean site dates back to the early 9th century. It was the birthplace of the original Khmer culture, established by Jayavarman II on Kulen Mountain, and predates the Angkorian period.

The waterfall: At the very bottom of the riverside trail, down a wooden stairway, is the main waterfall. From the top of the stairway, the riverside trail veers back to the main trail and you can return to the parking area.



Ancient Hindu Rock Carvings

KBAL SPEAN: PHOTOS & VIDEO



Click the link to the right to see video highlights of KBAL SPEAN:



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