

SIEM REAP BEYOND THE TEMPLES

Day	Location	Activity	Learning Focus
1	> Siem Reap	Welcome to Cambodia! Arrival at Siem Reap Airport and transfer to reflection centre*	Welcome and settling in
2	> Homestay	Orientation and market scavenger hunt. Transfer to rural homestay (approx. 1 hr)	Orientation; preparing and setting intentions.
3	Homestay	Local living research project and taking part in village activities (eg. rice planting)	Daily life in a Cambodian village. Community tourism & voluntourism, incl. pros/cons
4	> Siem Reap	Return to Siem Reap (approx. 1 hr) via Landmine Museum. Introduction to Cambodia's 20 th century history	Khmer Rouge history and its impact on modern day Cambodia. The on-going trials and ideas of 'justice'
5	Siem Reap	Mighty Temples of Angkor and visit to the Phare Social Enterprise Circus	Ancient Khmer history and religion. Mass tourism at world heritage sites
6	Siem Reap	Morning cooking class, afternoon visit to PEPY NGO	(Challenges to) education and the experience of young people in Cambodia
7	> Home	Traditional blessing followed by reflections and departure*	Reflections and transference

Day 1: Arrive into Siem Reap International Airport in the late afternoon, where your PEPY Tours trip leaders will greet you. Transfer to a tranquil inter-faith reflection centre on the outskirts of the city to check in and freshen up, before we head out for a welcome dinner and our first taste of Cambodian food!*

Day 2: We will begin our Cambodian adventure by gathering together for a welcome orientation. Here there will be an opportunity to think about our apprehensions and goals for the journey ahead, and what we are most looking forward to experiencing and learning. It will then be time to head to the local market – a cornerstone of daily life in the 'Kingdom of Wonder' – and dive straight in **with a fun market scavenger hunt!**

After lunch at a funky local social enterprise restaurant it's time to pack our bags and drive one hour into the surrounding countryside, where we'll find a relatively 'new'

community of families who have voluntarily relocated from the Angkor Archaeological Park. This village is home to a small tourism project, and offers a unique opportunity to learn about the relationship between tourism and small communities, as well as daily life in rural Cambodia. For the next two evenings we'll be sampling local living by sleeping in traditional wooden houses on stilts.

Example framing questions: Why did I come on this trip? What do I hope to learn from my time in Cambodia? What can I bring to this experience? How can I make the most of this learning opportunity? How can I support my peers?

Day 3: Today will begin with breakfast together in the local community centre, before we spend the morning learning about life in the Cambodian countryside (where 80% of the Kingdom's population live) by immersing ourselves in day-to-day activities. This could include a guided walk around the village, a chance to try our hand at local crafts, and even helping the local farmers to plant rice.

In the afternoon we'll take part in a mini research project, dividing up into smaller groups and spending time shadowing community members and seeking deeper understanding on pertinent local issues like sanitation, waste management, power supply, and access to education and employment. Before dinner there will be an opportunity for each group to share their afternoon's findings! **As the sun sets we will make traditional (and environmentally friendly) sky lanterns and watch as they float away into the night sky.**

Example framing questions: What does 'community' mean? How does this rural village compare to life in Siem Reap? What challenges might this community face and how are they resolving them? How does this community engage with tourism? How do I feel about 'community tourism' and homestays? What is 'voluntourism', and what are some of the arguments for and against this type of travel?

Day 4: Understanding Cambodia's 20th century history is crucial to understanding its present day, so today we'll be taking a sobering look at the Khmer Rouge regime. We'll begin our day with an introductory overview of key events, before waving

goodbye to the village that has hosted us for the last few days and returning to Siem Reap via the famous Landmine Museum. Founded by a child soldier turned expert deminer, this incredible place offers a powerful opportunity to learn about both the Khmer Rouge and the legacy of landmines in Cambodia.

After lunch we'll return to the reflection centre to learn about the important human rights advocacy work that takes place here. **There may also be a chance to assist the team in building locally-designed wheelchairs to be distributed to landmine victims and other disabled individuals living in rural areas**, before spending some time reflecting on all that we've learned today. This evening there will be an optional film screening of the recently released and hugely popular Khmer movie 'The Last Reel'.

Example framing questions: What happened in Cambodia during the 1970s? What impact does the Khmer Rouge period continue to have? How has Cambodia sought to recover from this period? Has there been 'justice', and according to whose definition? What does 'human rights' mean? How might access to (or protection of) human rights differ from country to country? Why haven't all countries signed the agreement against the use and production of landmines?

Day 5: A trip to Cambodia wouldn't be complete without visiting the mighty Temples of Angkor! We'll start our day by watching the sun rise over the magnificent Angkor Wat, before exploring its intricate carvings and hidden corners. After breakfast at a local restaurant we'll spend the day exploring the Archaeological Park's most beloved temples, including the many smiling faces of Bayon and the increasingly tree-root strangled Ta Prohm (also known as the 'Tomb Raider' temple).

This evening we'll visit the Phare Ponleu Selpak Circus – an organization training talented but vulnerable Cambodian youths to become professional performers.

Example framing questions: What is 'mass tourism' and can we see any examples of it at the Angkor Temples? What benefits do the popularity of the Angkor Temples bring to local people? What could the advantages/disadvantages of 'mass tourism' be? What

could happen if a heritage site isn't carefully managed? How important is it to understand local culture and customs when we travel?

Day 6: It's never too late to learn something new, so on our last day in Cambodia we'll be rolling up our sleeves and finding out how to make our new favourite dishes in a traditional Khmer cooking class! After a morning of chopping, pounding, and stirring up a storm we'll enjoy the fruits of our labour over a leisurely lunch.

This afternoon we will turn our attention to education in Cambodia, and thinking about how young people's experiences here may compare to our own school lives. We'll learn some facts and figures, weigh up different approaches to making improvements, and even have an opportunity to meet some of the scholarship students that PEPY Empowering Youth – PEPY Tours' sister NGO – supports.

After our last dinner together this evening there will be a chance to test out our newly acquired Khmer skills with a visit to the Siem Reap Night Market!

Example framing questions: What are the key challenges for young people to access quality education in Cambodia? Why do so many young people drop out of school? What role do NGOs (local and international) play in the current education system? If I want to support improvements in education in Cambodia, what should I do?

Day 7: This morning there will be a chance for us to reflect on our adventure together, and consider all that we've learned and experienced. Afterwards there may be time for a traditional Buddhist blessing before we gather our bags and head to Siem Reap International Airport, ready for our trip home.*

Example framing questions: What has most surprised me about Cambodia? Have any of my opinions or perspectives shifted? What have I learned about myself? How will this experience influence my future behaviour or choices?