



A SIAM SOCIETY STUDY TRIP

Seven days in Cambodia: A visit to some remarkable masterpieces of architecture and statuary remains of the Pre-Angkor, Classical Angkor and Post-Angkor Periods

Saturday, 6 October – Friday 12 October 2018
with Mr. Euayporn Kerdchouay, Senior Consultant



Angkor Wat

The art and architecture of the ancient Khmer has been classified into periods by French art historians. Each style takes its name from the principal monument built by the ruler of Angkor, with the sequence being based on a combination of epigraphic information, evolution of the temple/mountain concept and architectural elements and types of ornamental carvings. Many of the elements found on the Khmer doorway, pilasters, pediments, lintels, etc. have been shown to change over the centuries and have come to be used as an index by which to date the temple. There are fourteen styles: namely Phnom Da, Sambor Prei Kuk, Prei Khmeng, Kampong Preah, Kulen, Preah Ko, Bakheng, Kor Ker, Pre Rup, Banteay Srei, Khleang, Baphuon, Angkor Wat and Bayon. The history of Cambodia can be divided for convenience into three major periods: *the Pre-Angkor Period* from the mid-5th century to the end of the 8th century: *the Angkor Period* from the 9th to the 13th century in which royal power became progressively more centralized while the capital, with one exception, remained in the Angkor area: and *the Post-Angkor Period* dating from the city's abandonment in 1431 to the present.

Since many roads in Sisophon, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom Provinces have been improved, now it is possible to explore many of ruins of the Pre-Angkor Period and the Angkor Period in Cambodia. These areas are safe now, but not yet crowded with tourists. The Siam Society, therefore is arranging a study trip for members to visit some of the remarkable masterpieces of architecture and statuary remains of the Pre-Angkor Period, the Angkor Period and the Post-Angkor Period in Cambodia from Saturday, 6 October to Friday, 12 October 2018. Interested members should not miss this opportunity to visit

portions of the first capital city of Chenla in Sambor Prei Kuk, Prei Kmeng style temple of Prasat Andet, the Koh Ker temples of Jayavarman IV built during mid-10th century, the Beng Mealea, “Lotus Pond”, the most magnificent Khmer temple in ruin state, which is situated what is now an uninhabited forest.

The group will be staying two nights at a hotel in Phnom Penh, one night at a small resort in Kompong Thom Province, and three nights at a hotel in Siem Reap. Members will also have an opportunity to visit the Phnom Penh National Museum, Siem Reap National Museum, Angkor Wat, the city of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Preah Khan, Ta Prohm and the beautiful temple of Banteay Srei.

The tentative programme will be as follows;

Day 1: Saturday, 6 October (Bangkok – Phnom Penh)

- 06:00 a.m. Meet at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport check-in counter for Bangkok Airways.
- 08:15 a.m. Depart Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Intl. Airport for Phnom Penh by flight PG 931.
- 09:30 a.m. Arrive at Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh; proceed to Phnom Penh National Museum by bus.
- Morning: Visit the National Museum of Khmer Art and Archaeology. This museum contains many masterpieces of Khmer art, artisanship and sculpture dating from Pre-Angkor period (Funan and Chenla), the classical Angkor period and the Post-Angkor period. The display is divided into two parts, archaeological and ethnographic. The archaeological section is further subdivided into three parts; bronze, stone and ceramics. The best and most beautiful masterpieces of Khmer bronze and sandstone artifacts are on display in this museum.
- Noon: Lunch at local restaurant.
- Afternoon: Visit the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda and follows by boat tour of the Tonle Sap River.
- Evening: Return to the hotel, dinner at local restaurant.
Overnight at the hotel Lumiere in Phnom Penh.

Day 2: Sunday, 7 October (Phnom Penh - Takeo – Phnom Penh)

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. Proceed to visit several historical sites of interest in Takeo province; such as Ta Prohm temple (Tonle Bati), Yeay Peau temple, Phnom Chisor temple, Angkor Borei and Phnom Da.
- Noon: Lunch at local restaurant in Takeo.
- Evening: Return to the Phnom Penh, dinner at local restaurant.
Overnight at the hotel Lumiere in Phnom Penh.

Day 3: Monday, 8 October (Phnom Penh - Kompong Thom - Sambor Prei Kuk)

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. Depart the hotel for Kompong Thom Province by bus.
- Noon: Lunch at Kompong Thom City and proceed to Sambor Prei Kuk.
- 2:30 p.m. Visit very interesting archeological sites at Sambor Prei Kuk.
Sambor Prei Kuk is also known as Isanapura, which is 35 km north of Kompong Thom City. It is one of the hardest to reach; all of ruins are in the jungle and was the capital of Chenla Kingdom of King Isanavarman I during mid-7th century. The site consists of three groups of edifices, most of which are made of brick, whose design prefigures a number of later developments in Khmer art. There are about 100 small temples scattered through the forest. There are some of the oldest structures in the country. A visit to the group of Pre-Angkorian monuments at Sambor Prei Kuk will give a member archeological insight into the development of temples architecture in Cambodia.
- Evening: Return to Kompong Thom City and check-in at Sambor Village Resort – A small and simple resort of the city.

- Dinner at restaurant and overnight at Sombo Village Resort in Kompong Thom.

Day 4: Tuesday, 9 October (Kompong Thom - Koh Ker - Beng Mealea -Siem Reap)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the resort.

8:30 a.m. Depart the resort for Siem Reap Province by bus.

Enroute: Visit the important 7th century temple of *Prasat Andet*, one containing an image of Harihara and visit an ancient Khmer Bridge at Kompong Kday. This impressive Angkor-style bridge, 80 metres long and 12 metres wide on the ancient route, passes east of the lake between Kompong Thom and Siem Reap.

Noon: Picnic lunch at Koh Ker.

1:30 p.m. Visit an ancient Angkorian Capital Temples at Koh Ker.

Koh Ker, also known as Chok Gargyar, consists of many brick and sandstone temple buildings. It served as the capital of Jayavarman IV who ruled 928-942 AD. He seized the throne, left Angkor and transferred his capital to this location where it remained throughout his reign. The principal monument of this large group of very interesting ruins is Prasat Thom, also known as Prasat Kompong, which includes a 40 meter-high, and stone-faced pyramid of seven levels. About 40 inscriptions, dating from 932 to 1010 AD, have been found at Prasat Thom.

3:30 p.m. Visit the 12th century temple of Beng Mealea.

The Beng Mealea temple is located about 7 km south-east of Phnom Kulen. Despite being in the state of ruin it is one of the most interesting of Angkor's many temples, and also one of the hardest to reach. Beng Mealea is enclosed by a moat measuring 1,200 m by 900 m. It is nearly the size of Angkor Wat but utterly overgrown by jungle.

Evening: Arrive at Siem Reap City; check-in at Regency Angkor Hotel

- Dinner at restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5: Wednesday, 10 October (Siem Reap)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel.

8:30 a.m. Depart the hotel to visit Prasat Banteay Srei.

9:30 a.m. Visit *Prasat Banteay Srei*. This temple was built in the late 10th century and is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva. It is considered by many to be the most perfect of Khmer temples. It is famous for its exquisite carvings executed in pink sandstone and for its inventive architecture.

Noon: Return to Siem Reap and lunch at local restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit Angkor Wat.

Angkor Wat, with its soaring towers and extraordinary bas-reliefs, is considered by many to be one of the most inspired and spectacular monuments ever conceived by human mind. It was built by King Suryavaraman II, reigned 1112 – 1152 AD. Angkor Wat is the largest and undoubtedly the most breathe taking of the monuments of Angkor.

Evening: Dinner at own arrangement and overnight at Regency Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap

Day 6: Thursday, 11 October (Siem Reap)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning: Visit the City of Angkor Thom and the Bayon Temple.

Angkor Thom, "The great capital", is a square city with 3 km long, 8 m high defensive walls on each side. At the four corners are sanctuary towers. It is surrounded by a 100 m wide moat. Five gates lead into the city, four on the cardinal points, the fifth, the Victory Gate, leads via a triumphal way directly towards the palace. The three towers of the gates are adorned with the four famous faces of Lokeshvara, a Mahayana Buddhist Bodhisattava, pointing in the four cardinal directions. The city incorporates many older temples such as the Baphuon, Phimeanakas and the Royal Palace, the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper-King, etc. The Magnificent Bayon temple was the state temple

of Angkor Thom and marks the center of the city.

Bayon – Three stories high, this was the state temple of King Jayavarman VII and his successors. The temple consists of a mass of face towers, originally 49, of which 37 still stand. The faces of the towers show the same Lokeshvara as the entrance gate of Angkor Thom. In the center of the temple is a round tower, 43 m high and 25 m in diameter. There are 8 bas-relief sections, each 35 m long and 3 m high. The most interesting reliefs are at the southern part of the eastern gallery and the southern gallery. Bayon takes an easy second place after Angkor Wat as the most popular of Angkor's many monuments.

Noon: Lunch at local restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit Angkor National Museum

Evening: Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at Regency Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap.

Day 7: Friday, 12 October (Siem Reap)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Morning: Visit Prasat Preah Khan. The third of Jayavarman VII's monasteries was built for his father in 1191 and is called Preah Khan, "Sacred Sword", after the protective symbol of Cambodia. The site is one of the largest temple compounds in Angkor and is defended by four concentric walls. To the south and east the site is bounded by the now dry Eastern Baray, a reservoir in the middle of which stands the temple of Preah Neak Pean. From the east and west, roads flanked by stone pillars lead to the temple. The first rampart has outer dimensions of 800 m by 700 m and is surrounded by a wide moat, once guarded by garudas, 7 m high. On all four sides, a "Street of Giants," as in Angkor Thom, leads across the moat. The temple and the main shrine and its adjoining buildings are richly decorated. The lintels, bas-reliefs, pediments, friezes and panels are all adorned with Buddhist motifs and scenes from the Hindu epics with goddesses, dancers and a wealth of other detail.

Noon: Lunch at local restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit Prasat Ta Prohm. King Jayavarman VII had the monastery built as residence for his mother in 1186, who has been deified as Praynaparamita. The temple, which measures 445 m, is a labyrinth of passages, and halls, made even more confusing by the jungle vegetation forcing its way in from all sides. The older parts of Ta Prohm display careful workmanship and a variety of ornamentation; dancing apsaras are almost as common as at Angkor Wat. Ta Prohm was built as a monastery for a large number of people, not as a place for worshiping the gods or god-kings, as were the temples of the Angkor periods. Around the main building there are many small pavilions, calls and shrines, as well as houses for accommodating pilgrims. The entrance building consists of a large hall with three cloisters, and nearby there is another with square columns. Beside the rampart there are about 100 monks' cells with porticos of laterite. The path leads into a large courtyard where decorated with false gates on the walls. The main shrine is in the center, surrounded by dense green jungle, into which light filters through the branches of tall trees.

Late afternoon: Proceed to the airport.

7:25 p.m. Depart to Bangkok by Bangkok Airways PG 908

8:35 p.m. Arrive at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport.

Contribution:

Bt. 61,500 (Bt. 65,000 for non-members). Single room surcharge **Bt. 10,500.** **A deposit of Bt. 15,000 and photocopy of passport must accompany the booking.** Your reservation will be confirmed as soon as the deposit has been made. **Payment in full is required 30 days before the start of the trip** (i.e. by Saturday, 6 September 2018)

Please pay by cash or cheque payable to 'The Siam Society'. There is a 4% surcharge for credit/debit card payment to cover bank charges. Alternatively you can deposit/transfer the money to the Siam Society travel account at the Thai Military Bank, Asoke Branch saving account no. 053-2-18000-7. Please fax or e-mail the deposit or transfer docket to us. In case the tour has to be cancelled due to insufficient participants, a full refund of the deposit will be made.

Includes/Excludes:

The contribution includes 18 meals, airfares, airport transfers, accommodation for two persons per room, entrance fees, gratuities and other costs incurred to make this trip possible. **It excludes visa fee (if any), personal expenses, personal beverages, etc.**

To comply with payment and cancellation policies set forth by tour agencies, and to facilitate smooth working condition between the Siam Society and the tour agencies, please read carefully the revised cancellation policies stated below:

Cancellation charge:

30 days before the start of the trip:	Deposit forfeited
15 days before the start of the trip	50% of the tour cost
Less than 7 days or cancellation without notice:	No refund

Booking details:

Your booking will not be confirmed until deposit payment has been received. Please book your place as soon as possible. Please supply a copy of your passport with your booking. For further information and bookings please contact Khun Prasert or Khun Supanut Tel.0-2661-6470-3 ext. 504,506 Fax.0-2258-3491 or e-mail: supanut@siam-society.org. The Society office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. The Siam Society reserves the right to change the programme as necessary.

The Siam Society uses any financial revenue arising from its study trips to support the activities of the Society in its library, museum and publications programmes.

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