



CAPITAL CITY

The capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia is **Phnom Penh**.

SIZE

The total land area of Cambodia is 181,035 Km²

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

Cambodia, located in Southeast Asia, shares its borders with Thailand to the northwest, Laos to the north, and Vietnam to the east and southeast. To the southwest, it has a 435-kilometer coastline along the Gulf of Thailand, featuring two predominant topographical features: coastal plains and mountain ranges.

POPULATION

As of **2025**, Cambodia's population is approximately **17.8 million people**.

90% of the population is ethnic Khmer (Cambodian). The rest of the population is made up of Chinese, Vietnamese, Muslim Chams and hill tribe minorities in the Eastern part of the country.

The dominant religion is Theravada Buddhism.

LANGUAGE

Khmer is the official language. The Khmer written system uses its own unique script, which is one of the oldest writing systems in Southeast Asia.

English is generally spoken and understood in urban areas, tourism, and business. In addition, French was historically used during Cambodia's colonial period and is still familiar to certain groups of older generations in Cambodia.

CURRENCY

The currency of Cambodia is the **Cambodian Riel (KHR) (៛)**.

As of March 2025, the exchange rate is: 1 USD = 4,100 KHR, 1 EUR = 4,450 KHR.

Banknotes:

- Common denominations: 100 KHR, 500 KHR, 1,000 KHR, 2,000 KHR, 5,000 KHR, 10,000 KHR, 20,000 KHR, and 50,000 KHR.
- **The US Dollar is widely used** alongside the Cambodian Riel, especially for larger transactions. However, the change will be given back to you in local currency (Riel) as there are no USD cents in Cambodia.

ATM & Credit Card Usage

- ATMs are widely available in urban areas and tourist destinations; and provide both Riel and USD.
- Most ATMs accept Visa, MasterCard, and UnionPay.
- Credit cards like Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and large stores. American Express and other cards may be accepted in select locations.

Travel Tip: Cash Recommendations

- Prepare US Dollars in cash for convenience, or exchange Euros for USD in your home country for better rates.
- Carry small USD notes for initial expenses and small Riel notes (500 or 1,000) for minor purchases.
- Avoid using old, scribbled, or stained banknotes when exchanging Riels, as banks and exchange offices may not accept them.

Banks are usually open from 08h00 to 15h30 from Monday to Friday. Only a few banks open half-day on Saturday.

CLIMATE

Cambodia has a tropical monsoon climate with two main seasons:

- **Dry Season (November–April):** The weather is generally sunny and dry, with lower humidity. Temperature: ranging from 20–30°C (68–86°F), making it the most popular time for tourism.
- **Green Season (May–October):** During this season, the country experiences heavy rainfall but comes bursting in short and high humidity. Temperature: ranging from 25–35°C (77–95°F).

Temperatures are warm all year long. And each season offers unique experiences.

LOCAL TIME

Cambodia follows Indochina Time (ICT, UTC+7).

Cambodia is 7 hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time.

ELECTRICITY

In Cambodia electric current is mostly **220V**. Sockets are generally round two-pin type.

Travelers are advised to **bring an adapter or converter** (if need).



TAP WATER

It is advisable not to drink water from the tap unless it is boiled properly. Bottled mineral water is available.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The phone country code for Cambodia is **+855**.

Cambodia has a growing telecommunications network, with 4G LTE coverage available in most urban areas and 5G services gradually being introduced.

Wi-Fi is accessible in hotels, cafes, and public spaces, particularly in cities and tourist destinations.

HEALTH & MEDICAL FACILITIES

All travelers to Cambodia should be up to date with their routine immunizations, including seasonal influenza, and should be protected against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and typhoid fever. Although yellow fever is not a disease risk in Cambodia, the government requires travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever virus transmission to present proof of yellow fever vaccination.

Major cities like Phnom Penh and Siem Reap have private hospitals with highly trained staff and modern equipment. Many of these **hospitals have English-speaking staff**, and some even provide **interpretation services** for other languages like French, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

However, we recommend purchasing medical travel insurance and bringing essential medications before traveling to Cambodia.

For emergencies, dial 119 for ambulance services.

TRANSPORTATION

By Air: Cambodia has **3 main international airports: Phnom Penh International Airport (PNH), Siem Reap–Angkor International Airport (SAI) and Sihanoukville International Airport (KOS).**

By Road: Road networks have improved, but still need to be upgraded in some areas. To cover a distance, it is reasonable to count an average speed of 50 km/hour.

By speedboat, a popular mode of transportation in Cambodia, especially for traveling to islands and along rivers. It takes 6 hours from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. However, this journey is not recommended for elderly persons and groups.

DRIVING

An **International Driving Permit (IDP)** is required for foreigners driving in Cambodia.

Road condition in cities like Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are good. However, rural areas may have unpaved or poorly maintained roads.

For your information, people drive on the right side.

CUISINE

Cambodian cuisine is similar to Thai and Laotian food but less spicy, with unique local dishes. Staples include curries, stir-fried vegetables, rice, noodles, and soups.

Popular dishes: Amok (creamy fish curry steamed in banana leaves, made with coconut milk), **Lok Lak** (Stir-fried beef, often accompanied by rice), **Prahok Ktish** (fermented fish paste, coconut milk, and minced pork, typically served with fresh vegetables).

CUSTOMS AND HABITS

Religious freedom is recognized by the Cambodian constitution. Buddhism is an integral part of the national identity and has been Cambodia's official religion since 1989. Cambodia has a strong religious tradition. It is therefore advisable to respect local customs.

- Greetings: The traditional greeting is the **Sampeah**, where hands are pressed together in front of the chest with a slight bow. The higher the hands, the greater the respect.
- Temple Visits: Modest clothing that covers the shoulders and knees is required (for both men and women). Dresses that are too skimpy should be avoided in general. Shoes and hats should be removed before entering.
- Head and Feet: The head is considered sacred, while feet are seen as the lowest part of the body. Avoid touching someone's head or pointing your feet at people or sacred objects.

SHOPPING

Cambodia offers a variety of goods, from antiques and jewelry to silk and handicrafts. Don't miss the chance to buy Kampot pepper. While prices are often fixed, bargaining is encouraged in some cases.

Siem Reap offers a variety of shopping experiences, from bustling markets to artisan shops. Some popular areas to visit for souvenirs, handicrafts, and local goods: Old Market, Angkor Night Market; Artisan Angkor, Lucky Mall.

TIPPING

Tipping in Cambodia is appreciated but not mandatory. Note that prices in the hotels and restaurants usually include 10% for VAT and 5% for service charges.

ACCESS

Cambodia is accessible by air, land, and water.

Travelers can enter by land through neighboring countries like Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam; or by sea through Sihanouk International Seaport and Phnom Penh Port. While there are no direct flights from Europe or America to Cambodia, most routes include a stopover in major transit hubs like Bangkok, Singapore, or Seoul.

VISA AND PASSPORT

Visa Exemptions: Citizens of certain ASEAN countries can enter without a visa for a duration of stay from 14 to 30 days.

To obtain a visa, ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your return date; and should have at least one blank page for the visa stamp.

- **E-Visa:** Apply online for a 30-day tourist visa. Complete the e-Arrival Card 7 days before arrival at e-Visa Official Site (<https://arrival.gov.kh/>).
- **Visa on Arrival:** Available at airports and borders from Thailand (at Koh Kong, Poi Pet, O'Smach and Pailin checkpoints); from Vietnam (at Tay Ninh Bavet-Moc Bai checkpoints) and from Laos (at DonKrolor-Tropeag Kriel checkpoints).
- Visas can also be acquired directly at Cambodian Embassies and Consulates abroad.

BEFORE GOING

If you are traveling to Cambodia, light clothing, especially made of natural fibers, is appropriate all year long, though, a jacket or a sweater may be useful in the evening in December and January.

Although you can find all these products in Cambodia, we also recommend you take a mosquito repellent, a high-factor sunblock, a cap or hat, sunglasses, a raincoat, and a small bag to carry a few things in case you must leave your big suitcases at the hotel for a few days.



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