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**Tour Name:** Preah Vihear and Preah Khan Kampong Svay Excursion

**Tour Code:** A2I

**Tour Duration:** 2 days

**Tour Operates:** all year round / on demand

**Number of Pax:** available upon request

**Tour Price:** available upon request

### **Pick-up and drop-off location**

Can be anywhere upon request

Hotel in Siem Reap

Upon arrival in Siem Reap airport

Upon arrival in Siem Reap bus station

Upon arrival in boat pier in Chong Kneah floating village

Any AirBnB and residences in Siem Reap

Any residences in Siem Reap.

### **Pick-up and drop-off direction**

Kindly provide your pick-up and drop-off styles for direction!

### **DAY I - PREAH VIHEAR**

**Preah Vihear** - in the morning, you will be met and welcomed by our English speaking guide, picked up and transferred onward to visit Preah Vihear temple. It is situated atop cliff in the Preah Vihear province of northern Cambodia (180 kilometers from Angkor Wat) and on the border of Kantharalak district (amphoe) in Sisaket province of eastern Thailand. In 1962, following a lengthy dispute between Thailand and Cambodia over ownership, a majority of the International Court of Justice in The Hague awarded the temple to Cambodia.

Affording a view for many kilometers across a plain, Prasat Preah Vihear has the most spectacular setting of all the temples built during the six-centuries-long Khmer Empire. As a key edifice of the empire's spiritual life, it was supported and modified by successive kings and so bears elements of several architectural styles. Preah Vihear is unusual among Khmer temples in being constructed along a long north-south axis, rather than having the conventional rectangular plan with orientation toward the east. The temple gives its name to Cambodia's Preah Vihear province, in which it is now located.

### **Nomenclature**

Prasat Preah Vihear is the compound of words Prasat, Preah and Vihear, which mean the "religious offering of sacred shrine". In Sanskrit, Prasat means "religious offering" which could even be taken as synonym of "temple" in this context, Preah mean "sacred" or "beloved", and "Vihear" from the Sanskrit word Vihara means "abode" or "shrine" (the central structure of the temple).

In Khmer, "phnom" means mountain, and Cambodians occasionally refer to it as "Phnom Preah Vihear". These versions of the name carry significant political and national connotations (see below: New dispute over ownership).

### **Location**

The temple was built at the top of Poy Tadi, a steep cliff in the Dânggrêk Mountain range which is the natural border between Cambodia and Thailand.

The Temple is currently listed by Cambodia as being in Svay Chrum Village, Kan Tout Commune, in Choam Khsant



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District of Preah Vihear Province of northern Cambodia. The temple is 140 km from Angkor Wat and 625 km from Phnom Penh.

The Temple was listed by Thailand as being in Bhumsrol village of Bueng Malu sub-district (now merged with Sao Thong Chai sub-district), in Kantharalak district of the Sisaket Province of eastern Thailand. It is 110 km from the Mueang Sisaket District, the center of Sisaket Province.

In 1962 the ICJ ruled that only the temple building belonged to Cambodia, while the direct way to access the temple is from Thailand.

On July 7, 2008, Preah Vihear was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Construction of the first temple on the site began in the early 9th century; both then and in the following centuries it was dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva in his manifestations as the mountain gods Sikharesvara and Bhadresvara. The earliest surviving parts of the temple, however, date from the Koh Ker period in the early 10th century, when the empire's capital was at the city of that name.

Today, elements of the Banteay Srei style of the late 10th century can be seen, but most of the temple was constructed during the reigns of the Khmer kings Suryavarman I (1002 -1050) and Suryavarman II (1113 -1150). An inscription found at the temple provides a detailed account of Suryavarman II studying sacred rituals, celebrating religious festivals and making gifts, including white parasols, golden bowls and elephants, to his spiritual advisor, the aged Brahman Divakarapandita. The Brahman himself took an interest in the temple, according to the inscription, donating to it a golden statue of a dancing Shiva. In the wake of the decline of Hinduism in the region the site was converted to use by Buddhists.

Lunch at local restaurant (at your own costs)

Continue driving to Preah Vihear downtown. Dinner at local restaurant in downtown (at your own costs).

Overnight at your hotel in Preah Vihear province.

## **DAY II - PREAH KHAN KAMPONG SVAY**

**Preah Khan Kampong Svay** - in the morning, after breakfast at the hotel, transfer onward to Preah Khan Kampong Svay temple. The archeological complex of Preah Khan (of) Kampong Svay or Prasat Bakan (according to local pronunciation) or Bakan Svay Rolay is located 100 km east of Angkor, in Preah Vihear province, Cambodia. It stands as the largest single religious complex ever built during Angkorian Era, as its exterior enclosure is about 5 km square, even if the isolated location makes it one of less visited Angkorian sites.

### **History**

There are few historical data about Preah Khan Kompong Svay. French scholars argued it had been founded in the 11th century, probably by Suryavarman I. It was a royal residence during the kingdom of Suryavarman II and even Jayavarman VII lived here, before recapturing the capital city of Yasodharapura from invading Chams in 1181, and improved the complex

### **The discovery of the complex**

After some French missions at the turn of the 19th century, Victor Goloubew in 1937 engaged in aerial surveys which



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revealed the real extension of the complex.

Many famous Khmer sculptures come from here, such as the putative head of Jayavarman VII which is exposed at the National Museum of Phnom Penh. The sculptures and carvings of Preah Khan of Kompong Svay are among the peaks of Khmer art and the temples have been widely sacked in the past by official expeditions, like Louis Delaporte's one, whereas thieves have largely damaged many structures while looting sculptures and carvings from the second half of the 1990s.

### **The site**

Preah Khan Kompong Svay covers an area about 5 kilometers square, is oriented to north-east and has four concentric enclosures. It was provided with water by a large baray (2.8 km by 750 m but almost completely dried at present), which crosses the eastern side. On an artificial island (mebon) in the middle of the baray there is Preah Thkol, a cruciform temple in sandstone with a standing central tower. In the southeastern corner stands the remains of the 15 metres high pyramid of Preah Damrei, with laterite enclosure and two stone elephants (Damrei means elephant) at its upper corners. The other two elephants are exhibited at the National Museum of Phnom Penh and Guimet Museum in Paris.

Inside the exterior enclosure, in the middle of the western side of baray, there is Prasat Preah Stung with a peculiar four-faced central tower in Bayon style, which is preceded by a landing-stage with nāga balaustrades. A laterite causeway leads from here to a centric enclosure, 701 m by 1097 m, surrounded by a moat and endowed with four gopuras similar to Angkor Thom. Near the eastern gopura there is a dharmasala.

The inner laterite enclosure contains the central sanctuary, that stands on a two-tier platform. The central tower collapsed because of a looting attempt in 2003. It has entrances in all cardinal directions and is rounded by a windowed gallery.

### **World heritage status**

This site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List on September 1, 1992 in the Cultural category.

Lunch at local restaurant (at your own costs)

Return to Siem Reap.

**TOUR ENDS**



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### PRICE

- private solo tour: USD390
- private tour for 2 persons: USD215 per person
- private tour for 3 persons: USD150 per person
- private tour for 4 persons: USD125 per person
- private tour for 5 persons: USD110 per person
- private tour for 6 persons: USD91 per person
- private tour for 7 persons: USD85 per person
- private tour for 8 persons: USD80 per person
- private tour for 9 persons: USD71 per person
- the more people, the better price.

### INCLUDED

- Full tours and transfers by private luxury A/C vehicle
- English speaking guide
- All entrance fees for mentioned visit
- Transfer up and down Preah Vihear mountain by private 4WD.

### EXCLUDED

- Meals not mentioned
- Accommodation
- Visa fees \$30 (visa on arrival, please bring 1 of your recent passport-size photo to visit your Cambodia visa). Southeast Asian passport holders do not require a Cambodian visa
- Drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips and expenditure of a personal nature
- Personal travel insurance
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary.

### Creating Unique Touring Experiences

Our expert travel team has planned your trip so that you can experience the very best of what Cambodia Vietnam, Laos and Thailand have to offer. We understand that many will have various needs and wants for each particular tour that may not be included in an itinerary. We will plan any tour to meet your particular demands. Please **Send inquiry>>>**

Or feel free to contact us at

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