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TRAVEL TRAILS

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Tour Name: Preah Vihear, Koh Ker and Beng Melea Guided Excursion

Tour Code: A1K

Tour Duration: 1 day

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.

Pick-up and drop-off direction

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

PREAH VIHEAR, KOH KER AND BENG MELEA EXCURSION

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.

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 Sikhahesvara 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)

Koh Ker – continue visit Koh Ker. It is a former capital of the Khmer Kingdom, pre-dating Angkor, and is home to many



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spectacular 10th century temples. A brief interruption: the exception took place in 928AD when, for reasons that remain unclear, there was a disruption in the royal succession. King Jayavarman IV moved the capital 100 km from Angkor north to Koh Ker, where it remained for 20 years. When the capital returned to Angkor, it centered not at Phnom Bakheng as it had before, but further east at the new state-temple of Pre Rup (961AD).

Beng Melea - continue to visit Beng Melea. Sprawling jungle temple covering over one square kilometer, the temple is largely overrun by vegetation and very lightly touristed, giving it an adventures, 'lost temple' feel. Photographers: trees growing from the broken towers and galleries offer some of the best 'tree in temple' shots aside from Ta Prohm. Constructed in a distinctly Angkor Wat style under the same king that built Angkor Wat, Beng Melea preceded and may have served as a prototype of sorts for Angkor Wat. Though there are some lintel and doorway carving, there are no bas-relief and the carvings are comparatively sparse. When the temple was active, the walls may have been covered, painted or had frescos. In its time, Beng Melea was at the crossroads of several major highways that ran to Angkor, Koh Ker, Preah Vihear (in northern Cambodia) and northern Vietnam.

Return to Siem Reap.

TOUR ENDS



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PRICE

- private solo tour: USD255
- private tour for 2 persons: USD153 per person
- private tour for 3 persons: USD135 per person
- private tour for 4 persons: USD120 per person
- private tour for 5 persons: USD110 per person
- private tour for 6 persons: USD100 per person
- private tour for 7 persons: USD92 per person
- private tour for 8 persons: USD88 per person
- private tour for 9 persons: USD85 per person
- the more people, the better price.

INCLUDED

- Full tours and transfers by private luxury A/C vehicle
- English speaking guide
- Preah Vihear ticket
- Koh Ker ticket
- Beng Melea ticket
- 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.

Contact in Siem Reap

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