
GEEO ITINERARY

Cambodia for Families

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Vietnam at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to rest and adjust to any time difference. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Ho Chi Minh City before the trip.

Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Day 2: Mekong Delta (B) Enjoy a boat cruise through the villages, islands, and markets of the Mekong Delta. Visit traditional candy factories.

Please Note: For travelers who are also on our Family Vietnam trip, it might feel repetitive to go back to the Mekong Delta. You can stay back in Ho Chi Minh City if you wish and skip this activity. Your tour leader can help you arrange an alternative day trip at your own expense, such as visiting the Cu Chi Tunnels.

Today, we travel to where the mighty Mekong River approaches and empties into the South China Sea. We board a small boat and navigate through the narrow canals, witnessing local lifestyle, floating vendors, and small industrial boats. You will notice that many of the Vietnamese boats have eyes painted on the front to ward off evil spirits and to help guide the boat and crew safely back to land.

We disembark our boat to visit some cottage industries for which the area is famous, such as delicious and chewy coconut candy, rice cakes, Vietnamese popcorn, and pottery. Don't miss the chance to try the unique regional "elephant fish" at a local restaurant during our lunch break.

After a day of touring this unique region, we return to Ho Chi Minh City in time for dinner.

Approximate travel time: 4.5-5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City/Phnom Penh (B) Travel day with border crossing from Vietnam to Cambodia. Enjoy a cyclo tour through Phnom Penh.

Today, we cross into Cambodia by public bus. The drive to the Vietnam-Cambodia border takes around 2 hours. After completing the border formalities, we continue by private vehicle another 3 hours to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, arriving mid-afternoon.

After years of civil strife and political turmoil, Cambodia is open to visitors. In the late afternoon, we each get in traditional cyclos and depart from Wat Phnom. Tour busy streets to soak up the real vibe of the city. Pass the post office and Van's restaurant, both stunning colonial buildings, and make your way to the Royal Palace and National Museum. Go along the riverside road and take in the atmospheric cafes that line the street.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by public bus, 3 hrs by private vehicle, 1 hr on cyclo tour

Day 4: Phnom Penh (B) Guided tour of Tuol Sleng Museum (S-21 Prison) and Choeng Ek (Killing Fields). Opt to visit the Royal Palace, the National Museum, or the Central Market.

This morning, a local guide will teach us more about the dark side of Cambodian history. We will visit to Choeng Ek, the somber yet serene site of the infamous Killing Fields. The grounds now stand as a powerful memorial filled with victims' skulls and mass graves. Afterward, we visit the Tuol Sleng Museum, where we will learn about the dark history and devastation that occurred when the museum operated instead as Security Prison 21 (S-21) under the Khmer Rouge. We will take a guided tour to hear the stories behind the somber photos lining the museum walls.

Afterward, you will have a free afternoon to explore the city's many sights: the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, and/or the National Museum. You might choose to visit the Russian Market, packed with souvenirs and all the necessities of daily life. Late afternoon is a great time to visit Wat Phnom, the sanctuary where the city's namesake once stood. It is a Buddhist shrine, although a Taoist goddess and numerous monkeys also reside here. Wat Phnom is a popular hangout for residents of the city in the afternoon heat. For a fitting finale to the day, sip a drink in one of the many riverside café's watching the sun set.

Day 5: Phnom Penh/Siem Reap (B) Drive from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, the home base for exploring incredible Angkor Wat.

Today, we drive from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, the home base from which we will explore the incredible Angkor Wat tomorrow.

You can pre-book the Phase Circus with us for this day. For \$18, enjoy a stellar performance by Phare, a unique and socially-conscious circus that injects Cambodian culture and history into its inspiring shows. See acrobatics, contortion, and aerial arts melded with theatre, modern dance, and more. Take in stories of war, relationships, and discrimination, inspired by the real-life experiences of Phare's creators and performers.

Approximate travel time: 6 hrs by private vehicle.

Day 6: Siem Reap (B, D) Enjoy a guided tour of the Angkor Wat temple complex. Opt to visit the Tonlé Sap floating village and the Angkor National Museum. Enjoy a traditional meal of Khmer food at a local home in a village outside the city.

Today, we watch the sun rise over the massive Angkor temple complex during a guided tour. You might opt to visit the Tonlé Sap floating village, where you can see what life is like living on a lake; rice planting, pig farming, even attending churches and school are all done on top of water.

If you choose to visit the interactive Angkor National Museum, you will learn about the story of Angkor and the Khmer empire. The museum's inspiring galleries and interactive technology bring Angkor's past to life.

We will enjoy a traditional meal of Khmer food at a local home in a village outside the city or at a G Adventures-supported project, New Hope, depending on the day or the week.

Day 7: Siem Reap (B) Spend another day in Siem Reap, exploring more temples of Angkor or going further afield.

Today, you have another free day to explore Siem Reap and Angkor, the former capital of the Khmer

kingdom and one of the wonders of the archaeological world. See some of the highlights of this ancient capital, like sunrise at the magnificent temple of Angkor Wat, the enigmatic Bayon within the walled city of Angkor Thom, and Ta Prohm, also known as the "Tomb Raider" temple.

You can also book at Siem Reap Quad Biking tour with us. After a safety briefing and test drive, hop on a quad bike and follow your guide through the scenic countryside surrounding Siem Reap. Pass rice fields, buffalo, temples, and small villages bathed in dusk light as you ride, and be sure to wave hello to friendly locals. Cap off your ride with a stop at a viewpoint to enjoy a memorable Cambodian sunset.

Day 8: Bangkok (B) Cross into Thailand on this long travel day. Spend an evening exploring Bangkok.

It's a long travel day today as a private vehicle takes us from the countryside of Cambodia to the modern kingdom of Thailand. The drive from Siem Reap to the border is around 3 hours. Please be aware that the border crossing formalities can take up to an hour. Upon entering Thailand, we continue our journey to Bangkok.

When we arrive in Bangkok, we will have time to check into our centrally-located hotel and head out for an evening meal to celebrate the end of a wonderful journey.

Approximate travel time: 8 hrs by private vehicle, including border crossing

Day 17: Bangkok Depart Bangkok at any time. We highly recommend booking extra post-trip accommodation to fully experience this lively city.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Ho Chi Minh City at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Ho Chi Minh City, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

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If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.