

CAMBODIA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++855

Capital: Phnom Penh **Time:** GMT + 7

Tourism of Cambodia, webmaster@tourismcambodia.com

<http://www.tourismcambodia.com>

Background: Following a five-year struggle, communist Khmer Rouge forces captured Phnom Penh in 1975 and ordered the evacuation of all cities and towns; over 1 million displaced people died from execution or enforced hardships. A 1978 Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge into the countryside and touched off 13 years of fighting. UN-sponsored elections in 1993 helped restore some semblance of normalcy, as did the rapid diminishment of the Khmer Rouge in the mid-1990s. A coalition government, formed after national elections in 1998, brought renewed political stability and the surrender of remaining Khmer Rouge forces.

Location: Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, between Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos

Map References: Southeast Asia

Area: total: 181,040 sq km land: 176,520 sq km water: 4,520 sq km

Climate: tropical; rainy, monsoon season (May to November); dry season (December to April); little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain: mostly low, flat plains; mountains in southwest and north

Natural Resources: timber, gemstones, some iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential

Population: 12,212,306

Nationality: noun: Cambodian(s) adjective: Cambodian

Ethnic Groups: Khmer 90%, Vietnamese 5%, Chinese 1%, other 4%

Religions: Theravada Buddhist 95%, other 5%

Languages: Khmer (official) 95%, French, English

Economy: After four years of solid macroeconomic performance, Cambodia's economy slowed dramatically in 1997-98 due to the regional economic crisis, civil violence, and political infighting. Foreign investment and tourism fell off. Also, in 1998 the main harvest was hit by drought. But in 1999, the first full year of peace in 30 years, progress was made on economic reforms and growth resumed at 4%. The long-term development of the economy after decades of war remains a daunting challenge. The population lacks education and productive skills, particularly in the poverty-ridden countryside, which suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure. Recurring political instability and corruption within government discourage foreign investment and delay foreign aid. On the brighter side, the government is addressing these issues with assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors. So long as political stability lasts, the Cambodian economy is likely to grow at a respectable pace.

Industries: garments, rice milling, fishing, wood and wood products, rubber, cement, gem mining, textiles

Currency: 1 new riel (CR) = 100 sen

Railways: total: 603 km narrow gauge: 603 km 1.000-m gauge

Highways: total: 35,769 km paved: 4,165 km unpaved: 31,604 km (1997 est.)

Waterways: 3,700 km navigable all year to craft drawing 0.6 m or less; 282 km navigable to craft drawing 1.8 m or less

Ports and Harbors: Kampong Saom (Sihanoukville), Kampot, Krông Kaoh Kong, Phnom Penh

Airports: 19 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 6 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 914 to 1,523 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 13 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2914 to 1,523 m: 11 (1999 est.)

Heliports: 3 (1999 est.)

Visa: passports valid for 6 months and visas required by all.

Duty Free: 200 cigarettes or an equivalent quantity of cigars or tobacco, 1 open bottle of spirits, reasonable amount of perfume.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers. Risk of Malaria present. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

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