



## **Cambodia Information**

### **57<sup>TH</sup> Department of Pacific Areas Convention**

### **54<sup>th</sup> Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch**

***11-15 June Phnom Penh, Cambodia***

Greetings from Cambodia the Kingdom of Wonder. The following is some information that will assist you when traveling to Cambodia for the Convention.

#### **Helpful information for Phnom Penh**

1. Visa: Visa on arrival is available for US Citizens and the ASEAN Community. However, the quickest way to obtain a visa is via the official website: <https://www.evisa.gov.kh> Please ensure that you are using the correct site. There are several 2 party agencies that do this for additional fees. Steer clear of them. The online fee for the visa is \$36.00. When you receive your visa via email print 2 copies. 1 Copy will be given to the Immigration officer and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one you can insert into your passport. Another benefit of doing your visa online is, you can remove the visa from your passport when your trip is completed saving the loss of a passport page which would happen when purchasing your visa at the airport on arrival.
2. Travel cost from the airport to the hotel. Average cost of a taxi is \$10 - \$15. There are also what we call Tuk Tuks. This ride should not be any more than \$5.
3. Do not venture out alone. Use the “Buddy System” when visiting the local entertainment district. As in any country, there is always trouble to be found.
4. Beware of pickpockets and the public display and use of your mobile phones when traveling the streets. Snatch and Grabs can occur at any time even when riding in a Tuk Tuk. Keep your phone in your pocket!
5. Transportation. The preferred method of getting around Phnom Penh is the Tuk Tuk. The average cost is approximately \$1 per Kilometer. This cost can increase later in the evening. Feel free to negotiate, or walk away. If you obtain Cambodian SIM card for your mobile device for use when you are in Cambodia. You can download an application called PASSAPP. This application allows you to hire a vehicle at any time with consistent pricing and automatic email receipts.
6. Avoid street people. It is typical for young girls to mislead you on their age. Getting caught with an underage and will most likely extend your visit here.
7. Do not openly display expensive jewelry or flash large sums of cash.
8. Keep your ID, Passport, and other credit cards locked in your room when not needed.

9. If you have a visitor in your room. Protect your valuables and do not leave them unattended.
10. Gambling. There are 2 local casinos in Phnom Penh. Naga World, and Naga World 2. Do not get lured into local gambling parlors for gambling purposes.
11. The currencies used in Phnom Penh are the US Dollar, and the Cambodian Rial. Dollars are always preferred but Rials are accepted. Bring \$1 \$5 \$10 \$20 for everyday purchases and to make sure NOT damaged in any way, and old bills are not accepted. Additionally, \$1 and \$5 bills are not readily available here. If you are due change in this amount, you will be provided RIALS. Bring \$100 for big purchases such as hotel bills..
12. Credit cards. Credit cards are widely accepted at most hotels and by ATMs for cash advances. However, they are not accepted by most local retailers and restaurants.
13. ATMS. All ATM's in Cambodia will dispense either Rials or US Dollars. It is recommended that you use an ATM that is directly attached to a bank. Some local ATM's have a history of dispensing counterfeit bills. Recommended ATM's are ABA Bank which are readily available.
14. Western food and their locations. There are far too many to list here. Your best friend for finding them is google maps. You will find everything from Burger King to Papa Johns and the like are no further than a short walk or \$1 to \$2 Tuk Tuk Ride. Also don't forget the street food. Their wares are sold along Sisowath Quay (Riverside). My rule when it comes to this type of fine dining is to ensure that it is cooked.
15. Hotel Cambodiana can book and schedule tours of some of the local attractions. To include but are not limited to the Killing Fields/Temples/Palace, and Shopping. Additionally, Post Spouses will coordinate day trip opportunities with your families.
16. Clubs/Bars: The majority of bars visited in Phnom Penh are located on Streets 136, 130, and 118. These areas are safe for the most part. When visiting these establishments remember that several of the bar employees fill specific functions such as service staff or others that are selling their wares. The only club at present that dresses their service staff in white shirts and black skirts is secrets. Additionally, Secrets provides a 15% Discount to VFW Members that present their membership cards. As a reminder some Cambodian bars do employ Transgender personnel. Buyer beware!
17. Lastly, Stay safe and enjoy your time in Cambodia.

Yours in Service to Veterans

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