



Cambodia Photography Group Quest

Siem Reap, Cambodia
June 29 – July 9, 2008

Welcome to Photography With a Difference!

Watch the sunrise and breathe in sandalwood incense as you walk with the Buddhist monks on their morning alms quest. Spend time with people in their homes and share a meal, teach children English, or take them swimming. Enjoy a lazy afternoon learning the Khmer language and making new friends. Experience unbelievable sights, such as the Angkor Wat temple complex, and an entire floating village, that moves with the floods and draughts, on the largest lake in Southeast Asia.

Join photographer Dr. Jon Ryder to exotic Southeast Asia and discover ancient temples, brilliant culture, exotic landscapes, and beautiful people.

* The meals included in your program fee are listed at the end of each day (**B, L or D**). If the meal is not listed, that means you will pay for this meal on your own.

There are 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners included.*

Day 1 - You will be greeted upon your arrival at the Siem Reap International Airport and chauffeured to Imagine Angkor Hotel where a warm welcome awaits you. Relax amidst traditional Cambodian elegance and modern comforts offered by the Imagine Angkor boutique Hotel, as you take in your first impressions of Cambodia. Taste your first Cambodian cuisine at dinner this evening at a local restaurant. Over dinner we will have introductions and orientation of the exciting days that await us. (**D**)

Day 2 - Your day begins early as we take advantage of the sweet morning light to photograph monks in their morning alms rounds. Witness this ancient tradition as long lines of colorful orange robed monks receive breakfast from nuns. We will return for our own breakfast at the hotel served from 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM. After breakfast meet your private Khmer language instructor in our meeting room for an introduction to basic Khmer language and culture from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Following your lesson, we will visit a local orphanage and village and have the opportunity to meet, talk to, and photograph local residents for the remainder of the morning. Lunch will be on your own at a local restaurant. This afternoon we travel out into the countryside to discover life in the rural villages and beautiful landscape photography. Travel the traditional way from village to village in an ox cart. Tonight we will have a fun dinner at the unique and quirky Dead Fish Tower Restaurant. (**B,D**)

Day 3 - After an early breakfast we set off on a full day adventure visiting the spectacular and wondrous Angkor Wat, Angkor Tohm, and Ta Prohm temple complexes. Delight in an elephant ride around the Bayon Temple. Have lunch at a local restaurant inside Angkor Park. We will plan to be at Angkor Wat as the sun sets to get the best light on the famous West

side. Plan to bring your tripods this evening while we photograph life in the vibrant old French quarter and old-market areas of Siem Reap. Group dinner in a downtown restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 4 - Today we head back to Angkor and have the option to revisit sites from the previous day, or discover new places. Photograph the 25 ft. tall faces at Bayon temple as the warm afternoon sunset casts great shadows across them. Your photographer leader will be available at the hotel for individual portfolio review sessions and to help with technical and creative advice in the afternoon and evening. Lunch and dinner will be on your own. Visit pub street and the night market! **(B)**

Day 5 - Breakfast will be available from 6:00 to 9:30 at our hotel Imagine Angkor. Recognizing that photographers often prefer to head off and explore on their own, we have this morning free to follow your own path, or take advantage of some volunteer opportunities with a local NGO. We will meet after lunch at the hotel at 2:00. After lunch we will visit a silk farm and artisan school before going back to the hotel to freshen up and have a digital workflow presentation. Dinner on your own. Individual portfolio review after dinner. **(B)**

Day 6 - After an early breakfast, we board our private longboat and head out to Battambang City. Passing through the amazing floating villages we photograph life along the lake and rivers. This is an all day trip and lunch will be served on the boat or at a local “floating” restaurant. After we check into our guesthouse in Battambang, we will enjoy dinner and shoot some pool at a great riverside restaurant. **(B,L)**

Day 7 - Spend an exciting day visiting Battambang, Cambodia’s second largest City. Battambang is well known for its charming French colonial buildings. Photograph downtown markets, along the quaint riverside shops and cafes and visit the infamous Khmer Rouge Killing Caves where bones of the victims remain to serve as a reminder of this terrible time. Experience the bamboo train and ride the rails! Late afternoon and evening is on your own to explore. (All meals on your own.)

Day 8 - Today we rise early and take an air-conditioned van back to Siem Reap. We will stop along the way “on demand” for photo opportunities. Lunch may be at a local village restaurant. Once back in Siem Reap you will have the day at leisure. Shop the old market for souvenirs, or visit pub street again. Your photographer leader will be available at the hotel for individual portfolio review sessions and to help with technical and creative advice in the evening. (All meals on your own.)

Day 9 - Flexible day, preparation for slideshow / on own shopping and exploring, lunch on your own. Evening group dinner and slide show at Imagine Angkor. **(B,D)**

Day 10 - Goodbye breakfast at Imagine Angkor. Day may be spent at leisure or shopping. Transfer to airport for departures. **(B)**

Important Quest Information

Photography

Unlike a typical vacation tour with schedules and busses, will enjoy freedom to find and work photo opportunities at our own pace. Approximately every other day we will meet for an evening review and critique session where we can see each other’s work and make any necessary changes to our itinerary. Once your trip is confirmed, I will contact you and ask you about your photography experience and equipment. If you are using a digital camera, I

recommend bringing along all supporting equipment such as laptop computer with editing software, extra memory cards, battery charger, etc. The voltage in Cambodia is 220V and sometimes requires a two-pronged Asian style adaptor for the plugs. Check to make sure your equipment will run on 220V without a transformer. Film developing is available, but digital is recommended.

Volunteering

Many days we will have the opportunity to provide volunteer services at local pagodas, schools, or community projects. If you have a skill or special interest, please let me know.

Cultural activities

As photographers we will immerse ourselves in the local culture. We will find as many opportunities as possible to engage with the Khmer people and document these experiences with our cameras.

Clothing

Please note that shorts and sleeveless shirts or tops are not considered culturally acceptable. Lightweight and fast drying clothing that covers the shoulders and knees, such as Capri length pants and t-shirts are best. Laundry services are readily available.

Physical ability

This trip will require a moderate level of physical ability and will require long periods of walking in high heat and humidity, climbing stairs, long days, and short periods of downpours. July is considered the “off” Season with the months of October through March experiencing cooler weather.

Food

There is a wide variety of restaurants and food including American and European styles. Siem Reap also has many convenience shops for snacks, drinks, personal items and so on. The food is wonderful and safe. I do however advise that you drink bottled water only and avoid salads and “street food”.

Questions

I welcome any and all questions. It is better to ask and be prepared first, than be sorry later. Please email me at drryder@mac.com.

You may also contact Katherine Osgood, Group Quest Manager, at Katherine@unitedplanet.org or call at +1-617-267-7763 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm EST.

Recommended reading

“Cambodia” by Lonely Planet. “Sanctuary” by Steve McCurry. “The Treasures of Angkor” by Cultural Travel Guides

** Please remember that this is a **suggested** schedule. It happens more often than not that things will change either voluntarily or by circumstances beyond our control. Please be prepared to be flexible and “roll with it!” **