

Small Group Journeys Itineraries

Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Japan - Validity 01 November 2024 – 31 March 2026

Temples of Angkor		9 Days IJDB-SGJ-11
		<p>Before dawn, head to Angkor Wat and explore its grounds by torchlight, then watch the sunrise over the iconic spires. Travel through the scenic Cambodian countryside to Angkor Thom, where you'll be greeted by the impressive faces of Bayon Temple. Afterward, visit the local Dom Deak market to experience daily life, and conclude your day at the Cambodian Landmine Museum, gaining insight into the country's history and ongoing efforts for recovery. This journey offers a blend of historical exploration, cultural immersion, and educational experiences, providing a rich understanding of Cambodia's heritage.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1: Arrival in Siem Reap <p>After arrival at the airport, transfer to check in at the hotel. The hotel's welcome drink is served during check in. Rest of day at leisure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 2: Siem Reap (B) <p>After breakfast start you Angkor exploration tour to the Southern Gate of Angkor Thom, the 'Great City'. Today you will visit many of the finest temples of King Jayavarman VII, who ruled from 1181 to 1220. At the Southern gate of Angkor Thom, you will marvel at the imposing 23m (75-foot) high stone faces of Avalokiteshvara, featured in the Tomb Raider movie. These astonishing carvings inspire awe and wonder in all who view them. At the center of this citadel lies the state temple Bayon, which we will also visit. This temple-mountain, built at the end of the 12th century, is adorned with hundreds of gigantic stone faces. The tour also includes the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Later in the day you will discover the most famous temples from the 11th century: Baphuon and Phimeanakas. Then visit Ta Prohm. The temple is famous for its massive trees with thick roots, which entangle the walls. They were left here intentionally by the archeologists working on the site. While clearing back the forest it was decided to leave them in place to serve as a reminder of how the original discoverers found the temples. Many of the trees have grown around and through the remains, and soar high above the temple. At the end of the day, we explore the magnificent Angkor Wat, built under Suryavarman II. Return to Siem Reap. Conclude the day with a foodie tour to taste real Cambodian Street Food. You will be picked up by Remork (Tuk Tuk) to enjoy the real Khmer night life. A long road lined with mats for hire, with dozens of street food sellers invites to join the locals for a beer. You also can taste various snacks here. Your tour guide will accompany you and explain about the food. (2 people per Remork)</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Day 3: Siem Reap (B/D)</p> <p>Don't forget to set your alarm, as today we start at pre-dawn to witness the breathtaking sunrise over Angkor Wat. Breakfast is served at a local restaurant near the temple complex. Afterwards the tour continues to the beautiful sandstone temple of Banteay Srei. The temple dates back to 967 AD, and is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Banteay Srei is famous for the intricate friezes carved into its red sandstone walls. In the afternoon visit Kampong Pluk floating village. This is an isolated community of three villages built on stilts. These scenic villages are flooded for around half the year (Aug/Sept – Feb), enabling row boat journeys that provide income for the local community. You will take the small boat through the flooded mangrove forests; this unique ecosystem survives on wet soil for half the year, fostering a variety of wildlife. Back on "dry land" experience an original monk blessing ceremony in an active pagoda. The monk will sprinkle holy water while chanting sacred Pali canons to wish good luck and health for everyone. Return to Siem Reap. In the evening enjoy a sumptuous Khmer Farewell Dinner in a beautiful local restaurant.</p> <p>Day 4: Departure from Siem Reap (B)</p> <p>Today you will be met at your hotel by your guide for a morning walking tour through the heart of Saigon's famous and historic city landmarks including Dong Khoi Street, the Rex Hotel, Municipal Theatre, Hotel de Ville, Nguyen Hue Boulevard, Post Office & Notre Dame Cathedral. You will then join your vehicle and drive to the site of the former US Embassy (now the US consulate) before visiting the impressive Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum. Later travel to Binh Thanh district and visit Ba Chieu local wholesale market in the East of Saigon, before visiting the Ngoc Hoang (Jade Emperor) Pagoda. This popular 124-year-old pagoda, houses a number of intricate sculptures and woodcarvings. Return to your hotel where your tour ends. Enjoy these last moments in Saigon before you transfer to the airport for your onward journey.</p> 	