

CAMBODIA



Presentation by Paul Pacter
Baker Senior Center



Kingdom of Cambodia
Capital: Phnom Penh.
Area: 70,000 sq miles.
FL=66,000 sq mi.
Population: 17,000,000.
Became a Country: 1953 –
Independence from France.
Independence Day: Nov. 9.

Name of Country

In Khmer: Kampuchea.
Kampuchea was a French colony 1863-1953.

In French: Kampuchea became Cambodge.

In English: Cambodge became Cambodia.

People: Ethnic groups

Khmer People
Internet Photos

- Khmer** 95%
- Cham** 2%
- Chinese** 2%
- Other** 1%



National Language: Khmer
Spoken and written.

Happy Birthday to You.

រីករាយថ្ងៃខួបកំណើត។

Written LEFT TO RIGHT.
Words in same sentence run together WITHNOSPACES.

English is now the second language (not French).

Religion:

- Buddhist** 97%.
- Muslim** 2%.
- Others** 1%.



Head of State:
King NORODOM
Sihamoni (since
2004)



Head of Gov't:
Prime Minister
HUN Manet (since
Aug 22, 2023). His
father HUN Sen was
PM since 1985.



Hun Sen (the father) in 1970, age 18,
joined the Khmer Rouge army,
supported Cambodian mass murderer
Pol Pot (we will talk about him
shortly), became army commander,
and, in 1985 at age 32, became Prime
Minister. Remained PM for 38 years.

Wikipedia describes Hun Sen as:

- "Wily operator".
- "Destroys political opponents".
- "Dictator who has assumed authoritarian powers".

**July 23, 2023 Cambodia
parliamentary election.
Hun Sen's party overwhelming win.**

US State Dept: Election "neither
free nor fair". Most Western
governments agreed.
Al Jazeera: "Flawed".
Intl Human Rts Fed: "Illegitimate".
BBC: "Sham".
Council on Foreign Rel: "Sham".
UN: "Extremely disconcerting".

**Shortly before the vote, Hun Sen's
only opponent was jailed for 27 years
on a "fabricated treason charge"
(Amnesty Intl).**

After election,
Hun Sen
named his
son Hun
Manet as
Prime
Minister.



Hun Sen Hun Manet

**New PM Hun Manet graduated
USMA West Point 1999. →**

- NYU Masters in Economics.
- UK PhD Econ, Univ Bristol.

**July 2023 also: Father named
new PM's Brother Hun Manith:**

- Deputy
commander of
Cambodian
Armed Forces
infantry.
- And spy chief.



PM Hun Manet Hun Manith

Hun Sen also named:

- Son #3 Hun Many as Head of Civil Service.
- Nephew Neth Savoeun as Deputy Prime Minister.

**Also Hun Sen announced that he intends to
remain active in Cambodian government until
at least 2033. Will be President of Senate and
Acting Head of State when King is overseas.**



Hun Sen



Neth Savoeun



Hun Many

June 29, 2023:
Facebook Advisory
Board recommends
suspension of Hun
Sen for threats to
"beat up" opponents,
"send gangsters" to
their homes.



August 30, 2023:
Facebook rejects,
citing freedom of
political expression.



**King Norodom
Sihamoni**
Naming of Cambodian
king is not automatic.
**9-member Royal
Council of the Throne
chooses among males
of royal descent.**



King Hun Sen

Oct 7, 2004: Surprise abdication of then
King Norodom Sihanouk.

Oct 14, 2004: Royal Council chose
Norodom Sihamoni.

Cambodian Flag

Temple
represents
Angkor Wat.



This is the only national
flag to show an actual
identifiable building.

Economy

GDP:

Actual \$27 billion.

PPP Adjusted \$72 billion.

GDP per capita:

Actual \$1,703.

PPP Adjusted \$4,400.

One of lowest in the world.

Florida 2022:

GDP \$1.4 trillion.

Per Capita \$63,081.

Cambodian Money



Official currency:
Riel 4,176 to US\$1

Unofficial currency:
US\$ accepted everywhere at a
good exchange rate
No coins, just US dollar notes.
ATMs dispense US\$.



Climate: Tropical.

Rainy, monsoon season:

May to November. 200" of
rain a year in some areas.

Dry season: December
to April.

Little seasonal temperature
variation.

Topography:

Major river:

Mekong. Shared
with China, Laos,
Burma, Thailand,
Vietnam. 2,700 miles total.

Fresh water lake:

Tonle Sap. 1,000 sq mi dry
season. 6,200 sq mi wet season!
Connecticut (5,028 sq mi) disappears!



Cambodia History 1

– 802 AD: Khmer Empire
started at Angkor.

– 1432: Ended when Thais
destroyed Angkor.

– At its height 1200 AD:

– Khmer controlled all SE Asia.

– Angkor population 750,000.

In 1200, Paris pop. 30,000.

Cambodia History 2

- 1432 to mid-1800s Thais and Vietnamese captured most Khmer territory.
- 1863 King Norodom agreed to make Khmer a French Colony.
- French were harsh, imposed many taxes, took resources.
- Independence movement began in early 1900s.

Cambodia History 3

- 1941-1945 Japanese occupation.
- After WWII King Sihanouk: "Buddhist Socialism".
- 1953 Independence from France
- 1968 communists started civil war.
- 1975 communists took control.

Brutally!

1975 Pol Pot (aka "Brother Number One") took control with his army called Khmer Rouge. He was a mad tyrant.

- All people from towns and cities were forced to move to the countryside.
- Private property confiscated.
- Collective farms were formed. **A total failure.**

- **Though starving, people caught foraging for food were executed.**
- People were executed for being "lazy". Anyone who complained was executed.
- **Khmer Rouge murdered intellectuals, people who spoke a foreign language or who wore glasses.**



**Pol Pot
His grave
2019**

**Hideout
1978-1998**



- People forced to work very long hours.
- People given insufficient food. Many died from exhaustion or malnutrition.
- Religion was banned. Penalty was execution.
- Family relationships banned. "Parents exploit children".

- Pol Pot nightmare ended when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 and quickly prevailed.
- Pol Pot escaped. Remained alive in hiding until 1998.
- **Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge murdered between 1.5 million and 3 million Cambodians. (out of 7 million population).**

A few words about King Norodom Sihanouk

- King 1941-1955.
- 1955-1970 abdicated to become Prime Minister – absolute power.
- Supported Khmer Rouge.
- Jailed 1976-1979. Fled to Beijing.
- Returned as King 1993-2004.
- 2004 Abdicated in favor of his son – current King Sihamoni.

A few words about Prime Minister Hun Sen – 1985 to today

- Born 1952
- 1970 joined Khmer Rouge, commander, supported Pol Pot
- Became PM age 32 (youngest)

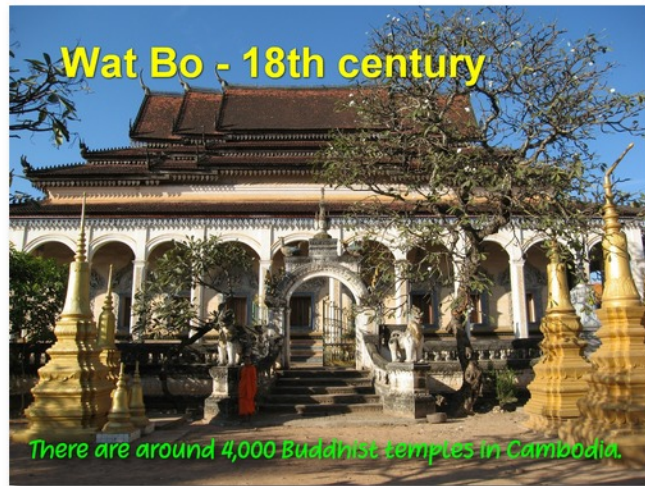
Wikipedia quotes:

- "Wily operator"
- "Destroys political opponents"
- "Dictator who has assumed authoritarian power"

Siem Reap Northern Cambodia. Top end of Tonle Sap Lake.



**Gateway to Angkor ruins
and Khmer Civilization.**



Up To 5,000,000 Still Remain



Angkor History

- Angkor was capital of Khmer civilization.
- Angkor: 805AD to 1432, when the Thais invaded.
- Angkor was one of the largest cities in the world in 11th and 12th centuries.

292 temples in the Angkor complex – 30 square miles.

— 72 major temples and monuments.

— 220 minor ones.

Ticket Prices	
1-Day	3-Day
\$37	\$62

Of these 292, 30 have been cleared from the jungle and can be visited.

Angkor Wat is one of the 292.

Angkor Wat

Largest religious monument in the world.

Constructed first half of 12th century.

Mix of Hindu and Buddhist.



**Entrance porch
Angkor Wat - early 12th c**



"The Avenue"



**The Avenue
Libraries**

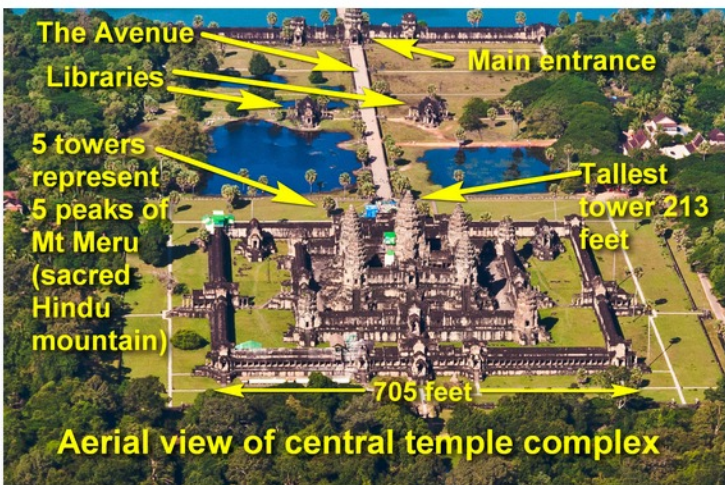
**5 towers represent
5 peaks of
Mt Meru
(sacred
Hindu
mountain)**

Main entrance

**Tallest
tower 213
feet**

705 feet

Aerial view of central temple complex



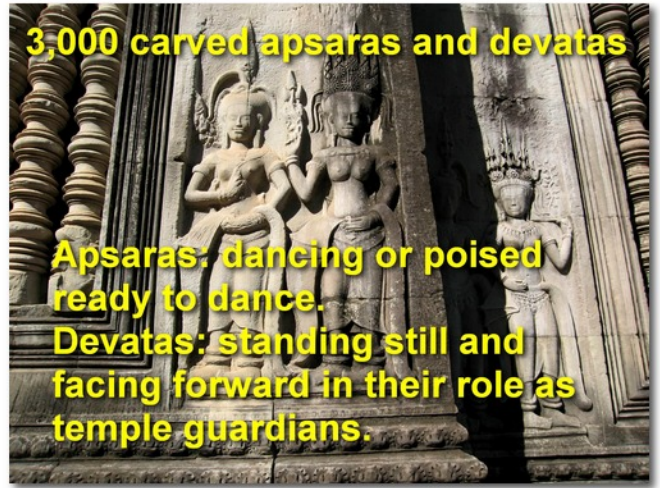
**Library of Angkor Wat (one on
each side of The Avenue)**



Central temple complex



3,000 carved apsaras and devatas



Apsaras: dancing or poised ready to dance.

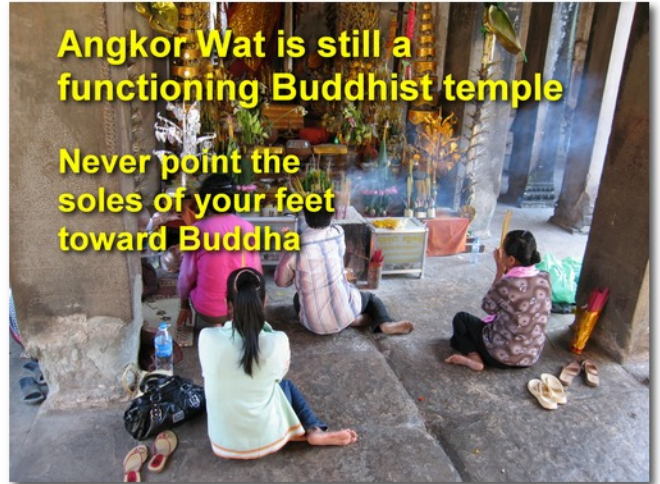
Devatas: standing still and facing forward in their role as temple guardians.

Steep steps to get to heaven



Apsaras

Angkor Wat is still a functioning Buddhist temple



Never point the soles of your feet toward Buddha

Victory Gate - 12th century



Heads

One of five entry gates to Angkor Thom

Angkor Thom - Bayon Temple



Worshippers at Bayon Temple



**Ta Prohm Temple
Built 12th-13th c
Abandoned 15th c**





Ta Prohm has been left basically unrestored



**Bakong - 9th century
First temple at Angkor**



Small village near Angkor

For chickens



Small village



Takeo Temple - 10th c - Hindu



**Pre Rup built 961 AD
Hindu Temple at Angkor**



Village near Angkor



Preah Kahn Temple - 12th c

Preah Kahn has been left largely unrestored



East Mebon Temple - 10th c Originally Hindu



Lake Tonle Sap

- Largest fresh water lake in Southeast Asia
- Seasonally inundated
- Lake's size, length, volume vary considerably during the year due to...

Lake Tonle Sap

- Largest fresh water lake in SE Asia.
- Lake's size, length, and volume vary enormously due to seasonal monsoons.
- Up to 12 feet of rain each year.



Lake Tonle Sap	Dry season	Monsoon season
	November to March	April to October
	Smallest	Largest
Area (sq miles)	1,000	6,200
Volume (cubic miles)	0.24	19.0
Length (miles)	99	160

Drive from Siem Reap to Tonle Sap Lake 10 miles



On her way to school



Breakfast: Omelette, rice, spinach



Our boat on Tonle Sap Lake



**Lake Tonle Sap
December (beginning
of dry season)**



Village on Tonle Sap



**Groceries seller
on Tonle Sap**



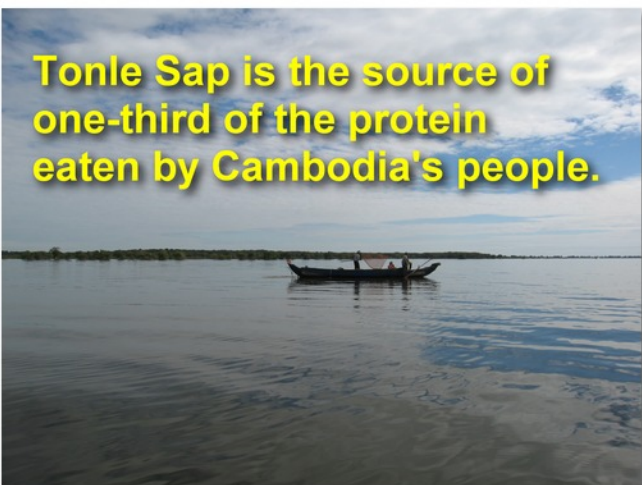
Tonle Sap Life!



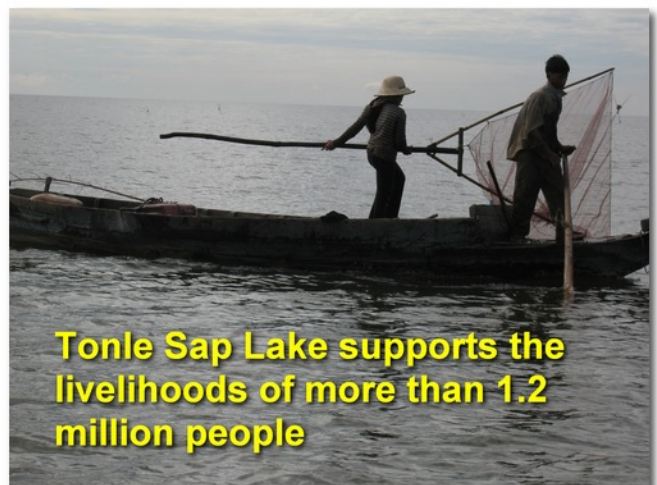
**Floating house and shop
on Lake Tonle Sap**



**Tonle Sap is the source of
one-third of the protein
eaten by Cambodia's people.**



**Tonle Sap Lake supports the
livelihoods of more than 1.2
million people**



**Tonle Sap
Village of Kampong Phluk**



**Kampong Phluk Village
Shrimp Drying**



**Kampong Phluk
All houses built on stilts**



**Kampong Phluk: Same Village,
Same Street - Rainy Season**



Internet Photo

Monks begging daily for food



**Line up oldest first
Never speak when begging**

Villagers gain 'merit' by giving



Begging Bowl



**Women must be careful
never to touch a monk**





Village School



Kampong Phluk Buddhist Temple



Kampong Phluk Buddhist Temple



Back to the boat (our skipper)



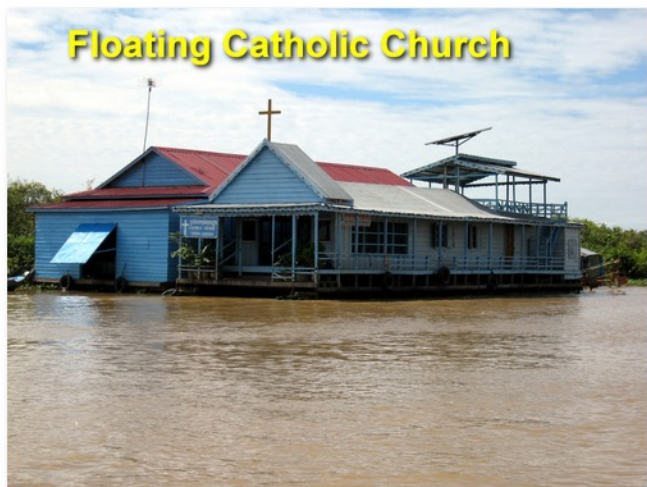
**Floating farm on Tonle Sap
No, not fish**



A Floating Crocodile Farm!



Floating fish farm

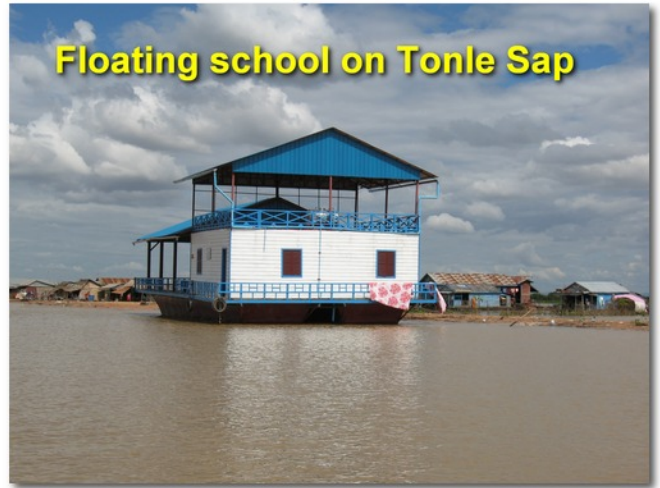


Floating Catholic Church

Bathing on Tonle Sap



Floating school on Tonle Sap



Road to Phnom Kulen Sacred Mountain



Steps up Phnom Kulen Sacred Mountain



Phnom Kulen Village



Phnom Kulen Village



Glutinous Rice in Banana Leaf



Rice Farm





Rice drying in the sun
Prevent mould



Kampong Thom Market



Entrails



Shrimp Paste



Taro - starchy root veg.



Betel Nuts

Nut is wrapped in
leaf and chewed.
Mild narcotic.

Betel Leaves



A lot of people in
one tuk-tuk

Like Costco's \$4.99 chickens, but with the heads included.



Prawns Omelette



Lunch

Rice

Vegetables

Skuon - Market town 50 miles north of Phnom Penh



So what are these ladies selling?



The nickname of our town is "Spiderville"



Skuon - Fried Spiders



Arachno-Cuisine



Delicious fried tarantulas





Skuon - tarantula market



Skuon



Other insects as well



Boy leading his blind father



Rambutan - Skuon Market

Similar fruit to lychee



Jackfruit in Skuon Market

Largest tree-borne fruit in the world

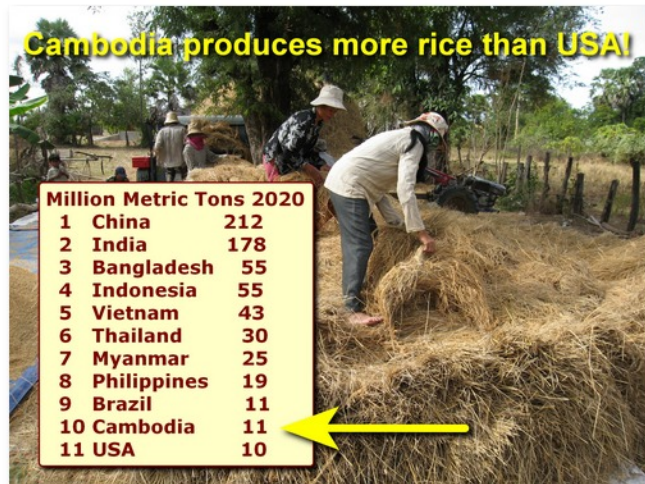


**Spean Praptos Bridge
Khmer – 12th century.**

**285 Feet. Longest stone arch
bridge in the world.**



Town of Kampong Kdei



Million Metric Tons 2020	
1	China 212
2	India 178
3	Bangladesh 55
4	Indonesia 55
5	Vietnam 43
6	Thailand 30
7	Myanmar 25
8	Philippines 19
9	Brazil 11
10	Cambodia 11
11	USA 10



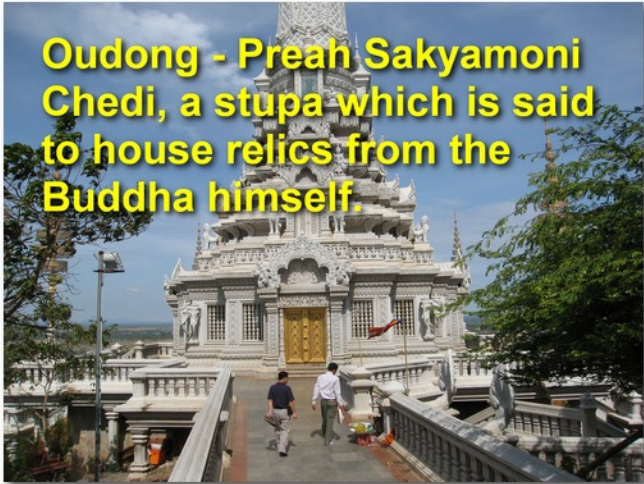


Rice Paddies

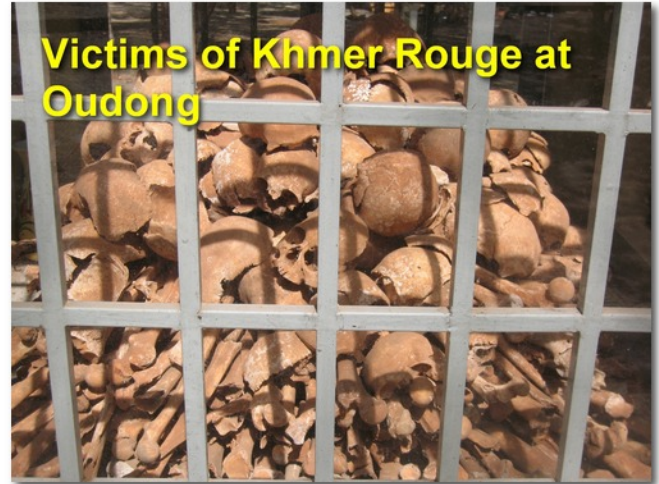


**Oudong
Cambodia's capital and
royal residence 1600 to 1866**

27 miles north of Phnom Penh



**Oudong - Preah Sakyamoni
Chedi, a stupa which is said
to house relics from the
Buddha himself.**



**Victims of Khmer Rouge at
Oudong**

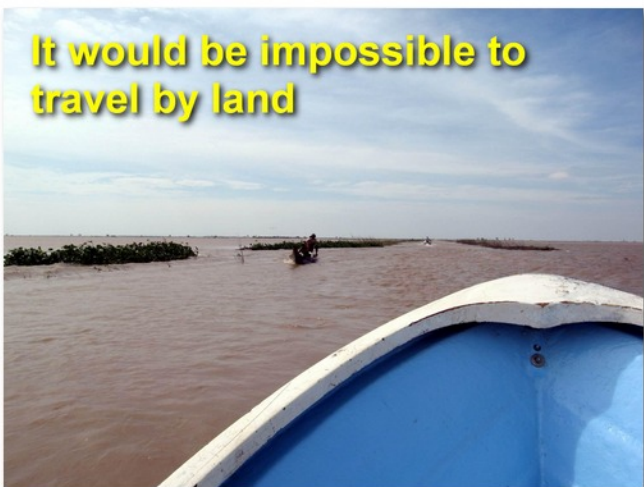


**Boat trip on Takeo Ancient
Canals**

**Canals built 5th c so people
could travel in rainy season.**



Fishing on Takeo Canals



**It would be impossible to
travel by land**



Rice paddy

Collect rainwater

Fish trap



**Phnom Chissor Temple
11th century**



**Lunch in Phnom Chissor
Village**

Pork, cucumbers, rice



**Drive to Kampong Cham
Two hours north of Phnom Penh
Rubber plantations and agriculture**



**Cassava-drying
Starchy root vegetable**



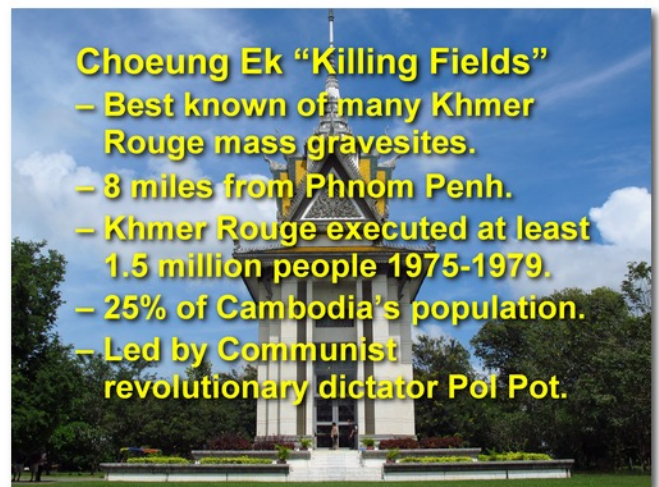
Primitive farming equipment



Rubber Plantation



**Latex tapped from rubber tree
Will be refined into rubber**



Choeung Ek "Killing Fields"

- Best known of many Khmer Rouge mass gravesites.
- 8 miles from Phnom Penh.
- Khmer Rouge executed at least 1.5 million people 1975-1979.
- 25% of Cambodia's population.
- Led by Communist revolutionary dictator Pol Pot.



Choeng Ek gravesites



Victims' clothing and bones



Bones of victims

កំណាច់សំបកស្លាត់ស្លាត់
ពីការប្រមូលសំបកស្លាត់ស្លាត់
នៅឆ្នាំ១៩៧០
Piece of bones remaining after
excavation in 1980



ដើមឈើកំហុក
ដែលពួកខ្មែរក្រហម
ធ្លោកក្តួចសំណាម
KILLING TREE
AGAINST WHICH
EXECUTIONERS
BEAT CHILDREN



Females 15 to 20 years old

ស្លាកសម្គាល់ស្ត្រីក្មេង
FROM 15 TO 20 YRS



**Phnom Penh
Capital of Cambodia
Population 1.5 million**



Phnom Penh - Mekong River



Phnom Penh - Colonial Architecture



Phnom Penh - Tuk-tuk



**Royal Palace
1860s**



**Hor Samrith Phimean (Bronze Palace)
Repository for Royal
regalia and
costumes**



**Silver Pagoda
Royal Palace**



Old Psar Chas Market - Phnom Penh



Old Psar Chas Market - Phnom Penh



Chinese Temple - 1890s



**Tuol Sleng Prison Genocide Museum
Former high school.
One of 150 Khmer Rouge
Extermination Centers.**

**Of the 20,000 prisoners at Tuol
Sleng, only 7 were not executed.**



Tuol Sleng - Mugshots of Prisoners
At any one time, Tuol Sleng held 1,000 to 1,500 prisoners.
Estimated 20,000 were executed at Tuol Sleng.



Phnom Penh has several large, modern shopping malls. This is Aeon Mall.



Supermarket
Pricing in US dollars (\$3) and Cambodian Riel (R12,300)



Central Market - Phnom Penh
Built 1937 - Art Deco
Biggest market in Asia



Central Market - Meat section



Giant Prawns



Grilled Squid and Chicken



Nagaworld - Phnom Penh
Gambling casino and hotel

Wat Phnom - 1372



Nagas

You can even ride an elephant at Wat Phnom



Make a wish and release a bird



**Central Post Office - Phnom Penh
French Colonial - 1895**



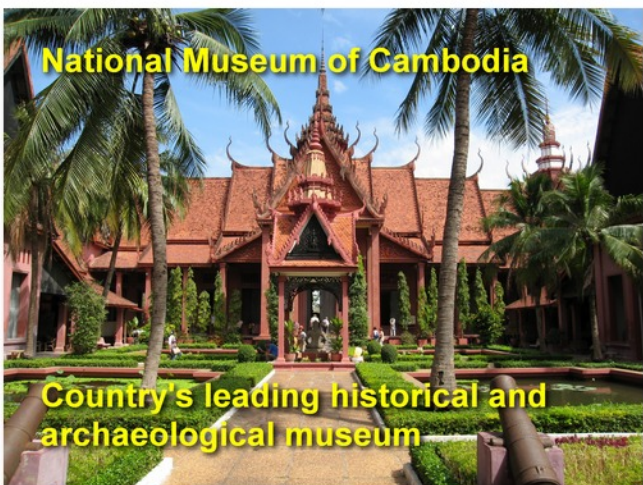
**Some monks arriving at Wat Ounalom
by tuk-tuk**



Wat Ounalom - 1443



National Museum of Cambodia



**Country's leading historical and
archaeological museum**

National Museum of Cambodia

**World's largest collection of
Khmer art.**

**Also important Buddhist
and Hindu art.**

**Buildings constructed
1917 to 1924.**

8:00am - 5:00pm daily.





My Upcoming Presentations
Baker Senior Center
 All Mondays 3:00 to 4:00pm



Cambodia	Sep 11, 2023
Far West China: Xinjiang and Gansu	Oct 2, 2023
Southern Thailand: Bangkok and Ayutthaya	Nov 6, 2023
Guam: Where America's Day Begins	Dec 4, 2023

The End
Thank you for coming!



© Copyright Paul Pacter
www.PaulVisits.com