

INDAGO

Tailored School Trips



Cambodia

Service & Community Insight

VSA

June 2018

ITINERARY

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ITINERARY

The Indago staff will meet the group at Siem Reap airport on Day 1 of the itinerary.

Day 1, Saturday 2nd June, landing at 19h05.

- **Arrival day. Welcome to Cambodia!**
- We head straight from the airport to a restaurant for a **Khmer style dinner** at a special training restaurant supporting disadvantaged youths.
- We then return to the hotel for an introduction to the staff and the week ahead.

Day 2 - 4, Sunday to Tuesday

- This morning we head into **Kompheim Village** for an introduction to the area which will be our home for the next few days. Firstly we meet the locals and learn a little about life in the village with a **walk-and-talk** tour.
- We will undertake a 3-day **service project with the local community**. This will have been decided in advance after discussion between Indago, the travelling school, our local partners, and important people in the community.
- Whilst Siem Reap town may seem to be flourishing to a tourist on a short stay, the province is in fact one of the three poorest in Cambodia, and therefore one of the poorest areas in the world. We work in the village of **Kompheim** and its surrounding villages. It lies just outside of Siem Reap town and is an area of extreme poverty.
- A recurrent theme of individual projects will be:
 - **Leaving a tangible change**. Many of our Cambodian trips are based around building important structures (such as school classrooms and training workshops) from plastic bottles and dry plastic waste from around the village. Groups may also be involved in painting, gardening, building or refurbishing projects which are necessary in the schools or the village as a whole. These would be under the supervision of an appropriately qualified adult to ensure that the standard is of a level which is suitable for long-term benefit, but the students would very actively participate and become fully involved. Each group would also usually work directly with a local type-1 poor family on home repairs or rebuilds.
 - **Teaching in the school**. Our partners, HUSK, run several English language classes every week throughout the year in order to supplement the local students' education and provide them with greater employment opportunities in later life. This is based out of the plastic bottle school. We will go into the school to teach English to the local students. We follow the curriculum that has been designed for the school, and working with the local staff develop teaching plans and practices to enable us to teach effective lessons.

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- There is also opportunity during the week to **play sport and games with the local students**. This is a great way of breaking down barriers and an important part of the interaction.
- The days are long and intense, and each student will throw them self into the project. We are not here to watch from the sidelines, but to become actively involved in useful and life-changing projects in the community. We work hard alongside our new friends in the village to provide service in the community and an experience that is enriching for all concerned.
- After dinner each night there would be time for group reflection, discussion and planning for the following day. The students will certainly be exposed to many things they have never seen or experienced before, so it is important to allow time for reflection and group discussion to help make sense of the huge range of emotions they are bound to be feeling. Many schools encourage the students to keep a journal of the trip (which may or may not be marked), with students taking time each evening to fill it in.



- In the late afternoon of Day 2 we also get to see the stunning **Ta Prohm Temple**, made famous to a larger audience in the Tomb Raider movies. Ta Prohm is overrun with massive trees, their roots intertwined with the temple stones almost as if they are frozen in battle.
- On Day 3 we stay in the village to take a **cooking class**. As a group we learn how to make some famous and beautiful Khmer dishes, which we enjoy together.
- On our final day in the village we celebrate our time there with a special dinner, which we share with the family we have been working with.

Day 5, Wednesday 6th June

- We start off the day with a **cycling adventure**. This is a fantastic opportunity to interact with local villagers, so we start with a **short refresher on the Khmer language**.

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- Once we have mastered some important words we set off on a bike ride. Along the way we will pass local barbers cutting hair in traditional barber shop chairs or basic wooden stools in wooden shanties, women frying food to sell, children practicing their skills fishing in the rivers and a host of other intriguing and fascinating sights. Cycling along red soil past stilted houses we stop for snacks and drinks, as well as to visit and interact with the locals who are so enthusiastic to meet us and share their way of life with us.
- The bike ride brings us to a **hidden temple in the forest** where we stop for lunch and games, as well as a briefing from our guide.
- In the afternoon we have a unique opportunity for an authentic Cambodian experience. The students take part in a **circus skills workshop** with local Cambodian artists. This is linked to an NGO working to awaken the arts in Cambodia, and is an absolute treat to be involved with. After a traditional Khmer dinner we then get to see the circus in action!
- On the way home we have chance to visit Siem Reap's famous **night market**, where we can haggle for the perfect souvenir, or simply relax with a Khmer style foot massage.



Day 6, Thursday 7th June

- After breakfast we visit the staggering **Angkor Wat**. The jewel of the Khmer Empire was built over 900 years ago and is the largest religious monument ever built. A guided tour through the incredible complex will bring Angkor to life. Students will learn about how the incredible temple was constructed, the people who lived around it and the stories of the gods and demons that adorn its walls.
- We also explore the amazing city of **Angkor Thom**. The city is surrounded by walls and five separate gates. We enter through the south gate guarded by angels and demons. Within the city is the amazing **Bayon temple** adorned with

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smiling faces, the Terrace of the Leper King and Elephant Terrace. We explore these sites allowing students to learn more about Cambodia's fascinating history.



- After lunch we take a completely different approach to learning about Angkor culture with the **Angkor Great Race**. This is conducted in Siem Reap and the surrounding villages. The race is run in a very similar fashion to the television series The Amazing Race. Teams undertake challenges both physical and mental, whilst navigating their way around and learning about the incredible history and culture of the region on their way. This race is a memorable highlight of every trip!
- We then head straight to the airport for the flight home at 20h05.

Important

The itinerary is intended as a guide only. While our intention is to adhere to the day to day schedule published, on any particular day the planned itinerary and available activities can vary for a variety of reasons - safety, weather, etc. In any such situation, the staff will endeavor to ensure that the trip remains equally enjoyable and rewarding to all concerned.