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# Cambodia Alternative Schoolies Itinerary

26th November 2017 - 10th December 2017

Meet at Melbourne Airport at 8.30am on  
Sunday 26th November 2017

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***Please wear Red T-shirts supplied!***

**Day 1 Sunday November 26**

**DEPART MELBOURNE**

Depart Melbourne at 11.25 am for Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia via Vietnam Airlines, Flight Number VN780. We arrive in Ho Chi Minh City at 3.55pm. We depart for Phnom Penh at 6.10pm, arriving at 6.55pm. On arrival we collect our Visas and then we will be picked up by Tuk Tuk to go to the Khmer Royal Hotel, where rooms will be allocated.

**Please ask your Team Leaders what time we start in the morning each day.**

**Day 2 Monday November 27**

**S21 GENOCIDE MUSEUM & THE KILLING FIELDS**

This morning, we go to **Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum**.

*In Phnom Penh, one of the largest secondary schools under the rule of Pol Pot was turned into a torture camp and prison called S21. All members of the previous regime, lawyers, teachers, doctors, educated people and even people just for wearing spectacles were brought to this jail along with all members of their families before being executed at the killing fields. S21 has now been turned into a museum and you can walk in most of the rooms of the buildings within the grounds. In the 3 and a half years that the Khmer Rouge were in power, over 17000 people left this particular prison for the Killing Fields, and only 10 actually survived. Our guide is a survivor from the Khmer Rouge era and you will also have an opportunity to meet one of the survivors of S21.*

*After lunch, we will visit **Cheong Ek, the Killing Fields of Cambodia**. Cheong Ek is the major Killing field of Phnom Penh. Just beyond the entrance is a huge stupa where thousands of the skulls that have been unearthed have been kept in order of age and you can walk around and see the mass graves. The Pol Pot regime killed over 1 million Cambodians. Lunch and dinner in Phnom Penh.*

**Day 3 Tuesday November 28**

**ROYAL PALACE & SILK ISLAND**

In the morning, we will walk to the **Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda** for a guided tour.

*The Royal Palace in Phnom Penh was constructed over a century ago to serve as the residence of the King of Cambodia, his family and foreign dignitaries, as a venue for the performance of court ceremony and ritual and as a symbol of the Kingdom. It serves to this day as the Cambodian home of King Norodom Sihamoni. After lunch, we take Tuk Tuks to **Koh Dach**, an island in the Mekong River about 15 kilometres northeast of Phnom Penh. It is renowned for the thousands of silk weavers and the quality of the silk they produce. You can buy lovely silk there right from the producer. Lunch and dinner in Phnom Penh.*

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### Day 4 Wednesday November 29

### TRAVEL TO SIEM REAP

Today we travel by bus to **Siem Reap**. It is about a 7-hour journey with a lunch stop on the way.

On arrival at Siem Reap, we check into our rooms at the **Royal Crown Hotel** – our home for the next 10 days.

You will have time for a swim or just relax and settle into your room. First thing you will need to do is check the bar fridge against the list of what is supposed to be in it. If there are any discrepancies please tell reception immediately. It is a good idea to just take everything out and keep it on top of the fridge that way you will not be charged for items you have not used. Also make sure your Bathrobes do not get taken with the towels. You will be charged \$25 for them if they go missing. Evening: After dinner at one of the many restaurants in Siem Reap we will visit the “**Made in Cambodia**” Market.

### Day 5 Thursday November 30

### TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Meet in foyer of hotel for our sunrise **Temple Visit**. Make sure you are wearing long shorts or pants and your red t-shirts today. Also take a hat as it gets very hot. We will travel by bus and our guide Mooni will tell you all about the history of the famous temples, plus a few bad jokes. Today, we will see the sun rise over **Angkor Wat**. After breakfast at the temples, we head to **Angkor Tom & Bayon** complexes including **Ta Prohm**, the Jungle Temple made famous by the movie starring Angelina Jolie. Breakfast near the temples; lunch & dinner in Siem Reap.

**Optional extra: Sokimex Tethered Hot air Balloon for an aerial view of Angkor Wat and surrounding countryside.**

### Day 6 Friday December 1

### SILK SCREEN T-SHIRTS/AMMO JEWELLERY

The **SILK SCREEN Printing Lab** is a community development collaboration I a Green Gecko social enterprise. Here you will be able to print your own T-shirt with your own design and also print all the names on the back of your Schoolies T-shirt.

### Day 7 Saturday December 2

### LANDMINE MUSEUM AND RELIEF CENTRE

#### & PHARE CIRCUS

**The Landmine Museum & Relief Centre** strives to educate visitors of the importance of clearing landmines in Cambodia. With potentially 5,000,000 still in the ground, landmines have immensely impacted the history and culture of this amazing society. Their collection of thousands of landmines is impressive. What is even more impressive is the story of the one Khmer man, Aki Ra, who disarmed the majority of these landmines alone. They also educate and support over two dozen at-risk Khmer children who otherwise would never have had this bright of a future. The Relief Centre where they, and staff, live is located on the museum property. They are also building schools in areas where landmines have been cleared - 20 of these to date.

**Phare Circus. Tonight we have a special treat! You will be training as circus performers!** Classes cater to the ability of the participants and give you a variety of skills to experiment with. After a warm up, you'll experiment with tumbling exercises, juggling, balance-building activities, and you can request instruction in an area of interest. The artists are incredibly patient and you get to connect with some truly amazing performers that are all trained right there in Cambodia. The workshop is followed by dinner and the show!

### Day 8 Sunday December 3

### GECKO ACTION & MOONI'S WEDDING DINNER

Today, you will be working with the young **Gecko Action Rotaract group** and in the evening we are all invited to attend our guide **Mooni's wedding**. Mooni has been guiding us on our trips since 2010 so he is a great friend and we are very privileged to experience his Cambodian wedding dinner.

### Day 9 Monday December 4

### GREEN GECKO ALL DAY

Today, you will be doing a **Green Gecko Tour** with one of the Gecko young adults where you will learn about what they do and the Gecko story. Then spend some time working with the Mums and sisters at Rehash Trash crocheting something funky out of roadside rubbish. Please bring a crochet hook and 6 to 7 mm scissors too. Spend conversation time with the Gecko kids while they have lunch and join the Gecko Assembly then we will head off to Footprints Farm - weeding and building. We will end the day with a soccer match or some other sport. Bring old clothes because you will get dirty and sweaty.

**Note: Wear clothing that covers the shoulders and to the knees - no bums, boobs or bellybuttons showing please,**

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**Day 10 Tuesday December 5**

**TREAK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Treak Village** is a typical Cambodian village, 4 kilometres south of Siem Reap town. Travel back in time 100 years! Parts of village life goes on much as it's done for the past 1,000 years! Most people are subsistence farmers or fishermen; 50% of adults are illiterate, a direct result of the Khmer Rouge period. You might be helping to build a new classroom or other facility!

**Day 11 Wednesday December 6**

**TREAK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Continue work we started yesterday!

**Day 12 Thursday December 7**

**KAMPONG PLUK FLOATING VILLAGE**

**Kampong Pluk** is located on the edge of the Tonle Sap Lake. You will see a forest of stilted houses rising up to 10 meters in the air. In wet season the waters rise up to one or two metres of the buildings. Kompong Pluk is a permanent community within the flood plain of the Lake, with an economy based in fishing and surrounded by flooded forest. We will take a canoe ride through the Floating Forest and have lunch before returning to Siem Reap.

**Day 13 Friday December 8**

**LOTS OF OPTIONS ON OUR LAST DAY**

See the list of optional extras for your choice of what to do today. If none of these appeal to you the alternative is the pool at the hotel or the market.

**Day 14 Saturday December 9**

**LAST DAY IN SIEM REAP -**

**DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL AT 3.15 PM SHARP**

Don't forget to weigh your bags and give me the money for any Room Service purchases and have your luggage downstairs ready to depart at 3.15 pm sharp. You will have plenty of time to have a swim in the morning or head over for a last visit to the market. But be back on time as we can't wait for latecomers!

Vietnam Airlines Flight Number VN3820 departs Siem Reap at 5.50pm, arriving Ho Chi Minh City at 6.50pm. We depart HCMC on Flight VN781 at 8.50pm.

**DAY 15 Sunday December 10**

**Arrive in Melbourne at 9.25am**

**Note:** Don't forget to declare any wooden items or spices on the form you will be given on the plane and at Customs in Melbourne. Check with Team Leaders before we leave Siem Reap to make sure what you have bought is OK to take home. Do not buy honey!

**This itinerary is flexible and may be changed at any time if your team leaders think that change is necessary, so you will need to check each night what the schedule is for the next day.**

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## Optional extras for those interested:

### **OPTION 1. Angkor National Museum. Cost: US \$12.50**

During the Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom, one of the ancient civilisations of this world was being created. It is the origin of Khmer art, culture, and architecture. These great inventions became one of the few wonders of the world that still amaze people throughout generations that still lays a great impact in present Cambodia society. Angkor National Museum takes pride in revealing the royal historical path of this Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom through state of the art multimedia technology providing visitors a full picturesque story of the legend.

### **OPTION 2. Sokimex Tethered Hot Air Balloon. Cost US \$20.00. Best to go the day we go to the Temples.**

For an aerial view of Angkor Wat and surrounding countryside, but you are still tethered to the ground.

### **OPTION 3: Half day bike tour in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Cost \$35.00. Available on our last day.**

Ride the quiet trails through rice fields and small villages. We make lots of stops to learn about daily village life in Cambodia and to enjoy some delicious local snacks. Connect with the real Cambodia. You don't have to be a regular rider to enjoy it.

### **OPTION 4: Khmer Cooking Class. Cost: Approximately \$20.**

Learn to cook traditional Cambodian dishes and enjoy eating what you have cooked for lunch.

### **OPTION 5: Senteurs d'Angkor. Cost: only what you buy**

Here you will be able to purchase traditional spices and scented candles, oils and do a tour of the facility. The soaps are all made by hand, using traditional techniques and extracts derived exclusively from plant oils and 100 % natural ingredients..They have delicately perfumed massage oils, body creams, body scrubs and bath salts, a fine selection of Cambodian spices including authentic Khmer curry, Lok lak, Satay, lemongrass, cinnamon, chilli and the famous Kampot pepper.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by a wide variety of brightly-coloured sugar palm leaves drying in the sun. See the weavers producing the lovely boxes that carry all of your purchases home. Then you can see how the natural soaps, moisturising creams, scented balms and aromatic candles are made. From there, move on to discover the different steps in the preparation of spices (Kampot pepper, lemongrass, ginger, chilli) and the mixture of subtle combinations which make traditional Khmer curry spice, satay and lok-lak.

### **OPTION 6: Artisans D'Angkor Silk Farm. Cost: \$2**

The Angkor Silk farm offers free guided tours of the process from the mulberry bushes cultivation to the production of silk fabrics and accessories. As the Silk Farm covers an area of 8 hectares, of which 5 are used for the mulberry trees plantation, you will enjoy the beautiful setting while learning about the fascinating process of silk-making. During your visit, guides will give you more details on the mulberry trees, silkworm farming, cocoon unwinding, preparation of the silk threads, ikat technique (tie-dyeing of the threads) and silk weaving. The Angkor Silk Farm also features a large showroom where you can buy high-quality silk products that were made in the workshops you just visited.