



文藻外語大學

WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

# “Unlonely” Planet: A Travel Guide for International Volunteers

## Cambodia: Elephant Sanctuary

Course: English 9

Year: Year 1

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Basic Information**

#### Cambodia: Stand Eternal with the Rich Biodiversity

Best known for Angkor Wat, Cambodia has been a great tourist attraction which has attracted millions of tourists to visit every year just to see how magnificent those massive structures are. That is why tourism industry is one of the most important parts in Cambodia's economy. In addition to being a famous tourist destination, Cambodia is also home to a large amount of species. Its forests still hold species such as Asian elephant and wild oxen that are no longer found in the wild in neighboring countries. But what is the reason for Cambodia having such a rich biodiversity? The three main ideas include the good environmental conditions, supports of the government and community participation.

Cambodia has one of the highest levels of forest cover in Southeast. This allows Cambodia to have a rich biodiversity which provides basic needs which all life depends on and is important to the society. In Cambodia, indigenous people and remote rural communities depend heavily upon biodiversity for their basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, and livelihoods.

According to the Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2014, the Royal Government of Cambodia continues to view natural resources, including biodiversity as part of its efforts to enhance the economic development in Cambodia. The

government has developed laws, policies and plans to support the protection of natural resources in a sustainable way. Also, being a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Cambodia is bound by its agreements on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. What's more, Cambodia was the first country in Southeast Asia to have a protected areas system in 1925 by surrounding the Angkor complex of temples, which is now designated as a World Heritage Site. In 1957, 173 forest reserves and 6 wildlife reserves have been built for the protection of wildlife, in particular large mammals.

Community participation also plays an important role in wildlife protection. Cambodia's government made a project which allows Cambodian citizens to participate in any activities for protecting natural resources. Government ministries have been promoting local community members and ethnic group to participate in meeting and provide ideas and comments on the natural resources preservation and protection. The government also encourages local people living around and inside the protected areas to protected forests.

Although climate change affects a lot, there is still hope left in Cambodia. With rich natural resources and with supports from the government and community, people and wildlife in Cambodia seem to be able to stand eternal as Angkor complex of temples does.

## **B. History and Important Events**

### The History of Elephants in Cambodia

The importance of elephants can be seen throughout Cambodia's history. We can basically find them everywhere from the stone carvings in temples to the merchandise sold in stores.

Also, the local entertainment organizations hold elephant performances for attracting and entertaining tourists. Even though elephants play an important role in the history of Cambodia, they have been put in some difficult situation. For example, local people treat them cruelly and force them to perform tricks constantly to entertain tourists.

In ancient Cambodia, the local people used elephants as workers to help with transporting heavy goods, farming, and logging. Moreover, it is guessed by historians that roughly six thousand elephants were used in the construction of the Angkor Wat complex. That is, it would not be such a magnificent landmark without the help of elephants. That is the reason why we can see them in stone carvings and the Terrace of Elephants in Siem Reap.

Tourists would at least buy one or two souvenirs that are associated with elephants. For example, a piece of paper made from elephant dung. Elephants only digest 45 percent of their food, so the waste can be easily made into paper. By using the waste to make paper instead of trees, it can also help the Earth and reduce the cutting of trees.

Even though it is entertaining to watch elephants performing tricks, we still should refuse to attend any performance because elephants have been forced to do performances in cruel

conditions such as being bound to chains less than 3 meters long, performing in high temperature and being exposed to loud noises all the time.

With elephants playing a big role in the history of Cambodia, we can find them in the stone carvings in various temples and the merchandise in stores. Even at the entertainment shows held to attract visitors. However, elephants are placed into difficult situations since some people treat them unfairly and put them through torture just to make a profit. If you ever go to Cambodia and want to know more about elephants there, elephant sanctuaries would be a better choice than those performance shows.

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## **II. Lifestyle and Culture**

### **A. Festivals, Tradition, Arts, & Entertainment**

#### Festivals and Events in Cambodia

Cambodia offers many opportunities for joining in joyful celebrations throughout the year. Holidays are a unique opportunity for appreciating the charm of Cambodian culture, resulting from the mixture of millennial Buddhist culture and the past glory of the Khmer Empire.

Greatly influenced by Buddhism, the festivals in Cambodia have rich traditions and customs: each holiday is an occasion for celebrating a good way of living, the gifts of nature, the ancestors, and the family.

If you are travelling in Cambodia, celebrating at holiday-times will be an unforgettable experience: see the Buddhists' celebrations in the temples, the parades on the streets, the decorations in the houses and on the streets, and much more.

#### 1. April - Khmer New Year (Chaul Chnam Thmey)

Cambodia grinds to a halt during New Year, drawing families together from all across the country into a celebration that turns wet and wild on the third day.

On the first few days, Cambodians will clean house, prepare food for blessing by the local monks, make merit at the local temple, and (for younger Cambodians) play traditional games with members of the opposite sex.



On the last day, as with similar new year celebrations in Thailand and Laos, young and old alike splash water upon one another to mark the occasion.

Unlike most Cambodian holidays which follow the lunar calendar, Chaul Chnam Thmey follows the Gregorian calendar - celebrated for three days from April 13 to 15.

## 2. November - Water Festival (Bon Om Touk)

The Cambodian Water Festival (Bon Om Touk) takes place once a year, on the full moon of the Buddhist month of Kadeuk (usually in November). It celebrates a major natural occurrence: The reversing flow between the Tonle Sap and the Mekong River. This natural occurrence is celebrated in Cambodia with three days of festivals, fluvial parades, boat races, fireworks, and general merriment.

People come from far and wide to join the celebrations. Upwards of a million Cambodians attend the celebrations at Phnom Penh to take in the wholesome carnival atmosphere. Food and drink overflow in the streets, Khmer pop bands entertain the crowds, and the riversides are packed to capacity with punters cheering their favorite boats on.

Bon Om Touk is celebrated on the full moon of the 12th month of the Khmer lunar calendar. The authorities have canceled celebrations in the past without warning. If the celebrations push through, they will take place on the following dates in the Gregorian Calendar: 2018 – November 22, 2019 – November 11, 2020 – November 31.

## 3. November 9 - National Independence Day

This day marks the anniversary of Cambodia's independence from France in 1953. The celebrations are centered around the Independence Monument at the center of Phnom Penh, where the King lights a victory fire in the presence of the country's politicians, generals, and diplomats.

The celebrations also include cultural activities, parades down Norodom Boulevard, and fireworks in the evening.

#### 4. Cambodian National Day

November 9th is Cambodian National Day. Since 1953, Cambodia's freedom from the French colonial period has been celebrated annually on this day. The festivities focus around Phnom Penh's Independence Monument, where the King lights a winning flame in the presence of leaders, commanders, and officials in the country. Cultural events, Norodom Boulevard parades and evening fireworks are also part of the event.

## **B. Sights and Attractions**

Silver Pagoda, is located in the Royal Palace compound. It houses many national treasures, the most famous site is the Emerald Buddha of Cambodia and a life-sized gold Buddha decorated with thousands of diamonds. About one hundred and twenty kilometers away from Siem Reap, there is a site called Koh Ker, the capital of Khmer empire for a short period from the year 928 to 944 AD. During this time, many spectacular buildings and sculptures were built.

Standing in the exact middle of Angkor Wat, is the Bayon Temple. Its main feature is having over two hundred stone faces at all directions. The temple was built in the 12th century by King Jayavarman VII as part of an expansion of his capital Angkor Thom. Located northeast of Angkor Thom, the temple Preah Khan is a must see sight, it is also built by King Jayavarman VII in the 12th century, he built this temple for his victory over the invading Chams in 1191 and in honor of his father.

Last but not least is Banteay Srei, even though it is part of the Angkor compound, it lies twenty five kilometers away from the main group of temples, the temple is completed in 967 AD and is built mainly of red sandstone.

A country filled with rich history and amazing sites, it will take forever just to explore it all. So with these five places recommended, you can enjoy the wonderful experience of Cambodia's spectacular culture.

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### **III. Challenges under Globalization**

#### **The Effect of Globalization on Cambodia**

Over the past decades, since the political situation became stable, Cambodia has recorded a rapid economic growth rate. At the same time, globalization has progressed in terms of the international trade and foreign direct investment. Cambodia has opened to the free market and encouraged foreign investors to invest more, with lower taxes and even free land concession. However, globalization can also bring negative impacts on Cambodia including deforestation, illegal wildlife trade and animal abuse due to the growth in tourism.

Globalization has caused deforestation and led to forced eviction and land grabs. As the forests were gone, the locals lost their settlements and livelihoods. The problem of forced evictions and land grabs is getting worse due to the increasing need of land for economic purposes. For instance, the Cambodian government gave 340 square kilometers to a Chinese company to build resorts and a casino, which resulted in cutting down many trees in the forest in order to build those structures. This is destroying not only many settlements of Cambodian but also many habitats of wildlife in that area.

Illegal wildlife trade is another negative effect of globalization in Cambodia. Take ivory for example, since ivory is worth millions of dollars, smugglers not only poach elephants but also use the Cambodia to transport it to China where ivory is sold at even higher rates. Despite laws forbidding the hunting of wildlife, regulation of this exploitation remains difficult. The

increasing demand for ivory from China and Vietnam is also a driving factor. Elephants are killed for their tusks, meat and skin and elephant products are also used in traditional Asian medicines.

Globalization has brought development of tourism in Cambodia. 3.3 million holidaymakers have visited Cambodia during the first half year, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Tourism. However, animals are often extremely mistreated due to the tourism industry. Elephant riding is popular among tourists. The training to make elephants safe around people can be torture for them. Also, health is another major issue for these elephants. They are often overworked and beaten if they fail to perform properly. This kind of treatment often makes these intelligent and sensitive animals go off the deep end: they might be nervous and depressed, even with occasional violent outbursts.

There is no denying that globalization has brought positive effects on Cambodia economy. However, it can do harm to the environment by destroying local people's livelihoods and destroying wildlife habitats. Illegal wildlife trade is also getting worse due to the increasing need under globalization. Moreover, booming tourism in Cambodia is hurting wildlife by training, torturing and forcing them to apply certain tour activities.

## **B. Proposal of a Solution: an Outreach Program**

### Elephant Sanctuary in Cambodia

Are you dreaming of riding an elephant on your Southeast Asia vacation? Have you always wanted to get close to these noble beasts outside of a zoo? According to the latest report, the famous Angkor complex has attracted 1.8 million foreign tourists from January to September in 2019. Millions of people were there to experience elephant ride and to pat their trunks. But according to a study from World Animal Protection (WAP), this kind of tourism activity is helping to fuel a rise in elephant capture from the wild for entertainment. Local people were doing this to earn money. That is, for a price, for example, US\$ 28, anyone could sit atop one of these massive creatures around the area for half an hour. Riding on an elephant sounds fantastic, but for the elephants, it could be torture, especially when it is over 40 degree.

Since 2001, elephants in Cambodia have been forced to give rides to foreign tourists in certain area. In April 2016, an elderly elephant in Angkor Wat, suffering from stress, shock, high blood pressure and heart attack, died after carrying two tourists for 40 minutes. After this, people began to notice how serious the problem of elephant ride was, and the management authority announced in June 2019 that elephant rides will be banned in early 2020. After the announcement of the ban, the rest of elephants in Angkor Wat have been transferred to a community forest about 40 kilometres away from the temples. “The elephant is a big animal,

but it is also gentle. We don't want to see the animals being used for tourism activities anymore,” said Long Kosal, an Apsara press representative. “we want them to live in their natural surroundings.”

Because of the rapid development of globalization, the demand of rubber products has increased. According to the data from Global Forest Watch (GFW), Cambodia’s protected areas lost about 11.7 percent of the total protected area between 2001 and 2018. Due to deforestation, wildlife like elephants are losing their home.

There are some wildlife sanctuary foundations that are working on conserving wildlife in Cambodia. For example, Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary works to protect and conserve jungle habitat as well as the native species. Also, they are working on tree planting and restoring the region’s forest.

With the cooperation between the authorities and non-profit organizations, elephants have a safe place to settle down again and their situation has been improved. Moreover, in our volunteer program, volunteers will be helping feeding and cleaning the elephants in the protected areas. Also, they will help regenerate the jungle habitat of the elephants and plant tree. In addition to making the protected area better for elephants, we designed this program to tell tourists not to attend any tourism that do harm to animals and environment.



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#### **IV. Outreach Program: A New Tour for Volunteers**

##### Elephant Sanctuary in Cambodia

1. Location: Protected forest area near the town of Sen Monorom, Mondulkiri province.
2. Duration: 3 weeks
3. Volunteer Program: Volunteers will be assigned into two groups with different works to do.  
  
In group A, volunteers will be helping feeding, cleaning and taking care of Asian elephants, while volunteers in group B will be helping regenerate the jungle habitat of Asian elephant and planting tree.
4. Age: Adult (18 years plus)
5. Accommodation and food: Clean accommodation is provided on site. One room will be shared by two volunteers. Three meals will be offered per day.
6. How to get there: Volunteers are responsible for getting themselves to Cambodia. They will be picked up at Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport.

7. Itinerary

Week 1								
	Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4	Day5	Day6	Day7	
7:00am	Airport Pick up  &  Transport to Mondulki -ri	Breakfast				Free time		
8:00am		Introduction to Project & Get to Know Each Other	A Tour Through the Area  Group A: Get Familiar With Elephants  Group B: Get Familiar With the Local Environm ent	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning  Group B: Tree Planting	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning  Group B: Tree Planting			
9:00am								
10:00am								
11:00am								
12:00pm								Lunch
1:00pm		Introductio n to Work	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree		
2:00pm								

			Planting & Seed Collecting	Planting & Seed Collecting	Planting & Seed Collecting	
3:00pm		Skill learning			Break time	
4:00pm					Reception	
5:00pm						
6:00pm	Settle In					
7:00pm	Dinner					
8:00pm 	Free time					

Week 2							
	Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4	Day5	Day6	Day7
7:00am	Breakfast					Free time	
8:00am	Cultural Experience	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Progress Meeting	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning		
9:00am							
10:00am							
11:00am							
12:00pm	Lunch						

1:00pm	Group A: Feeding	Group A: Feeding	Group A: Feeding	Group A: Feeding	A tour to Seima Protection Forest (identifying plant and animal species)
2:00pm	Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	
	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	
3:00pm			Break Time		
4:00pm			Cultural Experience (Costume)		
5:00pm				Break Time	
6:00pm					
7:00pm	Dinner				
8:00pm 	Free time				

<b>Week 3</b>					
	Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4	Day5
7:00am	Breakfast				
8:00am	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning	Group A: Feeding Elephants & Sanctuary Cleaning
9:00am					
10:00am					
11:00am					

	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	Group B: Tree Planting & Seed Collecting	& Seed Collecting
12:00pm	Lunch				
1:00pm	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree Planting & Seed	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree Planting & Seed	Cultural Exchange s With the Local People	Group A: Collecting Food for Elephants & Help Washing Elephants  Group B: Tree Planting & Seed	Farewell Preparation
2:00pm					
3:00pm					
4:00pm					
5:00pm					Final Reflection & Farewell Dinner
6:00pm					
7:00pm	Dinner				
8:00pm 	Free Time				

## 8. Budget

Participation fee (including food, beverage and accommodation)	1,000 NTD / per day
Flight ticket fee	12,000-16,000 NTD
Transportation fee	Tuk Tuk: 30 NTD / per ride Bus: 9 NTD / per ride Moto: 30 NTD / per ride Car: 60 NTD / per ride
Vaccination costs (per shot)	Yellow fever vaccine: 2,152 NTD Hepatitis A vaccine: 1,130-2,200 NTD Typhoid vaccine: 1,883 NTD
Personal travel expenses	3,000-6,000 NTD
Travel insurance (For 3 weeks)	1,300-2,200 NTD



## **V. Survival Information**

### **1. Visa**

Good news for Taiwanese citizen who plans to go to Cambodia is that there is no need to go to your local Cambodian consulate to apply for a visa. There is a service called “eVisa” that allowed you to apply it online easily. All you need to do is get your passport, digital photo and payment (37 USD) ready, and you can get your Visa that day.

### **2. Transportation**

The system of transportation in Cambodia includes highway network, railways, bus and motorcycles for the road transport, and boats, ferry and cruises for the waterways. Motorcycles are the most common transportation in Cambodia.

### **3. Currency**

There are no worries about that changing money because the US dollar is Cambodia’s unofficial second currency. The official currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian riel, trades at around 4,000 riel to the US dollar. However, don’t need to be concerned about getting riel when you arrive in Cambodia. Most tourism businesses allow tourists to pay in dollars. If you pay in US dollars, you will get a fair exchange.

#### 4. Hospital in Sen Monorom

- Mondulkiri Provincial Referral Hospital

- Sokpanha Clinic

- Pu Long Health Post

#### 5. Facilities in Local Areas

Cambodia has commissioned two small hydropower plants in Mondulkiri province, in February 2009.

#### 6. Food & Drinks in Mondulkiri

Mondulkiri is a small tourist attraction, so there are a few of restaurants. After time passing, there are more restaurants now. For example, Chom Nor Mondulkiri restaurant is the biggest in town and serving asian and european foods. Moreover, Holiday Guesthouse is next to the street leading to the centre. And they have a small restaurant offering quite common Khmer dishes.

#### 7. Accommodation

- Mondolkiri Hotel

- Emario Mondulkiri Resort

- Ayana Kandara Boutique Hotel

## VI. Appendices

### Minutes of Group Meetings

Meeting of	Group 1—1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	
Date	May 2, 2020	
Time	8 pm~11 pm	
Place	On-line discuss	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Jessie Lee	
	Carrie Lin	
	Penelope Lung	
Discussion		
Topic 1: How to do research on our topic.		
Conclusion: Find information as more as possible and choose parts we want to focus on.		
Topic 2: Job description.		
Conclusion: Leader is Carrie Lin, Secretary is Jessie Lee and Art/Designer is Penelope Lung. Researcher & Writer is for team work.		
Written by: Carrie Lin		

Meeting of	Group 1—2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	
Date	May 25, 2020	
Time	8:30 pm~11 pm	
Place	On-line discuss	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Jessie Lee	
	Carrie Lin	
	Penelope Lung	
Discussion		
Topic : Challenges under globalization.		
Conclusion: Globalization has brought negative effects such as deforestation, land		

grab, animal abuse(by doing performance) and illegal animal trade.
Written by: Carrie Lin

Meeting of	Group 1—3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	
Date	May 31, 2020	
Time	8:15 pm~10:30 pm	
Place	On-line discuss	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Jessie Lee	
	Carrie Lin	
	Penelope Lung	
Discussion		
Topic : How to design the outreach program.		
Conclusion: Two main goals: Taking care of elephants, and helping regenerate their habitats. We can add some culture experience activities for volunteers.		
Written by: Carrie Lin		

Meeting of	Group 1—4 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
Date	June 5, 2020	
Time	8 pm~10 pm	
Place	On-line discuss	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Jessie Lee	
	Carrie Lin	
	Penelope Lung	
Discussion		
Topic : PPT making		
Written by: Carrie Lin		

### **Timeline of Group Work**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>
Part 1: Introduction	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
Part 2: Lifestyle and Culture	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	May 17 <sup>th</sup>
Part 3: Challenges under Globalization	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	May 26 <sup>th</sup>
Part 4: Outreach Program: A New Tour for Volunteers	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Part 5: Survival Information	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
PPT making	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
Revision of term projects	Carrie/Jessie/Penelope	June 16 <sup>th</sup>
Appendices	Carrie	June 16 <sup>th</sup>