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Tour Name: Banteay Chhmar, Banteay Top Guided Tour Excursion

Tour Code: A1L

Tour Duration: 1 day

Tour Operates: all year round / on demand

Number of Pax: available upon request

Tour Price: available upon request

Pick-up and drop-off location

Can be anywhere upon request

Hotel in Siem Reap

Upon arrival in Siem Reap airport

Upon arrival in Siem Reap bus station

Upon arrival in boat pier in Chong Kneah floating village

Any AirBnB and residences in Siem Reap.

Pick-up and drop-off direction

Kindly provide your pick-up and drop-off styles for direction!

BANTEAY CHHMAR AND BANTEAY TOP TEMPLE

Banteay Chhmar – in the morning, you will be met and welcomed by our English speaking guide, picked up and transferred onward to Banteay Chhmar, is a commune in Thma Puok District in Banteay Meanchey province in northwest Cambodia. It is located 63 km north of Sisophon and about 20 km east of the Thai border. The commune of Banteay Chhmar contains 14 villages.

The massive temple of **Banteay Chhmar**, along with its satellite shrines and reservoir (baray), comprises one of the most important and least understood archaeological complexes from Cambodia's Angkor period.

History

Like Angkor Thom, the temple of Banteay Chhmar was accomplished during the reign of Jayavarman VII in the late 12th or early 13th century. One of the temple's shrines once held an image of Srindrakumararajaputra (the crown prince), a son of Jayavarman VII who died before him. The temple doors record Yasovarman I's failed invasion of Champa.

The long Old Khmer inscription found at the site (K.227), and now on display in the National Museum, Phnom Penh, relates how Prince Srindrakumara was protected on two different occasions by four companions in arms, once against Rahu, and once on a military campaign against Champa. Their four statues, with one of the prince, was placed in the central chapel.

Another bas-relief states Yasovarman II was attacked by Rahu, but "saved by a young prince."

The site

The complex resembles Angkor Thom and other structures attributed to Jayavarman VII. It is one of two sites outside Angkor with the enigmatic face-towers. Besides that, its outer gallery is carved with bas-reliefs depicting military engagements and daily life scenes very similar to the well-known ones in Bayon.



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The complex is oriented to the east, where there's a dried baray (about 1.6 by 0.8 km), which had a temple on an artificial island (mebon) in its centre. There are three enclosures, as typical. The external one, largely ruined, was 1.9 by 1.7 km and surrounded by a moat. The middle enclosure, provided with a moat too, is 850 by 800 m. It contains the main temple, surrounded by a gallery with reliefs 250 by 200 m which constitutes the third inner enclosure.

Besides the main temple and the mebon there are other eight secondary temples. Four stelae detailing Jayavarman VII's genealogy were placed (though they remain unfinished) at each of the four corners of the third enclosure wall, mirroring the stelae that occupied the four corner-shrines (Prasat Chrung) of the king's capital at Angkor Thom.

Modern threats

Because of its remote location and its proximity to the Thai border, the complex has been subjected to severe looting, especially in the 1990s. In 1998, 2000 and 2002 the temple was listed by the World Monuments Fund as one of the top one hundred most endangered sites in the world.

For example, in 1998 a group of soldiers stole a 30-metre section of the southern wall. The bas-reliefs of Banteay Chhmar once displayed eight exceptional Avalokiteśvaras in the west gallery, but now only two remain. In January 1999 looters dismantled sections of the western gallery wall containing these bas-reliefs. They were intercepted by Thai police and 117 sandstone pieces of the wall were recovered. They are now on display in the National Museum of Cambodia in Phnom Penh.

Lunch at local restaurant (at your own costs)

Banteay Top (Fortress of the Army), set among rice paddies southeast of Banteay Chhmar, may only be a small temple but there's something special about the atmosphere here. Constructed around the same time as Banteay Chhmar, it may be a tribute to the army of Jayavarman VII, which confirmed Khmer dominance over the region by conclusively defeating the Chams. One of the damaged towers looks decidedly precarious, like a bony finger pointing skyward. The turn-off from NH69, marked by a stone plinth with gold inscription, is 9km south of Banteay Chhmar. It takes one day to visit those temples from Siem Reap.

Return to Siem Reap.

TOUR ENDS



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PRICE

- private solo tour: USD195
- private tour for 2 persons: USD103 per person
- private tour for 3 persons: USD71 per person
- private tour for 4 persons: USD55 per person
- private tour for 5 persons: USD46 per person
- private tour for 6 persons: USD40 per person
- private tour for 7 persons: USD36 per person
- private tour for 8 persons: USD34 per person
- private tour for 9 persons: USD30 per person
- the more people, the better price.

INCLUDED

- Full tours and transfers by private luxury A/C vehicle
- English speaking guide
- Banteay Chhmar ticket.

EXCLUDED

- Meals not mentioned
- Accommodation
- Visa fees \$30 (visa on arrival, please bring 1 of your recent passport-size photo to visit your Cambodia visa). Southeast Asian passport holders do not require a Cambodian visa
- Drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips and expenditure of a personal nature
- Personal travel insurance
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary.

Creating Unique Touring Experiences

Our expert travel team has planned your trip so that you can experience the very best of what Cambodia Vietnam, Laos and Thailand have to offer. We understand that many will have various needs and wants for each particular tour that may not be included in an itinerary. We will plan any tour to meet your particular demands. Please **Send inquiry>>>**

Or feel free to contact us at

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