



1 Day : Banteay Srei, Beng Melea, The Roulos Group & Tonle Sap

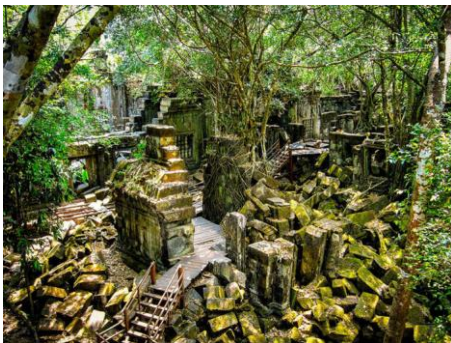
Start : 7am

After breakfast we travel to explore Banteay Srei, or Lady Temple, a 10th-century Cambodian temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Located in the area of Angkor, it lies near the hill of Phnom Dei, 25 km north-east of the main group of temples that once belonged to the medieval capitals of Yasodharapura and Angkor Thom.

Banteay Srei is built largely of red/pink sandstone, a medium that lends itself to the elaborate, intricate decorative wall carvings which are still observable today. The buildings themselves are miniature in scale, unusually so when measured by the standards of Angkorian construction. These factors have made the temple extremely popular with tourists, and have led to its being widely praised as a "precious gem", or the "Jewel of Khmer art."



Enjoy lunch at a local Khmer restaurant in the jungle (not included)



Beng Mealea is located 40 kilometers east of the main Angkor Wat complex. The temple was mainly constructed from sandstone, with its architectural style identical to that of Angkor Wat. Because of this, it is thought that Beng Mealea was built in the 12th century under the reign of Suryavarman II. The temple grounds are surrounded by a gigantic moat and was once entirely consumed by jungle. This atmospheric temple is oriented toward

the east, with entrance ways from the other three cardinal directions also. If entering from the south, visitors will find themselves amid piles of chiseled sandstone blocks, sweeping vines, and mysterious dark chambers.

The layout of the temple consists of three enclosed galleries situated around a central tower, which has now completely collapsed. There's a well-preserved library in the northeastern quadrant, plus extensive carvings of scenes from Hindu mythology and long balustrades formed by bodies of the seven-headed Naga serpent.

Roluos is a Cambodian modern small town and an archeological site about 13km east of Siem Reap along NH6. Once it was the seat of Hariharalaya, first capital of the Khmer Empire north of Tonlé Sap (as the first capital in the strict sense of the term could have been Indrapura, identifiable with Banteay Prey Nokor).

Among the "Roluos Group" of Temples there are some of the earliest permanent structures built by Khmer. They mark the beginning of classical period of Khmer civilization, dating from the late 9th century. Some were totally built with bricks, others partially with laterite or sandstone (the first large "Angkorian" temple built with sandstone was possibly Ta Keo)



At present it is composed of three major temples: Bakong, Lolei, and Preah Ko, along with tiny Prasat Prei Monti. At both Bakong and Lolei there are contemporary Theravada Buddhist monasteries.

We travel to Tonle Sap, South East Asia's largest fresh water lake. The lake's size and volume vary significantly through the year, depending on whether it is the wet or dry season. We will take a boat along the lake and see many of the floating villages and people who call the lake home. Kampong Phluk! A commune and village in Siem Reap Province in northern-central Cambodia. It is a village built on stilts on the Tonle Sap.



The name means "Harbor of the Tusks". The community largely depends on fishing for survival, spending Cambodia's wet season fishing and salting their catch for when there are less opportunities to catch.

Then, cold drink in hand, we drive back to Siem Reap in comfort to your accommodation.

Price Per Vehicle:

Car (AC – 1 – 4 Pax): \$

Minivan (AC 1 – 8 Pax): \$