



Lake and Birdwatching Tours

We run fascinating tours to the Tonle Sap Lake

This amazing lake and river system is unique in the world. The 160 km long Tonle Sap Lake trebles its size during the rainy season. In early June the lake begins to fill with water from the Mekong River.

Over a period of 3 months, the lake rises and progressively floods the surrounding forests and rice fields. The inundation of the Tonle Sap, with its fresh water fish; and the fertility aided by the annual flood; laid the foundations of wealth which allowed the Khmer Empire to flourish.

Around the full moon at the end of October; the Tonle Sap river reverses its flow and the lake begins to drain. Water birds flock into the area to gorge themselves on the millions of fish and assemble in their tens of thousands in the Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary. This feeding frenzy lasts until April when fish stocks are reduced and the birds migrate.

As the water levels drop, there is intense activity as the lake become a vast fish farm. Huge fish traps are constructed which extend several kilometres into the lake. The villagers move their houseboats out onto the lake; or build temporary stilt houses out of bamboo and thatch. --->



TKK Kompong Khleang With over 20,000 inhabitants; Kompong Khleang is one of the largest communities in the Tonle Sap. The most striking feature of the place is the immensely high stilt houses. Some of the bamboo and thatch dwellings look more like watch towers. The solid houses of the more wealthy inhabitants rise up over the surrounding river and canals.

This half day trip takes you by road and boat to a community untouched by tourism. Rarely visited until 2006, Kompong Khleang has no facilities for tourists; yet we can be assured of a warm welcome from the curious locals.



We drive to the small town Of Dam Dek where we take a new road south towards the Tonle Sap Lake. We transfer to a wooden boat; which takes us several kms; passing the village of Kompong Khleang with its high stilt houses. We continue down river to the Tonle Sap Lake which is over 40kms wide at this point.

There is a small island at the centre of the village which has a bustling market and one of several Pagodas, a school and Health Centre. The Pagoda has a painting outside the entrance; depicting Heaven and a rather gory Hell; The kids cheekily pose anywhere a camera is pointed.

We take the boat back to our transport and return to Siem Reap at 1 – 2 pm. For Those with Temple Passes we can drop you off to visit Roluos on the way back. We can arrange to take you back to Siem Reap (extra Charge)

Itinerary varies during the year; in the Dry Season we can drive direct to the centre of Kompong Khleang and take boat from there.

TKK01 Kompong Khleang departs 7 am returning 1pm

Small Group Tour \$35 per person(min 4 pers) : Starts 7am returning at 1 -2 pm Lunch is not included

TKB Kompong Khleang with Beng Mealea

This new tour is an exciting day; visiting both the Lake village of Kompong Khleang and using improved roads to the Jungle Temple of Beng Mealea (for details see). This tour gives an opportunity to see lake village life at first hand. During the fishing season we visit the floating fish market and our boatman buys fresh fish for our lunch in his traditional stilt house.

In the afternoon we drive to Beng Mealea; where we take an unusual route into this vast ruin which is the wonders of Cambodia.

Small Group Tour \$55 per person (min 4 pers) including lunch. Starts 7am returning at 6-7 pm

TKP Kompong Phluk

This half day trip takes you south east along the shore of Tonle Sap Lake to the fascinating stilt village of Kompong Phluk. Its name Translates to Harbour of the Tusks, reflecting its past trade in elephants. Kompong Phluk is a place virtually untouched by time or progress and will give a insight into the traditional life of the fishing communities here.

From September through to December, the water level allows us to pass through the fascinating mangrove forests on the margins of the lake, on the way to Kompong Phluk. Fish breed there in their millions hidden amongst the dense forest.

The land village of Kompong Phluk has very high stilt houses to allow for the rise in the water level of the Tonle Sap. The stilt houses are an impressive sight as we approach the village from the river. We wander around the village street when water levels allow and visit the Pagoda which has some spectacular wall paintings.

In the dry season; the character of Kompong Phluk Changes markedly. We take a route further out on the lake, by passing the long fish barriers and traps which extend for up to several kilometers out into the Tonle Sap.

The village of Kompong Phluk moves out onto the lake as the water level rises, leaving their main homes for the fishing season. Simple stilt houses are erected for the fishing season, then dismantled in May leaving no trace of the hundreds of dwellings. The dry season is a very picturesque time of year here; the photo opportunities for people and their life are almost endless.

Tours leave 7:00 am returning at 1p m (flexible departure for groups)

Small Group Tour \$45 per person (min 4 pers). Starts 7am returning at 2pm



TMK Moat Khla with Kompong Khleang

Our most ambitious and adventurous lake tour; visits a floating village which is so isolated; that only a few outsiders ever get here. Moat Khla is a predominantly Vietnamese floating village that has no road access. Until we had a suitable boat based in Kompong Khleang; it would have been a very long trip from Siem Reap Boat Port (4 to5 hours each way)

The journey starts from Kompong Khleang; where our boat takes you down the river past the spectacular stilt houses and the life along the causeway to the open lake. In the dry season the Tonle Sap is 40kms wide in the flood season it can be up to 100 kms wide.

It takes an hour and a half to get to Moat Khla; which in the Flood Season, the houses are moored among the tree tops. The village is always on the move as the water levels and demands of the fishing mean that the floating houses can be spread over a wide area. Because of the rarity of visitors (no ordinary tourists are seen here) we can be assured of a warm welcome. Invitations to village homes are quite likely as we are of as much interest to the locals as they are to us!

We have a packed lunch on the boat or one of boats of the local families. Our return journey give us the chance to see the houses of Kompong Khleang in the late afternoon light.

Tours leave 7:30 am returning at 6 -7pm (flexible departure for groups)

Small Group Tour \$60 per person (min 4 pers) . Starts 7am returning at 2pm



TAB Floating Village Tour with dinner

This short trip takes in a boat trip to the fascinating village of Chong Khneas You can see over 1300 houseboats with floating schools, shops and even a Catholic church.

We can get a close look at the mangrove forests at the edges of the great Tonle Sap Lake and drift among the friendly villagers where water levels permit.

The price includes dinner aboard a converted Mekong riverboat; all transport and guiding

Small Group Tour Cost \$27 (min 2 pers) Start 4pm



TGE Grand Eastern Lake Tour.

This full day lake tour; visits three contrasting villages; giving an insight into lake life that only a relatively few visitors can get.

We start off at the village of Chong Khneas which had 1300 houseboats and is the main port for Siem Reap. Our boat takes approximately 1 1/2 hours to get to the Kompong Phluk (see TKP above) We continue in approx 1 1/2 hours more to Kompong Khleang. (see TKK Above) The approach from the river is spectacular with thousands of stilt houses lining the river banks. This Venice of South East Asia is usually flooded, but there is a small sand island which has permanent dwellings, the school and the pagoda. We have a good look around the village before returning to Chong Khneas for sunset.

The Itinerary can be changed visiting Kompong Phluk on the return instead of the outward journey.

For those who have limited time we can arrange for transport to take you back from Kompong Khleang. There will be an additional charge of \$50 for the whole group for this service

Tours leave 7:30 am returning at 6 -7pm (flexible departure for groups)

Small Group Tour \$75 per person (min 4 pers) lunch at Kompong Khleang is included

Price and itinerary subject to change; confirm on booking

Special Conditions for Lake Tours

- **Transport** :Minibus to port; then semi open motorboat with roof to keep off the sun; life jackets are supplied
- **Water**: we will take some bottled water; but suggest you buy extra.
- **Toilets** are basic in villages and not usual on boats: unless we have a big group on a 35 seat boat.
- **Food**: there are limited food supplies available in villages; so we suggest you take snacks if lunch is not specified
- **Sunscreen** and **Insect repellent** is essential on the tours going through the mangroves
- **Waterproofs** are advised in the rainy season; May to October.

Bird watching tours



Sarus Cranes at Ang Trapang Thmor

Cambodia has spectacular opportunities for ornithologists and those interested in bird life,

At the north of Tonle Sap lake, Prek Toal is a fabulous place for seeing wildlife and birds in the dry season December - March. We use a Government run boat which has books to aid identification of the thousands of water birds to be found here

To the North West is Ang Trapang Thmor Bird reserve, which is one of only two World sites to see the extremely rare Sarus Crane in Season (December through April

PT01 Prek Toal Early Bird Tour

4am start for the drive to boat port; where we board a boat to take us across the great Tonle Sap Lake to Prek Toal village. We transfer to a government boat at the environment centre

Early in the season we can take a boat right into the heart of the mangroves to a tree top hide. We can see the thousands of storks and other birds nesting in the trees. As the water levels drop during the season; we see the birds fishing on the lake in vast numbers. It is one of the wonders of South East Asia.

Price includes all car and boat transfers; guides, lunch and the \$25-\$30 Prek Toal sanctuary fee.

We return to Siem reap in the afternoon.

Cost \$110 (min 2 pers) Start 4am Finish variable depending on season

Please note: visits to Prek Toal are subject to the demands of the fishing season, Access can be denied without notice. In the event of this happening we will refund tour price and/or make arrangements for other alternative tour.

Price and itinerary subject to change; confirm on booking

PT02 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary



More than a bird sanctuary; Prek Toal is a total Tonle Sap lake experience! It is a fabulous place for seeing wildlife and birds in the dry season December to March.

The visitor can also get an experience of the fascinating life of the floating villages as well, by staying overnight in the village. This allows a dawn start on a Government run boat which has books to aid identification of the thousands of water birds to be found here.

Day 1 Afternoon boat to across the great **Tonle Sap Lake to Prek Toal**. We take a short cruise up the Sangkar river to view the village and sunset

Day 2 Pre-dawn start to see the bird life at its best. Early in the season we can take a boat right into the heart of the mangroves to a tree top hide. We can see the thousands of storks and other birds nesting in the trees. As the water levels drop during the season; we see the birds fishing on the lake in vast numbers. It is one of the wonders of South East Asia.

Accommodation: in homestay on houseboat; or at the Prek Toal Environment centre

1 1/2 day tour: Cost \$125 per person : Min No 2 persons on tour

Price and itinerary subject to change; confirm on booking

ATT Ang Trapang Thmor: Sarus Crane reserve

This is an exciting tour which gives an opportunity to see some of the world rarest birds in their natural environment. There are only two sites in the World where these magnificent birds can be seen. We drive to the Reservoir of Ang Trapang Thmor which is 3 hours by road from Siem Reap. The vast reservoir was built by the Khmer Rouge in 1975 at the cost of countless lives during its construction.

We visit the Sanctuary office and take a bird guide who directs us to the best spots to see the Cranes which can be seen in their hundreds in the reservoir or out in the rice fields. It is possible to combine this tour with a visit to Banteay Chhmar Temple BC02 in a 1 or 2 day expedition. With a night at the sanctuary for an early start. Please ask for details.

Cost \$75 each (min 2 pers) Start and finish depending on personal preferences .

Price and itinerary subject to change; confirm on booking

Important Notes for Lake and Birdwatching Tours

All Itineraries: described on this tour are statements of intent. We will do everything possible to ensure that all the activities shown on the tour itineraries are achieved. Weather conditions or other factors outside our control may affect our plans. We will discuss any changes or options with the group.

Extra guiding: and sightseeing outside of the tour, will be at the clients expense.

Participation on tour: It is not strictly necessary for participants to go on all trips listed on the tour itinerary; however there cannot be any refund for any part of the tour not used

Meals and drinks: are not provided unless stated in the tour itinerary above or if we have made special arrangements; this will be stated your invoice.

Health and Safety: Whilst we will do all we can to ensure the safety of all clients; participants do so at their own risk. Cambodia is a Third World country and road and other conditions are not like those on the "West" Some areas we visit are very remote and medical facilities are primitive or nonexistent. It is the responsibility of all clients to ensure that they are medically fit and are fully insured.

As parts of Cambodia have a risk of **Malaria** and or **Dengue**; it is important to take anti mosquito precautions when away from Siem Reap This can be by clothing, anti Malarial or the use of mosquito nets or repellants . We will advise.

Accommodation on multi day tours We will always try to obtain good quality hotels with en suite facilities . However on some tours we have to use basic guest houses or village houses with limited facilities

We will advise clients the nature of the accommodation prior to the tour.

A single supplement will not normally be charged, provided the client is willing to share a room with a person of the same sex. Single supplements at guest houses or hotels and will be settled at the end of stay

Payment for mini tours and day tours: are normally paid in US\$ on commencement of the tour. We request a deposit for group and individual tours of a \$200 or more. The deposit payment will be a minimum of \$100 and can be done by bank transfer or Western Union. We will refund the cost of the Western Union payment up to \$25 on presentation of your payment invoice.

In the event of not enough persons on the tour: we will do everything possible to run the tour. There may be some changes in schedule or transport arrangements: i.e. car instead of Minibus. All key elements of the tour will go ahead. In exceptional circumstances we may ask for a supplementary charge. This will be kept to the minimum required to run the tour.

Cancellation: In the event of cancellation by ourselves we will refund all payments. If you cancel after payment has been made; we will only refund in exceptional circumstances and if no payments have been made by us.

Complaints:

If you are not happy with any aspect of the tour; please let us know at the time any problem occurs. We will do everything possible to rectify.

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