



**THE ANGLO THAI SOCIETY**  
**THAILAND - LAOS - CAMBODIA TOUR 2020**  
**Along Mekong River: from Northeastern Thailand - Southern Laos to**  
**Siem Reap.**  
**4th February - 18th February 2020**  
**15 days / 14 nights**

Day 1: Arrive Bangkok  
 Day 2: Bangkok at leisure  
 Day 3: Bangkok - Buriram  
 Day 4: Buriram - Ubon Ratchathani  
 Day 5: Ubon - Chong Mek - Done Daeng  
 Day 6: Done Daeng-Wat Phou-Done Daneg  
 Day 7: Done Daeng-Khone  
 Day 8: Khone-Khonephapheng-Border

Day 9: Stung Treng – Kratie  
 Day 10: Kratie  
 Day 11: Kratie – Kampong Cham – Kampong Tho  
 Day 12: Kampong Thom – Sambor Prei Kuk – Siem Reap  
 Day 13: Siem Reap  
 Day 14: Siem Reap  
 Day 15: Siem Reap – Departure

**Day 1 : Tuesday 04-Feb-2020**

**Group Transfer In: Suvarnabhumi Airport - Bangkok Hotel for group arriving on the same flight.**  
**Private transfer for people arriving at any other time can be arrange at additional cost**

After retrieving your luggage please exit customs through the nearest EXIT (B or C) to your luggage belt to the arrivals hall and look to the LEFT to find your guide holding a signboard with your name. In case you cannot find your guide, please approach an ATTA counter for help (near gates # 6 and #10) OR call our 24 hrs Customer Care number on +66 (0) 81 867 2806. You will then be transferred to your hotel in a private vehicle (30km / approx. 45 min). Please note standard check-in time for hotels in Thailand is after 14:00.

Rest of the day at leisure

*Optional tours/excursions available on request, contact: Runci Weeden*

**T** 01793 940 075

**E** [runci.weeden@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:runci.weeden@travelcounsellors.com)

**W** <http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/runci.weeden>

**Hotel: Riva Surya Bangkok**

**Board basis: N/A**

**Day 2 : Wednesday 05-Feb-2020**

Today is free at leisure.

**Hotel: Riva Surya Bangkok**

**Board basis: Breakfast**

**Day 3: Thursday 06-Feb-2020      Bangkok to Buriram****Transfer Out : Bangkok Hotel - Don Muang Airport with Guide**

Guests will be transferred from Bangkok Hotel to Don Muang Airport accompanied by their guide in the comfort of a private, air- conditioned vehicle.

Your flight detail: DD9602 DMK-BFV 05:55 - 07:00hrs

Meet with driver for a transfer to Amari Buriram, early check and breakfast included.

Check in to your room and have some refreshment before the tour.

Lunch will be served at local restaurant.

This afternoon visit Phnom Rung Historical Park home to Thailand's biggest Khmer temple. A wonderfully-restored historical site, it offers a glimpse into the past and to the times when this part of the country was ruled by the Khmer Empire, a mighty regime that was responsible for the magnificent temples of Angkor in nearby Cambodia.

Then continue to visit to Phasat Muang Tam ปราสาทเมืองต่ำ (Lower City), at the base of Phnom Rung hill, beside a kilometer-long reservoir (baray). It was built in the tenth or eleventh century. The primary deity worshipped there was Shiva like Phnom Rung, although Vishnu was also worshipped during the temples history. It was connected via ancient trade routes to the 'Great City' of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom. The world-famous Angkor Wat Complex nearby is built in a similar style.

Transfer to your hotel.

Dinner and overnight at Amari Buriram

**Hotel: Amari Buriram United**

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Day 4: Friday 07-Feb-2020      Buriram to Ubon**

After breakfast, depart from the hotel to the historic Khmer temple of Wat Sa Kampheng Noi. Situated in Wat Sa Kamphaeng Noi, Ban Klang, Tambon Khayung, The Khmer Ruins comprise laterite stupas and chapel with a big pond at front, all are in the embrace of laterite wall. Once it had a stone carved lintel depicting 'the Varun God', the god of rain, sitting on the throne above three swans. The carving was placed over Kiattimukha. The Khmer Ruins in Bapuan date back to the 11th Century. Initially they were used for religious purposes. In the 13th Century, under the reign on King Chaya Varaman VII, Bayon Architectural style was added. During such time, the ruins were called 'Arokaya Sala' to be served as community hospital. How to get there: The Khmer Ruins are 8 kilometres from Si Sa Ket City.



Lunch at local restaurant before continue travel to your hotel in Ubon Ratchathani

Afternoon at leisure then leave hotel at 16:00hrs for a Sunset Cruise

### **Sunset cruise on the Mekong River**

You will be collected from your hotel mid-afternoon, to take a long tail boat ride out to see the riparian side of the Mekong River. You will experience the gentle peace of the late afternoon Mekong, watching fisherman energetically haul in their afternoon catch. During this, you will notice the warm tropical sun slowly slipping away behind the wonderful rock formations, to create a very dramatic effect. The best time of the year to embark on a river-cruise on the Mekong is between November and April. You will be returned to your hotel early evening

Dinner at hotel

**Hotel: Tohsang Khongjiam Resort**

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

## **Day 5: Saturday 08-Feb-2020 Ubon Ratchathani - Chong Mek - Don Daeng**

**Transfer: Ubon Hotel - Chong Mek Border(Thai Side) with Guide**

Leave your hotel around 08:30hrs then you will be transferred from hotel in Ubon Ratchathani to Chong Mek Border (Thai Side) accompanied by guide in the comfort of a private, air- conditioned vehicle.

Arrival in Vang Tao border Lao side, our guide and driver will collect you on your arrival at Vang Tao in Laos. You will then drive south towards the Champasak province of Southern Laos then take a short boat ride to Don Daeng, an island in the middle of the Mekong River, where you will check into La Folie Lodge.

The remainder of today is free to relax. La Folie Lodge has a beautiful swimming pool and its riverfront location offers spectacular views. There are 8 small villages dotting the island's coast and, should you be feeling energetic, a short walk will give you a taste of local island life.

**Hotel: La Folie Lodge**

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

## **Day 6: Sunday 09-Feb-2020 Done Daeng- Wat Phou - Don Daeng**

After a leisurely breakfast, take a short-guided bicycle tour or tuk tuk around the island. The road is flat and the easy ride is a good chance to witness the daily life of the villagers.

Then cross the Mekong by boat to visit Wat Phou. Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Wat Phou is a spectacular pre-Angkorian temple that sits among the rice fields and waterways of southern Laos. The temple was constructed in three levels: the bottom level is focused on the baray (water reservoir) and promenade, the second level features quadrangular pavilions and galleries of carvings, and the top level is the



sanctuary itself. The temple was built by the rulers of the Khmer empire before the construction of Angkor Wat. This site served as the most important economic and political centre of the region and still is one of the Lao people's most revered temples.

Pass through the small town of Champasak, where French colonial buildings offer a great contrast to Wat Phou.

Return to Don Daeng Island where the remainder of this afternoon is free at the Lodge.

**Hotel: La Folie Lodge**

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### **Day 7: Monday 10-Feb-2020 Don Daeng-Khone**

Depart after breakfast, heading for the area known locally as Sipandon (meaning '4000 Islands'). In this beautiful area the Mekong River reaches 14 kilometers wide and thousands of small islands dot the waterway.

Travel first by car for around 2 hours to the village of Ban Nakasan. From here you will take a local boat to the peaceful islands of Done Det and Done Khone, where plantations and simple villages are almost all you will find. We recommend bicycles as the best way to explore, or a tuk-tuk if you prefer.

Starting with a short boat trip will give you the chance to spot the rare Irrawaddy Dolphin. Please note that sightings are far from guaranteed, but the mornings and late afternoon are best, when the water is cooler.

Visit the impressive Lippi falls, which are on the west of Don Khone, very close to the Cambodian border. Their original name, Tad Somphamit, means "trap spirit" and the locals revere these falls as they believe they act as a trap for bad spirits.

The islands played an important role during the French Colonial rule as they linked Laos to Cambodia and Southern Vietnam. To overpass the waterfalls, a railway and bridge were built, the perfect place to take your time and soak in the view.

Continue your exploration and ease in to the slow pace of life, observing locals and taking your time. Lunch will be included at a local restaurant.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Hotel: Sala Done Khone**

**Board basis:** Breakfast/ Lunch/Dinner

### **Day 8: Tuesday 11-Feb-2020 Don Khone – Laos/Cambodia Border – Stung Treng**

This morning, starting with a short boat trip from Don Khone Island to the village of Ban Nakasan. Drive toward the southern border stopping to stroll through palm-fringed villages and explore the imposing Khone Papheng waterfalls.



After completion of the border formalities, your new English speaking guide will welcome you to Cambodia.

Here, you will have a first glance at a typical Cambodian village and get in touch with the wonderful and welcoming Cambodian people. Board a local boat and embark on a breathtaking journey through the islands and flooded forests of the Mekong. On the 2.5-hour boat ride, you will have plenty of time to relax and rest during a picnic lunch on a remote island that will give you the sense of being far away from everything, just surrounded by nature. Continue towards Stung Treng, where you will arrive in the afternoon.

Tonight dinner at local restaurant.

**Hotel:** Golden River Hotel

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### Day 9: Wednesday 12-Feb-2020 Stung Treng - Kratie

Breakfast will be served at a local restaurant near the market in Stung Treng.

This morning, visit Mekong Blue, a local silk weaving centre offering work and an income to disadvantaged young women in this remote area. You can tour the workshops and, if you like, shop for beautiful silk items that carry the 'UNESCO Seal of Excellence' (*Note: Mekong Blue closed Sundays*).

From here, transfer South towards Kratie. On the way, stop to visit Wat Sorsor Mouy Roy in the village Sambo. The vihara (temple sanctuary) of the so-called '100 Pillars Pagoda' is an important historical and cultural building and quite famous for its legend involving a princess and a crocodile.

Continue along the banks of the Mekong, a very scenic route with great views. Kampi Village is the best spot to view the rare Irrawaddy Dolphins along the Mekong. Get on board a local boat that will take you to the preferred places of these interesting creatures. As soon as you will have spotted the first dolphin, your boat driver will turn the engine off and you will follow the dolphins silently (duration 1 to 1.5 hours).

Arrive in Kratie (transfer ca. 30 minutes), where you will have some time at leisure to discover the small town. For lunch, enjoy Le Tonlé Tourism Training Centre, where young locals are being trained in the principles of hospitality to ensure a better future in Stung Treng. Dining here means most delicious Khmer food paired with a very personalized service. The students are as excited to meet their guests as the guests themselves to meet the students. (*Note: The Centre is closed at weekends – if your visit coincides with a Sat/Sun then dinner will be at the hotel or a local restaurant instead*).

This afternoon, free at leisure in Kratie town.

**Hotel:** Mekong Dolphin Hotel

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### Day 10: Thursday 13-Feb-2020 Kratie

Breakfast at the hotel.





Now you are ready for a visit the island that is your home during your visit to Kratie. You can decide whether you would like to take a local horse cart or pedal yourself around the island on a bicycle.

Your first destination is the island's Wat, where a special activity awaits you: A tree planting project initiated by a local farmer, in order to recultivate the once densely forested island. Contribute to the project by planting your own tree here and it will carry your name tag and leave a positive trace on the island.

After freshening up, relax with a beautiful Khmer lunch under pomelo trees at a typical local house right by the river.

Continue by horse cart or cycling around the island, where you will be able to taste local fruit and visit a Vietnamese floating village on the southern tip of the island. Return to Kratie by boat this afternoon, where you will have some time to relax.

This evening, you might be lucky to see the spectacular sunset over the Mekong that Kratie is famous for.

Dinner at local restaurant.

**Hotel:** Mekong Dolphin Hotel

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### **Day 11: Friday 14-Feb-2020 Kratie – Kampong Cham – Kampong Thom**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Now it is time to drive South, towards Kampong Thom. On the way, stop to visit Chhlong (transfer time ca. 45 minutes), a tiny town with many French colonial houses that are amongst the most beautiful in Cambodia.

Upon arrival in Kampong Cham (transfer time ca. 2.5 hours), a delicious lunch will be served at a local restaurant. After a short tour of the provincial capital and its typical market, continue to Kampong Thom (transfer time ca. 2 hours), where you will have the rest of the day at leisure to relax by your hotel's beautiful pool or to discover the provincial capital on your own.

Dinner at hotel.

**Hotel:** Glorious Hotel & Spa

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### **Day 12: Saturday 15-Feb-2020 Kampong Thom – Sambor Prei Kuk – Siem Reap**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, you head towards the rarely visited Sambor Prei Kuk, one of the most important pre-Angkorian sites in the country that has become Cambodia's most recent UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sambor Prei Kuk was built in the Chenla period between the 6th and 7th centuries and there are over 100 well preserved temples



scattered in the forest. The three main sites are linked by small and shady tracks. Enjoy a beautiful walk through the jungle with breathtaking views.

The villages around the temple complex still practice the ancient art of craft making, using materials such as bamboo and rattan. Stop at one village to observe the local production. The community runs the Isanborei Craft Hut next to the temples and sells their products there as part of a community-based tourism project. You will have the chance to visit and contribute to the sustainability of the people's livelihood as the local community will prepare a simple but very tasty lunch for you near the temple.

Continue towards Siem Reap, about 2.5 hours away. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy a break.

Dinner at hotel.

**Hotel:** Shinta Mani Shack

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### Day 13: Sunday 16-Feb-2020 Siem Reap

Discover the highlights of the Angkor Archaeological Park on this full day Siem Reap sightseeing tour alongside an expert local guide. A tour by Tuk-Tuk of Angkor Thom, the capital of King Jayavaraman VII, kicks off the visit. Enter the city through the 8m-high square wall that surround it. Admire the impressive entrance gates featuring statues of elephants, gods, and demons.

At the centre of Angkor Thom lies Bayon. Climb up to the top terrace to see the enigmatic smiles of the Buddha faces that sit high up on the towers. Walk to the nearby Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper Kings to see the intricate bas-reliefs that line the walls.

Lunch at local restaurant.

Take a midday break to refuel and escape the sun's hottest rays. Resume the Siem Reap sightseeing tour with a visit to Ta Phrom. Overgrown with trees and vines, the temple is a perfect example of how nature crept in and reclaimed its land after the fall of the Angkorian empires. Wander around and feel the atmosphere of this unusual temple.

The final stop of the day is perhaps the best- magnificent Angkor Wat. Ambling through this sprawling temple, it is easy to see why it has become the symbol of Cambodia. The massive 12<sup>th</sup>-century structure resembles Mount Meru and is filled with carvings everywhere. Be awe-inspired by the sheer scale of Angkor Wat, which took 30 years to build. Having discovered the beautiful interior, step outside for sunset and admire the views as the last light of day shines on the temple.

With a treasure trove of photos and memories, return to town for the evening.

Dinner at local restaurant.

**Hotel:** Shinta Mani Shack

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner



### Day 14: Monday 17-Feb-2020 Siem Reap

After an early breakfast take a short transfer that will bring you to the beginning of your temple exploration experience at the East entrance of Angkor Wat. You set out like the first explorers did on foot, trekking through the dense jungle of the magnificent temples of Angkor on a 6km trek. Walking from temple to temple is a unique way to see these magnificent ruins:

After a few kilometres you will reach the city of Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. This city is surrounded by an 8m high wall, drawing a perfect square.

Continue on foot to Bayon Temple in the exact centre of the city. This 12th century masterpiece is a study in grandeur and is well-known for its dozens of towers with enigmatic faces representing the Buddha.

Finish the walk and drive to visit Ta Prohm temple built between the mid-12th to early 13th centuries. Ta Prohm is unique in that it has been left largely overgrown by jungle trees and vines, with many parts of the temple crumbling to the ground. This makes the 'Tomb Raider Temple' one of the most picturesque and memorable of the Angkor temples. Alternatively, depending on the season and the crowds, you may wish to visit Preah Khan temple. Built by the same king in a similar style, this larger temple complex is also largely left in ruins and its labyrinthian layout and fewer visitors makes a more intimate experience even in the high season months.

Break up your day with lunch at Marum, a newly opened dining experience which is a sister to the Romdeng and Friends training restaurants in Phnom Penh. 33 students and 15 trainers are currently employed by an NGO that has been working with street children and other marginalized young people since 2005 in Siem Reap. The food is mostly tapas style though main courses are also available. (closed Sundays).

Later this afternoon, embark on an interesting boat trip on the Tonlé Sap Lake, where you will have the opportunity to learn about life on the lake. Tonlé Sap is South East Asia's largest freshwater lake with its size varying greatly depending on the season, as it is swelling to about four times its size during the wet season. Board a local boat and visit Kampong Phluck, a village where you will see houses on stilts that are submerged when Tonlé Sap Lake extends. On the way, you will pass floating houses and impressive flooded forests, portraying life on the water. *(Note: Due to low water levels during the dry season, the boat trip is only possible from July to February. However, an alternative floating village at Chong Kneas can be arranged instead).*

After these magnificent temples we transfer back to Siem Reap for a well-deserved dinner with traditional Khmer dance show.

**Hotel:** Shinta Mani Shack

**Board basis:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### Day 15: Tuesday 18-Feb-2020 Siem Reap – Departure

Enjoy this morning free at leisure to relax at the hotel or to do some last-minute souvenir shopping at Siem Reap's colourful markets. Transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your individual flight home.





*Extending stay available on request, contact: Runci Weeden*

**T** 01793 940 075

**E** [runci.weeden@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:runci.weeden@travelcounsellors.com)

**W** <http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/runci.weeden>

**Cost:**

Land arrangements based on **20 persons** travelling together

Rate per person based on twin/double room sharing **£2,420**

Single Supplement **£628**

**Note: The Anglo Thai Society reserves the right to amend the itinerary, the final itinerary will be confirmed by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Our services include:**

- Transportation with driver in A/C vehicle
- Service of English speaking local guide
- Drinking water & cold towel during the tour
- Meals as mentioned
- Excursions and transfers as mentioned by private air-conditioned vehicles (or by boat if mentioned)
- Entrance fees for mentioned visits
- Domestic flight from Bangkok to Burirum (Economy Class)

**Our services do not include:**

- Other meals than mentioned
- Camera / video entrance fees
- Flights not mentioned in the inclusions
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of personal nature
- Any other services not mentioned
- Gratitude
- Early Check In and Late Check Out



ACCOMMODATION			
CITY	HOTEL	HOTEL CATEGORY	ROOM TYPE
BANGKOK	Riva Surya Bangkok	Superior	Urban Room with ABF
BURIRUM	Amari Buriram United	Superior	Deluxe Room with ABF
UBON RATCHATHANI	Tohsang Khongjiam Resort	Superior	Superior Riverview Room with ABF
DONE DAENG	La Folie Lodge	Superior	Superior
KHONE	Sala Done Khone	Standard	Ban Lao/Floating Studio
STUNG TRENG	Golden River Hotel	First class	Standard room
KRATIE	Mekong Dolphin Hotel	First class	Deluxe room
KAMPONG THOM	Glorious Hotel & Spa	First class	Deluxe room
SIEM REAP	Shinta Mani Shack	Superior	Poolview room