



Angkor Code of Conduct

The main reason for tourists to visit [Siem Reap](#) of course are the world famous **Temples of Angkor**. And yes, they are a truly ‘must see’ in Cambodia. But they’re not only a top tourist attraction, they’re a sacred, religious site, too. So, you should know how to behave.

Here are a few simple rules (that you would obey in your home country and this being a tropical country doesn’t make it different):

- **No offending clothes** (in simple words: exposing too much flesh). So: no shorts, no tank tops, no ‘wife beaters’ (or whatever you call them). Just decent clothing. A T-shirt is OK, a singlet is not.
- **NO smoking!** I’m an addicted smoker myself, but I wouldn’t think of smoking when entering the temple sites. Oh, and of course no littering (well, would you do that anywhere else?)
- Be **calm and respectful**, so no shouting, no loud conversations
- **DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING!** You might think that the one touch of you doesn’t make a difference, but when millions of others think the same: yes, it will damage the historical structure. So, just don’t!
- Of course you can climb the steps of temples, but do not climb on any other parts. Respect the signs that say: **“Climbing prohibited”**
- Be respectful to monks. **Touching a monk is a BIG no-no!** Want to take pictures with a monk? Ask their permission first and respect when they decline.
- And, as anywhere else in Cambodia: **do not give money or candy to kids**, even if they seem to be desperate beggars.

Restrictions (on certain days)

The Bakan on top of Angkor Wat is a sacred Shrine. On the four Buddhist holy days of each month (one day a week), it will only be open to Cambodian visitors to allow them to worship the Lord Buddha in this sacred location. For foreign tourists, access is now limited to 100 persons at one time and a stay of 15-30 minutes.

The third gallery at Banteay Srey temple is closed. The archeological expert of UNESCO advised this inner section be restricted as it is too small and ruined to receive many tourists. In this sense, it cannot be open any more.

The Phnom Bakheng hill is a lovely, famous place for sunset. It has ancient temple structures on top and its capacity to hold visitors is limited. Come before 4.00 pm. The queue to the temple starts to grow around 5pm and it will be closed at 5.30pm. There is also a limit on the number of people inside the temple at one time.

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