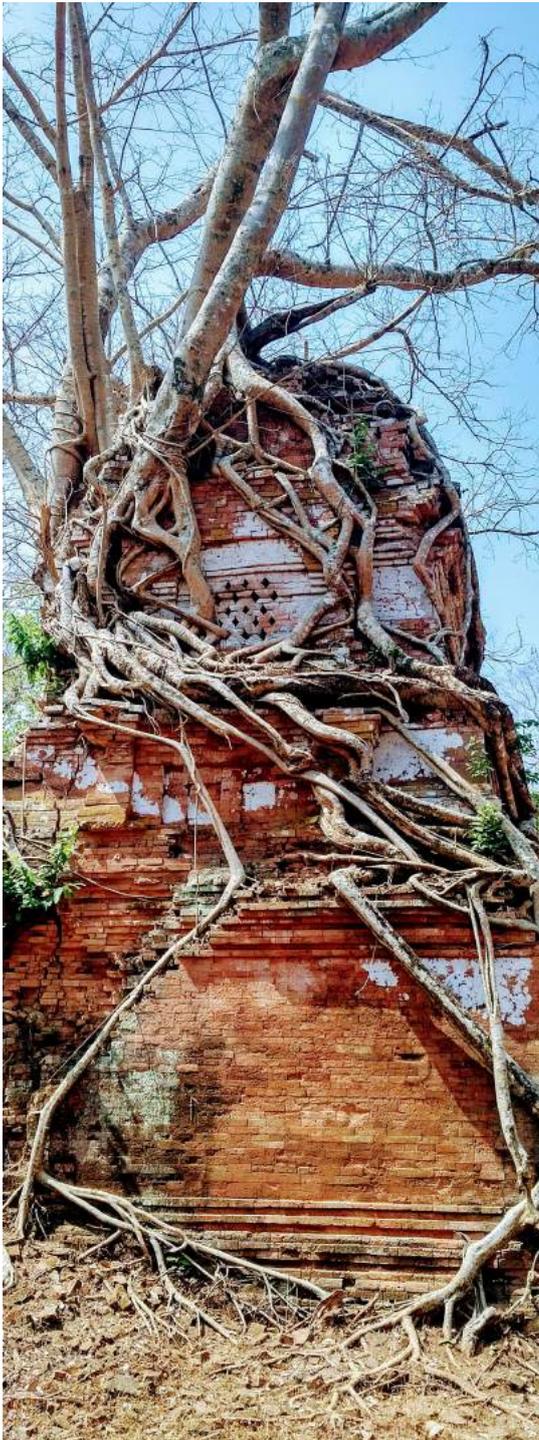




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SAM VEASNA CONSERVATION
TOURS

CAMBODIAN CULTURE AND WILDLIFE ADVENTURE



Discover the nature and culture of Prey Veng village, the most remote tourist destination in Cambodia

Looking to get further off the beaten track and see 'real' Cambodia? This three day trip will take you to Prey Veng village and community run ecolodge to experience a blend of wildlife exploration and cultural discovery. Meet the local IBIS Rice farmers, see a temple complex lost to time and go trekking with the best bird guides in Cambodia.

Day 1: Siem Reap to Prey Veng Village via Koh Ker

Day 2: Prey Veng Village

Day 3: Prey Veng Village to Siem Reap

Highlights

- Visit Koh Ker Temple Complex- a spectacular series of structures surrounded by lush forest, birdlife and a central temple the resembles the pyramid temple of Chichineta in Mexico.
- Travel to the most remote locations accesable to the outside world- Prey Veng village. The ecolodge is community run and situated by a ancient baray (resevoir).
- Explore Chen Srom Temple complex, a 10-minute walk away from the ecolodge and untouched for centuries. No tourist visit this lost gem.
- Discover what made IBIS Rice the winner of the Best New Sustaible Product at the 2019 Sustainable Food Awards. Meet the IBIS Rice farmers, get 'hand-on' in the rice fields and learn first hand the agricultural techniques passed down for hundreds of years.
- Go birdwatching with our SVC guides, the best bird guides in Cambodia.

DAY 1: SIEM REAP TO PREY VENG VILLAGE VIA KOH KER TEMPLE

ITINERARY

05:30 – Depart Siem Reap

Pick up at your hotel in our aircon 4x4 by our English speaking bird guide we head off on the 1.5 hour drive to Koh Ker, through fields and villages. We stop for a packed breakfast en route at some excellent birding spots.

08:30 – Arrive Koh Ker Temple Complex

Arriving at the Koh Ker temple complex we head out into the outlying temples. Our guides will take you through the history of this complex and guide you to some locations that tourists rarely visit.

11:00 – Koh Ker main temple

We head to the main Koh Ker Temple for the opportunity to explore this stunning complex and the birds, butterflies and dragonflies that inhabit the site.

12:30 – Lunch

Lunch is at an excellent café right at the main temple, with home cooked Khmer food.

13:00 – Leave Koh Ker for Prey Veng Ecolodge

We will travel to the Prey Veng ecolodge. We have the option of stopping at a few birding sites in the dry forest along the way. Prey Veng is one of the most remote tourist locations in Cambodia. The road in and out of Prey Veng is very bumpy so please be aware of this. This is especially relevant in the wet season (May to November)

15:00 – Arrive at Prey Veng Ecolodge

We will get checked into the Prey Veng Ecolodge. After we have settled in and had a short rest, we will drive to the White-winged Duck roosting site. This will take 1 hour. We will park near the site and walk to the roosting tree. This short walk through the bush can attract a variety of incredible species and beautiful nature.

Stay at the roosting site until the sun goes down.

19:30 – Dinner and night at Prey Veng Ecolodge

We will spend the evening at the Ecolodge having a delicious home cooked meal.



Drive Time:

5 hours

Walking Distance:

7-10km

About Prey Veng Ecolodge:

Prey Veng Ecolodge is completely operated by the community. Village members are paid for cooking food, house keeping and local guiding.



DAY 2: PREY VENG VILLAGE

ITINERARY

07:30 – Breakfast

Prepared breakfast at Prey Veng Ecolodge.

10:00 – Walk to Prey Veng village to experience remote Cambodian culture.

Prey Veng village is a small distance away and provides the perfect opportunity to experience remote Cambodian culture. This will include talking to local residents about the history of Prey Veng including recent history and the events of the Khmer Rouge period. We can visit the local primary school where you can give the school much needed materials including books, pens etc.

12:30 – Return to the lodge for lunch

Lunch will include a special type of rice called IBIS Rice. This unique project buys rice from local farmers for 30-40% over the market price in exchange for no land clearing, no hunting and no use of chemicals in their crops. Along with SVC, IBIS Rice is one of the major conservation projects in the Northern Plains.

13:30 – Visit IBIS Rice farmer in Prey Veng.

Rice farming is the number one source of income for the community. The IBIS Rice farmer will explain in more detail the project and the lives of the farmers. IBIS Rice farmers have a seasonal schedule. Depending on which month you book your tour, you could see a completely different process.

17:30 – Return to the Prey Veng Ecolodge for dinner and relaxation

The ecolodge has a platform overlooking the baray. Drinking a soft drink (or beer!) has never felt so good!



Drive Time:

0 hours

Walking Distance:

7-10km

About IBIS Rice Seasons:

Late May until Mid- July:

Farmers are germinating their seeds, planting their seed nurseries and plugging their wet paddy field ready for 'transplanting'.

Mid-July until late September:

Farmers will move to their 'sala' which is a small hose from which they can watch their rice. It is a great time to see the seemingly luminous green of the rice and wade in the paddy field, maybe even try to catch the odd paddy field crab.

Early November until late December:

The busiest time of the rice season - Harvest! This organic rice is still harvested by hand and farmers appreciate the shade of the tall trees they have kept in their fields. Try your hand at the 'slice, bunch, tie and stack' techniques that look far easier than they are when shown by IBIS rice farmers.

January to April:

All of our farmers are residents in the village, in the dry season you can explore the paddy fields, ask them about their rice production and hear the perspective of an IBIS rice farmer.

DAY 3: PREY VENG VILLAGE TO SIEM REAP

ITINERARY

07:30 – Breakfast

Prepared breakfast at Prey Veng Ecolodge.

8:30 – Trek around the ancient baray.

There will be an opportunity to see Sarus Crane and, if we are lucky, the most endangered bird species in the world, Giant Ibis.

This trek will also include a variety of spectacular birding and mammal species.

10:30 – Free Morning

This morning is flexible depending on your preferences. If you would like to return to any areas previously visited, our SVC guides would be happy to revisit these areas. We can take you on a wildlife and birding trek or you can rest and take the morning at your own pace.

12:00 – Lunch

Lunch at Prey Veng Ecolodge.

13:00 – Leave for Siem Reap.

Stop off at Banteay Ampil Temple of the way back to Siem Reap.

16:00 – Drop off at your hotel

Drive Time:

3-4 hours

Walking Distance:

5-7km

Key Species at Prey Veng:

Birds: Giant Ibis, White-winged Duck, Sarus Crane, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Black-headed Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker, Grey-headed Fish-eagle, Rufous-winged Buzzard, (White-rumped Pygmy-falcon on the way at KK), Brown Prinia, Indochinese Bushlark, White-browed Fantail

Butterflies: The Common Bluebottle, The Blue Jay, The Fivebar Swordtail, The Common Grass Yellow, The Tree Yellow, Common Tiger, The Striped Black Crow, The Blue Spotted Butterfly, The Blue Pansy, The Peacock Pansy, The Leopard Lacewing, The Yamfly, The Great Mormon, The Blue Helen, The Banded Swallowtail

Mammals: Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel, Muntjac

