

PUTHI KOMAR ORGANIZATION

Battambang 2014

Information Package

Hi, *Svakum Mork kan Cambodia !* (Welcome to Cambodia!)

Our logistics team has compiled this information package to provide you with practical information regarding your stay in Battambang Province(BTB) working for PKO. You will find important information such as the accommodation and **contact/emergency phone numbers**. At any point during the project, if you have any questions, please contact us. We wish you not only a rewarding PKO experience but also a safe and fun trip!

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I. ACCOMONDATION

Options are available for the accommodations depending on your favorite and budget.

❖ **Hotel/ Guesthouse**

Since Battambang is the second large city after Phnom Penh, then the number of hotels and guesthouses are available for your selection. The price at the guesthouse could be ranging from 6\$ to 15\$ per night while at the hotel could be 8\$ to 50\$. Normally 6\$ or 8\$ are the rooms without Air Conditioner (A/C). Below are the name of some Hotels and Guesthouses in Battambang province:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kingfi Hotel ▪ Vichae Hotel ▪ Classy Hotel ▪ Khemara Hotel ▪ Golden Palace Hotel ▪ Angkor Comfort Hotel ▪ Seng Hout Hotel ▪ Victoria Hotel ▪ Omega Hotel ▪ Rattanak Hotel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Royal Guest House ▪ Chhaya Guest House ▪ Phnom Khiev Guest House ▪ Dragon Guest House ▪ Pka Village ▪ La Village
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Room Renting/ House Renting

Most of our volunteers rented a room as their accommodation while they were fulfilling the mission with PKO. The price of renting a room is ranging from 40-80\$ per month. The kitchen and bathroom are installed inside the room. Electricity and water bill need to be paid by the volunteer which is about 10\$ per month depending on the usage.

Few volunteer of PKO used to rent the whole building which cost between 200-400\$ per months with 2 or three rooms. But renting a whole building for a short duration is not easy to get.

II. Puthi Komar Organization (PKO)

It is not difficult to find PKO's office while we are locating in the city of Battambang. It is located along road #1 and along the riverside of Sangke river

nearby by **Psa leur** market. PKO is located on the right side with about hundred meters before Psa leur market, if you are departing from Hun Sen Bridge or the Governor office. You can tell motor-dop driver or Tuk Tuk driver to go to **Psa Leur** market then everyone know this market.

ADDRESS

Road #1 , Group 8 , Kamarkor village, Svay Por Commune, Battambang District, Battambang province, Cambodia Tel: +855 53 730 347

Email: pkocambodia.org

Website: <http://www.pkocambodia.org>

III. LOGISTICS TEAM

Throughout your mission with us, our logistics team consisting of Cambodians will assist you with any question pertaining to your stay in Cambodia. Please jot down these phone numbers and keep them with you.

Contact numbers: (from a phone in Battambang or anywhere in Cambodia)

LIM Sophea : 012 35 84 46 pkocambodia.org

Ty Samnang: 012 51 26 61 afo@pkocambodia.org

IV. ARRIVAL

Arriving at the airport:

You can choose to landing in Siem Reap Airport or Phnom Penh Airport. We would recommend you to landing in Siem Reap airport since it is closer to Battambang than Phnom Penh and the condition of the road from Siem Reap to Battambang is much better. Both international airports have only one terminal so it is relatively easy to get out or to find each other on your way out. Some of you might need a visa to enter Cambodia that you can obtain on arrival. The tourist visa will cost about USD20 and will allow you to stay in Cambodia for 30 days. After getting your visa, please proceed to the immigration counter then pick up your luggage and head to the exit.

We would recommend you to apply for longer visa from Cambodia Embassy in your country that would be easy and much more convenience. At the airport, they will not give the visa more than 30 days but the Cambodia Embassy in your country could issue for you. It is better to make it ready before your leaving.

You can take bus or taxi from siem reap airport to Battambang. Renting the whole taxi is 50\$ but if you don't rent a whole then you can share with other which is about 8\$ per person. The bus is ticket is about 4\$ per person.

Exchange Rate:

US\$ 1.00 = 4000 Riels

The Cambodian currency is Riel. We don't use coin in Cambodia and the smallest note is 100Riel. However, U.S. dollar is also accepted in most of the places in Cambodia even in local restaurant, hotel or market. Some places even have the price tagged in USD. Beware that if the price was tagged in Riel but you have only USD, they will still accept it but the exchange rate might be a bit lower than the standard rate. If you have any questions during the project, please ask one of PKO's staff. There are a lot of money exchanger through out the country so if you forgot to exchange the currency at the airport, don't be panic.

V. TRANSPORTATION

Motor

Taxi:

There is no public transportation in Cambodia. However, we have other ways to commute within the city. Motor taxi is one of the most convenient ways to commute but the drivers might not speak English so going out on the motor taxi by yourself is not recommended. The motor taxis are normally run by individuals (they are not company or government run) so you're supposed to take responsibility for your own safety and please be cautious if you don't speak the local language. It should not cost anywhere more than 50cents to USD1.

Taxis:

Not commonly used. Normally, people use taxis to commute from the airport into the city. Most taxis are not metered so you're expected to talk the price with the driver when you get on. The price varies a lot depending on where you're going and what kind of drivers you get. If the driver tries to charge you more than USD10 to commute within the city, don't go and find another one.

VI. TELEPHONE CALLS

Cambodian mobile phones operate using SIM cards. Most carriers have extremely attractive local call and texting rates; the competition is purely on coverage of services. Do note that you will need to register using your passport

(if you're non-Cambodian) if you purchase a SIM card (prices start at USD3, easily available in most shopping areas). Internet café is one of the most convenient and the cheapest way to call internationally. Most internet café offer this service..

Ask a staff of PKO for best rates and coverage if you decide to purchase a prepaid SIM card for the duration of your stay.

The country code of Cambodia is 855. To make international call to Cambodia, enter the country code then area code (normally starts with 0) ignoring the 0 at the beginning then following by the 6 digit phone number.

VII. WHAT TO BRING

Clothes:

Cambodia has the typical tropical weather which is normally warm and humid. Temperature is uniform throughout the year, ranging from 24°C to 32°C (75F to 90F). Days are usually warm with cooler nights and early mornings.

With the warm tropical climate in mind, you may want to bring light, comfortable cotton clothes, shorts, strapped sandals, hats and caps, sunglasses and a light sweatshirt/jumper for air-conditioned or cooler environment.

Remember also to bring an umbrella, raincoat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes and socks suitable. Bear in mind you can also purchase all of these in the market or local store in Battambang. Since we are living in the town center so it should be very convenient.

Medicine:

You should bring your own medicine for common travel sickness such as stomachache, headache, allergies or diarrhea. If you're under any medication, bring enough supplies for the entirety of the program. The logistics team will bring along a first aid kit for small emergencies, but if you feel unwell and need medical attention, approach any team member immediately.

Electrical equipment:

Voltage: 220 V - 50 Hz

Electrical Plug Type: Mostly places have only the two-hole flat blade/round outlet without hole for ground

Purchase voltage converters and plug adapters if you are bringing electrical equipments.

VIII. FOOD

For those of you in Cambodia for the first time, congratulations! You are about to experience Cambodian food and you can also find brilliant Chinese, Thai and other western cuisine wherever you go.

Prices of meals vary, depending on where you get them; but from USD1 – USD5, you should be able to get a good single meal. Beverages start at USD50cents generally.

Safety concerns:

- As stated, this is a gastronomical adventure. Bring activated carbon/charcoal in case your tummy does not agree with the local food.
- Water from taps in Cambodia is generally NOT safe to drink. Purchase bottled water from grocery stores.
- Food sold on the street may look, smell and taste delicious, but do approach with caution. If you are unsure, ask a logistics team member before making your purchase.

IX. SAFETY

Your safety is the biggest concern of PKO.

Battambang is one of the biggest cities in Cambodia. In general, it is a safe and quite developed town to stay comparing to other provinces in Cambodia. Battambang is located at the boarder with Thailand. Providing the political situation now between Cambodia and Thailand, evacuation plan might be needed in case something unexpected happened (although it is very unlikely).

We are not discouraging you from going venturing; indeed that is the whole spirit of coming to a new country. However, you should take safety precautions such as informing others before going anywhere and organize a buddy system, or go in a group. Also, keep your money and valuables close to you and do not bring more than necessary. Be wary of strangers approaching, standing in close proximity or making you uncomfortable in any way.

To-know: At no circumstance that should you go ANYWHERE alone. Please bring someone with you (local team member are recommended) when you want to go out and please let at one of the logistic team member and the project leaders know.

Other safety precaution tips:

- Do not carry your passport and do not carry more cash than necessary.
- Make photocopies of your passport and other valuable documents. Keep them

separate from original documents.

- Do not leave your purses, bags, camera, cell phones and any other valuables unattended in public places.

- Do not wear showy jewelry.

- Be aware of your belongings and surroundings.

- Inform others if you need to go anywhere, including bathroom breaks and grocery/food runs.

- **Always have your cell phone with you.**

- If you encounter anyone suspicious or who may compromise the safety, please inform PKO’s team *immediately*.

Emergency:

Battambang Police Headquarters address:

Address : Romchek4, Rattanak, Battambang. in front of EMERGENCY

Mr. Eoun Sarun (Chief of immigration Department)

Mobile : 012 877 465

OR call **119** and/or one of the locals in our team.

You can also call your country’s consulate for safety concerns.

X. LANGUAGE

The national language is called *Khmer*. Not that many people can speak English but it’s not very uncommon either. Some other languages that you might find people speaking in Battambang are Chinese and Thai. There are many people who speak Thai in Battambang so if you know the language, you’re lucky!

Some useful phrases:

ENGLISH	Khmer
How are you?	Sok Sabay Chea Te?
Good morning/afternoon/evening/night	Chum Reap Suor
Goodbye	Chum Reap Lea
Thank you	Or Kun
Sorry	Som Toas
Where is the restroom?	Bantoap Tirk Nov Er Na?
How much (is this)?	Punmarn?
Expensive!	Thlai
Help!	Juy Phorng!
Where?	Nov Ti Na?

Who?	Nor Na?
Why?	Her Avey?
How?	Yang Na?
I / Me	Khnhom(Khe-nhom)
You	Nerk
We (excluding the person you're talking to)	Puk Khnhom
We (including the person you're talking to)	Puk Yeurng
Yes / No	Bat(Male), Cha(Female) / Te
Emergency	Bantuan
I'm lost	Khnhom Vongveng Pluv
I'm sick	Khnhom Mern Sov Sruol Khluon
Left / right	Chhverng / Sdam
Coffee / tea	Kafé / teh
Police	Polis
Doctor	Doctor

XI. HOSPITALS

All doctors should have a reasonable command of English and you can generally get a good consultation and some medication in a neighborhood clinic/practice in the event of any illness.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL

PHSA NAT Clinic (24-hour emergency services)

Address: (in front of Nat Market in the central of City)

Tel.: 092-919 801 (Accident & Emergency) |053-952 414 (Administrator)

EMERGENCY (Surgical Centre for War Victims) (24-hour emergency services)

National Road #5, Group 6, Romcheck5, Rottanak, Battambang.

Tel : 053 952 822

Mobile : 017 940 947/ 713 986, 012 739 550, 092 368 709

XII. POLICE

The central district police station in Battambang is located near New stone bridge, perhaps 1km far away from Spring Park Hotel just across New stone bridge and turn right.

Any thefts or crimes should be reported here immediately; a police report is often essential especially in preventing diplomatic wrangles (if you are an international student who has lost your passport) or getting new documents swiftly reissued.

Battambang Police Headquarters address:

Address : Romchek4, Rattanak, Battambang. in front of EMERGENCY
Mr. Eoun Sarun (Chief of immigration Department)
Mobile : 012 877 465

XIII. CONSULATES

Since all of the embassies are located in Phnom Penh, we have to go to Phnom Penh if anyone had any need of consulate services.

U.S. Embassy

#1, Street 96, Sangkat Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh
Phone: (855)23 728 000 Fax: (855)23 728 600

Embassy of Singapore

#129 Preah Norodom Blvd. , Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Tel: (855)23 221 875 Fax: (855)23 210 862

Embassy of Malaysia

#5, Street 242, Chaktomouk, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Tel: (855)23 216 176/ (855)23 216 177 Fax: (855)23 426 001

Embassy of the People's Republic of China

#156, Mao Tse Tuong Blvd. , Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Tel: (855)12 810 928/ (855)23 720 920 Fax: (855)23 364 738

Embassy of France

1 boulevard Monivong - BP 18 - Phnom Penh
Tél : [855] (23) 430 020 / Fax : [855] (23) 430 037

XIV. CHURCHES

Assembly of God of Cambodia (AG)

Battambang Assembly of God

Address : National Road #5, Group6, Romchek5, Rattanak, Battambang.

Mobile : 012 875 451/ 530 211

E-mail : bagchurch@yahoo.com

Sunday: - Education at 8.00 am

- Service at 9.00 am

* For Buddhist welcome every day from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

XV. TRAVEL SITES

In Battambang:

Banan Hill Temple –Along Sangker River at the South/West side. Spend 1hour from Battambang City to Banan Hill Temple. Climb 337 steps(80m high) to reach the temple and enjoy the breathtaking view over the surrounding plains.

Ekphnom Temple- Along Sangker River at the North/West side. Spend 30mn from Battambang City to Ekphnom Temple. a nice 11th century which offer a very peaceful atmosphere in the country side surround by tree and lily ponds .strolling a round the quiet temple can be relax and spiritual experience.

Sampov Mountain - spend time from 25-30mn from the City. Look like large ocean-going sailing junk in Khmer old story that has been preserved orally from generation to generation.

Wat Kor Village – Have many old 's house where you get to see a re-enactment of a Khmer traditional village.

XVI. USEFUL LINKS

US Embassy <http://cambodia.usembassy.gov/contact.html>

Malaysia Embassy <http://www.kln.gov.my/perwakilan/phnompenh>

Singapore Embassy <http://www.mfa.gov.sg/phnompenh/>

Detail list of Foreign Embassy (some information might not be up to date)

<http://www.embassyofcambodia.org/embassies.htm>

French Embassy <http://www.ambafrance-kh.org/>